HAWK PRIDE!

Happy 125th Anniversary, Hartford Art School, page 17
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On the cover: The Hartford Hawks, winners of the 2002 Friendship Cottage Cheese America East Women’s Basketball Championship Tournament, celebrate with University President Walter Harrison and Arnold C. Greenberg, chairman of the Board of Regents. The women made history this season with the University’s first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division I basketball tournament. See article on page 4.

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I arrived at the hotel before the game and said, “Thank you.”

I saw that clearly last night. We should make a distinction, in women’s basketball and in every other sense, and I shouldn’t aspire to be. But we are a university of substance and athletics or nearly any other sense, a University of Oklahoma. We belong there—we all did.

I think it was clear to me, and to many others there, that not just being there marks (to my mind, at least) a major milestone. I experience for our students, our team, or our University, and the game. The difference here was precisely that this is not a routine Michigan, where we routinely drew 14,000 for a basketball game. The plane back. I’m tired, and most of the students now asleep.

It is hard for me to find words to describe how thrilling it was to be in the arena last night—and remember that I came from Michigan, where we routinely drew 14,000 for a basketball game. The difference here was precisely that this is not a routine experience for our students, our team, or our University, and being there marks (to my mind, at least) a major milestone. I think it was clear to me, and to many others there, that not just our women’s basketball team belonged there—we all did.

Now, athletics are not the true measurement of a university, to be sure, and the University of Hartford will never be, in athletics or nearly any other sense, a University of Oklahoma. We shouldn’t aspire to be. But we are a university of substance and distinction, in women’s basketball and in every other sense, and I saw that clearly last night.

A few memories and images from a wonderful evening:

Shanta Scott, a senior forward on our team, hugged me when I arrived at the hotel before the game and said, “Thank you.”

Before and after the game at least a dozen members of the Pep Band and cheerleaders said the same thing. A few minutes later, when I arrived at the arena, head coach Jen Rizzotti hugged me and again said, “Thank you.”

As the team left the hotel to head to the arena, the Pep Band and cheerleaders surrounded the hotel doorway and played and sang the fight song as the team boarded the bus.

Three students, members of the men’s soccer team, arrived at the game having driven from Hartford (as did about a dozen other students), dressed and painted entirely in red and white. Halfway through the second half, during a time out, they began running around the arena leading a “wave” cheer. The Oklahoma fans responded enthusiastically, and before you knew it, we had a loud and lusty “wave” in the arena.

As the Pep Band played, Howie the Hawk, clearly the best dancer among all college mascots, wowed the Oklahoma fans, and they gave him a loud and long ovation.

An Oklahoma fan, as he left the arena, stopped at my seat and said: “You’ve got great fans!”

As the team left the arena to board the bus after the game, Pat Meiser-McKnett, our athletics director, and I were walking toward our rental car. From behind us came a yell from one of the players, “Pat. President Harrison. Thank you!”

I recount these memories because they illustrate for me two important characteristics of our students: they have enormous spirit, energy, and creativity. And they do not take experiences like this for granted; every one of them is grateful for the experience their University education provides them.

Friday night, before I left on this quick trip to Oklahoma, I had another experience that showed me the same thing: I listened to a wonderful concert by the Hartt Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Christopher Zimmerman, the Primrose Fuller Professor of Orchestra, the Symphony played works by composers ranging from Beethoven to Harry Sukman, father of Susan Sukman McCray, wife of [Regent] Kent. I was especially proud that Susan and Kent could be with us for that concert, not only because it featured Susan’s father’s work but also because Kent, a 1951 Hartt graduate, could see that Hartt continues its long tradition of superb music.

I saw and heard in that performance the same creativity, energy, and spirit that I found in the arena 2,000 miles away the next evening. On Friday, I went backstage during intermission to prepare to say a few words before the second half of the concert,
I would like to comment on Professor Friedman’s letter to The Observer in relation to Irreconcilable Differences? The Waning of the American Jewish Love Affair with Israel by Steven T. Rosenthal.

Professor Friedman’s use of language, describing Israel as being “surrounded by savages,” can certainly not be considered a catalyst for encouraging some international students to attend the University. Regardless of whether this is his own opinion or not, it will reflect on the University.

It was less than two years ago that President Harrison and Mr. Steve Jeffrey visited the area with the aim of enticing more “savages” to attend UHA. I sincerely hope and trust that the gentlemen did not come back from their visit with a similar impression. In fact, I understand that Mr. Jeffrey is now taking up a new post in one such “savage” country.

If I may suggest, perhaps The Observer should avoid and not publish political matters, especially related to the Middle East conflict, which is a touchy issue for all sides of the conflict.

Thank you,
Mazen M. Dajani
Class of 1986
Amman, Jordan

Welcome from Greeley, Colo. It was a pleasure reading your Winter 2001 issue of The Observer. You publish an outstanding magazine that keeps us informed of the ongoing activities of the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Hartford.

We read with particular interest on page 6 the article titled “Home for the Holidays.” The excellent story by Jessica Levine-

From the President

and several members of the orchestra approached me and said, “Thanks for coming.” Sound familiar?

As I prepared to go onto the stage, one of the symphony members, a percussionist, said to me: “I’m going to be playing the drums a little differently tomorrow night in Oklahoma.” Maybe the style was different, but the spirit was the same.

As I reflect on all this, I remember a discussion we had at the Campaign of Commitment Steering Committee last year as we reviewed an early design for the campaign case statement. That design featured a number of historical shots and a text that talked about the University as a young institution. I distinctly remember [Regents] Belle Ribicoff, Arnold Greenberg, and Harry Gray all saying they thought we had hewed to the line of being a young university long enough. It was time we celebrated ourselves as a mature university of substance and distinction.

On two successive nights, in two very different venues half a continent apart, I saw what they meant.

I just took a stroll to the back of the airplane. The last dozen rows or so are filled with sleeping cheerleaders and musicians. I see in their faces, even as they sleep, a sense of contentment and happiness. Chalk it up, if you will, to the untroubled sleep of the young, but I see in their faces something very different: the fulfillment of a University of Hartford experience.

Thank you all for your commitment to the University of Hartford. It is your efforts that make this experience possible for all of our students—and for everyone in the University community. It occurs to me that they say thank you to me because I embody for them an entire group of people whose efforts enable them to experience a first-class education here. So, on behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, I say thank you.

Sincerely,
Walter Harrison

Letters

Pizano discussed the holiday CD Broadway Cares: Home for the Holidays, which included strings players from the Hartt Orchestra, and the efforts of Associate Michael Morris at The Hartt School. The article described the musical contributions of Liza Minnelli and Alan Cumming, the work of The Hartt String Machine, and engineering of the recording session by music production technology faculty member Justin Kurtz. Bravo!

Another aspect of this incredible CD project also warrants mention. The highly regarded Music Production Technology (MPT) program in The Hartt School used their recording studio facilities to edit and produce numerous tracks on the album. Hartt MPT students Lynette Wilson and April Cech were assistant engineers on numerous tracks and used their skills learned under Professor Scott Metcalfe and Professor Kurtz.

Imagine our parental pride when we purchased the Broadway Cares CD from our local Borders Books & Music store, opened the jewel case, and saw our daughter’s name on the list of credits, along with other students from the Music Production Technology program, next to the names of Broadway stars such as Liza Minnelli, Alan Cumming, Christine Ebersole, and Gary Beach. Thank you, Professors Metcalfe and Kurtz, for the opportunities you’ve given to students in the Music Production Technology program at the University of Hartford. Well done, and congratulations!

Sincerely,
Tom and Grace Cech
Greeley, Colo.

Welcome from Greeley, Colo. It was a pleasure reading your Winter 2001 issue of The Observer. You publish an outstanding magazine that keeps us informed of the ongoing activities of the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Hartford.

We read with particular interest on page 6 the article titled “Home for the Holidays.” The excellent story by Jessica Levine-

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.
Much more than a championship trophy came from Hartford’s America East women’s basketball title. The impact the league tournament had on school spirit, campus pride, and the Hartford community will be felt well into the future.

It’s a moment longtime University of Hartford supporters have envisioned since Howie first flopped his feathers—since the famed “third-half concert series” hit its opening note.

The University of Hartford, which ushered in Division I athletics in 1984, earned its first NCAA basketball tournament bid in March when the women’s basketball team recorded a trio of last-minute victories to win the America East title.

The excitement began last summer when the University was awarded the opportunity to serve as the host school for the eight-team competition. Few, however, would have imagined the fervor on campus that was created by the 2002 Friendship Cottage Cheese America East Women’s Basketball Championship, March 7 to 9.

If the story of these three days was the fifth-seeded Hawks’ winning it all, not far behind was how the support of the University and Greater Hartford communities made the tournament a smashing success.

The average attendance for each of the four sessions during the tournament’s run was 2,259, the second-highest in the five years the championship has been held at a single site and the highest since 1998.

Benefiting from the tourney, too, was the Greater Hartford region. As teams and their fans arrived from across New England and New York State, area hotels and restaurants saw a significant rise in business, as did many leisure and cultural attractions in the area.

“No other series of events has brought this level of community and regional focus on the institution since its inception in 1957 as the tournament and victory have,” is the opinion of John J. Carson, the University’s senior advisor for corporate and community relations.

Letters and phone calls arriving at the University recently show that the impact of the tournament was powerful in the neighborhoods surrounding the University.

John Duchon, physical education teacher at Hartford’s Rawson Elementary School, brought his students to each of the games the Hawks played during the tournament. “The women [on the Hartford team] treated these children as sisters,” Duchon says. “They were kind and considerate toward them. They gave them autographs. They talked with them. They gave them each a piece of pizza. What more can I say? What positive role models these women were for the children, who were on cloud nine as I drove them home.”

