A Study in Jazz
On the cover: Jackie McLean was this year’s guest of honor at The Hartt School’s Gala, during which it was announced that the African-American Music Department has been renamed The Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz (see pages 14–17).
The winter of 2000–01 has been one of deep snows, cold temperatures, and spectacular successes at the University of Hartford. As cold as the weather outside has been, the warm spirit of the University has been even more noticeable.

Elsewhere in this magazine you’ll find stories on the most notable of our recent successes:

- In December, the Barney School of Business earned the prestigious accreditation of AACSB—The International Association for Management Education. This accreditation places the Barney School in the top group of business schools worldwide.
- In January, Moody’s Investors Service upgraded the University’s bond rating to Baa3, signaling Wall Street’s confidence in the University’s financial recovery from the tough times of the early 1990s.
- In February, a wonderful, million-dollar gift from Arnold C. and Beverly P. Greenberg created the Greenberg Faculty Development Fund, which will provide valuable grants to junior faculty who are beginning their scholarly, research, and artistic careers. That gift brings us to $54 million raised toward our $175 million goal in the Campaign of Commitment.

All these events are graphic illustrations that we are a university on the move. But if you are the type who needs to see concrete differences to realize change, watch out for this spring, summer, and fall. By the end of the fall, we will have completed almost $30 million of construction on campus, which will make a major dent in our deferred maintenance and change the appearance of campus for generations of University of Hartford students to come.

Most of you know we are now on track to complete the construction of the University of Hartford Magnet School, just south of East Hall, by September. I am thrilled to watch the school rise out of the ground on a daily basis, and I am deeply indebted to C. R. Klewin, the construction manager, for the job they’ve done in the face of one of Hartford’s most trying winters.

The Magnet School is being financed with $21.6 million in funding from the state of Connecticut, which includes $2.2 million in road and entrance improvements to campus. To that total, we are adding $1.5 million from an anonymous gift to extend the ring road to include East Hall and to redo the three parking lots closest to Bloomfield Avenue, thereby increasing the available parking by over 50 spaces.

We began construction in March and hope to conclude in the early fall. When we are finished, two new, two-way entrances (one south of South Cottage, one north of Bates House) will replace the current entrance, and all of our roads will be two-way. This will allow us to close the road that runs through the center of campus, which will create, for the first time in our history, an unbroken green space at the center of our campus. I suspect that green space will become a campus hallmark in the years to come.

We have also begun a less noticeable but equally important project—replacing the central heating plant on campus with a series of satellite heating and cooling units for the academic side of campus. During the summer of 2002 we will also replace the heating and cooling units of E and F complexes. This project is being funded by a $6.1 million capital lease from the Connecticut Higher Education Funding Authority. When it is completed, we will have deleted millions of dollars worth of projects from our deferred maintenance list, ensured the efficient heating and cooling of the majority of our campus buildings, and made the current heating plant available for other uses.

Please excuse the pun, but these changes will mark in a very concrete way the amazing transformation taking place at our University. None of this would be possible without the great work of our faculty and staff, the strong leadership of the board of regents, and the steadfast support of our alumni and friends. The result will be a striking and visible improvement to our campus.

I thank you all, and I ask for your continued support. Amid all the construction work this summer, we’ll be seeing the future of our University taking shape before our very eyes. Thank you all for making that future possible. In every sense, the future belongs to you.

Walter Harrison
When I first met Kathleen Devine at an alumni awards ceremony, she reminded me of a nun. You know, the kind that has a sweet, heavenly smile on her face that reflects being at peace with herself because she knows she can do anything with her perseverance and faith.

That was Kathleen, who knew from experience, the only true source of satisfaction in this world is being of service to others. But Kathleen’s serenity wasn’t without passion and enthusiasm.

Kathleen served as assistant to the dean at The Hartt School of the University of Hartford from 1963 to 1979 and studied piano there; then from 1979 to 1990 she served as registrar at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford.

She most recently served on the Alumni Council at the University of Hartford and, before that, was an active volunteer at Alumni Association activities.

Kathleen Devine’s energy has been greatly missed since she was taken by a surprise heart attack on the sunny afternoon of Sept. 25, 2000, while working in her garden. Her Devine spirit remains.

Still grieving the loss of Kathleen, Linda Leslie ’99
Office of Alumni Relations

You did a wonderful piece, “In Memoriam,” on Bice Clemow in the Fall 2000 issue of The Observer.

From the excerpts from his unpublished memoirs, you printed Bice’s story of how the University came into being. One critical detail, however, was left out and left out only because of Bice’s deep-seated, sometimes exasperating, modesty: it was the moment when the idea of a university was conceived.

Bice was taking the train from Hartford to New York with Fred Houghton, who at that time was the lay head of the Hartford Art School. Bice and Fred sat together and discussed various things on the train ride, a morning ride that was common for some Hartford people into the 1950s.

It was then and there that the idea of combining the Art School and the other schools into one institution first was discussed. This train ride and the talk between Bice and Fred preceded the January 1956 meeting at the Hartford Club and was the time of conception of the University.

I know this to be the real genesis of the University because Bice himself told me the story, twice over the years. I had lunch with him starting in the early 1950s regularly, every month or six weeks or two months until he became ill, and continued to see him during his last years, irregularly and without lunch.

Michael Suisman
West Hartford, Conn.

Over the Labor Day [2000] weekend, I had the privilege and pleasure of accompanying the University of Hartford men’s and women’s cross-country teams as they prepared for the upcoming season.

I had been invited by my daughter, UH cross-country Coach Kathy Manizza, to join her and the UH runners on their preseason training trip, which included Coach Manizza’s participation in the International Classique de Canots canoeing marathon on the St. Maurice River in Quebec, Canada.

Although Coach Manizza had told me I would be traveling with a “great group of athletes,” I must admit that I had visions of having to ride herd on a group of young people that would test my patience to the extreme.

Such was not the case. What great goodwill ambassadors are the Hawk harriers! They made a great impression everywhere we stopped. The University of Hartford could not have had a better public-relations vehicle nor better representatives of their school than the 11 members of its cross-country teams and their coach. As a result, UH made new friends and fans all over Quebec and northern New England.

With 40 years’ experience as an educator/coach/athletic director, I will add my observation that I have never seen a better team in action, as regards performance, conscientiousness, commitment to excellence, work ethic, and individual and group deportment. These people really cared about being good representatives and positive role models.

The team did not slight the real business of the trip, namely, preparation for the upcoming cross-country season. Under the very competent leadership of senior co-captains Courtney Corsall, Kumari Gongaju, Ryan Riegle, and Jon Rivera, the UH runners carried out a very exacting running regimen. Many canoe aficionados, including some who think nothing of spending eight or more hours at a time in competition, were impressed by the effort and overall work ethic of the Hawk runners.

The city of Hartford and its major university can take great pride in having such an outstanding group of persons represent them. Coach Kathy Manizza and the UH cross-country teams are a superb example of what college athletics should be all about: doing your very best and representing yourself and your school in a positive manner.

Paul Mannen
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The Observer welcomes your comments, whether you wish to praise, criticize, analyze, or simply to communicate with fellow alumni or warmly remembered faculty or staff. Our e-mail address: <observer@mail.hartford.edu>. Postal address: Letters to the Editor, The Observer, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. Letters may be edited for space consideration.

Correction
In the Winter 2000 issue of The Observer, an article about singer-songwriter Nancy Tucker ’76 mis-identified her as a Hartt alumna. She is a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences.
More than 90 students received their diplomas at the University's Fall 2000 Commencement ceremony on Dec. 3 in Lincoln Theater.

Speaking at the ceremony and receiving honorary degrees were Frances Daly Fergusson, president of Vassar College, and Mary Patterson McPherson, retired president of Bryn Mawr College. In addition, Helen and Harry Jack Gray were presented with Honorary Alumna/Alumnus Awards to recognize their philanthropy and their commitment to improving the lives of people living and working in Greater Hartford.

Fergusson was named one of America's 200 Most Influential Women in 1998 by Vanity Fair magazine and has been the president of Vassar College since 1986. She is a member of the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation and chairs the board of trustees of the world-renowned Mayo Foundation (Mayo Clinic).

McPherson retired in June of 1997 as Bryn Mawr's president after 36 years of studying, teaching, and leading. She is currently vice president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York City, having previously served as senior program officer.

The Grays have given more than $20 million to Hartford-area organizations, especially those representing the arts, health, medicine, and education. The University of Hartford has greatly benefited from the generosity of the Grays, who have given nearly $7 million to help fund buildings such as the Harry Jack Gray Center and the Helen Buckley Gray communications wing, as well as programs in the arts and humanities. Helen and Harry Gray are distinguished life regents of the University, and Harry Gray continues to provide leadership for the University by serving as honorary chair of the University's 10-year, $175 million Campaign of Commitment.

"I always get mentioned first, but Helen deserves much credit for making Greater Hartford a better place to live, work, and study," said Harry Gray in accepting his award.

He told the graduates that his commitment to giving back and helping to improve the quality of life in his community came from a pledge he made as a 25-year-old soldier fighting in Europe during World War II. "I ask you to stay in touch with this school and give it your support so that the University of Hartford can serve those who follow you."
For faculty and staff assembled in Wilde Auditorium for University President Walter Harrison’s semiannual semester kickoff on Feb. 1, the address they heard was one of the most optimistic in some time. Among the good-news items:

- the arrival of Provost Donna Randall, who, Harrison said, has brought “great enthusiasm, great charm, and breathtaking analytical skills to her position”
- Moody's Investors Service's upgrade of the University's bond rating, a signal, the president said, “that Wall Street recognizes both our improved economic status and our bright prospects for the future”
- the conclusion of the third academic year in a row with a budget surplus
- the University's endowment at an all-time high

The news that drew the most sustained applause from the overflow audience, however, was the announcement of a gift from the chairman of the board of regents, Arnold C. Greenberg, and his wife, Beverly, to the University’s Campaign of Commitment. Why such an enthusiastic response? The $1 million gift is for faculty development. Moreover, it will initially go to untenured, tenure-track faculty.

In a subsequent interview with The Observer, Greenberg said he thought the time had come to recognize those whom he deems the “unsung heroes of the University”: its faculty. “We consider this an absolutely vital investment in the future of the University,” he said. “It keeps us competitive with our peer institutions and enables us to attract and retain promising young faculty.”

Although there are many priorities that require funding in the campaign, Greenberg believes that none ranks higher than providing for the faculty. “They are the lifeblood of our wonderful University,” he said, “and their scholarship and dedication to teaching will always determine how well we are judged as an institution.”

During each of the first two years of the Greenberg Junior Faculty Research Grant Program, a minimum of two research grants of up to $7,500 each will be awarded. Proposals have already been submitted for the two grants to be awarded this year and are being reviewed by a five-person committee of tenured faculty, chaired by Diane Prusank, assistant provost for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

President Harrison, in announcing the gift, said that he hoped it would “signal clearly to our junior faculty that the University of Hartford is a place that not only values great teachers but also encourages the pursuit of the intellectual or artistic passion that first propelled them into academic life.”

For the Greenbergs, the most outstanding characteristic of University of Hartford faculty members is the time and attention that they give to their students. “Even during the difficult economic times of the 1990s,” Arnold Greenberg said, “when faculty compensation had fallen to the bottom 25 percent of institutions in the University’s peer groups, that dedication to students did not diminish. Now that the University’s economic picture is so much brighter, it is time to catch up,” he said, “not only with deferred maintenance but with the deferred needs of faculty members as well.”

Beverly Greenberg, a 12-year member of the Connecticut state board of education and former chairman of the West Hartford board of education, shares her husband’s belief that faculty don’t always get the recognition they deserve. “They are the ones in the trenches, and rewarding them for the
critical role they play is vitally important,” she said.

