Baseball has come home to campus. Soccer and lacrosse are enjoying new turf. Softball has its own digs too. Yet much more is still to come as the Home Field Advantage project continues. Be part of it—literally.

Order an engraved brick bearing your personal message to be placed in a recessed H at the entrance to the new sports complex (see photo at left).

Two sizes to choose from. You can be a part of Hawks athletics forever for as low as two payments of $150 each. But hurry. The deadline for purchasing your brick is June 30.

Contact Jim Keener: jkeener@ hartford.edu

www.hartfordhawks.com
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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the spring issue. We’re still excited here at press time about the women’s basketball team and its historic first win in the NCAA Tournament against Temple University. Congratulations to Jen Rizzotti, her coaching staff, and the team on a breathtaking season!

In addition to our sports coverage, this issue brings you news of the University’s latest building project: the Arts and Technology Complex at the Hartford Art School. This addition to Taub Hall will provide much-needed space for students and faculty in all departments of the art school.

I want to thank all those who responded to the reader survey for the winter issue. Based on their answers, the cover article on University Archivist and Hartt alumna Ethel Bacon ’44, M’55, was a big hit. Another popular item was our coverage of Fall Weekend. You’ll find more photos from 2006 alumni gatherings in the Alumni News section of this issue.

The University will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Feb. 21, 2007, and plans are well under way for the festivities. We hope you’ll take a look at the reader survey for this spring issue and while you’re there, see if you can answer the first question in the official University of Hartford 50th Anniversary Trivia Contest.

www.hartford.edu/observersurvey

Good luck, and keep those class notes coming.

Trish Charles
Editor-in-Chief
Observer
pcharles@hartford.edu
My two favorite descriptions of a university president are:

- Someone who lives in a big house and begs for a living.
- A person who operates a power mower in a graveyard: there’s lots of noise and action up top, but down below no one is listening.

Both descriptions poke gently but directly at two of the most important duties of a modern university president: to articulate a vision for the future of the university and to raise the money to make that vision come true.

So in a very important way, it’s part of my job to talk to you about the University’s $175 million Campaign of Commitment and how we plan to make our vision for the future a reality. What is that vision and how will the campaign make it possible?

Since I arrived at the University in 1998, I have tried to articulate a consistent and clear vision to describe the University that builds on its past and points directly to a bright future. We provide our students with distinctive educational experiences that blend the feel of a small, residential college with an array of academic programs and opportunities characteristic of a large university. We are a private university with a public purpose. I believe these qualities have defined the University throughout its history. Although we have grown more complex as an institution, this vision continues to define us. The role of the campaign is to provide the resources to turn our vision into reality. And so far, with approximately $130 million raised, we are well on the way to being successful.

The Campaign of Commitment has three major goals:

To raise endowment monies to support teaching, research, and financial aid, which will help us attract and retain the best students, faculty, and staff. Thanks to the most significant gift in the University’s history, an $18.6 million bequest from Primrose Fuller, our total endowment stands above the $90 million mark for the first time ever. While still lower than that of many of our peers (because we are a relatively young institution), this endowment will ensure the future quality of the University.

To raise annual funds and other programmatic support, which allows us to provide quality educational programs above and beyond what student tuition covers. Most people know that tuition covers only a fraction of the total cost of attending a university. Annual and other restricted giving makes up the difference. In almost every case, the distinction between being a good university and being a great one is determined by the resources the annual fund provides. A great example of this is the National Honors Scholarships funded by a small group of generous donors who are helping us attract the very best students in the country. No gift to our Annual Fund is too small. Each one helps this University achieve its central goal: to provide a quality learning experience for all students.

To construct the facilities necessary to keep the University competitive and to ensure that we provide an environment for quality learning. I have spent a lot of my energies in earlier columns describing these important projects, but I will summarize them here.
We are on a real roll at the University of Hartford. We have momentum. Success in the campaign will sustain that and, most importantly, ensure a bright future for the University—something that so many of us dream of and work for every day.

- **Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology Complex.** This project was completed in December, financed by bonding and with donated dollars. More is still needed. This magnificent facility will enable us to achieve our goal of regional prominence and national visibility in science, engineering, and technology.

- **Home Field Advantage (new playing fields).** The new soccer and lacrosse field was completed this fall; the new baseball and softball fields will be ready this spring. Our goal is to be a model small-university NCAA Division I sports program. These fields help us get there; they are the equal of any in our conference. A major $2 million gift by Tom and Suzy Reich helped immensely, but we still need about $1.7 million before October in order to fully fund this project and qualify for a matching Kresge Foundation grant. Every gift, large and small, helps, from naming a field to buying a brick that will forever link your name to Hawk sports (see the ad in this issue).

- **Performing Arts Center.** Our most ambitious and far-reaching project, our vision for this facility is to transform the former Thomas Cadillac automobile dealership at the corner of Westbourne Parkway and Albany Avenue into a state-of-the-art teaching facility for theatre and dance, benefiting both Hartt School students and children of the North Hartford community. Here we see our two purposes most clearly in sync: to provide the resources to support a world-class performing arts conservatory and to serve a public purpose in being a catalyst to spur the revival of the city’s North End. We are currently $3.5 million short of beginning the first stage of this project. It’s crunch time.

- **Arts and Technology Complex.** Elsewhere in this issue of the Observer we describe this project and what makes it so vital to our future as a visual arts school of the highest rank. Thanks to the $1 million leadership gift of Bob and Renée Samuels, we are well on our way to making this important project happen. But again, we need your help, in gifts both large and small, if we are to offer our gifted art students and faculty the facilities to grow and express their talent.

All of this only hints at the energy and excitement that have gone into this campaign. We have raised $130 million; we have $45 million to go. While we certainly count money in this campaign, it’s not just the money that counts. It’s the expression of support for this University—and what it stands for and what it can become—that matters.

We are on a real roll at the University of Hartford. We have momentum. Success in the campaign will sustain that and, most importantly, ensure a bright future for the University—something that so many of us dream of and work for every day.
Hold the Fries,

Childhood Obesity the Subject of Faculty-Student Research

Associate Professor of Biology Jacob Harney (left) and Marissa Cloutier, M.S., RD, instructor in biology and author of the *The Mediterranean Diet*, with a typical fast-food lunch.
This semester, Jacob P. Harney, associate professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, introduced a multidisciplinary course, titled Issues of Health and Society: Weighing In, that invites students to explore the effects of obesity on the well-being of children. Enlisting the aid of an impressive roster of consultants and guest instructors, Harney and his co-instructor, Marissa Cloutier, lead students on an in-depth examination of the biological, historical, social, psychological, and economic implications of obesity, as well as methods of prevention. Cloutier is a registered dietician, an instructor in biology in Hillyer College at the University, and author of *The Mediterranean Diet*.

The facts, according to 2005 figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are not pretty: 65% of all adult Americans age 20 or older are either overweight or obese*…among children and teens ages 6–19, 16% are considered overweight…between the mid-1970s and 2002, the adult obesity rate climbed from 15% to 30%. Figures for 2004 indicate that 33 states had obesity prevalence rates of 20%–24%; an additional nine states had rates over 25%.

Bad news, to be sure. But for Harney and Cloutier, it’s hardly surprising. “Obesity is a huge epidemic that now represents one of the biggest challenges we face because of the enormous impact it will have in so many areas of society,” Harney says. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of many diseases and health considerations, such as hypertension, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, and stroke. He is especially concerned with the rapid increase in type 2 diabetes among today’s children.

“Life expectancy, especially among our children, will be lower because of the problems associated with obesity,” he cautions. “This will be the first generation not to live a longer life than their parents.”

No wonder, then, that he didn’t hesitate when A&S Dean Joseph Voelker suggested that he attend a summer seminar sponsored by Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER). This project, funded by the National Science Foundation, encourages the development of academic programs that use classroom learning and original research to make a difference in the community.

Upon his return from the SENCER seminar, Harney began to formulate a course that would address the urgent issue of obesity and its related health conditions. In addition to Cloutier (who could not begin fast enough), Betsey Smith, associate dean of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, and Mala Matacin, associate professor of psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, helped construct the course curriculum.