The picture was priceless each day of the tournament as University President Walter Harrison sat in the center of the student section, loudly cheering on the Hawks with the hundreds of students that he invited to join him. “I can get away with a lot of things sitting there among the students that I couldn’t sitting elsewhere,” he quipped. Those not familiar were amazed when told that the man dancing to the time-out tunes and jumping farthest when a call went against the Hawks was the school’s leader.

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Road to the League Title

Under third-year Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti, the Hawks headed into the NCAA Tournament having won nine of 11 games, including their first-ever win at Maine. But it was at the 2002 Friendship Cottage Cheese America East Women’s Basketball Championship that the Hawks climbed to the next level.

Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 7
Hawks 59, Maine 55
After winning at Maine less than a week earlier, the Hawks again were victorious. Hartford led, 26-20, at the half and built an 11-point lead in the second half, but Maine rallied to tie the game at 50 in the closing minutes. Ernestine Austin’s jump shot with 1:38 left put the Hawks up for good, 52-51. Janeka Lopp had 15 points to pace the Hawks.

Semifinals
Friday, March 8
Hawks 60, Vermont 59
In a true classic, the Hawks overcame a four-point deficit with 3:23 remaining and ended Vermont’s 13-game winning streak. Kenitra Johnson scored with 18 seconds remaining for the game’s final points as the Hawk defense prevented Vermont from getting off a good shot in its final possession. The game marked the first time that the Hawks have knocked off a top seed in tournament play and assured Hartford a third straight .500-or-better season for the first time in the program’s Division I history.

Championship
Saturday, March 9
Hawks 50, Stony Brook 47
A first half that included four ties and five lead changes set the stage for a thrilling finish. Hartford trailed, 43-38, with four minutes remaining but used a 9-4 run, capped by a Lopp three-pointer, to tie the score with 55 seconds left. Kelly Ann Charles snuck free inside and hit a layup with 18 seconds left for the winning points. Dorcas Miller scored a game-high 16 points and was named to the All-Tournament team along with Lopp and Johnson (Most Outstanding Player).

The Men:
A Heart-Stopping Finish

It took a miraculous finish to end the men’s basketball team’s season on March 3 in the America East tournament semifinals in Boston. Hartford’s Mantas Storpirstis had hit a running jumper with under one second left, apparently, to force overtime. In the unlikeliest of plays, however, Boston University, from its own baseline, threw the ball far upcourt to the top of the key, where Stijn Dhondt hit his only basket of the game to give the Terriers the 63-60 victory. The officials viewed multiple replays of the finish before ruling that the ball had left Dhondt’s hand with one-tenth of a second remaining.

The Hawks enjoyed one of the nation’s biggest turnarounds, winning 10 more games than they had in the previous season. Hartford finished third in America East with a 10-6 league mark. Second-year Head Coach Larry Harrison brought in a class of freshmen and transfers this past season that was ranked among the top 30 nationally by Hoop Scoop Online.
Life as Art: Students Produce 9-11 Poetry CD

by Trish Charles

When Amanda Guerin, a sophomore physical therapy major, enrolled in English 140, Introduction to Literature, for the fall 2001 semester, she didn’t anticipate reading poetry in a Hartt School recording studio as a class project. But among the many changes that followed the events of Sept. 11, 2001, was a change in the class assignment for this introductory-level English course.

Evelyn Ch’ien, assistant professor of English, initially planned to stick to her original syllabus for the course after the attacks that shook the world. Students who had lost friends and relatives that day asked her not to open up the class for a discussion of the events.

“They were too close to the issue to have a discursive reaction to it—and I was also stunned myself,” says Ch’ien. “I felt that I should teach my syllabus as much as possible until the class was ready to react in a concrete, purposive way.”

The time for discussion arrived in November, when the class of 25 students began reading the poetry that Ch’ien had selected for the course. When Ch’ien noticed that her students were not engaged by the material, she began to cast about for alternatives. Her search led her to “spoken word,” a poetry movement of the 1990s that has received a lot of attention in the youth culture, including MTV.

The term spoken word, which was given to this new, provocative style of contemporary oral poetry, had previously described the nonmusic sections in music stores and included comedy albums and recordings of plays and famous speeches. The spoken word phenomenon occurred when young poets became fascinated with the Beat Poets of the 1950s and 1960s. This renewed interest gave birth to poetry “slams” in which audience popularity determined the winner.

Ch’ien brought in two spoken-word CDs for the class and encouraged her students to bring in other examples. “One of my students, Sue Zitelli, brought in a rap about the Holocaust by [a band called] Wu Tang…. That got their attention. So, I figured, why not harness this energy for the recording process,” Ch’ien said.

She contacted Scott Metcalfe, director of music production and technology at The Hartt School, to discuss the feasibility of producing a poetry CD on campus. Metcalfe recommended a work-study student named Tim Becker, a senior majoring in the music production and technology program at Hartt. Tim was the recording engineer for the CD and also mixed “A Ribbon of Hope,” the last song. “Tim put a lot of energy and creativity into the recording process,” Ch’ien said.

The recording was done in Room 347 of the Alfred C. Fuller Music Center and was completed toward the end of the fall semester. Because of schedule conflicts, some students got caught up in the project and decided to go solo. Reading through all the poetry, Ch’ien felt that the class should do a spoken-word event, either a live performance or a CD. “It just seemed like a logical step after I had been making connections between the poetry of their lives—music and rap—and the poetry of past generations.”

She contacted Scott Metcalfe, director of music production and technology at The Hartt School, to discuss the feasibility of producing a poetry CD on campus. Metcalfe recommended a work-study student named Tim Becker, a senior majoring in the music production and technology program at Hartt. Tim was the recording engineer for the CD and also mixed “A Ribbon of Hope,” the last song. “Tim put a lot of energy and creativity into the recording process,” Ch’ien said.

The recording was done in Room 347 of the Alfred C. Fuller Music Center and was completed toward the end of the fall semester. Because of schedule conflicts, some students were unable to attend and read their own poems. They relied instead on their classmates to interpret the work for them. Of his poem, “911 List,” David Verleger, a senior psychology major, says, “I didn’t know it was going to turn out like it did, but I thought they did a terrific job [of interpretation], maybe even better than I could have done.”

Jesse Morgenstern, a junior majoring in music theatre, wrote the title cut on the CD, a rap poem called “A Ribbon of Hope.” In addition to his own poem and
David’s, Jesse also read “Battle for Power,” a group poem written by Amanda Guerin, Becky San Marco, and Melissa Lella that examines the issue of revenge. Melissa, a second-year student majoring in physical therapy, expresses her pride in the final product, “We all experienced [different] emotions during the 9-11 tragedy, and that variety is shown throughout our lyrics.”

Using the potent imagery of collapsing buildings and falling bodies to describe the 9-11 events and the horrific aftermath, the 14 poems on the CD express the disbelief, shock, fear, confusion, anger, and despair felt universally. Also present here and there in the poetry is a glimmer of hope.

Asked if the project helped her cope with what happened in September, Amanda Guerin responded, “I think it was a great way to sort out the overwhelming feelings people have inside. Turning the raw emotion into creative energy is a great release. I think working together as a group also helped people come together in this tragedy.”

Debra Lavine, a sophomore majoring in early childhood education and one of the co-authors of “Anger,” agreed. “Doing the project helped me come to terms with something that struck and startled me in the biggest way. It was a great project, and I enjoyed it immensely.” David Sankar, a junior majoring in technical writing, said later that he had never written a poem until he wrote his first in this class.

Ch’ien and the students are working with Oasis CD and Cassette Duplication in Virginia, a company that specializes in helping independent musicians get their work published. A spokesperson for Oasis said that the University of Hartford effort is the only spoken-word CD response to 9-11 of which the company is aware.

Copies of A Ribbon of Hope will be stocked in the campus bookstore this spring and may be available from amazon.com and cdbaby.com as well. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to charity. To purchase a copy of A Ribbon of Hope, please contact The Observer online at <www.hartford.edu/observer> for details.

Spreading the Word about the University

In seeking the University’s newest vice president, President Walter Harrison and the Board of Regents looked for someone who could position the University with external audiences, enhance the institution’s relationships with the corporate community, and direct the successful completion of the $175 million Campaign of Commitment.

They did not have to go far to find someone who met all those qualifications. Lawrence J. Gavrich, vice president of communications for United Technologies Corp. (UTC) in Hartford, will become the University’s new vice president for external relations on May 1. He will be responsible for fund-raising and development activities, communications, and alumni relations. Gavrich will succeed W. Stephen Jeffrey, who resigned last fall after five years as vice president to take a similar position with the American University of Beirut.

“Larry brings a wonderful understanding of higher education and a wealth of corporate experience to this position,” Harrison said. “His experience lends itself to our mission and, specifically, to areas we are seeking to improve.”

Gavrich has had strong ties to the Greater Hartford community and a good working knowledge of the University for a number of years. A member of the University’s Board of Regents, he has served as a trustee of Hartford College for Women (HCW) for 10 years. As chair of HCW’s marketing communications committee, he helped Dean Edward Gray, Jr., his staff, and the trustees develop HCW’s vision statement and strategic plan.

“Larry was an enthusiastic, engaged participant in the discussions that eventually led to the development of Academic Express,” Harrison said. Academic Express is an accelerated program for both full- and part-time students pursuing liberal arts, legal studies, and women’s studies at HCW.

The program converts the conventional 14-week semester into two seven-week terms, during which courses are offered at night and on weekends.

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Gavrich continued from page 7

Gavrich, who has been UTC’s vice president of communications since the fall of 1999, has more than 32 years of experience in corporate communications, the last 17 with UTC. He joined Otis North American Operations in 1984 as manager, editorial services, and was named director, communications, in 1986. In 1990, Gavrich was appointed vice president, communications, for Otis World Headquarters. He moved to UTC headquarters in 1993 as director, internal communications and editorial services.