Provost Randall is particularly pleased at the “outpouring of gratitude from faculty to Arnold and Beverly for their generosity. We know that junior faculty development will allow us to sustain quality academic programs and that this gift is truly an investment in our future.”

Leo T. Smith, associate professor of mechanical engineering and chair of the Faculty Senate, said the gift is “a most welcome addition to faculty development opportunities at the University.” The grants will provide tenure-track faculty with “the precious gift of time during the academic year in which to pursue scholarly and creative development by releasing them from some of their class obligations,” he said. “For those who are awarded a Greenberg grant, it will mean that they do not have to relegate all of this important part of their professional development to summer and vacation break periods. They can grow intellectually and artistically during the year right along with their students.”

This is the Greenbergs’ second gift of $1 million to the University. In 1985, their first $1 million gift established The Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies (named in memory of Arnold’s father), as well as the endowed Greenberg Professorship in Judaic Studies. This most recent gift from the Greenbergs is part of the University’s 10-year, $175 million Campaign of Commitment. Their commitment brings the total raised by the campaign to more than $54 million. Previous gifts to this campaign from the Greenbergs total $325,000; $275,000 for the continued endowment of the Center for Judaic Studies and $50,000 for the University’s Hillel organization.

Moody’s Investors Service has upgraded the University’s bond rating to the investment grade of Baa3 from Ba1, a move, according to University President Walter Harrison, that reflects “Wall Street’s view that we are a university on the move.”

Termed the University’s financial outlook “stable,” Moody’s cited four reasons for the upgrade: likelihood of continued, balanced financial operations, supported by conservative budget practices; improvement in student-market position and stabilization of tuition discounting; gradual growth in financial resources from current levels; and moderate reliance on debt in future capital plans.

“A new financial management team has revamped budgeting practices, instituting very conservative expense budgeting and strong controls, leading to three consecutive years of balanced operations,” noted the Moody’s report. “As a result of this commitment to fiscal discipline, as well as the comparatively robust market position [of the institution], the University now has a much greater capacity to make expense adjustments if it enters another period where revenues fall behind projections,” the report said.

Moody’s had lowered the University’s bond rating in January 1997. The University’s financial position had been negatively affected by the economic recession of the early 1990s and by demographic declines in the college-age population. In addition, the University’s endowment was not at the level of other, older institutions of higher education that were better able to weather the economic recession.

The University has begun a 10-year, $175 million Campaign of Commitment. Now in its fourth year, the campaign has generated more than $54 million in gifts and donations.

The report also noted that “the University enjoys an improving market position for full-time undergraduates, albeit in a highly competitive market environment.” Moody’s said that undergraduate selectivity at the University is at its strongest level in recent years, and that the recent accreditation of the Barney School of Business by AACSBA—The International Association for Management Education should enhance the profile of the undergraduate and graduate business programs at the University.

Barney Accreditation
Faculty, staff, and students of the Barney School of Business have much to celebrate this year, as the School joins the elite group of 398 programs accredited by the AACSB.

Of the 398 accredited programs, 385 are in North America, seven in Europe, three in Asia, one in Central America, and two in South America. There are more than 2,000 higher education business schools in the United States.

Official announcement of AACSB’s accreditation of Barney’s undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business administration, taxation, accounting, and health-care administration was made in December.

An excited Barney Dean Corine T. Norgaard attributed the accreditation success to “the many changes we made... , such as developing an undergraduate curriculum with a ‘career-ready’ focus, participating in an ongoing assessment program that includes national programs that test our seniors’ subject-matter knowledge and measure their satisfaction, and raising admission standards for our graduate programs.”

The not-for-profit AACSB is made up of more than 800 educational organizations and corporations. Its mission is excellence in management education in colleges and universities. Headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., AACSBB is the premier accrediting agency and service organization for business schools.
Koopman Chairs

Internationally known artists Lowry Burgess and Robert Stackhouse displayed their latest works at the University’s Joseloff Gallery, from Nov. 9 through Dec. 12, as the 2000–01 recipients of the Richard Koopman Distinguished Chair in the Visual Arts at the Hartford Art School.

Burgess’s *The Seed of the Infinite Absolute*, a sculptural object formed by an elaborate series of processes and distillations over the past 25 years, was carried to the surface of the Antarctic Pole in February. The shell of the work contains an emulsion of the essences of trees, flowers, blood, and water. The sculpture was accompanied by a series of 26 drawings titled *The Quiet Axis*.

Stackhouse showed a 34-foot-long, limestone-and-aluminum sculpture titled *Resurgent*. This massive, double-ended, boat-like structure juxtaposes the organic with the industrial, the traditional with the modern, and is seen as a metaphor for the new millennium. The sculpture was displayed with several of Stackhouse’s works on paper.

Goldfarb Award Winners

The University’s Hartford Art School hosted its 13th Annual Alexander A. Goldfarb Student Reception and Awards Exhibition on Feb. 14. The winners of the Goldfarb Purchase Award were Jeanine Fijol, a senior in photography, for her color prints titled *A River in Thirteen Frames*, and Michele Redvanly, a senior in photography, for her color photograph titled *Participle of Interlacement*. Honorable mentions went to Jon-Ramsay Barnes for his paper-and-steel sculpture titled *Home* and to Arkadiusz Kuczynski, a freshman, for his mixed-media sculpture titled *Old Man*.

The awards are funded by the Alexander A. Goldfarb endowment trust, which sponsors the exhibition annually to recognize the talents of young artists.
Dr. Aristides de Sousa Mendes saved at least 30,000 lives.

De Sousa Mendes held a diplomatic post as the Portuguese Consul General in Bordeaux, France, in 1940 during the Holocaust. Against the policies and orders of his government, he issued more than 30,000 Portuguese visas that saved the lives of thousands of Jews and other refugees, including the exiled Belgian cabinet and the Hapsburg family, the royal family of Austria.

For his efforts, de Sousa Mendes was stripped of his post, blacklisted, and impoverished. He died in 1954 still in disgrace in his native Portugal.

De Sousa Mendes is just one of the 20 diplomats from countries around the world who rescued Jews during the Holocaust from 1938 through 1945. “Visas for Life: The Righteous and Honorable Diplomats,” an exhibit that will be on display at the University of Hartford’s Joseloff Gallery from May 1 through June 13, features the dramatic and heroic stories and photographs of these diplomats, who saved thousands of lives during World War II.

Zina Davis, director of the University’s Joseloff Gallery, said few people are aware that diplomatic rescue was even a possibility during the Holocaust. Most diplomats who aided Jews did so illegally and in direct violation of the regulations and immigration policies of their countries. They risked their careers, and often their lives, to save others. In the years after the war, many diplomats and their families suffered retribution and economic hardship for their courageous actions.

To save those in danger, diplomats issued exit visas, transit visas, citizenship papers, and other forms of documentation that allowed Jews to escape the Nazis. Some diplomats personally smuggled refugees across international borders and frontiers. Many established safe houses and hid Jews in their embassies and personal residences.

“It’s very important to acknowledge this very real but unknown story of heroism during World War II,” said Davis. “Collectively, these people saved more than a quarter-million lives.” Furthermore, tens of thousands of people now alive are descendents of these refugees, who were able to flee through the efforts of the diplomats.

The families of the diplomats who were dishonored for their heroism have sought to have their respective governments restore the names and honor of their forefathers. After more than 60 years, some diplomats honored in the exhibit have yet to be recognized in their own countries. Portugal, however, repudiated its condemnation of de Sousa Mendes in 1995 and posthumously honored him with a hero’s medal.

De Sousa Mendes did not regret his actions. “If so many Jews can suffer because of one person [Hitler], then one Christian can suffer for Jews,” he said.

**Exhibit Sponsors**

“Visas for Life: The Righteous and Honorable Diplomats” is sponsored by the Wallenberg Society of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and presented by the University of Hartford’s Joseloff Gallery. Funding for this program is made possible through the generosity of the following foundations and individual donors:

- Beatrice Fox Auerbach Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as advised by Elizabeth Schiro and Stephen Bayer
- The Endowment Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, Inc.
- Andrew J. and Joyce D. Mandell Family Foundation
- The Samuel Roskin Trust at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Janet and Michael Suisman
Hailed as “baseball’s greatest ambassador,” Tommy Lasorda told a packed house at the University’s second annual Hot Stove Dinner that “baseball is our game” and that “high school and college baseball coaches are the unsung heroes of our communities.” The dinner in the Gengras Student Union cafeteria was held on Jan. 14.

“They have to take young men and make sure they are outstanding students, as well as great athletes, and make sure that they are prepared for life,” said Lasorda, who managed the Los Angeles Dodgers to eight National League West titles in his 20 years at their helm and led the U.S. baseball team to the gold medal at the 2000 Olympics in Australia.

“You don’t see college basketball coaches having to collect money to send their team on a road trip. You don’t see college football coaches having to go out before a game to put the lines down on the field,” said Lasorda, noting that he will travel anywhere around the country to help out college baseball programs but that he wouldn’t set one foot outside his door for college basketball or football programs.

Lasorda had the crowd in stitches when he told stories about some of his players, such as Steve Sax and Pedro Guerrero.

In talking about his experiences at the Olympics, Lasorda said, “It was an honor and a privilege to take that team to the Olympics.”

“As the November 2000 presidential election evolved into an unprecedented scenario of legal battles and chad-counting, political analyst Mark Shields brought his razor-sharp wit to the University of Hartford to try to make sense of it all.

Shields, a veteran Washington insider, syndicated columnist, and political commentator, who regularly appears on “The News Hour with Jim Lehrer” on PBS and “The Capital Gang” on CNN, came to the University for an hour-long talk and a fund-raising dinner, sponsored by the Museum of American Political Life. His visit to Hartford on Dec. 4 could not have been better timed, coming in the midst of the postelection chaos surrounding the outcome of the Florida vote.

During his talk in Wilde Auditorium, Shields delighted the audience with a continuous stream of anecdotes and one-liners that were both extremely funny and brimming with political insight.

“I’ve been in Washington so long, I can remember when the Oval Office was used to raise money and the Lincoln bedroom was used for sex,” he quipped.

Shields said that the 2000 election was unusual in that it reflected a desire for both continuity and change. Voters wanted to continue the nation’s economic prosperity, but they wanted a change in leadership, he said.

American voters have always been motivated by two factors—optimism and pragmatism—and historically, they have always chosen the party that best represents those qualities, regardless of ideology” he said. “What do Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton have in common? A relentless, incurable, indomitable optimism.”

Political analyst Mark Shields captivated the audience in Wilde Auditorium with a humorous and insightful discussion about Washington politics. His Dec. 4 visit to the University came at the height of the controversy over the outcome of the 2000 presidential election.
Last October, about 20 current and former University of Hartford administrators came together in Virginia to celebrate the inauguration of their former colleague, Walter M. Bortz III, as president of Hampden-Sydney College.

On this memorable fall weekend, old friends reunited and proudly watched one of their own take office as a college president, said University of Hartford Secretary Charles P. Condon, who attended the inauguration.

But this was not the first time that someone with ties to the University of Hartford had gone on to lead a college or university. At least nine former administrators or alumni of the University of Hartford are currently serving as college or university presidents, and a number of others have served as presidents in the past.

“The intellectual atmosphere, the scholarship, and the opportunities that these people had at the University of Hartford helped to make them interesting people with a great deal to offer,” said former UH President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, who has been president of The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., since 1988.

Bortz, the latest member of the University of Hartford family to become a college president, served UH from 1981 to 1989, first as executive director of admission and student financial assistance and later as vice president for institutional advancement. He went on to work as a vice president of The George Washington University, and last October, he was inaugurated as president of Hampden-Sydney, a four-year liberal arts college for men, with an enrollment of 975 students.