Given Harney’s concern for the rising rate of obesity and type 2 diabetes among children, it is not surprising that the centerpiece of the course is the Make-a-Difference project, a collaborative venture between the University of Hartford Magnet School and the University of Hartford. As part of their course work, undergraduates analyze data collected anonymously from magnet school children. University students are assigned a “data set” in which they examine diet, physical activity, and caloric input and output. Ultimately, each student makes assessments and “healthy choice” recommendations aimed at improving the anonymous child’s and the family’s lives.

The project will culminate with a dinner in late spring, attended by the children and their families, at which the UH students will present their findings. Needless to say, healthy food will be on the menu. Harney plans to offer the course every year and hopes to maintain a connection with some of the children and their families so that they can be studied over time.

“Our goal is to educate our students that there are a lot of factors at play when it comes to obesity,” explains Harney. “We want them to understand that there are no simple answers to these problems.”

* The CDC’s definitions of obese and overweight are based on the body mass index, or BMI, which uses a person’s height and weight to derive a number that, for most people, corresponds to body fat. To find your BMI, divide your weight in pounds by your height in inches squared, then multiply that number by 703. An adult with a BMI in the 24–29.9 range is considered overweight; one whose BMI is over 30 is considered obese.
University Addresses Campus Housing Shortage

NEW DORM AND RENOVATIONS TO ADD 300 BEDS

President Walter Harrison announced in March that the board of regents has approved the University’s plans to build a new residence hall on campus for first-year students. Construction of the new dormitory, located east of University Commons, will begin in late spring or early summer of this year, with a completion goal of fall 2007.

“I am thrilled to be able to share this news,” said Harrison. “These projects will significantly enhance the experiences of our first-year students and bring new life to the residential side of campus.”

The facility, which is expected to have between 200 and 225 beds, represents the largest residence hall construction project since the completion of the Park River apartments in 1989. In addition, the University plans major renovations over the next three summers to our oldest residence halls, the complexes. Renovations will include new bathrooms, heating systems, and bedrooms, as well as a general facelift. The complexes will remain open to students during the academic year. This summer, B Complex and D Complex will be the first to be renovated.

Construction of the new residence hall and the renovation of the six complexes will add approximately 300 beds on campus. This increase will address the housing shortage the University has been experiencing in recent years as enrollment has continued to climb.

Total estimated cost of the projects, which includes the creation of a plaza between the Commons and the new residence hall to serve as a vibrant new center of student life, is $23.5 million. Financing will be through the sale of University of Hartford bonds to be issued by the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

Record enrollments in recent years at the University have produced greater demand for campus housing.
MLK Brought His Dream to the University of Hartford

Several years before the civil rights movement gained momentum in the 1960s, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., brought his message for racial equality to the University of Hartford. King delivered a speech titled “The Future of Integration” on May 7, 1959, at Hartford’s Bushnell Memorial Hall as part of the University’s Alexander S. Keller Memorial Fund Lecture Series.

Although original audiotapes of the 48-minute speech had been housed in the University Archives, only a handful of people, including Director of University Libraries Randi Ashton-Pritting, knew of their existence. “It’s one of our hidden treasures, just not widely known,” said Ashton-Pritting.

The University of Hartford was just two years old at the time of King’s speech, and King himself was only 30. He had already gained national fame as the leader of the 1955-56 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, but his historic “I Have a Dream” speech was still more than four years away.

In addition to speaking as part of the Keller Lecture Series, King met informally that day with students at the University’s Hillyer College and with editors of the student newspaper, The Callboard.

“I came away from that day knowing I had been in the presence of a great man,” said Reid MacCluggage ’62, who was feature editor of The Callboard.

“Four years before he shared his dream with the nation, he had shared it with us.”

MacCluggage, a former University regent and retired editor and publisher of The Day newspaper (New London, Conn.), told a Hartford Courant reporter in January: “To many of us in the 1950s, the civil rights movement was only a Southern issue. Dr. King corrected that impression. Civil rights was a human issue.”

At right: This photograph and flyer advertised King’s 1959 speech, part of a University of Hartford lecture series.
It’s more enticing, not to mention more lucrative, to go into law or finance. But America cannot afford to keep losing our engineering edge to other countries.

A recent report by the National Academies, “Rising above the Gathering Storm,” warned of the dire consequences of a growing shortage of American engineers and scientists. Tom Friedman’s best-selling book, The World Is Flat, described how we are falling behind the rapidly developing economies of China and India in the production of engineering talent. In his State of the Union address, President Bush urged support for more young people to enter this challenging field. With all of this attention, one might wonder whether there really is a problem.

There are no significant shortages of engineers right now—but interest in engineering has been falling for more than 20 years. This will start making a dramatic difference as the engineers of the baby boom generation, that large group inspired by Sputnik, begin to retire in great numbers over the next 10 years. In addition, foreign students of engineering are increasingly opting to study outside the United States rather than battle visa problems here. Those who do study here are returning to their native countries to pursue more lucrative opportunities in their own burgeoning economies.

This looming crisis will significantly impact the productivity and the quality of life in the United States. Global companies will be forced to go out of the country to find the talent they need. At a time when the world’s economy is entering a period of rapid expansion, U.S.-based operations may not be able to get their share because so much of the product value will be added on foreign soil.

What can be done? First, we have to swallow some tough truths. Our young people are not misguided or lazy. In fact, they are astute in realizing that the hard work it takes to become an engineer simply may not be worth the effort in today’s American economy.

There are just too many other ways to make more money for those students with the skills and preparation to even consider engineering. Law, medicine, and finance all provide satisfying careers, higher income, and better job security than engineering. Yet if our best and brightest continue to opt for those professions over engineering, then we as a nation continue to eat the seed corn of our innovation and wealth creation.

Here is what I recommend: Make it attractive to study, teach, and conduct research in engineering. Support the plan promoted by U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, known as the Protecting America’s Competitive Edge Act, which would provide scholarships to young men and women interested in math, science, and engineering, and train teachers who can help them pursue careers in these fields.

If we really believe our nation’s prosperity depends on attracting more of our brightest young people into engineering, then we have to start acting like we mean it.

We should provide tax credits and other financial incentives that encourage companies to work with universities so students see firsthand the exciting and creative careers that engineering offers. They simply will not find that image on television. In fact, we must project a more positive image of engineers and scientists in the media. The geek caricature is getting old, and we simply cannot afford the high cost of these tired stereotypes any longer. We especially need women and minorities to step up to these technical careers since we cannot excel in the face of this steeper competition if we continue to tap only a fraction of our diverse talent pool.

Most important, we have to stop thinking that simply urging young people to go into engineering is enough. We have to devote state and federal spending to incentives that will attract them to engineering and reward them for tackling one of the most difficult majors found on a college campus. We have to act as if our economic lives depend on it.
University High Student Testifies on Capitol Hill

Joshua Tagore, of Simsbury, Conn., testified in Washington, D.C., before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on March 1, stressing the need for more federal education support in the areas of math, science, and technology.

The 16-year-old is a sophomore at University High School of Science and Engineering, located on the University of Hartford’s Asylum Avenue campus. Tagore was invited to Washington by U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.), who is co-sponsoring legislation to encourage math and science education to meet the technological needs of the future.

Dodd met Tagore when he visited the high school in January to promote the package of three bills, collectively titled the Protecting America’s Competitive Edge Act.

In remarks prepared for his testimony, Tagore described the extraordinary learning environment of University High School, where he is taking courses in physics, engineering, and advanced placement biology.

“I believe that if more high school students are exposed to this kind of unique learning experience as a routine part of their high school careers, we could help to shape a nation of young adults who will gain an interest in careers involving math and science,” Tagore told the attentive senators.

As Dodd addressed his fellow senators during the testimony, he pointed to Tagore and said, “What you are looking at is the future.”

Brains, Not Brawn, for Katrina Aid

Over spring break, several students at the University of Hartford traveled to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in a novel approach to dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Special Center on Emergency Preparedness and Relief, a project of the Roosevelt Institution, brought students together for a three-day symposium to discuss creative policy proposals for rebuilding New Orleans.