Prior to joining UTC, Gavrich, who has a bachelor’s degree in English from Rutgers University, held internal communications positions at the JCPenney Company for more than nine years.

Active in the Greater Hartford community, Gavrich is an elector of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and is a member of the Arthur W. Page Society, a professional organization of chief corporate public relations officers. He is a former member of the board of the Old State House in Hartford and former board and executive committee member of the Council on Communications Management.

“I’ve had a wonderful career at UTC,” Gavrich said. Noting that UTC encourages its executives and other employees to volunteer in the community, he added, “My volunteer work with the University has been especially rewarding, and I’m looking forward to applying what I’ve learned in the private sector to my new position.”

Larry Gavrich looks forward to his new job with the University.

‘Follow Your Dream’

Wearing a University of Hartford baseball cap, Robert Ballard, the world’s best-known deep-sea explorer and discoverer of the wreck of the Titanic, urged graduates at the University’s Fall Commencement ceremony on Dec. 2, “Follow your dream. It’s clear I have been on a great adventure, yet I have many more ahead of me, and so do each of you.” Ballard’s address was filled with reminders of how important it is to follow one’s dreams.

More than 100 students received their diplomas at the Commencement ceremony in Lincoln Theater after Ballard was presented an honorary degree by Harry Jack Gray, a life regent of the University.

Ballard participated in his first underwater expedition at the age of 17. Not being allowed to lead the expedition, he learned that “great leaders are also great followers.” Having been fascinated with the sea since his childhood, Ballard’s passion for what was under water stayed with him through various careers. “You’ll go through five or six careers,…eventually you will let your real passion and dreams come through,” he told the graduates. He also warned that “some people say that you should avoid failure…absolutely not! Life is about processing failure and being ready for the future.” Some of the most defining moments in his own life were failures, he added; yet just as he was in charge of his life, so are all the graduates.

With a heartfelt smile, Ballard left the crowd with one last remark: “I think of life as an active journey, but it’s your dreams that will drive you.”

Robert Ballard received an honorary doctor of science degree at the University’s Fall Commencement ceremony.

Robert Ballard

Graduate Mohamed Abdelrehim with Samira, 3.

Proud Arts and Sciences graduates included (left to right): Yana Lyubovitsky, Jodiann Palmieri, Jessica Messing, Scott Omansky, and Kelly Malatesta.
The University’s Hartford Art School hosted its 14th Annual Alexander A. Goldfarb Student Reception and Awards on Feb. 13.

The winners of the Goldfarb Purchase Award were Richard A. Orlosky, a senior in graphic design, for his mixed-media artist book titled *Names and Specifications (Beta version for the class of 2002)*, and Matt LaFleur, a junior in painting, for his pencil on wood piece titled *Kneecalf*.

Honorable mention went to freshman Megan Milford for her black-and-white photograph titled *Deep*; graduate student in photography Albert Angelbeck for his photograph titled *Primary Colors*; and to junior in sculpture Earl Procko for *Water Bucket*, a sculpture that consisted of 164 feet of rope, wood, and wax.

The awards are funded by the Alexander A. Goldfarb Endowment Trust, which sponsors the exhibition annually to recognize the talents of young artists.
The Family Tradition Continues

by Diana Simonds

Mim and George. Annie and Ben. Yes, the Kaplans. Though the family has been associated with the University for so many years that one hardly needs to add the last name.

Now, through a significant leadership gift to the University's Campaign of Commitment, the Kaplan name, as well as the name García, will be known by future University of Hartford students for many years to come. Ben Kaplan '79, '80, and Annie García Kaplan '79, '81, '97, have established the Kaplan and García Scholarship Endowment in honor of their parents. The endowment will create accessibility for those who would not otherwise be able to go to college, with a preference for minority students.

The late George B. Kaplan, Ben's father, who was one of the University's most active alumni, graduated from Hillyer College in 1953, four years before it merged with the Hartt School of Music and the Hartford Art School to form the University of Hartford. It is not easy to summarize George Kaplan's involvement in the years following because he served in so many ways—as an active alumnus; as a member, and eventually vice chairman, of the Board of Regents; as an adjunct faculty member; and, as this editor fondly remembers, a columnist from time to time for The Observer. He was chair of the search committee that recommended Stephen Joel Trachtenberg as the University's third president in 1978. Trachtenberg delivered the eulogy at George Kaplan's funeral in 1997.

At Commencement in 1983, both of Ben's parents were honored with the University Medal for Distinguished Service, a bittersweet occasion for the family because the award to Mrs. Kaplan was made posthumously.

The late Miriam “Mim” Krauskopf Kaplan, Ben's mother, was a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in chemical engineering who adopted the University of Hartford as her own through active involvement in the Women's Association and the many classes that she audited. She worked so long and faithfully for the Alumni Association that in 1973 she was named an honorary alumna. A 1984 Observer article noted that “Mrs. Kaplan’s involvement with the University meant so much to her that her children [Ben and his brother, Rick, and sister, Sara], while still in their teens, each pledged to give the University $50 for the next 10 years.” Those gifts continued long after the first 10 years, with the family's establishment of the Miriam Kaplan Library Fund for the Humanities during the University's Capital Campaign in the 1980s. The family set up the fund because their mother had so loved auditing classes, especially studying Chaucer with Frank Chiarenza.

Annie's parents, Hilda R. García and the late José García, first became involved with the University when their daughter, who was born in Cuba and raised in Spain and Puerto Rico, arrived in Connecticut to attend the University of Hartford.

Ben and Annie met when they both were undergraduates. He majored in business and she in political science. They both received their bachelor's degrees in 1979. Ben went on to receive a master's in professional accounting. Annie went on to earn an M.B.A. and then, in 1997, a Doctor of Educational Leadership.

In 1981, in honor of Annie's earning her M.B.A., her parents presented the University with rare first editions of all 21 issues of El Historiador, a newspaper devoted to science, literature, and the arts that was published in Madrid from 1850 to 1851.
Ben and Annie have continued the family tradition of devotion to the University. A recipient of the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award, Annie has served on the Alumni Council, was secretary of the Hartford Regional Alumni Chapter, was an Alumni in Admissions volunteer, and has served as a mentor to students from Puerto Rico. A former teacher in the Dominic F. Burns Elementary School in Hartford and Bassick High School in Bridgeport, she is now an active volunteer, serving on the boards of the Yale–New Haven Hospital Auxiliary, the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer, and the Friends of the Yale–New Haven Children’s Hospital, which honored her last year with its Dr. Babar Distinguished Service Award. She is a former president of the Yale–New Haven Hospital Auxiliary, a former member of the Yale–New Haven Hospital Board of Trustees, and worked in the Hospital’s Volunteer Services as a translator and interpreter while volunteering with the Child Life Department. She also volunteered with the Special Olympic World Games in New Haven and at Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang Camp as part of her doctoral internship, working with sister schools in Hartford and Glastonbury.

Ben, a current University regent, has received numerous University honors, including the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award. Following graduation, Ben went to work as an accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co., where he remained for 17 years, working his way up to senior manager and eventually becoming a partner in the New Haven office. He then became chief financial officer of Canberra Industries in Meriden, Conn., which later became Packard BioScience Company before being taken over by PerkinElmer last November. Though the Kaplans have now moved back to West Hartford from their previous home in Woodbridge, Conn., Ben continues his active involvement in the New Haven organizations of both United Way and the YMCA.

Beyond the good friends (including each other!) that they made at the University, the Kaplans both stress the strong impact that the education they received at the University has made on their lives and how that has motivated them to establish the Kaplan and García scholarship fund.

**Compelled by Sept. 11**

Although they had been planning to set up such an endowment, the Kaplans were compelled by the events of Sept. 11 to do so immediately. Students at the University who lost parents in the World Trade Center disaster also suffered financial losses that threatened their continued education. President Walter Harrison promised these students that they would be allowed to complete their educations at Hartford. While many charities nationwide helped victims of that tragic day, the Kaplans saw an opportunity to assist victims such as the students and, at the same time, benefit their alma mater.

For both Ben and Annie, their commitment to their alma mater is an important part of a value they share: their desire to be involved in the community. “The University is an integral part of the community and to help the University is to help the community,” Annie says.

Ben and Annie Kaplan
Migrating Birds Lead Author on Spiritual Journey

The Black Swan: Memory, Midlife, and Migration
Anne Batterson
Scribner

by Margaret Withey

A new adventure, a different challenge, a phenomenon to study—all these have called Anne Batterson ’76 to new experiences in the past. This time, observing the annual migration of birds, an event long found provocative by the author, leads to The Black Swan: Memory, Midlife, and Migration, a memoir of both a physically demanding journey and a personal search.

On an early morning run along the Rhode Island shore, Batterson watches as “two ropes of Canada geese swung through, their cries pealing through the morning.” She asks herself, “Why not just go? Like the birds. Try out their reality for a while. See what happens.” What happens is a solitary journey by blue Volkswagen bus, following the migration flyways.

Although at one level The Black Swan is a journey story, it is primarily Batterson’s opportunity, at age 56, to reflect extensively on time, solitude, loneliness, aging, and purposelessness as well as on joy and exhilaration. In following the bird paths, she feels herself stepping “out of clock time” and responding to an ancient timeless call. “A wild bird lives inside me,” she confides. Often, she observes, in her “exuberance for flight,” she has looked not only for the next go? Like the birds. Try out their reality for a while. See what happens.” What happens is a solitary journey by blue Volkswagen bus, following the migration flyways.

Batterson orchestrates the bird’s rescue after her return.

The author draws upon life experiences past and present, loved ones, and people met along the way to build her story. Her observations of immediate experiences are interwoven with the larger implications of following the autumn migration. Central to her story are her family relationships, especially her marriage to David Owen, an Episcopal priest of whom she writes often, always with love and respect. She interrupts her trip to introduce us to her adult daughters, and to visit friends from her past who have remained significant in the present. We learn the importance of her childhood growing up with her two brothers and one sister, and of her adult life as a wife and mother.