Like Bortz, many of the former University of Hartford administrators who went on to become college or university presidents worked at UH during the Trachtenberg administration. Bortz said that Trachtenberg’s dynamic, high-energy style helped prepare these administrators for their future leadership roles.

“They were all terrific, strong leaders whom President Trachtenberg pushed, cajoled, challenged, and tossed into every conceivable opportunity that one can imagine confronting in the higher education environment,” Bortz said. “Trachtenberg continues to this day to be one of the most prolific higher education administrator mentors in the field.”

In addition to Trachtenberg and Bortz, other presidents with University of Hartford ties include James S. Vinson, the outgoing president of the University of Evansville in Indiana. Vinson, the former dean of UH’s College of Arts and Sciences, has been president of the University of Evansville since 1987 and is planning to step down at the end of the current academic year.

Peggy Stock, former vice president for administration at UH, went on to serve as president of Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire and currently is president of Westminster College in Salt Lake City.

Walter B. Roettger, who served the University of Hartford as associate provost and as dean of the Ward College of Technology and the Barney School of Business, became president of Lyon College in Batesville, Ark., in 1998.

Also in 1998, Roy J. Nirschel was named president of Newbury College in Brookline, Mass. Nirschel had served as the University of Hartford’s director of...
Making the World Their Classroom

by Michelle Godin ’00

The University of Hartford strives to offer its students a complete education, one that will prepare them for the challenges of the global community of the 21st century. During the past year, more than 100 students, representing all nine schools and colleges, have participated in the programs offered by the University’s International Center.

Students can attend universities in more than 50 different countries while earning credits toward their majors. Financial assistance may be applied to an affiliated study abroad program, so the experience often comes at no additional cost to students. English is the language of instruction for many study abroad programs, but students still have opportunities to learn and practice foreign languages. They can spend one semester, a winter or summer term, or a full academic year abroad.

The University also offers opportunities for international internships in a broad range of disciplines, that allow students to gain valuable work experience while earning course credits. During the time abroad, students have the chance to travel in their host countries and adjacent nations.

Four students who traveled overseas this past year spoke with The Observer during a recent International Center luncheon at The 1877 Club on campus.

Katelyn Schuft, a senior painting major and art history minor, had always wanted to study abroad. When she learned that the University’s Hartford Art School was affiliated with the Marchutz Painting School (an adjunct institute of American University) in Aix-en-Provence in southern France, it was a chance she couldn’t let pass her by. Even though Schuft speaks French, she says it was difficult for the first three months to adjust to the language. After her year there, however, she is now proficient in French. In fact, she did so well as a student in France that she won the Dr. Constantine Christofides Award for research that she did on medieval art history, sculpture, and artwork. Schuft said that Marchutz provided her with an interdisciplinary approach to painting and art history.

To Schuft, the most valuable part of her experience was living in the culture. “Their pace of life suits me,” she said. “No one is busy trying to climb ladders.”

She spent her time in France getting to know people and becoming closer to nature. She enjoyed the outdoor market and eating only what was fresh and available. While abroad, Schuft also traveled to Italy, where she was exposed to some of the world’s greatest art. She can’t say yet how her experience abroad will benefit her future career, but she does know that it has changed her perspective and her artwork.

Roommates Kate Dougherty and Kelly Gould spent the spring semester of their junior year in Newcastle, Australia. The University of Newcastle, an hour north of Sydney, appealed to Dougherty and Gould because it offered programs that incorporated both of their majors. Dougherty is a double major in English and education; Gould is a communication major. The decision to study abroad was a spontaneous one for the pair, who had heard wonderful stories about friends’ experiences abroad. They went to the International Center, signed up, and less than a year later they were in Australia.

The most important part of their experience, the roommates said, was the exposure to another culture. They enjoyed the Australians’ laid-back attitude and slower pace of life. Dougherty said that she plans to continue traveling and that the experience has changed her outlook on the world. Gould plans to stay in touch with the people that she met there—forever. “I loved every minute of it!”

Jeremy Hassel, a marketing major in the Barney School of Business, took advantage of the summer program that is offered at Richmond University in London. Except for the bland food, he said, it was easy to adjust to living in London. He enjoyed the international business classes and found it surprising that his professors acted not only as instructors but also as advisors, interested in students’ lives outside of the classroom. He was able to complete two classes in six weeks and travel to Spain, France, and Belgium for an additional two-and-a-half weeks. Hassel said his experience abroad has left him generally more open-minded and aware that there are a lot of opportunities in the world. “I would encourage all students to study abroad. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Michelle Godin is a graduate intern in the University’s Office of Communications.
Discovering Britain
by Thomas Grant
Professor of English

In the mid-1980s, then—University of Hartford President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg had the clever idea of affiliating the University with Hertford [pronounced Hartford] College, one of the several colleges making up Oxford University in England, and one of its oldest, founded in 1282 as Hart Hall and refounded as Hertford College in the 19th century. Trachtenberg exploited the common origin of the two place names: Connecticut’s capital city and the region of the college’s medieval founder, Hertfordshire.

In the spring of 1986, Trachtenberg established a sort of “Rhodes Scholarship” with Hertford College, based on a competition among our very best seniors, one being chosen per year thereafter. The scholarship entitled the winner to two years of study, thus ensuring that, each year after the first, two University students would be in residence at Hertford College. By the time the first winner, David Casavant, arrived at Oxford for graduate study in the fall of 1987, the scholarship was funded and endowed in memory of the English-born CEO of Hueblein Corporation of Hartford, John G. Martin, by his sister, Helen Martin, a resident of Coventry, England. It has since been known as the Martin Scholarship. [See article on page 22.]

This opportunity for students opened other possibilities for study at Hertford College, one of which has evolved into a regular summer course taught by our faculty and open to all students as part of the University’s summer school. It is called Discovering Britain, a six-credit course taught by two professors, one affiliated with the University of Hartford and the other with Hertford College. Because of the proximity of Oxford to both London and Stratford, the course concentrates every summer, with some exceptions, on history, particularly the age of Elizabeth I, and literature, particularly Shakespeare.

In the summer of 2000, I had the good fortune to be selected as the University’s faculty representative, teaching a course on selected Shakespeare plays, ones scheduled for performance during the summer in theaters in Stratford and London. The course on Elizabethan history was taught by Prof. John Harrop, retired professor of history at Magdalen College, Oxford. Because the actual course ran only about four weeks, students were expected to prepare many readings in advance of their arrival in England and to complete the written assignments for both courses after their return.

Many UH students expressed great interest in enrolling, as did students by e-mail from other universities; by the deadline, however, our eight enrollees were all from the University. Three of our mixed group of men and women were older, commuting students, and three others came from our conservatories, Hartt and the Art School. I was initially worried that so diverse a group would be incompatible, but happily I was wrong. Even at our first get-acquainted meeting, all were exceptionally friendly toward one another. A couple of the students who had enrolled without knowing anyone else found new traveling friends and immediately began making plans to visit important sites, such as Bath, Dublin, and, of course, London.

Professor Harrop and I had agreed to hold classes Monday through Thursday during the four weeks, with Fridays off for the three-day weekends needed for serious travel. John held forth in the morning, and I in the afternoon. We remained flexible because we were scheduled to attend evening performances of the plays under study and had to allow time for bus or train travel to the theaters.

University of Hartford students (with tour bus driver, front) enjoying their stay in Oxford. Shown are, front row (l-r), Mary Docter, Laura Bogner, Christina Sprague; back row, Matt Schwab, Ian Sheehy (program coordinator from Hertford College), Prof. Thomas Grant, Lincoln Warner, Orlando Bru, Dorinda Little, Donna Laverdiere.

On the main stage at the Stratford Festival Theater, we saw As You Like It and Romeo and Juliet; and at The Swan, a smaller, more intimate theater next door, we saw Henry IV, parts I and II. On our day in London together, we attended a matinee performance of Hamlet at the New Globe. The students were enthralled by the plays, marveling at the clarity and intensity of the acting, the inventiveness of the costumes and sets, and the originality of the dramatic conceptions.

Our reading experience truly came alive—and not without surprises. Although delighted to see Hamlet staged similarly to its original theatrical setting,
Britain continued from previous page

some students objected to the melancholy prince's cavorting about in his "antic disposition" dressed only in a filthy nightshirt, playing up the bawdiness in his lines and "mooning" the audience! No Mel Gibson was he—more Jim Carrey. Still, this refreshingly unorthodox interpretation was an experience not to be missed.

We stayed in individual dormitory rooms at Warnock House, a modern annex of Hertford College located only a few blocks from the center of Oxford. Our needs were ably met by Ian Sheehy, a graduate student in Irish history at Hertford College, who arranged our trips to the theatres and introduced the students to the local college pub scene. Because many of the colleges of Oxford University operate both summer programs for students and seminars for employees of companies from around the world, the residence halls were bustling with people and, together with the many gawking tourists, made the city of Oxford itself a lively but noisy mecca. Next door to our dorm, right on the Thames River, was a popular pub, Head of the River, where we sat outside and watched the pleasure boats and punters. Several students tried to master the art of punting a boat and, luckily, managed to avoid falling in.

My wife, Carol, accompanied me during my summer teaching term and stayed with me in one of the dorm rooms. While I was teaching, she spent time reading in the magnificent Oxford Botanical Gardens and planning our weekend adventures by rental car to Yorkshire, Wales, and Cornwall. Like the students, we enjoyed simply walking around the city, peeking into ancient courtyards, and ambling through the older colleges, where many fine evening music concerts were held.

Officials at Hertford College were particularly hospitable, hosting a banquet for us at the high table in the 15th-century dining hall of the college, where we were surrounded by portraits of illustrious graduates, notably John Donne and Jonathan Swift.

Man of Steel
by Jessica Levine '98

Sabbatical. A time when professors traditionally take a break from their teaching responsibilities to do research and write.

Not exactly true for the “Man of Steel,” Benjamin Toth, associate professor of percussion at The Hartt School. True, he cannot leap tall buildings in a single bound, and he doesn’t have x-ray vision, but he does have more rhythmic and musical talent than your average man.

Toth used five weeks of his sabbatical to travel to Trinidad, birthplace of the steel drum, to play with the Pan Knights, an 80-piece steel drum band headed by Robert Greenidge, one of the world’s most respected steel drum arrangers, composers, and performers.

“I arrived in Trinidad in February 2000, about a month after the band began their rehearsals for Panorama [the national steelband competition of Trinidad],” said Toth. “Generally, rehearsals begin in the ‘pan yard’ around 9 p.m. and continue till midnight. To catch up I had to arrive every day at five, six o’clock in the evening to learn all the notes.”

While in Trinidad, Toth stayed with a local family, the Solomons. The family rents rooms every year to musicians who play in Carnival. “They became my surrogate family,” said Toth. “I learned about the people and customs of Trinidad from Beverly Solomon, her children, and all of their friends and visitors.”

After a few days, Toth realized that he was lucky to be staying with the Solomon family, not just because of their hospitality but also because of their luxurious accommodations. While not a typical five-star hotel, a home with running water, both hot and cold, is the lap of luxury. Trinidad is a third-world nation, and many Trinidadians still live in shantytowns that share one spigot for drinking water, cooking, cleaning, and bathing.

Lack of material possessions does not equal lack of culture, however. “The country’s appreciation for music and the arts is overwhelming,” said Toth.

Steelbands in Trinidad are like professional baseball teams in the United States. Steel drummers, known as “panmen,” are well respected. Each town or neighborhood has its own steelband, and the people support their local panmen, who enjoy a certain status, even in rough neighborhoods.

