Kaplans continued from page 11

For Annie, community service began when she was a 12-year-old candy striper in the Rio Piedras Auxilio Mutuo Hospital in Puerto Rico and continued through her high school and college years up to the present day.

For Ben, the strong sense of commitment to the University and the community that began in his family was particularly strengthened during his years with Arthur Andersen, a company that encourages its employees to give to the community with both their time and financial support.

The University was always a large part of Ben’s young life, beginning with piano lessons at Hartt’s Community Division in 1962. He did not, however, start his college years here. After pursuing three different majors at the University of Pennsylvania, he was given an ultimatum by his parents and transferred to Hartford. It was a good move, Ben says, because it was here that he became focused. Two of the faculty members who had the greatest impact on him, he says, were George Generas, assistant professor of accounting, and Bruce Esposito, associate professor of history. Esposito says he was always impressed by how Ben, as a student, would invariably have an immediate insight into the core of any problem he was studying and get to the essence of an issue. Esposito, who was close to Ben’s parents, has remained in touch with Ben and Annie as well.

‘AN INTELLECTUAL FIRECRACKER’

Among the faculty members who were important to Annie and with whom she stays in contact are Ed Weinswig, professor of education; Peter K. Breit, professor emeritus; and Harald Sandstrom, associate professor of politics and government.

“Annie García brought such a sparkle to the classroom,” Sandstrom says. “She was an intellectual firecracker with a short fuse, in that she would burst forth with bright responses at a moment’s notice. She still has that sparkle.”

Noting that Annie “lights up a room with her presence,” Sandstrom says, “Anyone who has had the pleasure of conversing with Annie knows the light comes from within. You don’t earn a doctorate with a bright smile. But when you have a doctorate and a bright smile, that makes for great conversation.”

As director of the University’s African-American Studies program, Sandstrom says he particularly wants to honor Annie and Ben for establishing a scholarship fund that will give preference to minorities. “Students of color on this majority-white campus enrich the community greatly but often come here facing financial hardship,” he says. “How wonderful that some of them will have an easier time as a result of this beautiful gift.”

The Kaplans’ generosity to the University extends beyond the scholarship fund. They have both included the University in their wills, and in letters to their fellow alumni, they have encouraged others to do so as well.

“For me, college was a gateway,” Annie wrote in one of the letters, “a transforming experience that helped me discover important and new aspects of myself. It prepared me to respond to and shape my world. When you make a bequest to benefit the University, you are helping to ensure that the same experience will be available for its future students...your hand is on the gate, helping to hold it open.”
1952
VICTOR V. DELISA (HARTT, Artist’s Diploma) of Mohegan Lake, N.Y., director and owner of the Lakeland Conservatory of Music in Mohegan Lake, was recently featured in a North Country News article titled “Sharing the gift of music for over 40 years.”

1955
KRISTIAN JENSEN, JR. (BARNEY) of Plainville, Conn., was honored by the Plainville Chamber of Commerce at a 75th anniversary recognition event for Jensen’s Inc., a family-owned company that develops and manages adult communities.

1959
LOUIS J. MAZZOTTA, JR. (A&S) of Bloomfield, Conn., recently showed his work in a model home for Still Mountain Estates, a new residential community on the West Hartford/Bloomfield town line.

1961
BARBARA A. KOLB (HARTT) of Providence, R.I., is known for the challenging, dense music she writes. After three decades in New York City, Kolb is in Providence on a three-year grant from Meet the Composers, an organization that places composers in communities to teach, organize cultural events, and write music that reflects the spirit of the area. A winner of Tanglewood, MacDowell, and Guggenheim Fellowships, Kolb has received the Rome Prize and seven grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Because Providence audiences have been known to avoid difficult music, Kolb says with a smile, “I’ll either make a difference here, or they’ll ignore me completely.”

1962
JOYCE CUTLER ROSEN (HCW) of Windsor, Conn., now semiretired, is a charter member of the Cheshire (Conn.) Education Foundation board and founder of the Bloomfield (Conn.) Education Foundation, for which he served as its first president. He is presently serving the last year of a three-year term as secretary of the board. He is also the post commander of Hartford-Laurel Post #45, Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

1965

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LINDA A. DEMIKAT (HCW) of Hartford, Conn., was recently named principal of the Kennelly School in Hartford.