Five members of the University’s chapter of the Roosevelt Institution—Tiana Notice ’06, Alissa Rauch ’09, Edward Westwood ’09, Paije Moormann ’09, and Michelle Tafur ’09—gave their presentation, titled “Reconstructing New Orleans with the Use of Organic Architecture.” Dane Coonery ’09 helped draft the initial proposal. Their proposal was selected from those submitted by Roosevelt Institution chapters around the country.

“It was a great accomplishment as well as an enlightening experience for the University of Hartford chapter to meet students from other universities and share our work,” says chapter president Notice about attending the symposium.

The Hartford chapter’s presentation calls for the use of natural, recycled materials, like bricks and scrap metal, to rebuild houses and other structures and as insulation.

The Roosevelt Institution is a student-run, nonpartisan think tank founded in 2004 at Stanford University that now has chapters at more than 120 campuses across the country. It is devoted to bringing the policy research of college students to the attention of academia, the media, and the government.
Forget the Sun and the Sand
HARTFORD STUDENTS USE SPRING BREAK TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS

Wick Griswold, assistant professor of sociology, and Maria Johnson, adjunct professor of English, both of Hillyer College, accompanied 20 students to New Orleans over spring break to work with the People’s Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition. The coalition is a group of Hurricane Katrina survivors. Approximately 400 other students from colleges and universities around the country also helped the organization rebuild communities ravaged by Katrina.

Accommodations were rustic. Students slept on cots in the historic St. Augustine Church in the city’s Fifth Ward. They spent their daylight hours removing debris from a flood-damaged house, painting the exterior of another house, and doing various other cleanup tasks.

“We gutted a house, which means we pulled everything from inside—furniture, books, clothes, everything. We had to wear special suits and masks. The smell was terrible and everything was covered in mold,” says Kelsey LaRochelle ’08, who reported in from New Orleans. “Many people still are not living in their homes and don’t have the money to fix them.”

Instead of the usual sunburn and tales of drinking escapades, these students returned to campus after spring break with memories of lending a helping hand in a very difficult situation.

When Love Hurts
TEENS AGAINST DATING ABUSE

Our typical picture of the high school years is a time filled with football games, proms, SATs, and, for some teens, their first romantic relationships. Unfortunately, love is not the only thing teens experience in these early romances. Growing numbers are also encountering verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, women between the ages of 16 and 24 are more often victims of relationship abuse than any other age group.

“We want them to know that there are people out there who understand them.”
—CARRIE SPIESER ’08

Carrie Speiser ’08, now a human services major in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, and three of her high school friends wanted to do something to help teens they knew who were caught in controlling and abusive relationships.

The four girls founded Teens Experiencing Abusive Relationships (TEAR) while still in high school. TEAR’s purpose is to educate teenagers about teen dating abuse by providing useful and practical information to help teens identify an abusive relationship and ultimately escape it.

“We want people to know that they are not alone,” says Speiser. “We want them to know that there are people out there who understand them, who know what they’re going through. And that there are resources to help them get out of these relationships.”

The girls, who themselves have experienced dating abuse either personally or through friends, have received many hours of crisis counseling training and now travel around the country talking to groups about dating violence. They also maintain a Web site, www.teensagainstabuse.org, where teens can receive help and hotline information.

“In the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, we prepare students for careers as professionals in service to their communities,” says Acting Dean Fred Sweitzer. “I am terribly proud of Carrie for exemplifying that spirit of service, not only in her studies but in her life.”

TEAR was featured in the November 2005 issue of CosmoGIRL! magazine. In January, Speiser and the other founding members of the organization appeared on ABC’s Good Morning America show. They have also taped a segment that will be shown on CBS’s The Tyra Banks Show in May.
Remember: It’s Only a Novel

MARGARET FINCH, PROFESSOR EMERITA OF ART HISTORY, CRITIQUES THE DA VINCI CODE

Dan Brown’s novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, continues to be a runaway international bestseller that has spawned an upcoming motion picture starring Tom Hanks and tours of the major sites mentioned in the novel, as well as books, DVDs, and television programs devoted to exploring the various controversial themes presented by Brown.

Among the best responses to *The Da Vinci Code* and Brown’s earlier *Angels & Demons* are those works that do more than criticize Brown for his frequent exaggerations and scholarly shortcomings. These writers deal at length with the often thorny issues that he raises: the role of Mary Magdalene as Jesus’s “companion” and the place of women in the early Christian Church, the search for the Holy Grail, and the machinations of so-called secret societies.

With her outstanding new book, *The Leonardo Code*, Margaret Finch, associate professor emerita of art history at the University of Hartford, joins the best of these commentators. She provides an engaging picture of Leonardo as man and artist, and in the process dispels many of Brown’s errors regarding the great Renaissance master. Finch’s *The Leonardo Code* is a rewarding and thought-provoking book, written with considerable style and grace for the general public.

Finch states in her preface what prompted her to write the book:

“As an art historian, my attention was first drawn to the book by the inclusion of Leonardo’s *Last Supper* in the storyline. People began asking me questions, suggesting that the public was beginning to think that Mary Magdalene, not John the Apostle, is really on Christ’s right in *The Last Supper*—but of course this is fictive! And while I’m at it, there are a few other things to say that help put Leonardo’s art into its true historical context….”

Finch gives us, in an all-too-short book, a true and more comprehensive picture of the complex genius of Leonardo da Vinci. She provides a rare glimpse into the creative mind of the great Renaissance master as she perceptively analyzes Leonardo’s drawings. She points out the sensuous, or sometimes dramatic, quality in studies for such works as his *Horse and Leda and the Swan* as well as his more analytical side represented in anatomical studies, such as his famous version of the *Vitruvian Man*, set within a square and circle, and his numerous drawings of inventions and other brilliant technical and architectural designs.

Finch’s *The Leonardo Code* is a work that provides much-needed correction to Brown’s bestseller. Her work is a worthy addition to Leonardo studies, and for that we should be grateful.


Reviewed by George Lechner, reference assistant at University Libraries and adjunct professor in art history in the All-University Curriculum.

Dan Brown asserts in *The Da Vinci Code* that the figure shown in the right in this detail from *The Last Supper* is Mary Magdalene.

Photo credit: Scala/Art Resource, N.Y.
One for the Record Books

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL WINS FIRST NCAA TOURNAMENT GAME

BY JONATHAN EASTERBROOK ’87, ’90

On the night of March 21 in Trenton, N.J., the University of Hartford women’s basketball team was among the nation’s final 32 teams playing in the NCAA Division 1 Women’s Basketball Tournament for the first time in University history.

With the America East Conference’s Rookie (Erica Beverly), Player (Erika Messam), and Coach of the Year (Jennifer Rizzotti), the Hawks enjoyed a storybook 27-win season, setting school records at every turn. After capturing their third league tournament crown in five years, they then scored the biggest win in school history, defeating Temple University, 64-58, in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. It was the first Hartford win ever over a Top 20 opponent and its first-ever victory in an NCAA Tournament game.

One win away from the Sweet 16, Hartford’s bid for a second straight upset fell short against the University of Georgia (73-54). “We had great respect for them [Hartford] coming into this game,” legendary Georgia Coach Andy Landers commented, “and we leave the game with even greater respect for the way they play and the season they had.”

As the basketball world took notice, so too did the University of Hartford family. Proud alumni and friends shared their thoughts through a University-hosted blog on the Internet, writing in from as far away as Yokohama, Japan; Oxford, England; and Paris, France.

Many former players checked in too, including Paige Sechler ’96. “I am thrilled that Hartford women’s basketball is getting the recognition that so many of us over the years worked so hard for and one day hoped to make a reality,” she said.

Coach Rizzotti, who recently signed a contract extension through 2010, is already thinking about next year. “Our goal now is to find kids who want to be on the first team at Hartford that goes to the Sweet 16.”

Two Hawks Fly High in SI

Thanks to Sports Illustrated (SI), the rest of the country now knows what fellow Hawks players, fans, and conference rivals knew all season: Kenny Adeleke ’06 and Erica Beverly ’09 are two of the region’s dominant hoop stars.