Batterson’s unusual education is an amalgam of academic and practical learning, both structured and informal, and adventure. The Black Swan draws upon her experiences as a national and international skydiving champion, a charter pilot, and a flight instructor for exemplary episodes. A lifelong environmentalist, she became a guide in Nepal for Above the Clouds, an environmentally sensitive trekking business. “This is the way I learn, by experiencing,” she writes. “Words, those of others as well as my own, have never been enough for me.” She has studied Hinduism and Tibetan Buddhism and says she is a Dalai Lama groupie. Even readers who are not inveterate adventurers or followers of Buddha, however, will find her themes familiar.

Returning to college in her 30s, Batterson graduated in 1976 from the University of Hartford. She later became an adjunct faculty member, teaching humanities, writing, and literature courses from the late 1970s through the late 1990s. In October 2001, she returned to campus on two occasions. On Oct. 4, she gave a talk and reading for the President’s College visiting authors series and on Oct. 23, she was honored at a luncheon at the 1877 Club. She describes her homecomings with affection. “I have had warm ties to the University, and it was nice to come back in another way,” she says, referring to seeing faculty members from both the English and humanities departments again and meeting the interesting students who attended the two events.

Batterson and her husband recently spent several months in Nebraska. Owen is carrying out a “photography and writing project in the sandhills of Nebraska,” and she is continuing her work on a book based on her experiences in Nepal. The working title of her book-in-progress is Into the Mandala, in which, as in The Black Swan, she will explore ideas while recounting adventures. One concept that she hopes to examine is the gap between “how other cultures view the world and the assumptions
that we as Westerners carry with us.” As travelers, Westerners are apt to find daunting “the gap between glossy adventure brochures and the reality of a third-world country.”

For Batterson, experiences like following the migration of birds, trekking in Nepal, free-falling through a cloud, or discovering an exotic black swan on a pond in Avon continue to assure her that “the truly extraordinary is always quickening on the far side of the ordinary.” Never one to rest on her laurels, she is thinking about another trip, perhaps beyond the Arctic Circle.

**Communication as a Transformative Force**

*Crafting Society: Ethnicity, Class, and Communication Theory*

Donald G. Ellis

Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc.

by Diana Simonds

For University of Hartford Prof. Donald G. Ellis, communication is not the most important thing. It is the only thing. For Ellis, communication, at its worst, is responsible for the major fault lines in society; at its best, it can be potentially transformative, even between groups as opposed to each other as Israelis and Palestinians.

Communication, language, and discourse have been central to Ellis’s scholarly research, and his fifth book, *Crafting Society: Ethnicity, Class, and Communication Theory*, brings together a number of ideas that have been “bubbling around in my head for the past few years,” he writes in the preface. The most theoretical aspects of the book focus on the nature of the connections between specific communication patterns and more general social conditions.

Exploring how people construct their social worlds through communication, he maintains that such concepts as “society” and “ethnicity” are really just terms we use for certain patterns of communication. One’s attitudes, ideologies, and biases all influence how one represents oneself in both the spoken and written word.

Of equal importance, and a major issue addressed more concretely in the book, is the impact of modern media, especially electronic media, on one’s consciousness and on society as a whole. Expanding on the principles of medium theory that were first expounded by Marshall McLuhan and others, Ellis shows how modern media are responsible for many of the political schisms and societal problems in the world today. “Modern electronic media create a powerful sense of verisimilitude,” Ellis writes, “such that we experience what is called the ‘distant present’; that is, even though messages are complex, sophisticated results of high technology and planning, they appear to be natural, real, and occurring in real time. Feelings, identifications, images, empathic rapport, and emotional responses are all heightened because of the ability to create isolated senses of reality.”

Much of the book was completed on Ellis’s sabbatical leave in Israel, during which he and Ifat Maoz of Hebrew University in Jerusalem collaborated on a project to promote the peaceful co-existence of Israeli and Palestinian high school students through better communication and understanding. Ellis was able to study communication between the two combatant sides in one of today’s most politically volatile situations. It seems that each side in the Israeli-Palestinian debate perceives that which divides them—their severe conflicts about land, culture, history, and rights—as so fundamental that no compromise is possible. Ellis calls this “going to ground,” and Israelis and Palestinians get to this point immediately when they communicate. The results, as we see every day in the news, can be catastrophic.

Argument, one of the essential tools of conflict, according to Ellis, involves both groups managing their rhetorical devices to convey their versions of reality. In this way, those on each side manage the dilemmas of blame and appearance of bias and shield themselves from counterargument.

Ellis and his colleague from Hebrew University studied arguments in Israeli-Jewish and Palestinian encounter groups, drawing on traditions of conversation analysis, discourse analysis, logic, and rhetoric. A particular dilemma for Israeli Jews is to reconcile their liberal social attitudes with their hostility to Palestinians. Ellis says they accomplish this through “symbolic ethnocentrism,” in which they can express these feelings in an acceptable manner. Another dilemma faced by an arguer on either side is that the individual must portray one reality while at the same time successfully challenging the other. This is accomplished by posing questions, limiting the topics, and bringing in “hypothetical others” for support. Finally, the two sides go to what each considers “ground,” and the argument can go no further. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the grounded issues almost always involve those that each side considers sacred.

When two sides of a conflict are so fundamentally opposed, the challenge is to get them beyond their grounded positions through transformational communication that leads to change and, ultimately, a new reality. Ellis says this is the only hope for resolving a conflict that seems to grow more hopeless every day.
For the Love of Dance

by Jessica Levine-Pizano ’98

Seven a.m., a much dreaded time for the average college student, but these are not average students. Every morning, Hartt dance students leave the comfort of their dorm rooms before the University Commons even opens for breakfast to take the shuttle bus to Dance Connecticut’s quarters on Farmington Avenue in Hartford. They arrive at the school by 7:50 a.m. and by 8:30 in the morning have to be changed and ready to dance. Meanwhile, across town on the main University campus, most of the students are still rolling out of bed or are sipping coffee through an early-morning class.

No coffee is allowed in dance classes. Dancers must be awake and ready to go. By 4 o’clock in the afternoon, these dedicated young artists have finished just half of their day. In order to fulfill their academic requirements, Dance Division students have to take two evening courses a semester. “It’s a long day,” says Division Director Peggy Lyman, “and then the cycle begins again the next morning. They work hard. This is a very intense program.”

The dance majors’ demanding schedules are part of a carefully planned training program, says Lyman. “It is the goal of the division,” she says, “to graduate professionally trained, intelligent dancers capable of adapting to the varied demands of careers in dance performance or teaching.

“In preparation for the successful transition from student to professional, dance students must practice sustaining the long, arduous days,” according to Lyman. “The rigors of the professional dance field require tremendous physical, mental, and spiritual stamina. Dancers, choreographers, and teachers make hourly and daily creative decisions not just with their minds but with their big toes, their abdominal muscles, their shoulders, their quadriceps, their eyes, their hearts, musically and poetically, and spirits. The dance faculty are committed to creating a supportive environment for student growth and learning from both the dancers’ successes and, sometimes even more valuable, their blunders.”

The idea of a classically trained dancer’s receiving a college
degree is a relatively new concept. When the program opened in the fall of 1994, it was one of the very few intensive, conservatory-level Bachelor of Fine Arts degree programs that focused on creating a professional-level dancer. This unusual collaboration between The Hartt School and Dance Connecticut, formerly the Hartford Ballet, gives students the opportunity to have the best of both worlds: a high-quality college-level education and a rigorous training program within a professional dance company.

Three years later, following the trend that began here at the University of Hartford, Denise Jefferson of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center created a similar partnership with Fordham University. Now, just eight years later, Hartt’s Dance Division is 39 students strong. Its current freshman class of 19 is its largest class ever.

Hartt has fully embraced its new identity as a performing arts training center with the successes of its Dance Division and Theatre Division, the latter created in 1996 with the addition of the Actor Training major. The additional programs have presented artistic possibilities that were previously impossible. Collaborations between the divisions abound and stunning performances are the result.

In February 2001, Aaron Copland’s rarely seen ballet, Grohg, newly choreographed by Dance Connecticut’s former principal dancer, Tim Melady, with a new scenario, Metamor-Phing, by playwright Arthur Kopit was presented. Dance students performed, accompanied by the Hartt Symphony Orchestra. The audience that weekend was also treated to the fruits of additional collaborative efforts, as the senior dance majors presented their final choreography projects using music written by Hartt student composers, mentored by Composition Department Chair Robert Carl, and accompanied by the orchestra.

February 2002 marked the first all-School performance, with the Broadway classic West Side Story, under the direction of TheaterWorks Associate Artistic Director Rob Ruggiero. Featured in the production were music theatre and dance students accompanied by the Hartt Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Michael Morris, director of music for the Theatre Division.

While Hartt-based performances are a requirement in the Dance Division, students find additional experience dancing with Hartford’s professional dance company, Dance Connecticut, and with the Connecticut Opera and the School of Dance Connecticut’s Touring Ensemble. Students have danced in Hartford and on tour in professional productions of The Nutcracker, Giselle, Coppelia, Sleeping Beauty, Serenade, and Romeo and Juliet. This past December, Hartt Dance Division students joined Dance Connecticut on stage at Hartford’s Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, dancing the holiday classic The Nutcracker, with live accompaniment by the Hartford Symphony and conducted by Hartt faculty member Glen Adsit.

Now, as one of the top performing-arts educational centers in the nation, The Hartt School has outgrown its home. As a result, the University has exercised its option to purchase the 70,000-square-foot, former Thomas Cadillac site, a

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Dance

three-building complex located just down the road from the main campus. The planned performing arts center will become the new home for Hartt’s Dance, Theatre, and Vocal Divisions as well as elements of the Community Division. The new facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2004, coincidently, the 10th anniversary of the Dance Division.