“Everyone wants to take part in the local band,” reminisced Toth. “I was talking to one guy who spent four hours...
inspired by a picture that Synnette owns of an old-time steelband.

The Panorama competition is an exciting time. Divided into three rounds over three weeks, the preliminary competition narrows the field from 67 bands to the 20 that progress to the semifinals; 12 bands are chosen as finalists. And in the end, one band is the champion.

As the competition begins, the bands line all the side streets around Queens Park in Port of Spain. Surrounded by fans, the bands move toward the bull track, then the main stage, increasing their tempo from half to full. By the time they reach the judges, each band is hyped up and raring to go, with the music at warp speed.

Besides the 2000 Panorama, Toth also participated with the Pan Knights in “Pan in the 21st Century,” a competition that features pop, classical, and jazz music arranged in a calypso style. The Pan Knights performed the jazz standard “Autumn Leaves,” also arranged by Robert Greenidge.

“I have been playing steel drums for 20 years, yet I now realize I had never felt the swing of calypso quite the right way, and I never imagined the sheer energy generated in the pan yards of Trinidad,” said Toth. “My experience has influenced my direction of Hartt’s steelband. I have learned to build from the ground up, rehearsing at much slower tempos to really help the students learn the swing of the piece. In general, I learned more about the island, people, culture, and music of Trinidad than I could have hoped for,” Toth said. “It is clear to me that this experience will enhance my approach to teaching and performing music, not just in regard to steel drumming but in a much broader sense.”

Toth brought the music of Trinidad home to the entire University, when he performed on the Lincoln Theater stage at Fall Convocation on Sept. 5. The Man of Steel won the audience’s collective ear, as he took them to Trinidad through his steel drumming and captivating tales of the Caribbean. On that crystalline Convocation afternoon, Toth began passing along the fruits of his sabbatical.

Discovering Vietnam

The photos that senior Josh Blanchfield shot while studying in Vietnam last fall speak volumes about the endless possibilities available to students who choose to study abroad.

A history major, Josh spent six weeks attending classes at the University of Humanities and Social Sciences in Ho Chi Minh City. There, Communist Party officials delivered lectures on topics ranging from the history of Catholicism to modern economics. Josh then went on an extensive, four-week educational tour that took him from the capital, Hanoi, in the north all the way down the central coast of the country. That tour, combined with a month devoted to independent study, allowed him to cover most of Vietnam during his stay.

He experienced everything from having a famous propaganda artist design a poster specifically for him, to touring the country’s impoverished schoolyards, to meeting with Zen masters. Josh has a particular interest in propaganda and studied militaristic art in Vietnam. He discovered that the Vietnamese have a tradition of portraying their long military history in their fine art. Through his independent work, field seminars, interviews with residents, and participatory observations, Josh returned home with a deep understanding and appreciation for the Vietnamese culture and political system.

The highlight of his trip, he says, was swimming in the United Nations-sanctioned territory of Ha Long Bay, a pool of turquoise water surrounded by a perfect circle of 100-foot stones. “It was the most beautiful thing I’ve ever done.”
It is not just Jackie McLean’s considerable talents as a jazz musician and as a teacher that make him so deserving of his recent honors, his former students say, but also the way he opens his heart to his students.

“I try to model myself after him,” says Sue Terry, The Hartt School’s Alumna of the Year for 2001. Terry, who became the School’s first jazz graduate in 1982, says McLean is “one of the best teachers I’ve ever seen. He has an ability to bring out the potential not only of a student but also of a person. He treats you like he expects you to be the best that you can be.

“He’s someone who his entire life has been interested in growing as a musician and growing as a person,” says Terry, a Brooklyn, N.Y., saxophonist, composer, recording artist, and educator. “I still go to his concerts. I still keep in touch with him. He’s one of the most important people in my life.”

When McLean was recently honored with the renaming of Hartt’s Department of African-American Music as The Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz, “I was very proud of him,” says Terry. She was one of 15 Hartt jazz alumni who returned to campus for the Nov. 17 Hartt Gala, at which McLean’s honor was announced. “To see him get that award made me feel very proud for him, because he doesn’t do anything in his life with the intention of looking for a reward. He does things because he believes in the value of them.”

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Learning from the Best

by David LaChance

In December, McLean was honored again, when he was named one of three 2001 American Jazz Masters by the National Endowment for the Arts. He shared the honor with pianist and composer-arranger John Lewis and pianist and composer-arranger Randy Weston. The Jazz Masters fellowships recognize significant contributions to jazz, artistic excellence, and impact on the music field. Among past fellows are such jazz giants as Lionel Hampton, Dave Brubeck, and Sarah Vaughan.

McLean’s place in jazz was recognized by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, who included McLean among 15 jazz musicians interviewed on camera in the acclaimed Public Broadcasting System series Jazz.

Part of what sets McLean apart is his refusal to rest on his considerable accomplishments, Terry says. “He’s someone who came from the foundations of jazz, was tutored by the masters who came before him [Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Art Blakey], and yet didn’t stop with the styles and the knowledge that he gained at the beginning.”

Eric G. Matthews well remembers meeting McLean when he visited Hartt in the spring of 1981 as a prospective student, even though he had never heard of the man he now calls “a living legend.”

“When I was a kid, I didn’t know anything about jazz, even though I thought I did,” recalls Matthews, a freelance saxophone player who lives in Lakewood, N.J. After Matthews finished his audition, McLean presented a challenge. “He told me, ‘When you come here in the fall, I want you to have this learned,’ and proceeded to write me out some things that I needed to work on.

“I hadn’t even been accepted yet. It just blew my mind. I was just drawn to that—‘Wow. He really wants me to come here,’” says Matthews. “It made me feel definitely this is where I wanted to be.”

Matthews shares Terry’s appreciation for McLean’s personal approach. “These years in a young man’s life are very formative, and he helped me form who I am, not just as a musician but as a person,” he says. “Let’s just say that I wouldn’t be who I am if I hadn’t known Jackie McLean.”

McLean eventually became a “father figure” for Matthews, inviting the young man into his home. The two had a falling out but found a way to resolve their differences and rebuild their friendship, Matthews says.

In 1970, the same year that McLean began teaching at Hartt, he and his wife, Dollie, established The Artists Collective, Inc., a cultural center that serves inner-city youth, in Hartford. “I know that Jackie credits Dollie for a lot of achievements. She’s also a very strong worker, a hard worker, and a creative person,” Terry says. “She has been supportive of him and his career.”

“He’s great. He’s a very warm person,” Matthews says. “There’s a presence about him. You can tell when you’re in his presence that there’s a man there with a lot to offer.”
“Returning to Hartt is like returning home to your family. Once a student of Jackie’s, always a student of Jackie’s.” —Sue Terry ’82
Since 1970, when The Hartt School appointed the great alto saxophonist Jackie McLean as a teaching associate in Afro-American music, jazz has become a dynamic, palpable presence at the University of Hartford. In 1980, the department of African-American music was founded with McLean as its director. The program accepted its first class of 10 students in the 1981–82 academic year. Today, under McLean’s leadership, the department continues to thrive, with approximately 12 students entering each year.

In full tribute to his remarkable achievement, The Hartt School has renamed the department as The Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz. Dean Malcolm Morrison announced the new name on Nov. 17 at the Hartt Gala celebrating the 30th anniversary of McLean’s involvement with the University. The evening was filled with music that encompassed all of Hartt’s jazz history, from Sue Terry, Hartt’s first jazz graduate, to the School’s current students.

The dinner began with a surprise appearance by Gil Noble, host of ABC-TV’s “Like It Is,” who is a lifelong friend of McLean’s. Noble recalled their childhood days, growing up on the streets of Harlem, playing stickball and causing trouble. Later, after hearing jazz saxophone, Jackie began to disappear from the streets, he said. When Noble went to McLean’s apartment to look for him, he found him practicing jazz by listening to a recording and playing it over and over until he had perfected each lick. Noble said he knew then that his friend Jackie would go far.

The celebration brought together current jazz students and alumni, as well as percussionists and dancers from The Artists Collective, directed by McLean’s wife, Dollie, for a memorable evening. Performances by Hartt students of jazz, music theatre, and dance paid homage to McLean’s legacy of jazz at Hartt and throughout the world.

The evening’s concert began with African drummers from The Artists Collective marching up the Lincoln Theater aisles. Dressed in native attire, they pounded out the roots of jazz and the history that influenced and inspired the music of Jackie McLean. Young dancers from The Collective joined the drummers on stage, delighting the audience with their dexterity and artistry.

Then, as the lights dimmed and the house grew dark, a video message of congratulations appeared. Bill Cosby, in his singular comedic style, spoke directly to McLean, praising his work.

Throughout the night, the music echoed through the theater, giving listeners a chance to hear the quality of jazz that McLean has brought to The Hartt School. Students from the Dance Division performed a newly choreographed work to McLean’s “Rockin’ and Rhythm.” The Music Theatre students toasted the jazz master with the music of one of the honoree’s favorite artists, Duke Ellington. With numbers from Sophisticated Ladies and other Ellington standards, they highlighted the influence that jazz has had on other kinds of music and in other parts of the world.

A highlight of the evening was the return of Sue Terry and other Hartt alumni, including Jimmy Greene ’97; Peter Greenfogel ’97; Tony Leone ’92; Wayne Escoffery ’97; Kris Allen ’97; Aya Beckles, Steve Davis ’89, a Hartt faculty member; Mary Davis; Eric Matthews ’95; Allen Palmer ’91; Tom Petrycha; Antoine Roney; and Julius Tolentino ’97.
Honoring a Legend

African drummers from The Artists Collective

Dancers from The Artists Collective

Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison

Jackie McLean (left) is congratulated by President Walter Harrison.

Steve Davis ’89, a Hartt faculty member

Music Theatre major Jessica Dennis

Dance Division students

Caley Bisson (left) and Dana Mierlak, seniors in the Music Theatre program
In early 2000, David Pritikin ’93 was asked if he would be interested in going to Malaysia for a few months to help produce an unusual new television program. Pritikin thought it would be nice to get out of Los Angeles for a while and see a part of the world he knew very little about. Besides, the premise of the project sounded intriguing.

One year later, that offbeat new program has become a cultural phenomenon, and Pritikin has found himself playing an integral role in it. The program is “Survivor,” the enormously popular CBS series in which contestants are “stranded” in harsh, remote locations and try to outlast each other for a $1 million prize. Pritikin served as associate producer for both of the “Survivor” series that have been filmed so far, and he expects to have a key role in the third series, to be filmed this summer.

“It’s surreal right now,” Pritikin said. “Why is this show so big, and how did I end up on it?”

Since the first “Survivor” made its debut last summer, the program has become a ratings juggernaut and a staple of American pop culture. The first series was filmed on a tiny Malaysian island in the winter and spring of 2000, and aired during the summer. The second series, which was filmed in the Australian Outback last fall, began airing on Jan. 28 and will continue through late April.

Pritikin, a member of the men’s basketball team during his four years at the University of Hartford, earned an associate’s degree from Hillyer College (then called the College of Basic Studies) and a bachelor’s degree in politics and government from the College of Arts and Sciences. The 1992–93 Men’s Basketball Information Guide described Pritikin as a versatile player and a “gritty defender, physically strong and scrappy,” and said that he “exhibits a ‘blue collar’–type work ethic”—qualities that may have come in handy on the “Survivor” set.

The alumnus says his experiences at the University, both as a basketball player and as a student, helped him to overcome shyness, build confidence, and develop the drive to succeed. You can take what you’ve learned through athletics and through school and mirror it to your everyday life.”
Pritikin put it, “in the bowels of Borneo.” He interviewed with Shelly and the show’s executive producer, Mark Burnett, and set off on the biggest adventure of his life.