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FRANCIS J. CHIARMONTE (ENHP, MEd) of Harwinton, Conn., is vice chair for business for downtown Hartford. The Hartford Business Journal of Oct. 8, 2001, detailed the finishing touches on the first bricks installed on the walkway outside the high school’s main entrance.

JOYCE CUTLER ROSEN (HCW) of Mission Viejo, Calif., recently moved to Orange County, where she is enjoying the weather and her family.

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A Retrospective of Percussion Music by David Macbride ‘73

Conundrum Inc. and The Hartt School present a “Retrospective of Percussion Music by David Macbride,” featuring Benjamin Toth and the Hartt Percussion Ensemble with guest artists Jessica Rosinski, flute, and Shane Shanahan, frame drums. The first performance, which is free and open to the public, will take place on Friday, May 3, at 8 p.m. in Millard Auditorium. For more information, call the University box office at 860-768-4228 or 800-274-8587.

The next day, on Saturday, May 4, the performers will travel to New York City, where they will perform at 8 p.m. at the Washington Square United Methodist Church at 133 W. 4th St. as a benefit for the World Trade Center Relief Effort. A suggested donation of $12 will be collected at the door. For information, call 212-777-2528.

Macbride, a 1973 graduate of The Hartt School who is now associate professor of composition and theory, and Toth, associate professor of percussion, have collaborated on numerous projects in the past, including two full recordings of Macbride’s music for Innnova Records. This concert will premiere Alma’s Dance for solo marimba and One for Four for solo drumset and timbracks, two works written especially for Toth. Other works on the program include Quiet for seven drummers, Conundrum for piano and marimba/xylophone, Friends for solo frame drum and frame drum ensemble, Amanaplanacanalpanama for 11 percussionists, Shape Notes for flute and two percussion, and Timing for two percussionists.

A Retrospective of Percussion Music by David Macbride ‘73

describes the many hours of free time Chiarmonte devotes to business-neighborhood cooperation.

1968

PETER J. FALK (ENG) of Enfield, Conn., was recently reelected to the Enfield Town Council.

BARRY NUDELMAN (HARTT) of Staten Island, N.Y., has retired as band director after 32 years of service in the New York City public school system. He remains active as a performing professional musician in Broadway pit orchestras.

1970

HERBERT ASCHERMAN, JR., (A&S, ENHP MA ’71) of Beachwood, Ohio, recently exhibited his artwork at the Artists Project in Cleveland.

STEPHEN P. BARNICLE (HARTT, MMusEd ’74) of Simsbury, Conn., choral director at Simsbury High School, has been invited to take a group of students from Rocky Hill, Canton, and Simsbury High Schools to Italy in April to perform at the 10th Annual International Polychoral Festival.

MARLISS MURPHY PAVANO (A&S, ENHP ’73) of Plainville, Conn., office coordinator in the alumni office at the University, has been reelected to another term on the Plainville Board of Education.

STUART A. WEBSTER (BARNEY, MBA) of Rocky Hill, Conn., has been elected to the Rocky Hill Town Council.

1971

WILLIAM S. CUTTER (ENHP) of East Hartford, Conn., has been selected principal of Fermi High School in Enfield, Conn.

1972

PETER J. HARVEY (HARTT, MMusEd, DMA ’80) of Bloomfield, Conn., directed the 2001 Connecticut Women’s Chorale holiday concert. Among those performing were HCW alumnae CYNTHIA ASHWORTH ’53, MICHELLE CARRASQUILO ’00, and REINA KOGANEMAUER ’90.

JOHN T. TAIT (WARD) of Enfield, Conn., has been named to the new board created to promote Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, Conn.

1973

GENO J. ALISSI, JR., (HAS, MAEd) of Marblehead, Mass., has been named vice president and general manager of video communications product development at Polycom, Inc., Andover, Mass.

BRIAN J. O’CONNOR (BARNEY) of Merrimack, N.H., director of supply chain at Celestica New England, received the Harry J. Graham Award from the Purchasing Management Association of Boston (PMAB) for “unusual, unselfish service and distinction in the profession.” In addition to his corporate responsibilities, O’Connor lectures on supply chain management strategies at conferences, teaches purchasing courses, and has served the association as a volunteer for 15 years.

BETH G. SCHNITMAN-MALM (ENHP, MEd ’74) of Philadelphia, Pa., is in charge of chapter house facilities in the Division of University Life, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, at the University of Pennsylvania.