Adeleke was one of five players nationwide featured in the Jan. 23 edition of SI’s Inside College Basketball section. Under the title “Stealth Stars,” Adeleke was noted for breaking NBA star Vin Baker’s Hawks record for most consecutive games with a double-double (reaching double digits in any two categories—points scored, rebounds, or assists—in a game).

Beverly appeared in the magazine’s Feb. 7 edition as one of its “Faces in the Crowd.” At the time, she was recognized for helping to lead the Hawks to a 17-2 record, for earning seven Rookie of the Week honors, and for collecting five double-doubles. In all, Beverly set an America East Conference record, pulling in Rookie of the Week honors 10 times this season. Senior Adeleke established a new conference record as an eight-time Player of the Week.
By MICHAEL REARDON

For the first time in more than 20 years, the cry of “Play ball!” is wafting through the spring air on the University of Hartford campus.

“We’ve been a vagabond team for awhile now,” says Associate Athletics Director Jim Keener. “The last time we played a game on campus was in 1985.” The Hawks’ former field was sacrificed to create needed parking on campus, and funds have not been available to build a new field until now, according to Keener.

It’s not easy being a baseball team without a home field. But all that changed on a beautiful spring day in March when the Hawks played their first home game on the new field against the University of Massachusetts. Students, faculty, and staff came out to cheer for the Hawks, whose 6-2 victory over UMass was the first on-campus win for the baseball team since April 23, 1982.

With an outfield and infield covered in A-Turf, an artificial playing surface, Hawks Head Baseball Coach Jeff Calcaterra says the team should be able to get more games in and practice earlier in the season. He adds that his players are very excited about the new facility.

Second baseman Frank Cipolla ’06, who joined President Walter Harrison, Director of Athletics Pat Meiser-McKnett, Head Coach Calcaterra, and former players to throw out ceremonial first pitches before the game, says, “The field makes your jaw drop.”

Calcaterra has already seen the impact of the new baseball facility on recruiting. Players from California, Missouri, and Texas are on the Hawks roster this year, as well as from East Coast states like Delaware and Maryland. He believes the school will be even more successful in the future at drawing quality players from outside New England.

“When student-athletes are deciding whether they want to attend a school, [they look at] the education piece, and they consider the coach, the facility, and the schedule,” Calcaterra says. “Having this facility will help this program become one of the top baseball programs in the Northeast.”

The construction of the baseball field and the relocation of the softball field are part of Phase I of the University’s Home Field Advantage (HFA) project. The HFA project provides state-of-the-art sporting facilities for the school’s intercollegiate athletics programs. Besides the baseball and softball fields, Phase I also included the renovation last fall of Al-Marzook Field, the University’s soccer and lacrosse facility. The construction of a track and an all-purpose surrounding field in Phase II will complete the $11 million project.

The Hawks are hoping that the new facility will help them build attendance at their home games.

“A lot of people in West Hartford don’t know the University of Hartford has a baseball program,” says the second-year coach. “In a few years you will see a steady stream of support for this baseball program.”
Three Weeks in the Italian Renaissance

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO PRATO FOR A GLIMPSE BACK IN TIME

BY APRIL OETTINGER, PH.D.

This past January, April Oettinger, assistant professor of art history, traveled with 26 University of Hartford students to Italy for a Winterterm course called The Culture of Renaissance Italy. Here she tells the Observer why it was so important for the students to learn about the Italian Renaissance while standing on Italian soil.

It was an intense three weeks abroad. We all returned exhausted, yet somehow changed. It is an art historian’s dream to teach on site, in front of a “real” work of art or architecture, and at last I had fulfilled the wish that I had expressed so many times in the classroom: “If we could travel here right now—if I could ‘beam’ us over—this is what we’d see.”

It is an entirely new experience for students to examine an art object in its physical context, rather than isolated on the wall of a museum or in a slide. We shared the students’ excitement as they discovered a masterpiece in person for the first time and grappled with the day-to-day challenges of living in a foreign country.

Maria Frank, associate professor of Italian, who co-taught the course with me, describes it this way: “Despite things in common, Italy and the United States are, nonetheless, different worlds, especially when it comes to daily life.”

Domenic Barrett ’06 shares some of his initial bewilderment. “The supermarket was a little challenging. I needed some cream for my coffee. There were all kinds of milk, but I couldn’t find anything that looked like half-and-half. I basically guessed, and I’m still not sure what it was, but it worked.”

Our Italian journey began and ended in Rome, Italy’s lively—and, at times, chaotic—capital city. Our first full day there, we fought off the jetlag to embark on an eight-hour tour through the ruins of the Roman forum. This was the dramatic beginning of a series of walks through medieval towns; the churches, palaces, and museums of Renaissance Florence; and miles of corridors in the papal palace of the Vatican, where our voyage culminated with a visit to Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel.

“That everything in Rome was so amazing,” says Kristen Shaw, a sophomore. “We saw the Colosseum—I mean saw, stood in front of, and took a picture with, the Colosseum…. Everything here makes you feel small. It really reminds you that you are only one person in this huge world… not to mention the billions of people before our time.”

Those seven days in Rome proved to be in marked contrast to our two-week stay in quiet Prato, a medieval town nestled in the heart of Tuscany. In Prato we resided in a renovated 13th-century palace in the ancient, walled city center. Our Renaissance culture and literature courses took place in the classrooms of the 18th-century Palazzo Vaj.

For the art, architectural, and urban components of the study trip, students braved long walks through the cold, wet climate of Italy in the winter. In exchange for battling the elements in the low tourist season, we often enjoyed almost private viewings of Renaissance masterpieces, buildings, and monuments in Rome and Florence.

I am proud to report that our students adjusted to the rhythm of life in Italy with grace, open minds, and good humor—all important assets for living abroad.
Eight Days a Week
TWO NBC INTERNS PUT IN LONG HOURS AT 2006 OLYMPICS

BY TRISH CHARLES

For some Americans, the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, were a bit disappointing. No Michelle Kwan, no successful “Hurricane” jump from Speedy Peterson, no Bode Miller anything. But two University of Hartford students had a completely different Olympic experience.

Mark Goodell, a sophomore in The Hartt School’s music production and technology program, and Chris Heerema, a senior majoring in audio engineering technology in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, traveled to Torino in early January to begin internships with NBC Olympics. For Goodell and Heerema, that meant taking a crash course in real-world remote-production engineering condensed into nine weeks of intense, 12-hour days.

“I felt like my program had given me a sufficient amount of preparation so that I wasn’t eaten alive out in the field.”
—MARK GOODELL ’08

Was it worth it? “Absolutely,” says Goodell, after returning to the United States. “There was never a day when I was bored with what was going on around me. And I felt like my program had given me a sufficient amount of preparation so that I wasn’t eaten alive out in the field. So, as you can tell, those 80-plus-hour weeks really were the experience of a lifetime.”

As soon as the two students arrived, NBC staff wasted no time getting them oriented to the network’s operation, starting them off in the International Broadcast Center, which was part of NBC’s master control center for the Olympics. After a few days, Goodell and Heerema moved to the field shop, where they helped build and test racks of audio and video equipment for various venues.

Eventually both would work on a number of sites with the professional engineers, helping to set up and test the audio at the snowboarding half pipe, the Piazza delle Medaglie (Medal Plaza), the curling venue at Palaggiaccio, and speed skating at the Oval Lingotto in Torino, to name a few.

How did two Hartford students become part of the largest broadcast production in the world? In February 2005, representatives from NBC’s Olympics production team came to campus to recruit student interns. Bob Dixon, senior audio designer with NBC, is a longtime friend of Scott Metcalfe, director of music production and technology at Hartt.

Dixon was looking for college students trained in music and technology with the listening skills to make subjective decisions about what they were hearing, as well as students with extensive electronics training to help with setting up and troubleshooting audio systems. Enter Goodell and Heerema.

“This is the first time that students from the University have been involved with the production of the Olympic Games,” says Metcalfe, adding that this internship may be the first of many, since NBC Olympics has contracted to broadcast the Games through 2012.