As soon as he landed in Malaysia in February 2000, Pritikin knew he was in for a challenging assignment. “We were slapped with thick, heavy heat and humidity as soon as we got off the plane. It was unbearable.”

After a two-and-a-half-hour boat ride, he and the rest of the crew arrived at Pulau Tiga, the remote island where the show would take place. The 16 contestants would arrive about two weeks later.

Like his fellow crew members, Pritikin had no idea what to expect and no way of knowing that “Survivor” would become such a big hit. “I thought it was definitely an extraordinary idea, and it was an opportunity to get to a part of the world I wouldn’t get to otherwise. But obviously, none of us knew what a success it would be.”

As associate producer, Pritikin worked with the camera crews to record the contestants’ daily lives on the island, following their every move, while trying to remain as inconspicuous as possible. Most nights he slept on a hammock on a beach at the edge of the jungle, so he would be close to the contestants when they awoke in the morning.

The arrangement had its advantages and drawbacks. On the one hand, “It was beautiful. You’d wake up and you’d just see nothing but water.” On the other hand, there was many a night when Pritikin would wake up to find rats crawling on him.

Of course, he and the rest of the crew still had it better than the contestants. While the contestants’ diets were limited to small rations of rice and any rats or fish they could catch, the crew ate real meals cooked by a Malaysian chef. Even so, Pritikin says he lost about 15 pounds during the filming in Malaysia.

He came back to the United States in late April 2000 and, over the next few months, worked on postproduction and editing. By the time “Survivor” finished its 13-episode summer run at the end of August, the show had become a wildly popular hit.

Next Stop, the Australian Outback
In late September 2000, Pritikin headed Down Under to resume his duties as associate producer for “Survivor II.” The premise of the show was the same as the first; but in many ways, the experience was very different.

When Pritikin left for Malaysia, no one had heard of “Survivor” and no one had any expectations for it. By the time he left for Australia, both the popularity of the first show and the expectations for the second were overwhelming.

“I think there was a lot more pressure the second time around,” he said. “When you’re on top, everybody is gunning for you. Everybody is looking for you to fail.”

Another difference between the two shows was the size of their budgets. In Malaysia, a crew of about 100 people worked on “Survivor,” Pritikin estimated. For the filming in Australia, the on-location staff grew to about 250 people. That included a group of intimidating, highly trained security guards, who kept out reporters and others trying to sneak onto the “Survivor” grounds.

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Perhaps the difference between the budgets for “Survivor” and “Survivor II” is best illustrated by Pritikin’s weight fluctuations. “As the budget goes up, so does the food quality. During the first show I lost 15 pounds, and during the second show I gained 15,” he said, quickly adding that he has “since lost the extra weight from “Survivor II.”

Despite the bigger staff and better food, working on “Survivor II” was far from cushy—in fact, it was downright dangerous. Contestants and crew members had to deal with extremely rugged terrain, oppressive heat, some of the world’s deadliest snakes, “spiders the size of my hand,” and the crocodiles for which the Outback is famous, Pritikin said. Highly venomous snakes with names like Death Adder would routinely slither through the crew’s camp.

When asked if any contestants or crew members were bitten by snakes, Pritikin said he could not comment. Like everyone associated with “Survivor,” he had to sign a $5 million confidentiality agreement to ensure that none of the show’s secrets would be revealed.

Though conditions in the Outback were harsh, Pritikin said the filming of “Survivor II” was a positive experience. For one thing, he was given more directing responsibilities in the Australia series, a promotion that he thoroughly enjoyed. And during the grueling 42 days of filming, he did occasionally get to have some fun (depending on your definition of fun). For example, he and other crew members jumped into the water from the top of the 40-foot cliff that contestants leapt off in the second episode. In case you’re wondering, it hurt.

Since “Survivor II” began airing in January, Pritikin has been writing weekly episode summaries and editing video clips for the “Survivor” Web site, accessed through www.CBS.com. In July, he will leave for the set of “Survivor III,” the location of which had not yet been disclosed when The Observer went to press.

Pritikin’s ultimate goal is to be an executive producer of a television show, preferably a comedy. At just 29 years old (he will turn 30 in April), it would seem that he is well on his way. But despite the high-level contacts and impressive résumé he is building, he is well aware of the cutthroat nature of show business. “This business is so fickle. It’s a tough, tough business.”

Nevertheless, whether he’s navigating the treacherous terrain of “Survivor” or the jungles of Hollywood, Pritikin is confident that he has the talent and determination to succeed.
Four Devoted Friends Cook Up a Recipe for Success

by Barbara Steinberger

Standing left to right: Garrick Campbell, Raymond Bell, Martin John; seated: G. Dexton Campbell
At Hotep’s Restaurant and Lounge in downtown Hartford, the menu features dishes made with callaloo and ackee; the decor includes busts of Nefertiti and Ramses; and the owners are focused, determined, and inseparable.

It all makes for an eclectic—and successful—mix for four University of Hartford alumni who developed a deep friendship during their undergraduate years at Ward College of Technology and made a commitment to go into business together.

The four friends—brothers Garrick Campbell ’90 and G. Dexton Campbell ’92, Raymond Bell ’89, and Martin John ’92—all earned bachelor’s degrees from the University in electronic engineering technology. John also earned a master’s degree in professional accounting from the University in 1994.

They opened Hotep’s last June to glowing reviews from customers, restaurant critics, and boosters of downtown Hartford.

The restaurant is a tribute to multiculturalism, with cuisine, decor, staff, and music from all over the world. The menu has strong Caribbean and South American influences, as the Campbells and Bell are all from Jamaica and John is from Guyana.

In keeping with its global theme, the restaurant’s name and its pyramid-shaped logo pay homage to ancient Egypt, a society that placed great value on bringing together many different cultures. The restaurant is named after Imhotep, an Egyptian physician, priest, and sage who lived around 2650 B.C., and who is credited with building the first pyramid. The four University alumni became fascinated with Imhotep and ancient Egypt when they studied African history at Hartford.

Visitors to Hotep’s are greeted by a yellow, pyramid-shaped awning over the front door. Inside, busts of ancient Egyptians and handmade pottery from Central and South America, Asia, and Africa make it clear that this is not your ordinary downtown eatery. A private dining area is separated from the rest of the restaurant by gauzy white curtains that evoke images of warm tropical nights.

Customers get their first taste of Hotep’s eclectic cuisine right after being seated, when they are welcomed with warm bread accompanied by spreads of mango, guava, and hummus. Reading the menu is an educational experience, with definitions of exotic foods printed along the sides and bottom of each page. Never heard of callaloo? A quick glance at the menu reveals that it is a Caribbean-style spinach. Further study of the menu shows that ackee is the Jamaican national fruit, yucca is a South American root vegetable, and chayot is a Caribbean-style vegetable.

For an appetizer, diners at Hotep’s may try such interesting fare as a cured cod, plantain, and callaloo spring roll. Entrees range from such traditional favorites as filet mignon to more unusual dishes like yucca-crusted grouper. Hotep’s most popular entree is cedarwood-roasted mango and mustard-glazed salmon.

Customers dine to the lively strains of recorded Brazilian music, reggae, Motown, jazz, and a variety of other musical genres; and they are served by a staff that represents virtually all corners of the world. The staff is headed by executive chef Carlton Rogers, who is from Guyana, and restaurant manager Didier Voisin, who hails from France. On Wednesday nights, Hotep’s features live jazz performed by two Hartt School alumni, Dave Davis and Clifford Jarvis.

While multiculturalism is one quality that gives Hotep’s its unique identity, so too is the deep affection and respect that the restaurant’s owners have for each other. The Campbell brothers, Bell, and John say they cannot imagine a time when they will not be working together.

“We don’t consider [running the restaurant] in the realm of work because we consider ourselves family,” Garrick Campbell said. “It’s always pleasurable. We enjoy being around each other.”

The foursome’s first joint venture was an investment club in the mid-1990s. The friends pooled and invested their money in order to raise capital for their next business venture and to gain experience working together.

Next came an entrepreneurial experiment called Roller Jam, in which they would rent a roller skating rink for a night and open it up to local college students for a giant roller skating party. The friends didn’t make any money on their three Roller Jams, but they gained invaluable experience in such areas as negotiating, advertising, dealing with liability insurance, and handling a variety of other business issues.

“It really taught us the fundamentals of running a business,” Bell said. They soon put that knowledge to use by forming Pyramid Holding Company, Inc., which is the parent company of Hotep’s, and thereafter, they began the three-year process of getting Hotep’s off the ground.

Each of the four friends has a demanding full-time career in addition to his managerial duties at Hotep’s and executive responsibilities for Pyramid Holding Company. Dexton Campbell, who is Pyramid’s chief operations officer, works as a financial consultant for Travelers Life & Annuity and is working toward a master’s degree in finance at Sacred Heart University. Bell, the company’s chief technology officer, holds an M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut and is a senior engineer for Southern New England Telephone’s wireless division. John, Pyramid’s chief financial officer, works as a manager in the audit practice of Pricewaterhouse-Coopers.

Continued on next page
Life at Oxford

From taking advanced neuroscience classes to studying Japanese, Katie Christoffers is working to get the most out of her experience at England’s prestigious University of Oxford.

Christoffers, the University of Hartford’s 14th John G. Martin Scholar, began her first year at Oxford last September. The Martin Scholarship enables University of Hartford graduates to study for two years at Oxford’s Hertford College.

Christoffers graduated from the University of Hartford summa cum laude in May 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She is spending her first year at Oxford working toward a Master of Science in Neuroscience, which she hopes to receive in late September.

But this modern-day Renaissance woman is not limiting herself to scientific studies. During the second year of her Martin Scholarship, Christoffers will study Japanese at Oxford. She is planning to live with a family in Japan during the summer of 2002.

Going from neuroscience to Japanese may seem like a dramatic change of direction. But it is all part of Christoffers’s efforts to get a well-rounded education and to learn and experience as much as possible.

“I have pursued my education with the intent to learn and have novel experiences,” Christoffers said. “My education broadens my perspective on life.”

Christoffers’ neuroscience studies seem challenging enough. Consider the subject of her first research project: changes in dendrite morphology of layer 5 cortical cells in wild type and transgenic mice lacking phospholipase-C-Beta-1. She will be working on her second research project throughout the summer. At the same time, Christoffers has been taking a challenging course load that has included such subjects as neuroanatomy, synapses and transduction, neuronal cell and molecular biology, and sensory systems.

Despite her heavy workload, Christoffers has made time to get to know the other students in her program and to explore the city of Oxford. She lives on the Thames footpath and tries to go running along the historic river every day. The Oxford Botanical Gardens has also become one of her favorite spots.

Christoffers was a commuting student at the University of Hartford, so living in a dormitory at Oxford has provided her with a new perspective. She’s been enjoying the experience of living in a college town and said she feels a strong sense of camaraderie with the other students in her program.

“It’s different than undergraduate work for me because here I have every class with the same students,” Christoffers said. “We all have similar interests, so there is a lot to converse about.” There are about 20 students in the graduate neuroscience program, Christoffers said. She is one of five students from the United States; the others are from England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, and Norway.

All of which leaves very little time for any kind of personal life—not to mention sleep. Of the four, Bell is the only one who is married. He has a three-year-old son and another child on the way.

“I pretty much do 80-hour weeks,” he said. “Going to bed at two o’clock in the morning is the norm.”

Garrick Campbell has a similar schedule.

“We’ve made tremendous sacrifices to make this happen. We’ve pretty much tailored our lives around our jobs, the restaurant, and Zion Academy.”

Has it been worth it? Garrick Campbell answers without hesitation.

“Very, very, very much so.”