PAUL D. TIEGER (A&S, MSOB ’83) and BARBARA BARRON-TIEGER ‘82

University of Hartford OBSERVER/Spring 2002
Congratulations!
Best wishes to our alumni and their spouses on recent nuptials

Merrill Max Apter ‘84 and Kari Alice Amundsen
Debra Britton ‘86 and John O. Esbaugh ‘86
Jaime Beth Shapiro ‘90 and Jonathan David Berg
Tracy A. Ciosek ‘91 and Raymond Beloin
Jill P. Perkins and Robert W. Garry ‘91
Cindy A. Goldberg ‘91 and Dr. Daniel Massoff
Lynn M. Thibodeau ‘91 and Nicolaus Nisula
Jacqueline Woog ‘92 and Brad Chernow
Adam Jeffrey Smith ‘93 and Monica Ann Brosman
Jeanne C. Goulet ‘94 and Darren Reardon
Erynn Bergstein ‘95 and David Taitel
Karen A. Tichy ‘94 and Michael Friary
Judith Lynne Purinton ‘95 and Robert Kassiotis
Jennifer Ann Rouillard ‘96 and Clint Mercer
Hilary Wilson ‘96 and Michael Jordan
Alison Jane Gorman ‘97 and Joshua Kreider Anderson
Catherine M. Hikel ‘97 and Brian W. Derbyshire ‘97
Laura Ann Cervone and Matthew Stuart McDowell ‘97
Lori S. Noga ‘97 and Winston E. Loach III ‘97
William C. Knittle ‘98 and Joy Renee Sourwine
Kimberly Park Kreitler ‘98 and Ryan Paul LaBombard
Amanda Vamvakias and Mark Stephen Rand, Jr. ‘98
Beth W. Rosenberg ‘98 and Marc Agdish
Patricia Hall ‘99 and Patrick Mackey
Rekha Raghunathan ’00 and Sathyaratnarayanan Kalyanasundaram ‘98
Debra H. Amato ‘01 and Douglas N. Indermaur
Jeannette Haug ‘01 and Nicholas A. Smith ’00
Suzanna Beth Lauder and Christopher J. Tingley ’01
Sharon B. McMahon ’02 and Steven N. Robert

and to our alumni parents

Theresa Amenta Mooney ’87 and Christopher Mooney (Catherine Patricia)
Deborah Collette ’88 and Steve Ericksen (Rebecca Jenna)
Katherine Palazzo ’88 and Michael Mecca (Sophia Belle)
Laura Arrigo ‘89 and Ted Nicholson (Joseph Charles)
Claire Donovan ‘89 and Dan Long (Kaitlyn Donovan)
Melissa B. Greene ’89 and Mark Shea (Michael)
Sharon and Kenneth M. Kadet ’89 (Ryan Jacob)
Melissa Minsky ’89 and Gary Prusher (Jack Dylan)
Lee Ann Chupka ’90 and Costantino A. Dangelo ’88 (Gianna Francesca)
Robin Downey-Murphy ’90 and Vincent M. Murphy ‘88 (Heather Joan)
Elisabeth C. Alter ’91 and Gary Krebs (Justin Mark)
Amanda Delany ‘91 and Jeffrey Given (Alexandra Jacqueline)
Kathleen Ledbetter Heinemann ‘91 and Jonathan Heinemann (Jaden Michael)
Jill Bloomstein Jeter ’91 and Paul H. Jeter ’93 (Edward Samuel)
Allison Berg ’92 and David Karasik (Sophia Mindel)
Robin Bernstein ’92 and Scott Director ’90 (Mitchell Harrisson)
Julianne B. and Robert A. Cooper ’92 (Matthew Bennett)
Ann and Terence Devine ’92 (twins Patrick Thomas and Brendan Louis)
Jeanne Dolan ’92 and Richard Cavanna (Connor Richard)
Susan Kono ’92 and Paul Donas (Arianna Sophie)
Lori and Jason Lerman ’92 (Zachary Evan)
Sharon Meyers ’92 and Natan Rotmensz (Alexander Leon)
Charlotte S. Kim ’93 and Jeffrey C. Ethier ’92 (Michael Jeffery)
Susan Petusky ’94 and Brett Heinz ’90 (Dylan Zachary)
Gail Greenspan ’95 and Rick Cannon (Jake William)
Lorraine Grogan ’95 and Michael J. Morhardt ’95 (Meghann Lily)
Elisa J. Trumpi ’95 and Eric I. Seddon ’94 (Owen Lewis)
Gayle Verne ’95 and Josh Block ’95 (Jared Reed)
Uttara and Sagar A. Kurade ’96 (Akshata)
Rivkah Magnus ’97, ’00, and Barry Eidex (Tova Leah)
Amy Sabo ’97 and Christopher Allen (Marisa Ciera)