Both Goodell and Heerema received very high marks for talent, dedication, and enthusiasm from their supervisors, Mark L. Butler and Lloyd Jacobsen, both professional audio integration engineers with NBC Olympics. And Bob Dixon is very pleased with the results.

“I think this has been a perfect internship. These two have been stars here. They are talented, hard working, and extremely professional, and they have contributed more than we ever could have imagined. They are wonderful representatives of the program at the University of Hartford. The school should be very proud of them. I know I am.”
CREATIVITY WEDS
Digital technology has found its way into nearly every aspect of our modern lives. Our homes are full of it—from cell phones and DVDs to iPods and digital cameras.

Not surprisingly, this same technology is having a dramatic impact on the world of art and design. In response, the University has announced plans to build a new facility at the Hartford Art School that will allow generations of future students to fully explore the new media.

Dean Power Boothe says the building project will give the art school a new kind of space that will promote interaction among a variety of artistic and technical disciplines.

“We’re living in a media-dominated world,” he says. “The new media are breaking down barriers among disciplines because it’s so easy to collaborate. Sculptors still make three-dimensional art, but they’re also doing installations that involve video or projection. Printmakers are printing with lithography, but they’re also using digital printers.”

Recognizing the new realities of the art world, the University’s board of regents endorsed a $5 million building project. To date, more than half of the amount needed to start construction has been pledged, and the campaign committee is hard at work raising additional funds. The Arts and Technology Complex (ATC) encompasses a 15,000-square-foot, two-story addition that will provide a new façade for Taub Hall, where 6,000 square feet of existing space will also be renovated.

Boothe says the vision for the project emerged in 2001 from a strategic planning process in which the faculty acknowledged the impact of digital technology on our culture in general, and the world of art and design in particular. In 2002 the school established the Department of Media Arts.

The department was originally designed to forge strong connections with other disciplines across the campus, such as the music composition program of The Hartt School and the Department of regents. She has involved her husband, a businessman and real estate investor, in the ATC project, just as Olivia Clemens, one of the founders of HAS, engaged her husband, Mark Twain, in the school’s first fundraising campaign 130 years ago. In addition to the couple’s financial support, Bob Samuels has served as an advisor for the building project.

“We’ve been involved for so long, and it has always been our dream to have more space for the students,” Renée Samuels says. “These students are not only phenomenal art students. They are among the top scholars at the University as well. They need and deserve these new facilities.”

“Bob and Renée have been enthusiastic supporters of the Hartford Art School and the University and good friends of mine for many years,” says President Walter Harrison. “Their generosity will make it possible for future generations of HAS students to benefit from these state-of-the-art facilities. Nothing would please Bob and Renée more than if others joined them in supporting this important project. I deeply appreciate their leadership in this effort.”
of Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. Media arts has not been fully able to realize these plans due to space limitations.

With the new Arts and Technology Complex, the media arts and photography departments will finally have the facilities they need to explore cross-disciplinary opportunities. Expanded and renovated space will also allow the painting and drawing department, the printmaking department, and the foundation studies program to continue to excel.

“This project is the culmination of a dream the art school has had for many years,” adds Margaret Corie Darby, a member of the University’s board of regents and chair of the ATC campaign committee. “It is a collaborative effort among the faculty, staff, regents, alumni, and the University at large.”

In the new complex, studios, classrooms, and galleries will surround a common space to be shared by all of the departments. The central, two-story atrium will have tables and chairs for gathering and expansive walls for hanging art or projecting images. Boothe says the idea is to provide flexible space that will promote interaction among students and faculty from all disciplines.

He also emphasizes that the interdisciplinary concept of the new facilities will better support interaction between the art school and other colleges. “Our students thrive on being part of the University,” Boothe observes. “They have the best of both worlds: a rigorous professional arts program and access to the resources of a university.”

“The impact of digital technology has been extraordinary,” he continues. “It affects the way we live, work, and play. Investing in the Arts and Technology Complex demonstrates a commitment by the University to embrace an exciting interdisciplinary vision that will bring national distinction to the University of Hartford as well as the Hartford Art School.”

There have been several major gifts to the ATC campaign already (see “Renée and Bob Samuels Pledge $1 Million to ATC,” p. 17). But the University also needs support from HAS alumni, parents, and friends; other University constituents; and the local arts community to make the complex a reality.

To contribute to the Arts and Technology Complex, mail your gift to the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. To make an online gift, visit www.hartford.edu/giving and click on the “Make a Gift” button.

Top:
Artist’s watercolor rendering of the two-story atrium in the center of the proposed complex.

Bottom:
The west face of Taub Hall showing the location of the ATC addition.

Both illustrations courtesy Christopher Williams, AIA, Principal, The S/L/A/M Collaborative.
A native son of Hartford, Bernie Rosen ’61, M’66, has devoted much of his life to education, through both his 19-year career as a teacher and vice principal at New Britain High School and his generous commitment to providing scholarship resources for students at the University of Hartford. In 1985 Rosen endowed the Bernard H. Rosen Scholarship Fund, which provides an annual award to the highest-ranking graduate of New Britain High School to enroll at the University of Hartford. Each scholarship is renewable for three successive years, provided that the recipient continues to make satisfactory academic progress.

After working at various jobs and serving in the U.S. Army, Rosen eventually took advantage of the GI Bill to pursue a bachelor’s degree in education at the fledgling University of Hartford. He would later obtain a master’s in education from the University as well. Because of the plans he has made to provide educational opportunities for others, the University has granted Rosen membership in the Founders’ Planned Giving Society. In addition to the grateful correspondence he receives each year from the awardees of his fund, Rosen enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that his giving will continue in perpetuity and that the principal will be substantially increased by a bequest through his estate.

Rosen is in excellent company as a member of the Founders’ Society. Richard Belkin is also a member. Belkin attended the original Hillyer College and graduated in 1956, one year before the founding of the University of Hartford. He affectionately refers to it as “Hillyer-on-the-Hudson,” a reference to the fact that the school occupied a building on Hudson Street in Hartford before its move to the Bloomfield Avenue campus. Belkin is the president of World of New York, Inc., which prior to 9/11 was a corporate partner of Top of the World observation deck.

In 1998 Belkin and his wife, Sherry, endowed the Belkin Scholars program, which supplements the Hartford Scholars program that provides half tuition for promising inner-city students. Belkin Scholars receive generous scholarship awards to help them complete their undergraduate degrees. Through their estate, the Belkins have arranged for a substantial bequest that will establish a donor-advised fund at their local Jewish Community Foundation. The fund will continue to grant a percentage of its annual revenue to the Belkins’ fund at the University long after they are gone.

The first of his six siblings to be born in America, Sam Kaprove was raised in Hartford’s North End. Kaprove worked as a glazier and helped in the family’s grocery store until a disabling back injury forced him to find another line of work. He retired in 1968 after a long career with the U.S. Postal Service.

Having watched the University of Hartford evolve from its founding, Kaprove came to recognize its importance to his community. In 1998 he made a contribution to endow a scholarship fund and named it after his youngest brother, Abe, who was born with Down’s syndrome in 1911. Kaprove took care of his brother throughout Abe’s unusually long life and was a founder of the Greater Hartford Association of Retarded Citizens. His devotion to his little brother during Abe’s life, and the concern he showed toward others, will now continue beyond Kaprove’s own long lifetime. Now at age 98, he is an enthusiastic supporter of the Hartford Hawks and loves to quote his favorite verse from Shakespeare’s _As You Like It_.

In 2003 he took another step toward ensuring that legacy by setting up a charitable gift annuity at the University. The annuity will provide payments to Kaprove for the rest of his life, and the remaining principal will be designated for the scholarship fund.

Bernie Rosen ’61, M’66, Dick and Sherry Belkin, and Sam Kaprove have already taken steps to continue their relationship with the University of Hartford for years to come.