HOTEP’S continued from previous page

Garrick Campbell, who is the company’s president and CEO, recently worked as an assistant treasurer at Chase Manhattan Bank and is currently in transition. He has a master’s degree in education from Sacred Heart University.

The fact that these go-getters have the time and energy to hold high-level jobs and run a restaurant is impressive in and of itself. But there’s more. Much more.

Since 1992, the four friends have run a program for inner-city youth in Bridgeport called Zion Academy. The program’s goal is the development of mind, body, and spirit in youngsters between the ages of 8 and 17. The academy typically serves about 25 students in the fall and spring, and 35 during the summer. Garrick Campbell said that ultimately, he and his three partners would like to start a school for children who live in the Greater Bridgeport area.

At the same time, they are working to establish a scholarship fund to supplement the Hartford Scholars program at the University of Hartford. The program enables Hartford public school graduates who meet the University’s admission criteria to attend the University for half-tuition. Through their scholarship fund, they hope to increase the financial assistance available to a select number of Hartford scholars so that three-quarters of their tuition costs will be covered instead of one-half. They plan to hold an event at Hotep’s on May 24 to raise money for the scholarship fund.

For the four young executives, Hotep’s is not the culmination of a dream but rather the beginning of one. As their next project, they would like to convert the space above Hotep’s into an upscale hotel. The Campbells, Bell, and John own the building, which is located at 283 Asylum St. in downtown Hartford.

Eventually, the four partners intend to replicate Hotep’s at other locations in Connecticut and around the country.

British continued from page 12

Another highlight of living in Oxford during the summer, especially for us, was seeing the Shakespeare comedies, sponsored by the colleges, performed outdoors annually on makeshift stages by local acting companies. We were delighted by rollicking versions of Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night’s Dream, both of which used the college landscapes for scenery and the Thamse itself for romantic entrances and exits.

Some of our students stayed abroad, traveling to other parts of England and the continent. Now hooked on travel, all were glad to have taken a course that opened the world to them. Discovering Britain was indeed the beginning of an education for life.

Life at Oxford

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HOTEP’S Restaurant and Lounge is located at 283 Asylum St. in Hartford. For more information, call Hotep’s at (860) 548-1675 or visit the restaurant’s Web site at <www.hotep.com>.

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1952
FLORENCE BOWMAN (HARTT, MMed) of Farmington, Conn., is the current president of the Musical Club of Hartford, Inc., a 90-year-old organization whose objectives are "to give assistance to promising young artists" and "to aid musical projects."

1960
CHESTER "CHET" RENeson (ART, Cert) of Lyme, Conn., a widely recognized painter of sporting scenes, exhibited his artwork at the annual Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Md., during November of last year. Reneon’s piece commemorating the festival’s 30th year portrays a hunter heading out at daybreak with his retriever and a skiff full of decoys. Using vibrant watercolors, he paints fishing, hunting, and camping scenes, as well as scenes of Bahamian life.

1962
REID MacClUggAGE (A&S) of Groton, Conn., editor and publisher of The New London Day since 1984, has announced that he will leave the newspaper at the end of 2001. Under MacCluggage, The Day changed from evening to morning publication, added staff, created new sections of the paper, and increased circulation by over 20 percent. Through the purchase of new equipment, MacCluggage was able to expand the capability of The Day Publishing Company to printing a number of magazines and weeklies. MacCluggage expects to continue his association with journalism, perhaps through teaching or writing.

1965
EDWIN Nappier (HCW, ENHP ’74, MEd ’75) of Hartford, Conn., University of Hartford regent, has been appointed to the state board of trustees overseeing the Hartford public schools by Connecticut Gov. John Rowland. Negron has been inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame for her many accomplishments during her career in business, education, and community affairs.

1966
LYNN ANN DAVIS (A&S, AA) of Clinton, Conn., has been named registrar of Capital Community College in Hartford, Conn.

1967
MARGARET WITTIGSCHLAGER NAREFF (HCW) of Granby, Conn., is the first director of the Hartford Region YWCA’s newly consolidated Youth Services Division, which provides services to families and children from age six weeks through 18 years. Nareff, who holds additional degrees from Smith College, Trinity College, and the University of Connecticut, is a diversity trainer for the Anti-Defamation League in Connecticut and has spent almost 20 years in single-sex education and leadership development for women.

1968
SHIRLE MOONE CHILDS (ENHP, MEd ’70) of Windsor, Conn., recently presented the annual staff development program for preschool staff of the Darien (Conn.) schools. Childs, an early childhood educator since 1968, is an educational consultant for the Connecticut Department of Education’s Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services.

1970
GERALD KEANE (BARNEY) of Fruitland, Md., recently retired from teaching after 28 years in independent schools and has begun a second career as an Internet sales manager for an automotive group, Price Buick, Pontiac, GMC.

PAUL SALINa (HRTT, 6th Year ’96) of Kensington, Conn., has been named principal of New Britain (Conn.) High School.
DWIGHT SCHERBAN (Hillyer ’68, A&S ’70) of Marlborough, Conn., has been promoted to professor in the Department of Marketing, School of Business, Central Connecticut State University. Scherban has been a member of the CCSU faculty since 1977 and has been associate professor since 1985.

GWYNETH WALKER (HARTT, MMus, DMA ’77) of Braintree, Vt., composed The Silvermine Suite for Flute and Guitar, commissioned for the dedication of Sara Victoria Hall, the renovated auditorium at the Silvermine Guild Arts Center, New Canaan, Conn. Walker has completed more than 120 commissions for orchestra, band, chorus, and chamber ensembles.

1971
SCOTT CAMPBELL (HARTT) of Burlington, Conn., was named Farmington (Conn.) Teacher of the Year at the annual convocation marking the beginning of the 2000–01 school year. Campbell has been high school choral director since 1974 and chair of the music department since 1983. He has also served as choir director of First Church of Christ Congregational and assistant director of the Greater Hartford Chorale, and has sung with the New Britain–based Concora professional ensemble for 15 years.

JULIE DeMAIO (A&S) of Bardstown, Ky., has self-published her first book, Double Trouble, a condensation of 46 years of journal keeping. Her memoir covers DeMaio’s school days, from the Southwest to the halls of Bulkeley High School, West Hartford, and the University, as well as memories of cultural and civic events of Greater Hartford and of her own travels from Hawaii to Monte Carlo.

DENISE JACOBSON (HCW) of West Hartford, Conn., completed her master’s degree in counseling at Central Connecticut State University and is a high school guidance counselor in Plainville, Conn. Previously, Jacobson was the director of Career Beginnings, a program of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education.

1972
ALLAN HOFFMAN (ENHP) of West Des Moines, Iowa, professor and dean of the College of Health Sciences at Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center, has built one of the nation’s first violence-prevention curricula in an academic setting. Hoffman, with the support of the president of Des Moines University, has built and directs the university’s Center for the Prevention of Community Violence. He and the center recently received an award for the prevention of violence and drug use from the White House’s National Office of Drug Policy Control.

1973
EDWARD DOLBASHIAN (HARTT, MMus ’78) of Saint Peters, Mo., was special guest conductor of the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra for last year’s annual benefit pops concert, “The Best of Broadway.” Dolbashian is the current director of orchestras and orchestral conducting studies at the University of Missouri at Columbia and is music director of the Alton Symphony Orchestra.

MICHAEL ZAGLOOL (A&S) of Scottsdale, Ariz., has recently joined Marshall & Ilsley Trust Co. of Arizona as vice president in charge of business development. In this position, he is responsible for maintaining relations with estate planning attorneys and CPAs, and for working with clients on trusts, investment management, and estate planning. Zaglool previously served in the same capacity with the private client group of First Security Bank, Albuquerque, N.M. The move to Arizona has meant an end to his 13-year career as weekend ski instructor.

FRANK ZIZZAMIA (A&S) of East Hartford, Conn., has been named director of advanced quantitative services in the human capital advisory services practice of the Chicago, Ill., and Hartford, Conn., offices of Deloitte and Touche. Before his recent appointment, Zizzamia was a senior manager with the firm and previously had spent 20 years at Aetna Life & Casualty.

1974
JEFF BENSKY (A&S) of St. Louis, Mo., president of TBG Development of St. Louis, has announced the acquisition of TBGD by Znetix, of Seattle, Wash. Znetix will work with TBG Development to develop and manage hospital-affiliated and medically based fitness centers. Bensky’s company has been successful in integrating hospitals with fitness centers, and Znetix will supply equipment, technology, and services.

A. RAY PETTY (ENHP, MEd) of Mercedita, Puerto Rico, associate professor of education at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, recently conducted workshops for university faculty and students and for public school faculty on the topic of “Manejo del Aula: Competencia Básica del Maestro Lider” (Classroom Management: Basic Competency for the Master Teacher) at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica.

1975
HAROLD MANOIAN (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., received the Committee Member of the Year award from the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) during the year 2000 Appreciation
Night. Manoian, who is serving as chair of the accounting standards and review committee for the 2000–01 activity year, is director of accounting with ADVO, Inc., of Windsor, Conn.

MARK MERCIER (HARTT) of Collinsville, Conn., has been appointed marketing director for Chamber Music Plus, Hartford.

1976
HUGH RAINNEY (ENG) of Philadelphia, Pa., has been named senior vice president of sales for RewardsPlus, the Web-based benefits firm. Rainey brings more than 20 years of executive-level experience to the firm, where he will lead sales operations, oversee the structuring of a national sales force, and orchestrate support for strategic distribution partners.

1979
ERIC EDWARD BROWN (A&S) of Arlington, Va., was part of a creative team whose poster for Metro TeenAIDS recently won “The Competition,” an annual public service design contest held in the Washington, D.C., area. The poster, which is being distributed to high schools and youth clubs throughout metro D.C., was produced by the firm for which Brown is an associate writer, Tim Kenney Design Partners of Bethesda, Md. Brown is also co-author with Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum of My Fair Esther, a musical Purim shpiel planned for presentation in March 2001 by Congregation Beth Israel of Carmel, Calif.

BRENDA CRAIG (A&S, MS ’82) of Bloomfield, Conn., is listed in the 30th edition of Who’s Who Among African Americans. Craig has been employed since 1984 at Capital Community College, Hartford, as coordinator of special populations.

1980
STEPHANIE BROWN (BARNEY) of Arlington, Va., has joined Heritage Asset Management in St. Petersburg, Fla., as vice president and marketing manager. Brown was previously director of marketing services for the Calvert Group in Maryland.

BERNARD DEMKO (BARNEY) of South Windsor, Conn., has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer at the Gerber Technology unit of Gerber Scientific, Inc., South Windsor.

1981
LOUISE PENFIELD BLOOD (HCW) of Wethersfield, Conn., was the guest solo vocalist with the Connecticut Women’s Chorale in its “Women on Stage” concert, held at HCW.

JOAN LICHTMAN (BARNEY, MSPA) of Philadelphia, Pa., was included in the Millennium Edition of Who’s Who in Medicine and Healthcare.

1982
BARBARA BARRON-TIEGER (ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., author of the best-selling Do What You Are and three other books on personality types, has been hired as the senior development and trust officer for the Watkinson School in Hartford, Conn.

MARK VERSELLI (A&S) of Wallingford, Conn., impressionist and comedian, returned to the Meriden Public Library in September 2000 for a performance in home territory. Verselli is a regular performer at popular venues around the country, including Foxwoods, Cape Cod Melody Tent, and Bally’s Las Vegas.

1983
GWENDOLYN SMITH ILOANI (BARNEY, MBA) of Farmington, Conn., has been elected to the board of trustees at Colgate University. Iloani is the president and CEO of Smith Whiley & Company, Inc., the largest U.S. minority and women-owned investment advisor broker-dealer that specializes in alternative investments. Previously, she was a managing director in Aetna Life & Casualty’s bond investment department.