In January 2002, the Alumni Association began sending baby T-shirts to new parents. Thanks to an anonymous gift from an alumnus, the Alumni Association purchased T-shirts with “University of Hartford” on the front of the shirt. The T-shirts will be mailed to alumni who inform the Alumni Office of their child’s birth. To have your bundle of joy listed in an upcoming edition of The Observer and to receive a T-shirt, please contact the Alumni Office at <alumni@hartford.edu>.

The Observer wishes to share in the excitement of your life changes and celebrations. We look forward to receiving those important announcements in writing from you after they have happened. We list only weddings and births, not engagement or pregnancies.
(ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., recently were interviewed by the Hartford Business Journal. The husband-and-wife career counselors and authors discussed how to match your job to your personality type.

1974
DONNA HEMMANN (HCW) of Wethersfield, Conn., is currently manager of the case management unit for the Aetna’s northeast region.

ABBE ARMBAND HENKEL (HARTT) of West Babylon, N.Y., is currently chief radiologic technologist at LI Diagnostic Imaging in Setauket, N.Y. Henkel also raises and shows pulik (Hungarian sheepdogs).

PAUL F. JAKOBOSKI (A&S) of West Mystic, Conn., has recently been named vice president of the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center. He will oversee operations, manage staff, and coordinate food drives.

DAVID A. MEYERSON (ENG) of Baltimore, Md., a cardiologist at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, has recently been accepted to the University of Maryland School of Law.

1976
JOANNE E. FRAZIER (HCW) of Burbank, Calif., is a member of both the California Army National Guard and the Screen Actors Guild.

CATHY R. LANDAU-PAINTER (A&S) of Alexandria, Va., recently was named national director of state government affairs for KPMG.

1977
ALVIN R. LUSTGARTEN (BARNEY) of Marlboro, N.J., has recently been promoted to vice president, administration and IT, at Hearst-Arlyge Television, Inc.

JEFFREY J. NOONAN (HARTT) of Cape Girardeau, Mo., is a musicologist and director of guitar studies at Southeast Missouri State University.

KENNETH D. PERSCHETZ (BARNEY) of Armonk, N.Y., has been named managing director and fixed-income trader for Sandler O’Neill & Partners, L.P., New York, N.Y.

1978
GARY R. GOMOLA (BARNEY) of Middletown, Conn., recently received the 2001 Public Service Award, presented by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants.

1979
BRYAN A. COSTANTINO (BARNEY, MSPA ’88) of Hopkinton, Mass., has been named the new national practice leader for PriceWaterhouseCoopers healthcare consulting practice.

DEBRA L. DELMAN (BARNEY) of New York, N.Y., has joined Hearst-Argyle Television, Inc., as vice-president, finance.

C. PHILLIP JOY (ENG) of Sarasota, Fla., has been appointed president of Steward & Stevenson Services, Inc.

JOHN SHEME (BARNEY, MPA) of South Windsor, Conn., was recently installed as president of the Northeastern Economic Developers Association and is one of the four directors representing the state of Connecticut in the 11-state organization.

ERIC W. UMSTEAD (BARNEY) of Minneapolis, Minn., has been working with mentally ill adults in an in-patient psychiatric unit for the past 12 years.

1980
MARK J. BONNEY (BARNEY) of Danvers, Mass., has been elected to the ThreeCore, Inc., board of directors.

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO (BARNEY, MPA) of Augusta, Maine, city manager of Augusta, was recently elected to a three-year term serving the Maine Municipal Association.

BERNARD J. DEMKO (BARNEY) of South Windsor, Conn., was recently named senior vice president of Gerber Scientific Inc.

1981
RUSSELL ALAN COOPER (ENG) of Norwalk, Conn., has been named the project manager of Jaffé Holden Acoustics, contractors for the new Belding Theater at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford.

Your Alumni Association Needs You!
The Alumni Council, the governing body of the Alumni Association, recently passed a strategic plan for the Alumni Association. If you would like a copy, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@hartford.edu.

WILLIAM J. DI FEDERICO, JR., (BARNEY) of West Boylston, Mass., has recently been appointed director of surgical specialties at Worcester Medical Center.