For more information on how to become a future stakeholder in the University, please contact Peter H. Congleton, director of planned giving, at 860.768.5201 or congleton@hartford.edu, or visit www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving.
The Office of Alumni Relations has been busy—and so have the many alumni who have joined us for recent events. In February, Prudential Financial hosted an alumni networking social in Hartford. Donna Williams, director of leadership development at Prudential, presented “Managing Your Career.” In addition, there were wonderful hors d’oeuvres, lively conversation, and business-card exchanges.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, alumni cheered the women’s basketball team to victory over Maine. The activities continued into Sunday, when alumni and friends enjoyed a dessert reception and a pretheatre lecture by Dean Malcolm Morrison, followed by a matinee performance of Sweeney Todd at Lincoln Theater. Sports fans among the alumni chose instead the men’s basketball game, watching the Hawks from the VIP section of the Chase Arena at the Reich Family Pavilion.

March got off to a great start with an Italian wine tasting and dinner at Vito’s on the Park in Hartford. Florida alumni met for brunch on March 12 at Oyster-catchers in Tampa with the Institutional Advancement staff and Lou Manzione, dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture. On March 14, Yankees fans enjoyed a picnic and game against the St. Louis Cardinals at Legends Field in Tampa.

For photos of alumni who attended many of these events, see page 31 in this issue. There are even more events coming up, so don’t be left behind! Sign up today for Alumni Update, our e-newsletter, at www.hartford.edu/alumni.

ROCK WITH THE CATS

Save Friday, Aug. 25, for an alumni night at New Britain Stadium, where the Rock Cats will play the Portland Sea Dogs. Bring the whole family for a summer evening of fun and minor-league baseball. Tickets are $7.50, and you may purchase food vouchers for an additional $7.50 each to cover a hot dog or hamburger, chips, and soda. Game time is 7:05 p.m. See you there!

FORE!

We are looking for volunteers to staff the University of Hartford Alumni Concession at the Buick Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., on July 1. Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, and be cashiers. If you would like to sign up for a shift, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

BUON VIAGGIO!

From Aug. 29 to Sept. 6, travel with the University of Hartford Alumni Association to Italy’s magnificent Lake District, where we’ll cruise on Lake Orta and the beautiful Lake Como. See the real Bellagio (not the Vegas version) and visit cosmopolitan Milano. Cost: approx. $2,295 per person, plus airfare, based on double occupancy. VAT is additional. For more information, call Alumni Holidays International at 800.323.7373.

YOU CAN COME HOME AGAIN

Mark your calendar today: Homecoming 2006 is Oct. 13–15. There will be something for everyone—“Martinis, Manhattans, and Monte Carlo,” an Alumni Artisan Marketplace, Open Mike, Family Pool Party, and much more. Volunteers are needed to contact classmates for affinity groups: Red Caps, Greek Life, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Student Government Association, and The Informer.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Networking in Boston and New York
Alumni gatherings in Chicago and Washington, D.C.
Overnight trip to view King Tut exhibit in Philadelphia

To register for any of the above events, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 888.UH.ALUMS or chapters@hartford.edu, or register online at www.hartford.edu/alumni.
1969

**ROSALYN HIMMELSTEIN ETRA** (HARTT) of Norwich, Conn., was honored during halftime at a Hawks’ women’s basketball team game with Stony Brook. Etra was a member of the original 1969–70 women’s basketball team.

**THEODOR SIMON** (A&S) of West Hartford, Conn., brought home gold medals from the Pan-American Senior Games in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Simon came in first in each of his five swimming events—the 50-, 100-, and 200-meter breast stroke; the 50-meter butterfly; and the backstroke.

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1955

**BERNARD LURIE** (HARTT, M’57, HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., would like alumni to know that his address was listed incorrectly in the 2005 Alumni Directory. His correct city of residence is West Hartford.

1960

**DAVID A. DAGLIO** (BARNEY) of Truro, Mass., is an assistant professor at Newbury College, Brookline, Mass., teaching accounting and finance courses. Previously, he spent 30 years with Citigroup-Travelers in Hartford.

1964

**PHILIP M. JANES** (A&S) of Simsbury, Conn., celebrated the 30th anniversary of his Arts Exclusive Gallery, offering his guests instrumental music, operatic voices, and theater impressions. Sarah Seamark, editor-in-chief of *Art World News*, was Janes’s honored guest.

1966

**LEONARD G. LANZA** (M, ENHP; C’74 ENHP) of Simsbury, Conn., is serving as interim superintendent of the Voluntown school district. He is also a part-time consultant in the policy department for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

**CAROL ZIMMERMAN DE MONTRICHARD** (A, HCW) of La Forge, France, is owner of a bed-and-breakfast in southwest France. She conducts personalized tours of France and has a cooking school called What’s Cooking in France (www.whatscookinginfrance.com). The school is unusual in that students cultivate their skills in private kitchens rather than large classrooms.

1967

**HENRY W. NOZKO, JR.** (A, HILLYER) of West Hartford, Conn., chairman of the board and president of ACMAT Corporation in New Britain, Conn., has received the first annual Distinguished Alumnus Award from Hillyer College.
Gunter Sabionski ’65

On Friday, Feb. 24, Gunter Sabionski ’65 died in his native Germany after a long illness. He was 73 years old. A man of many interests, talents, and accomplishments, Sabionski was also a generous benefactor of the University of Hartford. Recently he established the Gunter R. Sabionski ’65 Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund with a $350,000 gift. The scholarship provides financial assistance to selected computer science majors who have made the Dean’s List.

Sabionski, who held key positions with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for 27 years, began his career as a trained chef. He was also a world-traveled photographer, a recognized underwater videographer, a highly skilled carpenter, a pianist, and a competitive bridge player. Sabionski started his work life as a chef on cruise ships and at top hotels in Germany, England, and the United States. Beneficiaries of his culinary skills included President Eisenhower, the Shah of Iran, Queen Elizabeth, and Chancellor Adenauer of Germany. In fact, when Sabionski first came to the United States, he was the head chef at the Hartford Golf Club.

After 12 years as a chef, Sabionski decided to pursue a degree in mathematics and computer science. He enrolled at the University of Hartford, where he excelled, earning a bachelor’s in mathematics, the Best Mathematics Student Award, and a listing in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He was also the technical director for the University Players theater group, and a member of the International Relations Club, the Chess Club, and the honor society, Gamma Sigma Nu.

At NASA, Sabionski helped develop Apollo guidance programs and managed Apollo command module flight software and flight control during lunar landings. He also headed the software design section for Space Shuttle systems, where he worked on the remote manipulator arm and helped train astronauts. During his final years at NASA, Sabionski served as manager of the Digital Imagery Laboratories, helping to initiate concepts for further exploration of the moon and Mars.

Upon his retirement from NASA, Sabionski returned to Germany and continued to pursue his many interests. His love of photography and underwater video production led to trips to Fiji, the Great Barrier Reef, Guam, and Papua New Guinea, among many other exotic destinations. He also constructed a model train setup at home with a complex, multifeatured landscape and 17 computer-driven trains.

In a 2005 visit to campus, Sabionski was reunited with two favorite professors: Edward Friedman, now professor emeritus of electrical engineering, and Cecilia Welna, professor emerita of mathematics. He commented that both these faculty members had been instrumental in his undergraduate career.

Man with the right stuff.
Sabionski’s bachelor’s in mathematics from Hartford led to a long career at NASA.

1973
ROBERT B. ANACONE (BARNEY) of Lexington, Mass., has joined Biosite Incorporated as senior vice president of worldwide marketing and sales. Previously, Anacone was chairman, president, and chief executive officer of MediSpectra, a privately held medical-device company, developing proprietary optical-detection technology for cancer and other human-tissue abnormalities. He will continue to serve as chairman at MediSpectra while being employed by Biosite.

KEITH S. BROWN (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., was featured in a Hartford Advocate article, “Hail to Thee, Gay Spirit!” The article discussed his launch of a radio show 25 years ago at WWUH called Gay Spirit, focusing on the evolution of gay-oriented music.

RICHARD N. GROSSMAN (HARTT) of Morganville, N.J., freelances as a clarinet/sax player in chamber orchestras, concert bands, and big bands in New Jersey. In addition, he co-conducts the Colts Neck Community Band, a 75-piece concert band. He owns NGR Concerts, a sales training and management consulting company, with his wife, Nina. Grossman invites classmates to e-mail their own updates to him at artslovers@aol.com.