The new complex will have three dance studios as well as access to additional rehearsal space that the division will share with other departments. Also planned for the building are other performance venues. Most significant will be the integration of Hartt’s divisions. With the new facilities proximity to the main campus, Hartt dance students will be able to feel a stronger connection to their fellow students.

In the past, the dance program was outsourced as part of a contractual agreement with Dance Connecticut to manage and staff the division. Currently, all of the faculty are employees of Dance Connecticut. When the new complex opens, the dance faculty will gradually become a part of the University. “The goal is for the Dance Division to have a standing similar to the music and theatre programs of the School,” said Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison. “In terms of our students’ participating with a professional company [Dance Connecticut], we plan to continue the collaboration.”

“Having a more intensified feeling of being a part of Hartt is definitely going to benefit our students,” says Lyman. “We’ve always enjoyed collaborating with the other disciplines in Hartt; this will make the logistics so much easier. Because the collaborative process is sparked by informal conversation in hallways, the move will facilitate these face-to-face meetings in a much more immediate way.”

Scheduling will become much easier for those in the Dance Division, as they will no longer need to vie for dance studio space with Dance Connecticut’s preprofessional and adult programs. “To have the studios available all day and not have to give them up at 4 o’clock will give our students much more rehearsal time. We will have the freedom to let our students take morning academic classes and rehearse in the evenings,” said Lyman.

Meanwhile, as plans are developed for the new space, Hartt dance students continue to perform. This past summer, they performed at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in Lee, Mass., with the New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas, the Connecticut Choreographers Forum, and the Connecticut Dance Alliance. Alumnae Stephanie Risser ’99 and Heather Johdos ’00 are currently teaching in the School of Dance Connecticut. Alumna Amy Lesko ’98 has performed with Hartford Ballet and Dance Connecticut and is now the coordinator for the Dance Division. Other alumnae successes include Kristen Haggerty ’98, who performs with the David Taylor Dance Theater of Colorado; Grace Barton ’98, who performs with the Full Force Dance Theater in Connecticut; and Marissa Starnes-Zuniga ’98, who directs the dance division at a Texas public arts magnet school.

This spring, Hartt’s Dance Division is preparing a performance of a new ballet and modern works by resident faculty members Katie Stevinson-Nollet, Alla Nikitina, Hilda Morales, Peggy Lyman, and guest artist Pascal Benichou on Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 21, at 3 p.m. in Millard Auditorium.

Dance Connecticut faculty are inspiring role models for Hartt’s students. Lyman and Stevinson-Nollet maintain active performance careers, and all studio faculty are highly sought-after master teachers in the profession. Lyman performed this past fall in New York City for the 75th anniversary of the Martha Graham Center. She was a principal dancer with this company and danced leading roles in many of the most famous Graham ballets. She had three classic solos: Frontier, Lamentation, and Ruth St. Denis’s The Incense, recreated for her by Graham. This past summer, she performed at Jacob’s Pillow in James Cunningham and Tina Croll’s innovative evening of improvisation, “From the Horse’s Mouth.”

Dance Division students are constantly challenged by a demanding but invigorating schedule of classes. Their hours are long, their work hard. But in the end, they are doing what they love and receiving a dance education of the highest quality, with all of the benefits of being part of the University of Hartford.
In 1877 a group of visionary, socially prominent Hartford women established a decorative art society with the goal of providing cultural enrichment by offering art classes of the highest quality. They started small, with basic classes in drawing and painting, and hoped that there would be enough public interest for the organization to survive.

Preparing for a Changing World

by Barbara Steinberger
It didn’t just survive, it thrived—and 125 years later, that small society has become one of the nation’s leading art schools.

The Hartford Art School is preparing to celebrate its 125th anniversary during a period of revolutionary change in the visual arts, as factors like the Internet, computer and video technology, and shifting cultural values present art students with an enormous range of new possibilities and new challenges.

Today, the Hartford Art School’s faculty and students are exploring a rich new world of 21st-century media and expanded opportunities for artists, while at the same time remaining firmly rooted in the core artistic disciplines and values on which the School was founded.

“It’s a very different world out there,” said Power Boothe, dean of the Hartford Art School. “Our goal is to bring the old and the new together, to expose students to a broad range of applications without losing the integrity of the disciplines that have brought this School such high esteem.”

A Remarkable History

The Hartford Art School, one of nine colleges of the University of Hartford, is the direct descendant of the Hartford Society of Decorative Art of 1877. The society’s founders would undoubtedly be proud to know that their organization gave rise to what is today one of the most highly regarded art schools in the country.

The School has a remarkably rich history, beginning with the society’s founding by a virtual who’s who of late-19th-century Hartford women: Mrs. Olivia Clemens, wife of author Samuel Clemens (better known as Mark Twain); Mrs. Elizabeth Colt, wife of firearms manufacturer and industrialist Samuel Colt; Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, renowned author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin; Mrs. Susan Warner, wife of Hartford Courant publisher Charles Dudley Warner; and Mrs. Mary Bushnell Cheney, wife of textile manufacturer Frank W. Cheney.

The founders’ mission, according to notes written by the secretary of the Hartford Society of Decorative Art, was to provide “elemental instruction by superior teachers” in the visual arts. The society’s first classes, held in January 1878, included charcoal drawing, painting, and china decoration. Thanks to enthusiastic students and generous support from the Hartford community, the society flourished. Over time, the number of students and faculty members grew, the curriculum expanded, and prominent artists came from New York and other locations to teach classes.

In 1940 the name was changed to the Hartford Art School, Inc., and in 1957 the School joined Hillyer...
College and the Hartt School of Music to form the University of Hartford. In recent decades, the Art School's enrollment, facilities, and program offerings have steadily expanded, and it has evolved into one of the nation's preeminent art schools. The creation of a number of prestigious endowed programs has brought artists of national and international renown to campus and has further enhanced the School's reputation.

Celebrating a Milestone

The Hartford Art School kicked off its 125th anniversary celebration late last year with the publication of a 2002 calendar that tells the story of the School in words and images. Each month of the calendar features a colorful montage that illustrates a different aspect of the School's vibrant life. The calendar, which was designed by faculty and staff, is filled with comprehensive information on the milestones of the past 125 years.

“I think it’s much more than a calendar—it’s a historic document,” Boothe said. “It will serve the School as a resource for years to come.”

The anniversary celebration will continue in the fall, when the Art School hosts a major conference titled “Artists: What/Now?”

The conference will explore the changing roles of artists in the 21st century in light of revolutionary factors as globalization and the rapid growth of technology. The program, to be held Sept. 20 and 21, will feature a keynote speaker and panel discussions with leading artists and arts educators from all over the East Coast, Boothe said.

“We really want to look at broad philosophical issues. What are the roles that artists play today in our culture, and how do we prepare artists for the 21st century?” Boothe said. “Technology has changed the way we make art, the way we view art, and the way we communicate with each other, and it’s given us a tremendous amount of knowledge about other cultures. We are living in a very pluralistic time, a time of overlapping communities with contradictory values. How do artists sort through all these factors and create work that’s meaningful to them and to others? That’s what we want to look at.”

As its 125th anniversary year continues, the Art School will host exhibitions by several artists whose work embodies the kinds of sweeping changes that have taken place in the art world. A six-week exhibition of work by Robert Morris, whose minimalist sculptures and eclectic installations challenge traditional notions about art, will open on Oct. 30. In early 2003 the Art School will host a lecture and exhibition by one of its alumni, Mark Dion ’86. Dion is known for creating installations based on natural history and science and for conducting his own brand of archaeological digs and then using the discarded items that he unearths in his art work.

Looking to the Future

While the Art School celebrates its history, the School’s administrators, faculty, and staff also are looking ahead to the future.

A special 125th Anniversary Fund has been created to help support the Art School’s long-term strategic priorities. Faculty and staff began developing and refining those priorities last fall in a two-day strategic planning session. During that session, they identified a series of long-term goals and objectives that fall under two general headings: an undergraduate initiative and a graduate initiative.

The undergraduate initiative calls for the construction of an Arts and Technology Center, which would house four departments: visual communication design, photography, illustration, and a new program in media arts. The media arts program would have a cross-disciplinary focus, training students to think critically and creatively in a variety of artistic disciplines and to utilize technology in a wide range of applications.

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The media arts program currently is awaiting state approval. Pending that approval, Boothe said he hopes to begin offering the program in the 2002–03 academic year. Media arts would be a critical component of the proposed Arts and Technology Center. The center would be designed to foster interdepartmental cooperation and collaboration. It would connect all the existing Art School buildings, provide cross-disciplinary laboratories and studios, and create informal areas where students and faculty could exchange ideas. The new building also would house administrative and faculty offices and two student galleries.

“The construction of the Arts and Technology Center with a media arts program will make us the preeminent professional art school in New England,” according to the strategic plan that was developed by faculty and staff last fall.

The second major initiative to come out of the strategic planning process would create an expanded Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) graduate program, to be based at an off-campus location.

Under the strategic plan’s recommendations, the size of the M.F.A. program would increase from 15 to 45 students, and an independent graduate faculty would be created. The plan also calls for the establishment of a 15-student postbaccalaureate program. The intensive, one-year program would be designed for students who show great potential but who are not yet ready for the rigorous graduate program—for example, those who have earned undergraduate degrees in another field.

As part of this long-term plan, the Art School would purchase or lease a warehouse in the Greater Hartford area and renovate it to accommodate the graduate and postbaccalaureate programs. The off-campus facility also could serve as a home for the Art School’s Civic Design Program, in which students provide graphic design services for community-based nonprofit organizations.