MARY M. DWYER (HAS) of Bridgeport, Conn., was one of six artists whose works were displayed recently at the New Britain Museum of Art as part of the NEW/NOW series. Dwyer, who paints on wood, says her work reflects her interest in history, specifically that of the 18th- and 19th-century United States. “I am interested in how we became the Americans we are today,” she says. “As a painter, I am impressed that artists of that period had such a strong role in documenting history. I enjoy work focusing on heroes and heroic deeds.”

EUGENE V. GAUDETTE (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., has been appointed chairman of the Foundation of Internet Action and Internet Action PAC.

GRACE N. HINDS (HARTT, Artist’s Diploma) of Bronx, N.Y., is president and general manager of Naomi Music Productions and Recordings. The company has five divisions: Rising Star Opera/Young Concert Pianist Competition, Naomi Artist Management, New York Opera Productions, American Music Awards, and Hinds Vocal Consultation.

MARK MCCUE ZAMPINO (A&S) of Rocky Hill, Conn., recently completed his first semester as an adjunct faculty member at the University teaching business communications. Zampino is public affairs director of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants.

1982
EUGENE CANTERA (HARTT) of Carrollton, Texas, is currently a partner and director of public relations at the...
Richard Simione to form Simione & Macca, LLP, certified public accountants and business advisors.

1985
SCOTT C. GARRANT (BARNEY, BARNEY ’88) of Wilmington, Mass., was elected to the Wilmington Board of Selectmen.

KATE RICHARDSON (HCW, ’01) of East Hartford, Conn., is president of the first townwide special education PTA in East Hartford.

1986
BARBARA S. BERGEN (BARNEY) of South Windsor, Conn., recently joined Blum Shapiro, a certified public accounting and business consultant firm, as a senior manager. Bergen will work primarily within the firm’s healthcare group, specializing in services for long-term care providers.

ANNASIRKKU MATTILA (BARNEY) of State College, Pa., completed her Ph.D. at Cornell University and is an assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University in the School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Recreation Management.

1987
DEBRA DRESNER (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., is teaching mathematics at Cheshire (Conn.) High School.

1988
STEVEN A. CHUPKA (ENG), a recently deceased alumnus, will be remembered by his family and friends through a scholarship fund in his memory. Through the Steven A. Chupka memorial scholarship, an electronics graduate of Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington, Conn., will receive the annual award.

1989
NEIL C. ABRAMSON (A&S) of Las Vegas, Nev., has recently been named director of development for the University of Nevada School of Medicine and the Academic Medical Center of Nevada.

DAVID A. BROITMAN (BARNEY) of Chappaqua, N.Y., has recently joined Singer Financial Group as vice president, Group Benefits Division.

JOLIE ROCKE BROWN (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., recently appeared in the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and First Cathedral production, “I Have a Dream,” a concert celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1990
1991
JOHN E. COOKLEY (BARNEY, MBA) of Southington, Conn., has recently been promoted to senior vice president and commercial lending officer of the Southington Savings Bank.

ANTHONY F. DEQUATTRO (HARTT) of North Haven, Conn., is currently an artist-in-residence with the New Canaan County Schools, teaching rhythm and movement, a subject he will also teach this summer at Villanova University and VanderCook College. DeQuattro performs with the Bridgeport, Greenwich, and New Haven Symphonies.

DAVID W. DRYERMAN (BARNEY) of Forest Hills, N.Y., was recently named chief financial officer of Sports Capital Partners, based in New York.

DEBORAH L. DUTCHER (HARTT) of London, England, is performing in London's West End at Her Majesty's Theatre, singing the role of Christine in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera.

1992
HULUS ALPAY (BARNEY) of Morganville, N.J., was appointed senior vice president and head of investor relations at Makovsky & Company in New York.

ROBERT A. COOPER (A&S) of North Ridgeville, Ohio, joined the firm of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP. Cooper's areas of concentration are business practice, intellectual property, and technology.


KATHLEEN EAGEN (BARNEY, MPA) of Berlin, Conn., has recently been named town manager of Farmington, Conn.

PETER A. KUZMICKAS (BARNEY, MSOB) of Andover, Conn., has joined the staff of Johnson Memorial Hospital as vice president of operations.

WENDY J. LEMKE (A&S) of Westfield, N.J., was recently recognized by her local newspaper, The Westfield Leader, for her volunteer work with Mobile Meals, a nonprofit organization that provides nutritious meals to home-bound community residents.