SHEILA McKay (HCW) of West Hartford, Conn., is senior staff association for government relations at the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. McKay is also a member of the HCW board of trustees.

1984
DIANE DUHAIME (HCW) of Unionville, Conn., a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law, is an attorney with Day, Berry & Howard, LLP, and assistant program coordinator and volunteer attorney for the Connecticut Lawyers Legal Aid to the Elderly program. Duhaime holds several Connecticut Bar Association committee and section offices and is adjunct professor in the HCW legal studies program.

1985
STEVEN P. ESCHBACK (BARNEY, MBA) of Littleton, Colo., is the new chief financial officer of WarpRadio.com, a leading provider of Internet audio streaming for the radio industry. Eschback was recently vice president of investor and public relations for RMI.NET, Inc., responsible for the development of investment banking relationships and increasing market activity in RMI.NET’s stock.

CATHRYN RIGGS (BARNEY, MPA) of Wethersfield, Conn., has been promoted to associate professor of education at Bay Path College, Longmeadow, Mass. Riggs has conducted and published research and presented workshops on paraprofessional activities in education.

1986
BRENT PARKER HAZZARD (BARNEY, MBA) of Ellington, Conn., was elected president of the Connecticut chapter of the Turnaround Management Association for the 2000–01 year. Hazzard is vice president and team leader of business development at GE Capital Business Credit, Danbury, Conn. Members of the association are involved in corporate renewal.

LILLIAN R. KREPPEL (A&S) of Scarsdale, N.Y., has been named senior business travel...
manager of the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City. In this position, Kreppel will be responsible for managing the hotel’s transient market, which supplies a significant portion of annual revenue. Previously, Kreppel, who has over 10 years’ experience in the hotel industry, was corporate sales manager for the Holiday Inn Wall Street Hotel and the Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel.

GABRIEL PEGIS (HARTT) of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been named principal second violin at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Con- certmaster of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra from 1991 to 1997, he has been a member of the CSO’s second violin section since June 1999.

EILEEN PELTIER (HCW) of Hartford, Conn., is the director of Career Beginnings, a program of the Consortium for Higher Education that works with junior and senior high school students in Hartford and East Hartford, providing career and college guidance and mentoring.

MARIE PLETTE (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., sang the role of Donna Elvira in the Boston Lyric Opera’s November production of Don Giovanni. The opera was performed at the Shubert Theater, Boston, and was sung in Italian with English subtitles.

MARIE SPIVEY (BARNEY, MPA) of Bloomfield, Conn., was named CEO of the Learning Corridor Corp., Hartford, last October. In this position, Spivey is responsible for overall management and operation of the campus, including elementary, middle, and high schools. Before this appointment, she was vice president of community involvement at Hartford Hospital and had been executive director of the Charter Oak Terrace/Rice Heights Health Center and bureau chief of Community Health at the state Department of Public Health.

1987
JANE DAHLENBURG (HARTT) of Hillsborough, N.C., has received her Ph.D. in music history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a specialization in Renaissance music. Dahlenburg teaches music history and music theory for the university at Chapel Hill and Greensboro, and has continued to be an active piano teacher, pianist, and choral conductor.

1988
JEAN-PHILIPPE BAERT (BARNEY) of Sart, Belgium, has been chosen for a key position as European vice president for SCT Global Manufacturing and Distribution Division. Baert will work to strengthen SCT International’s position as a worldwide leader in e-business solutions for the process industries, including food and beverage, chemical, and pharmaceutical. During 10 years at Sweden-based Intentia, Baert was responsible for worldwide sales and presales processes.

ROBERT MAFFUCCI (ENG) of Hartford, Conn., was recently featured in the Hartford Business Journal for his success as an entrepreneur and restaurateur. Maffucci is the owner of Vito’s by the Park, Vito’s Pizzeria and Restaurant, and since last June, the Pump House Grille in Bushnell Park, Hartford. He also owns a food and beverage company that manages a concession at Champions Skating Center, Cromwell.

TIMOTHY PETROVIC (A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., came within two strokes of winning the final four events on the Golden Bear Tour in Florida. Petrovic shot a 4-under 68 for a 72-hole total of 279, two behind Reid Edstrom of Atlanta in the tour’s Tour Championship at The Bear’s Club in Jupiter, Fla. Petrovic won four titles in becoming the tour’s Player of the Year.

D. REES PINNEY (A&S) of West Hartford, Conn., was profiled in the Hartford Business Journal recently as senior vice president of sales and marketing for Arrow Corp./FamilyMeds. com in Farmington. Pinney played a major role in launching two Web sites for the FamilyMeds online pharmacy, one in English and a second in Spanish.

1989
KEITH CRYSTAL (A&S) of Upper Saddle River, N.J., has been named director of sales for Time Warner City Cable in Manhattan. With over 1.4 million subscribers, Time Warner City Cable is one of the nation’s largest cable systems.

JOYCE TOPSHE (ENG) of Plantsville, Conn., joined Wesleyan University in September as director of construction services, a position in which she is responsible for facilities planning, design, construction, and major maintenance, and rental property management. For the previous six years, Topshe was director of facilities planning and management for Baystate Health System, a 2.6 million square-foot facility in western Massachusetts.

1990
JEFFREY ASTRACHAN (A&S) of Farmingdale, N.Y., recently has taken the position of senior rabbi at Temple Beth Elohim in Old Bethpage, N.Y.

1991
BRUNO BONNET-EYMARD (BARNEY, MBA) is working in real estate in Grenoble, France, with his wife SARANYA RUGMAK (MBA ‘91) and their two children, ages seven and five. Rugmak writes that she and Bruno...
“have very good memories of the University of Hartford.”

DAVID GABLAS (BARNEY) of Nanuet, N.Y., has a new position at Everest Realty Company, Inc., as assistant director of real estate and chief information officer.

JASON JASCH (ART) of Torrington, Conn., has joined Keiler & Co. in Farmington, Conn., as senior designer, responsible for advertising and collateral materials for Speedline. He was previously graphic designer for Checkerbee Publishing, Middletown, Conn.

KEVIN LEFEBVRE (ENG) of Boxboro, Mass., has a new job as software engineer at Sitara Networks.

MICHAEL J. TORCHIA (HARTT) of Bensalem, Pa., has been made a name partner in Semanoff, Ormsby, Greenberg & Torchia, LLC, in Jenkintown, Pa. Torchia’s firm emphasizes business law and commercial litigation, and he specializes in employment law. He would like to hear from former classmates and may be reached at <mtorchia@soglow.com>.

1992

STEVEN BONTEMPI (HARTT) of Shaker Heights, Ohio, is the newly appointed director of elite services for Sterling Corporate Executive Services, a subsidiary of National City Corporation, which provides financial counseling services to executives of publicly held corporations. Before joining National City, Bontempi provided comprehensive financial counseling at Ayco Compy, L.P., in Atlanta, Ga.

ROSEMARY BOONE (HARTT) of Milford, Conn., was recently named children and youth music director, a new position at Norfield Congregational Church, where she directs all four of the children’s choirs. Boone teaches vocal/general music at the East Shore Middle School, Milford, and co-directs the Milford Area Youth Choir for children in grades 7 to 12.

NICOLE DEMOS (ENHP) is a learning resource specialist, grades 4 to 8, at the Anglo-American School in Moscow, Russia.

GLENN S. KLOCKO (BARNEY, MPA) of Southington, Conn., adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut, has been appointed comptroller of the city of Bristol, Conn.

WENDY LEMKE (A&S) of Westfield, N.J., has accepted a position as an internal communications manager at Dun & Bradstreet.

Friends may contact her at <wendylemke@yahoocom>.

WILLIAM PERRIER (A&S) of Framingham, Mass., has joined the sales staff at Boston radio station WAAF, 107.3 FM, as an account manager. WAAF is Billboard magazine’s Rock Station of the Year 2000. Perrier was previously an account manager at Cox radio station WEFX in Norwalk, Conn.

DARRICK SAMPSON (BARNEY) of Westfield, N.J., has a new job at Arthur Andersen, LLP as consultant in the human capital group, specializing in health and welfare issues.

1993

LISA BERGMAN (ENHP) of Fountain Inn, S.C., writes, “After dabbling in telecom, I made it back into teaching.” She teaches strings with the Greenville County School District and plays with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. Her e-mail address is <lisa_blublu@yahoo.com>.

BRIAN J. MCCARTIN (HARTT) of Flint, Mich., is the recipient of Kettering University’s Outstanding Research Award for the year 2000. McCartin, who is professor of applied mathematics at the Flint, Mich., university, is a recognized expert and international lecturer in computational mathematics, specifically wave propagation and human biology. He has published 80 papers in applied mathematics on topics ranging from the design of stealth vehicles to stock-option pricing, the analysis of human genetics and the geometry of music. In receiving this award, McCartin paid tribute to his parents and his wife, Barbara, who is his “piano duet partner” and illustrator of his publications.

MICHAEL V. ROSSI (A&S) of Enfield, Conn., has graduated from the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Advanced Camp at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Wash., and has been commissioned as a second lieutenant to serve in the U.S. Army, National Guard, or Reserve.

DIEDRE TAVERA (A&S, MA) of Bristol, Conn., as general manager of The Bushnell, was featured in a Hartford Business Journal profile. Tavera is deeply involved with The Bushnell’s expansion plans that project two theatres and a broader array of programming by the fall of 2001.

1995

PHILLIP BOYKIN (HARTT) of Twinsburg, Ohio, appeared once again as Joe in Jerome Kerri’s Showboat last September at the Oakdale Theater, Wallingford, Conn. Boykin estimated that he had performed the role at least 300 times before the show’s 2000 tour and would add at least another 100, including eight at the Oakdale, before the tour was over. The song “Oh! Man River,” Boykin said, is an emotional high point, not only for audiences but for the performer as well.

DAVID M. CORDANI (BARNEY, MBA)
CIGNA Healthcare’s vice president of corporate accounting and planning. Cordani, a CPA, has worked for CIGNA since 1991 and previously served as the southeast geographic market leader.

JOANNE ERICKSON (ENHP, MSN) of Wallingford, Conn., has received the Cornerstone of Quality Award from the Connecticut chapter of the Case Management Society of America. Erickson’s award was based on her case management and ability to meet her clients’ health-care needs. She is director of case management of the Connecticut Alliance for Integrated Care, Mid-State Medical Center’s management services organization.

GRACE PARKS MITCHELL (HCW, BA ’98) of West Hartford, Conn., is the assistant director of the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame, where she recently presented an exhibit titled “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Female Body Image in American Culture.” The exhibit examined the relationship between cultural
representations of women and the development of self-image.

NICHOLAS ZAHARIAS (A&S) of Willington, Conn., has been named a regional major gift officer at Choate Rosemary Hall school in Wallingford, Conn. Zaharias was previously the development officer at Eastern Connecticut State University.

1996
RYAN N. GUILLET (ENG) of Trumbull, Conn., was recently promoted by Waters Construction Company, Inc., of Bridgeport to be superintendent of the I-95, Exit 41, interchange reconstruction in Orange, Conn., a $14 million project.

MICHAEL LITKE (ENHP, MEd) of Hebron, Conn., recently began duties as assistant principal for Jack Jackter Elementary School, Colchester, Conn. Litke has worked for the past five years as a 6th-grade teacher at Hockanum School in East Hartford and has done a two-year administrative internship with Hopewell School in Glastonbury.

DIANE MATTA (HCW, BA ’99) has met half of the requirements for her master’s degree in labor relations at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

SARA METCALFE (HARTT, MMUS) of West Hartford, Conn., has been promoted to head librarian at the Bess Graham Library at Hartford College for Women. Metcalfe was previously Mortensen Library’s serials and stacks coordinator.