“By improving a building in an underserved neighborhood and encouraging graduate students to work within that community, we intend to be part of that locality’s revitalization,” according to the strategic plan. The building also would have galleries and spaces available to rent to businesses that serve the neighborhood.

The undergraduate and graduate initiatives represent long-term goals, and they would require significant financial support in order to become reality. But the 125th anniversary celebration serves as a wonderful starting point, as faculty and staff take stock of the Art School’s past and begin shaping its next 125 years.

Guiding Principles

One hundred twenty-five years after the formation of the Hartford Society of Decorative Art, the Hartford Art School is entering a new era in its rich history. Having established itself as one of the nation’s top art schools, the institution is now working to prepare students for a changing world—a world of exciting new possibilities and challenging new roles for artists.

But while the School has experienced tremendous growth and change over the years, it has never lost sight of the guiding principles of its founders: the pursuit of excellence in the visual arts; a belief that art should be taught by accomplished artists working in a hands-on, creative environment; an emphasis on individual instruction that is both challenging and supportive; and a commitment to innovation and an openness to new directions and new disciplines.

That was the vision of the five remarkable women who came together 125 years ago to bring art instruction to Hartford citizens. And it will continue to guide the Hartford Art School throughout the new century.

If you are interested in purchasing a 2002 Hartford Art School calendar or making a gift to the Art School’s 125th Anniversary

The illustrations of the five women who founded the Hartford Society of Decorative Art were created by Alan Carlstrom ’99. He currently works as front-office coordinator for the Art School. Alan’s illustrations have been featured in Art School posters and have appeared in the Village Voice and American Spectator. His website is www.alancarlstrom.com.
Bringing Renowned Artists to Campus

As the Hartford Art School prepares to celebrate its 125th year, it has added a new lecture series to the growing list of prestigious endowed programs that bring prominent artists to campus, such as those pictured here.

The Beatrice Fox Auerbach Visiting Artist Lecture Series began in November with a presentation by well-known illustrator, educator, and historian Murray Tinkelman. The series continued in March with a lecture by sculptor Ellen Driscoll, and two more visiting artists, Abelardo Morell and Lynne Yamamoto, scheduled to speak in April.

The lecture series was made possible by a gift from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The gift will enable the Hartford Art School to bring to campus up to eight visiting artists each year. The artists will be in residence at the Art School for one to two days. During that time, each artist will deliver a public lecture and spend time in the studios critiquing student work.

The Art School has several endowed programs that expose students and the public to well-known artists who work in a variety of media. Those programs include the Richard Koopman Distinguished Chair in the Visual Arts and the International Distinguished Artists Symposium and Exhibition.

Tinkelman, the prominent illustrator who was the first speaker in the new lecture series, will return to campus in September 2002 as the recipient of the Richard Koopman Chair. A professor of illustration at Syracuse University, Tinkelman kicked off the visiting artist lecture series last fall with a slide presentation and talk titled “The History of American Illustrations.”

Driscoll’s March lecture was titled “Parallel Universe.” She is known for her innovative sculptures, installations, and public art projects. Her work includes a series of mosaic, bronze, and glass reliefs in New York’s Grand Central Terminal, that depict the night sky above five different continents.

Abelardo Morell, a Cuban-born photographer, uses the camera to look at objects of daily life from unusual points of view. He has pioneered the modern-day use of the camera obscura technique, in which he uses the principles of a pinhole camera to create complex, multileveled prints by capturing an inverted projection as it fills a room.

The fourth speaker in the lecture series, Lynne Yamamoto, is a Hawaiian-born artist and educator. Many of her installations originated from a narrative about the life history of her maternal grandmother, who traveled from Japan to Hawaii as a picture bride and worked as a laundress on a sugar plantation in Hawaii.
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.”

40th Annual Alumni Awards

by Kate Dougherty ’01

The Alumni Association honored four individuals for their personal achievements and outstanding contributions to the University at its 40th Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony on Nov. 17.

From left: Patricia Cairns, Grace Ellsworth, Gary LaRocque ’75, President Harrison, and Robert Feld ’69, ’72

Gary LaRocque ’75 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the association’s highest honor, presented to an alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated excellence in both professional endeavors and personal and civic involvement. Assistant general manager and director of scouting operations for the New York Mets, LaRocque exemplifies the level of accomplishment to which the award pays tribute.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Robert Feld ’69, ’72, vice president of Prudential Securities in New York. He was cited as one who “exemplifies all that our Barney School of Business has to offer through his numerous appointments as vice president to Wall Street’s top investment firms.”

Recipient of the Honorary Alumna Award was Grace Ellsworth, a member of the inspired group of 18 founding regents who conceived the idea of the University of Hartford in 1957. Today, she serves as a life regent. Ellsworth was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters in 1977 in recognition of her artistic and intellectual spirit, her foresight, and her creativity in identifying the need for a University of Hartford. Twenty-five years later, her unwavering service to the University is still being recognized.

The Special Recognition Award, which is reserved for individuals whose exceptional contributions to the University community strengthen and support the values and mission of the institution, was presented to Patricia Cairns, executive assistant to the president. In presenting the award, President Walter Harrison said, “Indeed, no Internet server, no archive, and certainly no filing cabinet contains as much information about the University of Hartford as Patricia Dudley Cairns retains in her head.”
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.”

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.

LOUIS J. MAZZOTA, 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.

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.”

BERNARD H. ROSENFELD (ENHP, MEd ’67) of Cromwell, Conn., president of the New Britain High School Foundation, recently completed the finishing touches on the first bricks installed on the walkway outside the high school’s main entrance.

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

ELLIOTT J. DONN (BARNEY) 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.

VALERIE LEWIS (HCW) of Vernon, Conn., commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Higher Education, was recently honored at the annual awards ceremony of the AAUW and Charter Oak State College Foundation. The theme of this year’s awards was “The Power of Women—Believing Is Achieving.”

EDNA N. NEGRÓN (HCW; ENHP ’74, ’75) of Hartford, Conn., was recently appointed regional director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration. Negrón is also a University of Hartford regent.

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

FRANCIS J. CHIARMONTE (ENHP, MEd) of Harwinton, Conn., is vice chair for business for downtown Hartford. The Hartford Business Journal of Oct. 8, 2001, described her as “extremely moving.”

The Alumni Office is seeking the student who created Manny’s mask from a fencing mask in the Fall of 1961 or 1962. Please contact the Alumni Office at <alumni@hartford.edu> or 860-768-4357.
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 CARRASQUILLO ’00, and REINA KOGANEMAUER ’00.

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
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. Eshbaugh ’86
Jaime Beth Shapiro ’90 and Jonathan David Berg
Tracy A. Closek ’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 Sathyaranayanan 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 Harrson)
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 (Michaell Jeffrey)
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 engagements 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-Argyle 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 SHEMO (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 Jaffe 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
Dallas School of Music, Inc.

ROBERT B. YOUNG (A&S) of Dayville, Conn., has opened an office for the general practice of law.

1983

SUSAN SPAULDING DEQUATTRO (HARTT) of North Haven, Conn., is teaching horn at the Hartt School Community Division and is director of the Hartt Middle School Band Institute and the Hartt Summer Horn Institute. She holds positions as principal horn with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and New Britain Symphony and is assistant principal with the New Haven Symphony.

THERESA M. METTY (BARNEY) of Ivanhoe, Ill., has been named corporate vice president and director, Worldwide Supply Chain Operations, for Motorola's vice president and director, Worldwide

1984

DONALD SCOTT TRINKS (A&S) of Windsor, Conn., recently won reelection to the Windsor Town Council. He ran as a six-year incumbent and was the top vote-getter.

1985

SCOTT C. GARRANT (A&S, 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

BROOKE M. SCHWARTZ (A&S) of St. Louis, Mo., recently became a diplomat of the society of internal medicine and has been granted a fellowship in preventive medicine/occupational health at St. Louis University.

DONALD SCOTT TRINKS (A&S) of Windsor, Conn., recently won reelection to the Windsor Town Council. He ran as a six-year incumbent and was the top vote-getter.

1987

DEBRA DRESNER (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., recently received one of three national community service awards from SAFECO Insurance at SAFECO’s home office in Seattle, Wash. The awards are presented for demonstrated leadership and dedication to the communities in which the recipients serve.

JOHN THOMAS HORN (BARNEY) of East Hartford, Conn., has been appointed vice president, eastern region, of Pinkerton Consulting & Investigations.

THOMAS ANTHONY HUMBERT (HARTT) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., recently performed in Madame Butterfly with the Florida Grand Opera at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

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.

JEROME P. KELLY (BARNEY) of Hobe Sound, Fla., recently won the Sony Open golf tournament in Hawaii. This was Kelly’s first victory in his 200th career start on the PGA Tour.

MARK EDMUND SULLIVAN (HARTT) of San Francisco, Calif., son of Professor Emeritus Edmund B. Sullivan, has recently joined Chanticleer, the Grammy Award–winning male vocal ensemble.

GREGG P. THALLER (HARTT) of Salem, Mass., has recently been named associate professor of music and director of instrumental studies at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

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.).
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.

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.

DANIEL F. SAROLI (BARNEY, MEd, EdD) 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.

CARIN J. SPERRING (ENHP) of Sacramento, Calif., a recent graduate of the University of Hartford, received her master’s degree in nursing, is a clinical nurse specialist in pain management at Shriner’s 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 improvisation 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 F. GOLDBERG (BARNEY) of Japan is teaching English at two junior high schools in Shiohama 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, in 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.

VIRENDRA 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.
ALA M N I N E W S

VALENTINE’S DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY

by Terri Raimondi

ew 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 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 Rippowan 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 of 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.