THEODORE F. ROGERS (A&S) of Bristol, Conn., has completed a two-year stint on “College Game Day” for ESPN, providing graphic support for the Emmy-nominated show.

BRADLEY C. SCHREIBER (A&S) of Alexandria, Va., a recent graduate of New York Law School, is the legislative counsel for U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.).
1993
BARBARA S. ARONSON (ENHP, MSN) of West Hartford, Conn., has been awarded the Lillian R. Goodman Award by the faculty of the Graduate School of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), Worcester. The award honors an outstanding doctoral candidate who exemplifies a humanitarian approach to leadership and scholarship and a deep commitment to professional practice, education, and research. Aronson is a third-year doctoral student in the collaborative nursing Ph.D. program at UMass and is an assistant professor in the school of nursing at Southern Connecticut State University. She is also a staff nurse at Hartford Hospital and a member of the editorial board of Connecticut Nursing News. Aronson was a co-author, with MICHELE NATARO FERRER 00 (ENHP), of a recent article titled “Care of the Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication Patient” in the Journal of Gastroenterology Nursing.

VIN BAKER (A&S) of Old Saybrook, Conn., an NBA All-Star, recently contributed a block of tickets to the New Haven Police Athletic League. He also donated 550 turkeys to Foodshare in Windsor, Conn., which serves the Greater Hartford area, and to Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven, serving New Haven, New London, and Middlesex Counties.

JEANNINE M. JAMESON (A&S) of Carlsbad, Calif., received a Master of Arts in Literature and Writing Studies from California State University. She is currently an assistant professor of English at Orange Coast College. She has also started a small writing business, Jameson Writing Company.

PRECIA J. KIM (HARTT) of Antioch, Calif., a private teacher of violin lessons, participates in the Jubilee Dance Ministry and Prison Chaplain Ministry.

RON RAITAN (BARNEY) of Norwich, Conn., has been appointed general manager for the Miami region by Canon Business Solutions–Southeast, Inc., where he will oversee the development of new business.

JAMES E. VITELLO (A&S) of New York, N.Y., is the director of business development for Vitech Systems Group, Inc.

1994
JEREMY R. CLOWE (A&S) of Lee, Mass., is employed at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. His responsibilities include video production and documentation of museum events and exhibits. Clowe also oversees content and design for the museum’s Web site, <www.nrm.org>.

JEANNE C. GOULET (A&S) of Raymond, N.H., received her master’s degree in education from the University of New Hampshire, Durham. She has been teaching 10th-grade English and creative writing at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy in Northwood, N.H.

PHYLLIS D. HARDEN (BARNEY, MPA) of Windsor, Conn., was reelected to Windsor’s Board of Education.

WILLIAM H. MATHEWS, JR., (HAS) of Wilton, Conn., is teaching sixth-grade English at the Middlebrook School in Wilton.

PAULA J. O’KEEFE (HAS) of Bristol, Conn., had an illustration accepted into the Scarpetta D’Oro International Illustration Contest for Children’s Books. She was awarded meritevole di Menzione special. O’Keefe works as a freelance illustrator and designer.

CARMEN IRIS SIERRA (BARNEY, MPA) of Hartford, Conn., was recently featured in the Hartford Business Journal. As executive director of the Connecticut Association for United Spanish Action, she discussed Project NEXO, designed to bridge the digital divide that affects low-income Latino families.

1995
SCOTT A. BLOOM (A&S) of Coral Gables, Fla., has been working for Lewis B. Freeman & Partners, a forensic accounting and consulting firm in Miami, specializing in fraud. Bloom recently completed his M.B.A. with a specialization in international business from the University of Miami.

PETER G. FURLONG (HARTT, MMus) of New York, N.Y., performed in Weill’s Street Scene with Dicapo Opera Theatre and auditioned in Austria for the Vienna Staatsoper. Recently, he has been appearing at the Orlando Opera, singing the role of Rodolfo in La Boheme.

DAVID S. MARGOLIS (BARNEY, MUS) of San Francisco, Calif., was featured in a recent profile in the San Diego Business Journal titled “Making the Most of a Family Value: Truckside Marketing Paves Road to Success for One Young Entrepreneur.”

MICHAEL F. RUSSO (A&S, PsyD) of Southington, Conn., has been appointed director of children’s residential and school clinical services at the Wheeler Clinic in Plainville, Conn.

KARIN J. SPERLING (ENHP) of Sacramento, Calif., a recent graduate of San Francisco State University with a master’s degree in nursing, is a clinical nurse specialist in pain management at Shriners Children’s Hospital.