WILLIAM M. RADNER (BARNEY) of Agawam, Mass., president of American Rug Company in Holyoke, was featured in the Springfield Republican in an article titled “They’ve Got It All Covered for You.” The article delves into the origins of the American Window Cleaning Company, an early 1900s venture started by Radner’s grandfather. Since that time, the business has grown to service many states with carpeting, flooring, tiling, and Astroturf for homes, offices, and playgrounds.

STEVEN N. SOBEL (ENHP) of Longmeadow, Mass., is a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker and author whose clients include Lego, Hasbro, UConn Health Center, and many school systems. Sobel is a much-in-demand basketball shooting coach for pro, college, and high school players and teams. His work has been featured on Inside Edition, and he has just released a video titled Teambuilding.
DAVID F. VENEZIANO (BARNEY) of San Francisco, Calif., has accepted the top job at the American Cancer Society, California Division, Inc., after serving the organization in various roles for more than 30 years. Headquartered in Oakland, the California Division has more than 106 field offices in the state and, last year, provided free cancer information and services to more than 64,000 Californians.

1974

RONALD F. BARISANO (A&S) of Millville, N.J., has been hired as the finance director for the Southern New Jersey Council, Boy Scouts of America, in Millville. He was listed the National Register’s Who’s Who in Executives and Professionals, 2005–06 edition.

EARLE S. GREGORY (M, HARTT) of Dickinson Center, N.Y., was named the new superintendent of schools for the Coxsackie-Athens school district. He previously served as superintendent of schools in the Brushten-Moira central school district in Franklin County, N.Y.

SUZANNE HOWES-STEVENS (M, HAS) of Tolland, Conn., exhibited her artwork in a show at the Bachelor Cardonsky Gallery in Kent, Conn. Howes-Stevens says her landscapes, some panoramic in scale, are tributes to the “places where land meets water, luminal places, vibrating with new life.”

RAYMOND C. PIERPONT (HARTT) of Wallingford, Conn., performed in the First Church Presents series, held at the First Congregational Church in Washington, Conn., accompanying cellist Mary Costanza on the piano. Pierpont is a faculty member of the Taft School in Watertown, Conn.

LAURENCE D. YOUNG (HAS) of Northfield, N.H., has been supporting himself as a full-time artist for his entire career. He is represented by galleries in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Florida. After his early landscape work, Young explored the impressionistic subtleties of light on the landscape. This period was followed by more reflective figure studies, after which the artist has now returned to landscape subject matter. His work may be viewed at www.laurenceyoung.com.

1975

PAUL E. BAYLOCK (HAS) of New Britain, Conn., was the first exhibitor in Art in the Heart of the City, a series of exhibits for the visual arts in downtown New Britain.

1976

MICHAEL T. CICCHETTI (HARTT) of Farmington, Conn., played the piano, with his daughter Sarah, a gifted violinist, at the Keeney Memorial and Cultural Center in Wethersfield, Conn. The concert was a benefit for the Safe Place to Grieve Foundation.

MARGAREET PFEIFFER FRANCIS (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., co-chair of The Hartt School piano faculty, performed a concert with acclaimed chamber musicians Robert Coleman on the viola, Joyce Hammann on the violin, and Bo Ericsson on the cello. Francis rounded out the group on the piano at the Wellfleet Public Library.

PETER D. GABRIELE (A&S) of York, Pa., is the technical director for ARmark™ Authentication Technologies at Adhesives Research, a manufacturer of custom pressure-sensitive adhesives and related products, in Glen Rock, Pa. Gabriele holds several patents, has written numerous technical articles, and is a past recipient of the Roon Foundation Award and the Dahlquist Award.

KIKI SMITH (HAS) of New York, N.Y., presented her work in a self-titled exhibition, Kiki Smith: A Gathering, 1980–2005, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The exhibit was the first full-scale American museum survey addressing Smith’s 20-year career. Smith has developed into a major figure in contemporary art, best known for her depiction of the human form.

1977

PHYLLIS ARONSON (HARTT) of Providence, R.I., was a guest artist in the Claffin Hill Music Performance Foundation’s Signature Solo Series at Memorial Hall in Milford, Mass. Aronson displayed her artistry with other woodwinds in a program ranging from Mozart to Debussy.

DAVID L. KATZ (HARTT, AD’84 HARTT, M’89 HARTT) of Danbury, Conn., founded the Candlewood Symphony Orchestra, which debuted last fall with a program titled “Joy of Mozart.” Katz is also the founder and artistic director of the Hat City Music Theater. Both nonprofit groups are Danbury’s first resident professional performing arts groups.

EDWARD K. MELNICK (HARTT) of Locust Valley, N.Y., the superintendent of schools for the North Shore Central School District, was named Superintendent of the Year by the Nassau Music Educators Association.

TAMAR BEACH WELLS (HARTT) of Harwinton, Conn., is an oboist with the Borealis Wind Quintet, which was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Chamber Music Performance category. The group was nominated for its latest CD, A La Carte: Short Works for Winds.

1978

ESDON N. BACCHUS (C, ENHP) of Longwood, Fla., has published Beyond Psychotherapy: 123 Steps to Psychological Health. Written for those who will most likely never see the inside of a psychologist’s office, the material is designed to be preventive in situations that often stymie basic emotional functioning. It also enhances basic knowledge that everyone possesses, offering gentle reminders that inside each person is a reservoir of strength and determination to overcome personal difficulties.

PAUL P. BISACCIA (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., performed in the Pompaug Woods Sunday–Afternoon Classical Concert Series at Wilson Hall in Southbury, Conn. Best known for his piano interpretations of the music of George Gershwin, Bisaccia’s musical interests and repertoire are wide ranging.

ELAINE M. KUZMESKUS (M, ENHP) of Suffield, Conn., recently lectured on paranormal phenomena at the Kent Memorial Library auditorium in Suffield. She is the author of Connecticut Ghosts, which explores some of the most popular historic homes in Connecticut. Kuzmeskus is the director and founder of the New England School of Metaphysics.

1979

CARL R. SPADARO (A, HILLYER) of Jacksonville, Fla., was awarded the Diploma of the Danish Export Association and His Royal Highness Prince Henrik’s Medal of Honor at a reception of the Danish Consul General in New York City on Dec. 6, 2005. Spadaro is president of Earthcore Industries, Inc., of Jacksonville, the North American supplier of Danish Isokern fireplace and chimney systems, leading products in masonry fireplaces. The prince’s Medal of Honor is awarded to foreign persons or companies that have made extraordinary efforts or a remarkable contribution to Danish export for a number of years.
Weddings

CONGRATULATIONS!
Best wishes to our alumni and their spouses on recent nuptials

Catherine F. Lyons ’79 & Chandler M. Caton
Tiffany Hein & Michael G. Golden A’88, ’90
Amy B. Levy ’90 & Chad R. Savage
Paul J. Meoni ’91 & Thomas A. Kidd
Danielle R. Perrotta & Corey S. Woff A’92, ’95
Heidi S. Woods A’92, ’94, & Timothy V. Mulligan
Elizabeth L. Alpert ’93 & Scott Lauzon
Tamara Beth Shear & Matthew C. Leopold ’93
Aline E. Parnagian & Kenneth C. Paharik, Jr. ’95
Bonnie M. Raistin ’96 & Mark Yarm
McLain E. Trombly & Gregory R. Bennett ’97
Pamela F. Fadakar ’02, D’05, & Sean P. Keon ’97
Mary Salzillo & Richard E. Levine ’97
Amy Baldyga & Theo J. Horesco ’98
Kristen E. Daly ’99 & Ronald E. Bomengen, Jr. ’00
Debra L. Kapp ’00 & Andrew P. Dorval ’99
Michelle Kahn & Patrick J. Tique ’99
Cara E. Wilmoth ’99 & Vasilios B. Kotsiris
Mary-Renee Butler M’00 & Matthew J. Lemberg
Lesley A. Kingsbury ’00 & Philip Delaney
Emily C. Burtt & Nicholas A. Oliver ’00
Melanie E. Perjalte ’00 & Michael Darcy
Michelle C. Reed ’00 & Adam Taylor
Heidi M. Whalen ’00 & David G. Alisik ’00
Jessica L. Lass ’01 & Ben Ackroyd
Greg Neal ’01 & Dania Batista
Lyndsey B. Rupert ’01 & Richard Rosario
Amanda J. Ames ’02 & Ryan Nager
Rebecca L. Bindig ’02 & Kevin P. Hickley
Melanie S. Bray ’02 & Hadar Birger
Lindsay E. Cutler ’02 & Ryan E. Vaughan
Laurie J. Katz ’02 & Alexander S. DePratti ’03
Keira Flanagan & Jason J. LeDoux ’03
Elana R. Tackel ’03, M’05 & Amiel B. Hersh ’04

1979

ROBERT J. DEEHAN (M, A&S) of Manomet, Mass., was named director of the Clergy Personnel Office of the Boston archdiocese. The department serves as an important advisory body to the archbishop of Boston. Deehan works with the director of the Office of Permanent Deacons in recommending assignments for the latter and with the secretary for ministerial personnel in the general coordination and direction of priestly assignments.