Shown are (l-r): Baseball Coach Harvey Shapiro; New York Mets Manager Bobby Valentine; President Harrison; and Gary LaRocque, ‘75, assistant general manager/director of scouting operations for the New York Mets.
Those who came of age between 1975 and 1985 were left to deal with the aftershocks of Vietnam and Watergate. The electorate did so by choosing first Jimmy Carter and then Ronald Reagan, presidents with contrasting, if not downright antithetical, visions of governing. The electorate also let Geraldine Ferraro know that she could be the first female vice-presidential nominee but not the first female vice president.

Leftover from the previous decade were remnants of the counterculture, but were Yuppies emerging with personal upward mobility in mind. In the spirit of the Valley Girls, both Michael Jackson and Madonna decided to “get a new life” by creating whole new personas. We dressed for success, displayed our national pride during the Bicentennial celebrations, and played Trivial Pursuit. “Saturday Night Live” led us to laugh, not march in protest. Saturday Night Fever showed us how to lose our troubles at the discos.

But we didn’t lose them all. We were shaken by the attempt on President Reagan’s life; predictably for this decade, John Hinkley’s motives were personal, not political. For many whose heroes came from a prior era, John Lennon’s assassination was devastating. Sports stepped in to provide other heroes. Carlton Fisk’s dramatic Game 6 home run ended the 1975 World Series, and the U.S. Hockey Team achieved the “Miracle on Ice” in 1980. At the movies, Star Wars and E.T. took us out of this world, leaving us startled when the threat of meltdown at Three Mile Island brought us back to earth. MTV became a TV phenomenon, but all-time TV viewership went to Alex Haley’s historical miniseries, Roots.

By the end of the decade, sheer numbers were forcing the country to acknowledge the existence of a major health threat, AIDS. In the media, CNN and USA Today had created whole new audiences. Forward-looking students at the University of Hartford were purchasing their first personal computers and collecting compact discs.

The impact and aftermath of this decade led us to wonder whatever happened to…?
Beginning with the next issue of *The Observer*, Julie Jansen ’81 will succeed Paul D. Tieger ’73, ’83, as interviewer and writer of our feature “Whatever Happened to...?” Moving beyond the 1965–75 decade, Jansen will interview University alumni from the 1975–85 decade. By way of introduction, Jansen herself is interviewed here by Michelle Godin ’00 of *The Observer* staff.

**MG:** When were you at the University and what was your major?

**JJ:** I graduated in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in mass communications.

**MG:** Were you very involved in University activities while you were here?

**JJ:** I was very involved. I served as a resident assistant in Roth Dorm, an Orientation advisor, academic vice president and communications vice president of the Student Association, and Winter Carnival queen.

**MG:** What was your greatest achievement in college?

**JJ:** Paying for 100 percent of my education and graduating! I worked all the time and came close to not coming up with the money to pay for tuition and room and board on several occasions.

**MG:** Who had the greatest influence on you during this time?

**JJ:** Tom Donohue, Roger Desmond, Harvey Jassem, Theresa Tracey, my friends, and that nice teacher, Jim Keener, in television production. My teachers were passionate and committed. They knew their stuff, and that has stayed with me.

**MG:** What’s the most important thing you learned in college?

**JJ:** How to be a leader and how to be a survivor. My brother died of cancer in the beginning of my sophomore year, and that made concentrating very difficult.

**MG:** It seems as if your ability to deal with adversity has really helped you to succeed in life. Did your experiences here help prepare you for your career?

**JJ:** Absolutely! I learned to deal with change and difficulty. I learned the importance of learning and growing, and I gained confidence so that I could believe I can do anything I set out to do.

**MG:** At the time that you graduated, what did you think your life’s work would be?

**JJ:** I always wanted to work in broadcasting and I did for a few years. I worked at WFSB-TV in Hartford as a research analyst and at WTIC-AM as a copywriter. I didn’t remain in the field for too long because of circumstances and fit. I always assumed my work would involve people and writing.

**MG:** Since graduating, you’ve worked in broadcasting, outplacement coaching, career management, training, and recruiting. What do you like best about your current career as a corporate speaker?

**JJ:** I always make a difference in at least one person’s life, if not more than one. I enjoy the recognition, and I meet a gazillion people. I’ve learned so much about companies, industries, and business overall.

**MG:** Your first book is being published by Penguin. Have you decided on a title, and can we expect more books to follow?

**JJ:** Tentatively, the book is called *I Don’t Know What I Want, But I Know It’s Not This: A Guide for Finding Gratifying Work for the Rest of Your Life*. It’s very likely that I’ll write another book. However, I intend to put all of my energy into publicizing this one first. The publication date has been delayed until January 2003. Because of the events of Sept. 11, the media will be focusing on tributes this September. My book is going to be dependent on media exposure, so it’s probably a good idea to delay publication.

**MG:** What persuaded you to be an alum reporter for *The Observer*?

**JJ:** It’s a fun opportunity to reconnect with people and contribute to the University. Also, Paul Tieger asked me to.

**MG:** With whom did you hang out while you were at the University?

**JJ:** Chris Beggs ’81, Mary Ciraco ’81, Lisa McCue, Kathy McCurry, Mara Upats ’81, Jeff Blumenthal ’81, Kathy Giaconia ’81, Mike Troisi ’82, Denise Morris ’81, Aviva Ephraim ’80, Emily Vaughn ’82, Bernard Kavaler ’79, and Marc Rubinfeld ’79.

**MG:** Whom would you like to track down and talk to?

**JJ:** Marisa Donza ’82, Nina Stevens ’81, Vicki Robinson, Lisa McCue, Kathy Mallon ’80, Lorraine Sahagian ’81, and Ann Foley ’80.

**MG:** What would you say was the most exciting thing that happened on campus while you were attending the University of Hartford?

**JJ:** I know this may sound weird, but it was the collapse of the Hartford Civic Center roof. I was a freshman or sophomore and had been there the night before at a Hawks basketball game. I have never seen a sight like the insulation that was all over the city of Hartford. The most important part of the incident was the realization that although no one was killed or injured, life is fleeting. Of course, this doesn’t compare to recent events, but nevertheless, it made an impact on me.

**Little-known facts about Jansen**

She attended three high schools.

Networking is a way of life for her, the way she solves problems and overcomes obstacles. She has 1,300 active names in her Act! database.

She was adopted and found her birth mother when she was 25.
IN MEMORIAM

A True Leader
by Guy Charles Colarulli

Many members of our University community continue to grieve the death of Ralph Aloisi. He affected the lives of so many students and colleagues. His impact on the University and the larger community it serves needs to be remembered and honored. Let me try here.

Few people have fundamentally changed the University as Ralph did. He arrived in 1977, and for that first year, he was the health professions at the University. Within a decade, HP grew large enough to change the name of a college and become a division. At its peak in the 1990s, with Ralph as its leader, from a single program in medical technology, Health Professions grew to seven degree programs, more than 30 faculty members, and almost 400 majors. He managed, despite scarce internal resources, to secure equipment donations regularly from companies and to establish community partnerships with a myriad of health providers and with a half-dozen doctoral-level professional health schools. Ralph Aloisi and the rise of Health Professions are an important part of the history of the University.

What made Ralph effective and special was not simply that he knew his field, published extensively, was an excellent teacher (he received the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching at Commencement last year), but that he had both vision and the wherewithal to accomplish it. Ralph was that very rare individual—a true leader. He leaves an almost impossible void to fill.

We became friends in the mid-1980s when he played a major role in the creation of our nationally recognized All-University Curriculum. He created, moreover, a course for the AUC that is regarded around the country and beyond as the first liberal arts course to address the AIDS epidemic. When I travel to higher education conferences, often I will be stopped by someone who has noticed where I work to talk about Ralph and his course.

Over the last 20 years, when I needed a fresh perspective or a good idea to improve some part of our activity, I called Ralph. He never failed to be innovative, he never failed to help me, and he never failed the University.

I have needed to call extension 4108 a number of times since Nov. 25, but he is no longer at the other end of the line.

For most of his life, he carried the pain and difficulty of his health problems quietly and courageously…and with Carol’s help. He defied all medical predictions and, along the way, accomplished so much. We need to remember and honor him, not only for him and for his family but also for ourselves.

Guy Charles (“Chuck”) Colarulli is associate provost and dean of undergraduate studies.

Ralph M. Aloisi

Ralph M. Aloisi, professor of biology and health sciences and former associate dean, died at Yale–New Haven Hospital on Nov. 25. He was 56. He had been admitted to the hospital earlier that week to undergo a procedure related to his long-term health problems.

During his 23 years at the University, Aloisi had a profound impact on thousands of students and colleagues while leaving his imprint on many programs and curricula. His work and vision played a key role in the development of the All-University Curriculum (AUC) and in the creation of the University’s successful Health Professions programs.

Aloisi’s background in medical technology and immunology, combined with his belief in the importance of teaching students about critical issues in health care, led him to develop an AUC course called Epidemics and AIDS, which is believed to have been the first interdisciplinary undergraduate course on AIDS in the country. Similar courses are now offered at more than 40 colleges and universities, largely because of Aloisi’s work. Known for his extraordinary dedication to students, he was also an outstanding mentor to other faculty members in the Division of Health Professions.

He was the recipient of the Roy E. Larsen Excellence in Teaching and Donald W. Davis All-University Curriculum Awards.

He leaves his wife, Carol ’82; son, Kevin ’98; daughter, Jennifer Colebourn ’94, and son-in-law, Christopher Colebourn ’94; his sister, Joanne Aloisi; two brothers, Joseph and Anthony, and sister-in-law Patricia ’95 (wife of Anthony); one grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ralph M. Aloisi Health Professions Award in care of the University’s Development Office.

Hartzel Z. “Hank” Lebed

Hartzel Z. “Hank” Lebed, former president of CIGNA, who served as interim president of the University of Hartford from 1988 to 1989, died on Nov. 12. He was 73.