1996
MARK D. BENIGNI (ENHP, MEd, EdD ’01) of Meriden, Conn., has been elected to the Meriden Town Council.

ROBERT C. MELICK (A&S) of Philadelphia, Pa., is director of television station WB17-WPHL in Philadelphia and was recently nominated for an Emmy Award.

LORI A. SALMERI (HAS) of Somerville, Mass., is a freelance art director/designer in the Boston area, as well as a mainstage cast member and writer for the Improv Asylum, an improvization and sketch comedy club in Boston.

GRACE FERRARO SOLOMON (A&S)
of Deerfield Beach, Fla., is in practice as a family law attorney in Boca Raton.

1997

BRIAN W. DERBYSHIRE (WARD) of Ambler, Pa., is a purchasing agent for Derbyshire Machine and Tool in Philadelphia.

CATHERINE HIKEL DERBYSHIRE (WARD) of Ambler, Pa., received her Master of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and is an architectural intern for Lenhardt, Lolli & Rodgers Architects in Fort Washington, Pa.

MICHELE L. JAQUIS (HAS) of Los Angeles, Calif., had her first solo exhibition at the Hatch Gallery in Los Angeles. She teaches video art at Otis College of Art and Design and the University of California, Riverside.

JACQUELINE M. LONG (ENG) of Suffield, Conn., was recently highlighted in “America’s Eye on the Fleet” issue from the U.S. Navy Public Affairs Center. Long, an ensign, has a long-term goal of becoming an astronaut and feels there is no better road to reaching that goal than that of military service. She is currently based in Norfolk, Va.

1998

MICHAEL A. FALKOWITZ (A&S) of Lexington, Ky., has recently accepted a job as an assistant dean of students at the University of Kentucky.

DAVID E. GOLDBERG (BARNEY) of Japan is teaching English at two junior high schools in Shiozama City, Japan. He travels to the Mastushima Islands three times a year to teach 18 students during May, November, and March.

SANDRA LUCIANO (HCW) of West Hartford, Conn., is currently teaching two All-University Curriculum courses at the University of Hartford.

1999

BADER HAMED AL-ALI (ENG) of Kuwait is working in the GSM Telecommunications field and is responsible for the GSM network management center.

JOXEL GARCIA (BARNEY, EMBA) of Avon, Conn., commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Health, recently spoke at the 87th Annual Meeting dinner of the Visiting Nurse Association of Ridgefield, Conn.

RYAN M. KLINK (A&S) of Westbrook, Conn., was promoted from assistant editor to managing editor of Show Music, the premier magazine covering the music industry.

FRANK H. KNIPPENBERG (BARNEY) of East Sandwich, Mass., works for Red Bull Energy Drink as the sampling team manager for Southeastern Massachusetts.

REBECCA L. PEARSON (A&S) of Trenton, N.J., is a contributing writer to the New Britain Herald and the Connecticut Jewish Ledger. The online publication Technodyke has featured her personal essays, humor pieces, and works of fiction.

STEPHANIE M. REYNOLDS (HARTT) of North Syracuse, N.Y., is one of the three female saxophone players for Rob Zapulla and his orchestra.

MERISSA S. STARNES STRICKER (HARTT) of San Antonio, Texas, is director of dance at the North East School of the Arts. She played the role of Cassie in a recent production of A Chorus Line at the San Pedro Playhouse.

2000

MICHELE NATARO FERRER (ENHP) of Morris, Conn., co-wrote with BARBARA ARONSON ’93 an article for the Fall 2001 Journal of Gastroenterology Nursing titled “Care of the Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication Patient.”

CARIE L. GILCHRIST (ENHP) of Smithtown, N.Y., recently obtained a teaching position as a kindergarten teacher in West Islip, N.Y. Gilchrist sings with the Babylon Chorale, a local professional choir.

ERIC C. HOFFMAN (HARTT) of Southington, Conn., is director of music and organist at Saint Jerome Church in New Britain, Conn. He is also associate clarinet with the Bristol Symphony Orchestra.

IRENE C. OLSZEWSKI (A&S) of East Hartford, Conn., recently graduated from Quinnipiac University School of Law. She received honors for outstanding legal scholarship, superior classroom performance, and distinguished academic achievement. She is currently an associate attorney with AAAA Legal Services, P.C., in Hartford.