1997
DAVID HENRICKSON (A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., has a new job as case manager at Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc.

AMY WARCHOL (HARTT) of Alliance, Ohio, recently performed soprano roles with “Opera Amore!” by Opera Theater of Pittsburgh. “Opera Amore!” is one of the 2000–01 Twilight Concerts, presented by the Pennsylvania Academy of Music. Warchol has completed her master’s degree in voice at the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music and, last summer, sang at the Opera Theater of Lucca in Italy.

1998
SARA LATREILLE LaFLEUR (HARTT) of Chicago, Ill., teaches Suzuki piano at DePaul University, Community Music Division, and has auditioned to enter the Performance Master’s Program at DePaul this year. LaFleur has over 40 private students and team-teaches at Suzuki piano group classes. She writes that she would like to be contact person for students interested in information about the Midwest: <mozartist@earthlink.net>.

SCOTT G. SIRIANNI (ENHP, MEd) of Farmington, Conn., received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship last summer. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the one-month fellowship permitted Sirianni to travel to Hungary, Romania, and Croatia to study Eastern European culture and history. Sirianni teaches third grade at Stafford Elementary School in Bristol, Conn.

1999
JANINA R. JOHNKOSKI (ENHP, 6th Year) of South Windsor, Conn., is the new assistant principal of A. Ward Spaulding Elementary School in Suffield, Conn. Johnkoski, who has been teaching in Bolton, has 15 years’ experience in elementary education and serves on the advisory board for governance structure at the University of Connecticut School of Education.

NATHAN P. SCALZONE (HARTT) of Thomaston, Maine, composed the music for the town song of Manchester, Conn., given its premiere performance in October by the Manchester Symphony Orchestra. With words by poet Deborah Howard of Avon, the song won a contest sponsored by the Manchester Symphony.

Dr. Joxel Garcia ’99, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, discussed issues and trends in public health care with guests and students in the Barney School’s Executive MBA program for health-care professionals on Nov. 10. Garcia was in the first graduating class of the program in 1999.

New York and New Jersey Alumni:
If you like the idea of spending a Sunday watching champion horses race through the autumn countryside, let us know! On Oct. 28, 2001, thousands of spectators will converge on the rolling hills of Moorland Farms in Far Hills, N.J., to watch world-class horses compete in steeplechase events at the prestigious Far Hills Race Meeting. If you are interested in attending as part of an alumni group, please contact Kelly Heaney at chapter@mail.hartford.edu, or call toll-free at 1-888-UH-ALUMS.
2000

BRIAN APPERSON (ENHP) of Canterbury, Conn., began a new job during the summer of 2000 as baseball coach for Norwich (Conn.) Post 4 American Legion. Apperson played ball for the University for two years and hopes to teach and coach in the future.

JAVIER COLON (HARTT) of Stratford, Conn., gave up his first job as a support technician for a computer company to join the Derek Trucks Band as vocalist late last summer. After winning the audition at the Bowery Ballroom in New York City, Colon went on the road with the band, an experience he says he didn’t learn in school. He finds he is able to contribute “a little salsa into the band,” which plays a mix of blues, jazz, and funk.

CHRISTOPHER GALLIGAN (ENHP, Med) of Manchester, Conn., has been named director of special programs at the Lally School of Management and Technology for Rensselaer at Hartford.

NICOLE A. LIPMAN (HARTT) of Brookline, Mass., has accepted a job with FleetBoston Financial in Boston, Mass.
Recognizing Achievement and Dedication

Five men and women who have distinguished themselves as outstanding members of the University of Hartford community were recognized in November at the 39th Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony. The annual event is sponsored by the Alumni Association.

The 2000 Distinguished Alumnus Award went to David Goldenberg ’73, ’76, ’76. Goldenberg has had a prolific career in higher education, having achieved success as an administrator, teacher, and scholar. He currently serves as chief executive officer of Pennsylvania State University at Mont Alto, one of 12 regional campuses that make up Penn State’s largest college.

“The University of Hartford had a marked effect on my life,” Goldenberg said in an interview after the awards ceremony. Goldenberg, a former student regent, remembers the University as the place where he discovered his love for his field. He said he enjoyed being back on campus and was delighted to see old friends like Floyd Fisher, associate professor of mathematics and Goldenberg’s first academic adviser at Hillyer College. Goldenberg credits Fisher with instilling in him a love of mathematics and education.

“The day brought on a whirlwind of great memories,” Goldenberg said. Even his former roommate, Alan Goldberg, flew in from Ohio to share the occasion with him.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ethel Bacon ’44, ’55, the University’s archivist since 1965 and a former teacher and music librarian for The Hartt School. During more than half a century of service to The Hartt School and the University, Bacon wrote a history of Hartt, served as editor of the Hartt alumni newsletter, produced a Hartt School cookbook, and initiated a variety of other creative fund-raising projects.

Another long-time friend of the University, Cecilia Welna, was recognized with the Honorary Alumna Award. Welna, a professor emerita of mathematics, joined the University of Hartford faculty in 1957. Among her many roles at the University, she spent 14 years as chair of the Mathematics Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, and served as dean of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP) for nine years. Welna continues to teach two mathematics courses every semester.

The Alumni Association presented a Special Recognition Award to Richard Keller, who has been a dedicated and outspoken advocate for people with disabilities in Greater Hartford, particularly at the University. Among other things, Keller assessed the accessibility of campus facilities, recommended improvements, and served as an ombudsman for disabled students.

Keller’s Special Recognition Award was presented by a student, and his acceptance remarks were read by his son. “Although I’m grateful for this award, my greatest gratitude is to this institution, a university that keeps its promise to provide students an accessible education.”

The Alumni Association also presented former Provost Elizabeth Ivey with “Recognition for Service to the University.” During her tenure as provost, from 1995 to 2000, Ivey played a critical role in steering the University through its fiscal challenges and into an era of financial recovery, stability, and growth. Ivey joined the University at a time when many academic institutions were facing serious budget deficits and declining enrollments, and she made many of the difficult decisions necessary to get the University back on track. Ivey said that she enjoyed her five years as provost, particularly the people with whom she worked.

Presidents continued from page 9
development and alumni relations from 1982 to 1986.

Walter McCann, former dean of the Barney School of Business, left the University of Hartford to become president of Athens College in Greece and now serves as president of Richmond, The American International University in London.

Jonathan Rosenbaum, who served as director of UH’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and as the Maurice Greenberg Professor of Judaic Studies, is now president of Gratz College in Melrose Park, Pa.

Several University of Hartford alumni have also risen to the rank of college or university president. Gwendolyn Jensen ’62 currently serves as president of Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa. UH alumnus Elliott S. Milstein ’66 is the former acting president of The American University in Washington, D.C. Another alumna, Marylouise Fennell ’72, ’73, is the former president of Carlow College in Pittsburgh.

Other former college and university presidents with ties to UH include Joseph F. Burke, who served as dean of the University of Hartford’s College of Basic Studies (now known as Hillyer College) in the late 1980s and went on to become president of La Salle University in Philadelphia. Carol J. Guardo, who served as University of Hartford provost from 1980 to 1985, subsequently became president of Rhode Island College in Providence.
Being able to help others while having a great time—it’s the best of both worlds. That’s what Irwin Nussbaum, UH’s associate dean of students, has achieved with the University’s MUSIC for a CHANGE concert series which he launched last spring with three concerts. For the 2000–01 school year, the concert series featured 10 shows last fall and 10 this spring.

Among the performers that Nussbaum brought to the University this past fall were Grammy Award–winning artists Shawn Colvin and Alison Krauss and Union Station, as well as Richie Havens, Odetta, Jonathan Edwards, and Patty Larkin. Those performing on campus this spring included Christine Lavin, Richard Shindell, Northern Lights, and Tish Hinojosa. Upcoming spring shows include Lucy Kaplansky on April 27, Cheryl Cormier on May 12, and David Mallet on May 18. Already booked for the 2001–02 MUSIC for a CHANGE series are return engagements by Edwards on Sept. 14, Larkin on Dec. 7, Erin McKeown on Sept. 28, and Vance Gilbert on Oct. 26. Nussbaum also confirmed that The Capitol Steps, a Washington, D.C.–based group renowned for its biting political satire, will performat the University as part of the series during Fall Weekend (Oct. 12–14).

The genesis of the series arose during a chat Nussbaum was having with Fred Sweitzer, associate dean of the University’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions. “Fred and I share a love of the same kinds of music—folk and acoustic—and we agreed that it was a shame that there wasn’t enough of this music on campus and that students and others weren’t being exposed to it,” he said. Sweitzer then encouraged Nussbaum to develop a concert series featuring that kind of music for the campus.

Nussbaum had run a similar concert series, called Sundays at Eight in the 1980s, when he worked at Amherst College in Massachusetts. Featuring such well-known performers as Bonnie Raitt, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and Krauss, the series raised a significant amount of money for local nonprofit agencies in the Amherst/ Northampton area.

As director of the University’s Center for Community Service (CCS), Nussbaum wanted the University of Hartford series to be one that would benefit local nonprofit agencies. He said that it was Sweitzer who came up with the name for the series. “This is really all about helping our neighbors and friends help change people’s lives,” according to Nussbaum.

When Cheryl Cormier arrives on campus May 12 to perform her MUSIC for a CHANGE concert, she will be on familiar ground. The country singer attended The Hartt School for two years, where she developed a love of classical music and opera but knew that singing opera would not be for her. It was when she started listening to singers such as K. D. Lang, K. T. Oslin and Bonnie Raitt that she began to realize that it was country music that spoke to her soul.

The proceeds from the Alison Krauss and Union Station show, about $800, went to Foodshare, which provides food to needy families throughout central Connecticut. Other nonprofit organizations that have benefited from the concert series include Habitat for Humanity, the Juvenile Diabetes Association, and Covenant to Care (a Bloomfield-based organization that helps meet the needs of abused, neglected, and impoverished children in Connecticut).

Covenant to Care Associate Director Lois Coatsworth told the Hartford Advocate that being involved with the MUSIC for a CHANGE concert is about much more than raising money. “It’s more getting your name out there and raising awareness,” she said, noting that more than 300 people attended the Jonathan Edwards concert that benefited Covenant to Care. “That kind of platform for a small nonprofit is very valuable.” As a result of the concert, the organization received a donation of Beanie Babies, which will come in quite handy at the holidays, and an elementary school teacher asked her to come speak to fourth- and fifth-graders about poverty. “Those are two contacts that I would not normally have made,” she said.

Nussbaum notes that some of the nonprofits benefiting from the concerts are groups with which the University and CCS have had partnerships, while others have asked to get involved after hearing about the series. He encourages representatives of nonprofit agencies to call him if they would like to get involved.

“All we require of the nonprofits is that they help promote the event [with which they are connected] via their membership list, and that they provide five volunteers the night of the show to help sell refreshments and artists’ merchandise and to talk about the work of their organization to the concertgoers,” he said.

Nussbaum admits that he’s been a bit selfish with the series. “I’m seeing the music I want and getting to meet some wonderful performers,” he says. But he’s also seeking suggestions for artists for future concerts. “People should e-mail me [nussbaum@mail.hartford.edu] with names of performers or names of local nonprofits that could be helped,” he said, or to be added to the mailing list.

MUSIC for a CHANGE is a concert series that benefits everyone, he says. “It’s a chance to help Hartford-area nonprofits and [hear] some wonderful music. What could be better than that?”
Teacher.
Tourist.
Landlord.
Philanthropist.

“The University of Hartford provided the education I needed to get ahead. I felt I should give something back.”

*Lucille G. Killiany '65*

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