Stories abound concerning Lebed’s considerate treatment of people. One such incident involved a company driver who was stunned on his last day of work before retiring, when he was picked up from his home by Lebed dressed in a chauffeur’s uniform.

When he retired from CIGNA in 1988, Robert Kilpatrick, CIGNA’s chairman and CEO, said, “Few people can be pointed to as having truly made a difference in a company’s history. I believe Hank is one of those individuals.”

Shortly after retiring, Lebed served as chairman of the board of visitors of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies and accepted an appointment as interim president of the University of Hartford. In 1990 he and his wife moved to Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., where they spent a decade before moving to Scottsdale, Ariz.
Nathan Gottschalk

Nathan Gottschalk, former executive director of The Hartt School, died on Sept. 3 after a brief illness. He was 85.

He began his teaching career at Oberlin College and later joined the faculty of The Hartt School as executive director. He left Hartford to become chairman of the music department and conductor of the University-Community Orchestra at the State University of New York at Albany until his retirement in 1994.

Gottschalk, a violinist, was musical director for 36 years of the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra in Greenfield, Mass. He also chaired the music school and conducted the festival orchestra in Chautauqua, N.Y.

He leaves his wife, Pauline Winneg; a son, Michael Lee Gottschalk; a daughter, Susan Gottschalk Silver; two grandchildren; and a sister.

Hilda Brassill

Hilda Brassill ’60 of Newington, assistant professor emerita of elementary education, died peacefully in her sleep on Nov. 8. She was 72.

A former principal of Orchard Hill Elementary School in South Windsor, she received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut and a master’s degree from the University of Hartford. Today, there are literally tens of thousands of students whom she helped to become teachers.

Brassill was the recipient of the A. Peter LoMaglio Award for outstanding and dedicated service to the University’s Division of Athletics, including the Hawks Athletics Board and the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. She and her late husband, Jim, donated the funds for at least two of the previous Howie the Hawk outfits. She regularly supported many of the varsity athletics teams and their booster groups.

She also was an active participant in rallies to support Hartford neighborhoods. At one such event last summer, she rolled her wheelchair alongside other marchers, keeping up with them even in the rain.

Brassill was listed in Who’s Who of American Women and Who’s Who of Women in Education.

Johanna Cahill Murphy

Johanna Cahill Murphy, 57, a University regent and trustee of the Hartford Art School, collapsed of an apparent stroke at a Hartford Art School board of trustees meeting on Dec. 4. She died the following day.

A stylish and innovative Hartford activist, Murphy influenced the city’s arts, education, health, and political sectors for decades. She headed the Knox Foundation, the Capitol branch of the American Red Cross, the Hartford Rotary Club, the art program at the Barry Square Senior Center, and parent-teacher organizations in two Hartford schools. In 1981 she made an unsuccessful run for mayor.

She was an accomplished artist whose work was featured in one-woman shows at several area galleries. She was also an innovative arts therapist and educator, teaching at the Asylum Hill Enrichment Program and the Solomon Schechter School in West Hartford.

Since 1988, Murphy was a co-sponsor, administrator, and fund-raiser for the “I Have a Dream” program at SAND School, working with 71 students for more than a decade to shepherd them through high school and into college.

She leaves her husband, John, and two daughters, Heather and Tara. An anonymous donor established, with a $10,000 grant, a fund in Johanna Murphy’s memory at the Hartford Art School. Donations may be sent to Nancy Rogers, director of development.

John “Jack” Scott Repass

John “Jack” Scott Repass ’59 of East Hartford, the University’s first sports information director, died on Nov. 10 after a short illness. He was 77.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during the Korean Conflict, Repass was one of the University’s first standout athletes. In 1958, he batted .463 at the University and stole 16 bases in 10 games, a national record at the time. In 1991 he was named to the University’s Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame, and that same year, the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance presented him with its Good Sport Award, given to those active in voluntary support of community sports. Much of the statistical and historical information on the early years of University of Hartford athletics was compiled and recorded due to his efforts.

Repass loved baseball, especially the Greater Hartford Twilight Baseball League (GHTBL), and researched the history of the league, which started in 1929. He started the GHTBL Hall of Fame, which has grown to 152 players and 62 members from other categories that include league executives, sponsors, sports writers, and umpires.

He leaves his beloved fiancée, June Lucas; four sons, Scott Krause, David Krause, Christopher Repass ’88, and Stephen Repass; two brothers, Robert and Donald; a sister, Elinor Godart; and two granddaughters.

John Cromwell Holtz

John Cromwell Holtz, 65, a retired professor of The Hartt School, died Oct. 29 at McLean Home in Simsbury.

Holtz, who retired from The Hartt School in 1991, was appointed to the adjunct faculty in 1964 and became acting chairman of the School’s organ and liturgical music department in 1966. He was promoted to chairman of the department and to assistant professor. He became associate professor in 1972 and moved up to full professor in 1983. Holtz founded and directed the International Contemporary Organ Music Festival and served as dean and subdean of the Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.
Hawk Pride continued from page 4

University student Olga Diaz ’04, an economics and finance major, has not seen such a showing of school pride in her two years on campus. “Everywhere you went those three days,” she says, “the main question was, ‘How was the game?’ This has united the college’s population. I have not chanted and cheered so much since attending my high school’s football games. I am so proud of my school, especially when talking to friends. It’s even more exciting to see the University of Hartford’s name in the newspaper and on television, especially ESPN.”

As the seconds ticked down late in the championship game, the Chase Family Arena was a site to behold. A collective roar challenging any ever heard since the Sports Center opened its doors more than a decade ago led many to tears. The largest crowd ever to watch a women’s basketball game at the University of Hartford—2,811—had seen a moment it and the institution will never forget.

Music to Cheer By

by Barbara Steinberger

The scene at the Chase Family Arena embodied the spirit of March Madness. Exuberant fans waved red and white pompons. Howie the Hawk pumped up the crowd as cheerleaders formed human pyramids at Center Court. The Pep Band swayed back and forth to the upbeat melody of the University fight song.

Wait a minute…A pep band? A fight song? At the University of Hartford?

That’s right. In January, the University unveiled its first-ever fight song and its official alma mater. At the same time, the new Pep Band began making its debut at men’s and women’s basketball games.

The two new songs and the Pep Band have contributed significantly to school spirit, something that the University has been working to improve. Nowhere was that spirit more evident than at the America East Women’s Basketball Tournament in the Chase Family Arena.

“The fan support was just amazing, and we were a part of that,” said John Lelan Ywarsky, a Hartt School senior who plays clarinet in the Pep Band. “The experience of being there and cheering on your team and getting the crowd worked up—you just feel like you’re contributing something to your school.” Ywarsky even added a little extra school spirit to the Pep Band by dying his hair bright red for the Hawks’ championship game against Stony Brook on March 9.

The fight song and the alma mater were written by faculty members of The Hartt School. Stephen Gryc, professor of composition and theory, wrote the music and lyrics to the fight song, “Fly High.” Gryc also wrote the music for the alma mater, “The Red and the White,” and the lyrics were written by Henry Fonte, associate professor of theatre. Both songs were introduced at the University’s mid-year faculty/staff meeting, held in Millard Auditorium in January.

The fight song will be played mainly at sporting events, while the alma mater will be performed at more formal occasions.

Gryc said he was pleased to be able to play a role in boosting school spirit and establishing some new traditions for the University. “Music at a game helps to create a sense of occasion and an atmosphere of excitement for the fans. The music and the fans give the players the emotional energy they need to compete and to win.”

The Pep Band was created by Glen Adsit, associate professor and director of bands at The Hartt School, and it is directed by Hartt graduate student Brian Zamek. The band has between 25 and 30 members; most are Hartt School undergraduates, but there also are some band members who attend other colleges within the University.

The band began playing at basketball games in January and was extremely well received by fans, Zamek said. After the women’s basketball team won the America East Tournament, the Pep Band accompanied the team to Norman, Okla., for the University’s first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division I basketball tournament.

Women’s basketball Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti said that the boisterous fan support at the Chase Family Arena played a key role in helping the Hawks win three close games in a row to capture the America East championship. Members of the Pep Band are gratified that they helped to create that electric atmosphere.

“Our goal is to try to get the fans involved as much as possible. We collaborate with the cheerleaders and sometimes we even start the cheers,” said Zamek, who will earn a master’s degree in music education in May. “A lot of people have come up to us and told us how much they appreciate what we’re doing.”
Fly High
Fight Song of the University of Hartford Hawks
Words and music by Stephen Gryc

Fly high, Hawks, fly high,
And know that victory is nigh.
Let’s try, Hawks, let’s try,
For we know it’s do or die.
By courage be led.
Have pride in the dear old white and red.
Fly high, Hawks, fly high,
And soar to glory in the sky.

The Red and the White
University of Hartford Alma Mater
Lyrics by Henry Fonte
Music by Stephen Gryc

Verse 1:
Oh, University of Hartford,
A legacy that will not end,
Your banners high and colors brilliant
Give strength as we this world amend.

Chorus:
Red to fire our soul’s passion,
As we proudly sing your praise.
White to guide our ev’ry action,
Now, tomorrow, all our days.

Verse 2:
University of Hartford,
Where first our thoughts were all set free,
With peer, true friend, and mentor we toiled,
For honor, truth, and honesty.

Chorus:
Red to fire our soul’s passion,
As we proudly sing your praise.
White to guide our ev’ry action,
Now, tomorrow, all our days.
The Freedom of Expression

“My parents, Alan and Mary Wilson, devoted much of their lives to making education accessible to everyone, first at Hillyer College and then at the University of Hartford. I wanted to provide student financial assistance in their memory and chose a gift plan that pays me a solid return, giving me the freedom to build on their wonderful legacy.”

Kate Snyder
President
Expressions Pottery Workshop
East Granby, Conn.
and
University benefactor

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