CYNTHIA H. SACHS (ENHP) of Pomfret Center, Conn., is employed in the acute care unit at Saint Francis Hospital and is a clinical instructor in nursing for Three Rivers Community Technical College. She is pursuing a graduate-level practitioner track in nursing at the University of Massachusetts.

MARIA R. SHEEHAN (HCW) of Portland, Conn., is a paralegal specialist in the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney, Appellate Bureau, Hartford. She was recently appointed public relations committee chairperson for the Central Connecticut Paralegal Association.

JACLYN M. TURNER (HARTT) of Lansdale, Pa., has made her stage debut as the leading lady in a new national tour of Funny Girl.

2001

STEPHANIE A. GORDZIEL (ENHP) of Corona, Calif., is employed as a pediatric occupational therapist in Los Angeles County, Calif.

EILEEN S. HOWLEY (ENHP, EdD) of Plainville, Conn., was recently appointed assistant superintendent of schools for the Farmington school district.

VIKENDRA N. SHAH (BARNEY, MBA) of Hartford, Conn., recently joined Blum Shapiro as a staff accountant.

TERESA CASTRO TWOMEY (ENHP, MSN) of South Windsor, Conn., has been named executive director of the Nursing Career Center of Connecticut, an independent organization designed to promote nursing careers.
New York Mets Manager Bobby Valentine looked around the packed house at the University of Hartford’s third annual Hot Stove Dinner.

“This is what it’s all about,” said Valentine, who was honored at the dinner for his contributions to sports in Connecticut and for his relief efforts surrounding the events of Sept. 11. “Doing good for now and for the future. You should be proud.”

Avid baseball fan and University of Hartford President Walter Harrison is already proud of the University’s Division I athletics program, and is looking forward to its future. He said work has begun on the University’s $10 million project to build new baseball and softball fields, an all purpose playing field surrounded by a track, and renovations to the existing Al-Marzook Field.

“We have a great Division I program and have a chance to be a model small university athletics program,” said Harrison. “It is my dream we will do that. We have great coaches and players—what we need are great facilities. My goal in the next few years is to bring this to fruition.”

The Hot Stove Dinner—a baseball fund-raiser held in Gengras Student Union cafeteria on Sunday, Jan. 20—helped bring Harrison closer to his dream. The event attracted 280 people and raised more than $19,000 for the University of Hartford’s baseball program.

Valentine spoke, fielded questions in a panel discussion, and was an animated auctioneer for the program’s live auction. He topped off the event by donating $1,000 to the University’s baseball fund. The University returned his generosity by contributing $1,000 to Valentine’s favorite charity, The Mickey Lione Fund, which raises scholarship money for Stamford-area sophomores who stay on the right path throughout high school.

Hailed as one of the state’s all-time greatest athletes, Valentine starred in baseball, football, and track at Rippowam High School in Stamford where he was the only three-time All-State football player in Connecticut scholastic history.

Gary LaRocque ’75, assistant general manager/director of scouting operations for the New York Mets, and a former All-American, shared his experiences about working with Valentine.

“When I started working for Bobby five years ago, I was most impressed by how he handled people and what he did to build confidence in young men,” said LaRocque. “He treats you like you want to be treated. This is what distinguishes him above and beyond many others in the business.”

Valentine is also successful on the field. Two years ago, he led the Mets to the Subway Series after winning the National League Championship Series for the first time since 1986. He holds a 1,042-986 career record in 14 major-league seasons as a manager, and his 1,042 wins ranks sixth among active managers. He also led the Mets to the first back-to-back postseason berths in club history in 1999 and 2000, and played for 11 seasons in the major leagues (1969–79) for five teams. He follows Tommy Lasorda (2001) and New York Mets General Manager Steve Phillips (2000) as Hot Stove Dinner speakers.

Valentine complimented the generosity of those in attendance at the Hot Stove Dinner. “By giving, I have been receiving,” he said. “I ask you to make an effort to receive. The way to do that—and receive what you want in life—is to give.”

Coach Shapiro (right) presents alumnus Earl Snyder ’98 (left) with a commemorative plaque that includes a photo of Snyder playing baseball at the University. Snyder, a member of the Cleveland Indians, was named the 2001 New York Mets Minor League Player of the Year. He played last summer for Binghamton (AA) and Norfolk (AAA) where he hit a combined .290 with 20 home runs and 78 runs batted in last season. Snyder joined Bobby Valentine as a special guest at the Hot Stove Dinner.