NORA L. JAMIESON (A, HCW) of Collinsville, Conn., hosts weekly and quarterly meetings for women at a temple she has constructed on her own land. Jamieson strives to help women find inner peace and invites all to view her Web site, www.norajamieson.com.

DAVID G. NORD (BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., has joined Hubbell, Inc., headquartered in Orange, Conn., as the company’s senior vice president and chief financial officer.

MICHAEL R. THORNTON (HARTT) of Falls Church, Va., performed during Fall Weekend at the University of Hartford in a concert that benefited the American Red Cross and its efforts to help the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Thornton is a member of the comedy troupe Capitol Steps, a group of current and former Congressional staffers that monitors events and personalities on Capitol Hill, in the Oval Office, and in other centers of power.

1980

STEPHEN P. HARRIS (BARNEY; M, BARNEY) of Randolph, N.J., was named vice president of online marketing by Trajectory Marketing of Morristown, N.J. Trajectory provides a full range of marketing services to Fortune 1,000-level clients, including branding, communications, and interactive marketing. Harris is also chair of online marketing, SIG, for the Marketing Executives Networking Group. He may be reached at sph-mail@stephen-harris.com.

1981

ROBERT L. MOISOFF (M, BARNEY) of Concord, Calif., is certified as a master business continuity professional, one of only 78 professionals worldwide who hold this prestigious certification. The business continuity manager for ADP National Accounts in Pleasanton, Calif., Moisoff retired from Bank of America in 2002 after a 20-year career. He has also served as the marketing coordinator for the Business Recovery Managers’ Association of San Francisco since 2002.

MARYJANE PELUSO (M, HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., presented “Keyboard Classic,” a piano and accordion recital, with her husband, Peter Peluso, at the Plainville Public Library. The program included “Flight of the Bumble Bee” by Rimsky-Korsakov, “Clarinet Polka,” Sonata in F minor by Beethoven, and several waltzes by Brahms.

1982

MARY F. BERNARD (M, BARNEY) of Barrington, R.I., has been promoted to principal at Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd., in Providence, R.I. Bernard assists business and individual clients with tax planning and compliance needs.

RISA SKLAR BLAIR (A&S; M, BARNEY) of Tamarac, Fla., completed her doctorate in Instructional Technology and Distance Education at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Send in your news!

Send your news and your new baby, wedding, and alumni get-together pictures. Alumni artists, send in digital photos of your artwork from a recent show.

Photos should be high resolution, less than 2MB each, saved in .jpg format, and e-mailed to chapters@hartford.edu. Larger files can be mailed on CD to Office of Alumni Relations, University of Hartford, 312 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

Jeffrey Brown M’79 (HAS), Reliquario. Currently showing his work at Two Graces Gallery in Taos, N.M., Brown lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., and has been head of the arts department of the Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs for more than 20 years.
Patrick V. Kenny (A&S) of East Setauket, N.Y., has been appointed territorial manager for Konica Minolta Medical Imaging, USA, Inc. He has been involved in medical sales since 1987 and was promoted from a corporation at which he was the top sales representative.

Edward J. Thompson (D, Hartt) of Norwalk, Conn., performed recently at the Good Folk Coffeehouse in Rowayton, Conn. Thompson’s group, The Key Ingredients, performs acoustic music concerts. He is the minister of music for the Unitarian Church in Westport, Conn.

1984

Deborah Rose Lesser Linder (M, Barney) of Waterford, Conn., has published her first book, Inner Peace: A Place to Be, based on one of her poems. A book signing was held for her at Barnes & Noble in West Hartford. Linder had previously published in the poetry anthology Invoking the Muse. She is listed in the International Who’s Who in Poetry, 2005.

Jean-Michel Ribieras (M, Barney) of Collierville, Tenn., has been named vice president of International Paper’s newly merged converting papers and pulp business. He has been with International Paper for 12 years, and has held sales and global business positions in both Europe and the United States.

Angela Speranza (A&S) of New York, N.Y., was named senior creative director for Red Group, Showtime network’s in-house advertising agency. Assigned to the original series unit, she is responsible for all broadcast promotion, advertising, and marketing for the hit series Weeds, Barbershop, Fat Actress, Huff, The L Word, Queer as Folk, Sex and the City, and the upcoming series Sleeper Cell, Brotherhood, and Sexual Healing.

1985

Sandra Fitzpatrick (C, HCW) of Fairfield, Conn., is the president/chairperson of the Real Estate Finance Association of Connecticut. Vice president and commercial services sales manager of LandAmerica Financial Group, Inc., in Fairfield, she is responsible for managing the sales and marketing program for the commercial services offices in Fairfield and Summit, N.J.

Gary A. Massé (Ceta) of Chapel Hill, N.C., was appointed group president of Cooper Tools & Hardware. He is responsible for the Cooper Hand Tools business unit headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., and the Cooper Power Tools organization headquartered in Lexington, S.C.

Peter Veru (Barney) of New York, N.Y., performed with his band, Feather merchants, at the University of Hartford’s Homecoming Weekend as part of the Lincoln Financial Music for a CHANGE benefit concert series. Veru was a former Wall Street trader who walked away from it all to dedicate himself to his music after 17 years in the financial district.

1986

Mohammed Al-Sadoun (M, has) of Marina, Calif., was the subject of an article in Dar Al-Hayat, a Middle East publication. The article addressed Al-Sadoun's 30-year career of engaging viewers with multifaceted explorations of Middle Eastern history and sociopolitical issues. The artist’s work has been exhibited internationally since 1975. His contributions to the progression of the Contemporary Arab art movement include conceptual pieces, paintings, publications, comprehensive research, and countless lectures on the evolution of the movement.

Barbara Luissier (Hass) of Putnam, Conn., exhibited her work along with other nationally known, award-winning New England artists at the South Street Gallery in Hingham, Mass. The exhibit was titled Winter Scenes.

Robert K. Stickels (has) of East Granby, Conn., is manager of creative design services at ADVO, Inc., in Windsor, Conn. Stickels has 20 years’ experience in both agency and client advertising and marketing. His clients have included United Technologies, Arthur Anderson, and the Danaher Corporation.
GREGORY I. WICKHAM (M, BARNEY) of Manlius, N.Y., was named by the Dairylea board of directors as chief executive officer. Wickham has overseen Dairylea’s daily operations since he assumed the position of general manager in 2004. Dairylea Cooperative, Inc., is a farmer-owned agricultural marketing and service organization with more than 2,400 member farms located throughout the Northeast.

1987

CHRISTOPHER P. ADAMS (A’88 HILLYER, ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., performed at the Berlin (Conn.) Senior Center holiday party, singing holiday-themed songs and other tunes. Adams serves as the chaplain at The Children’s Home in Cromwell, Conn.

1988

JOHN F. BILDA (ENG) of Norwich, Conn., was unanimously approved by the Norwich Board of Public Utilities as general manager of Norwich Public Utilities (NPU). Bilda was formerly the assistant general manager of NPU.

JOLIE ROCKE BROWN (HARTT) of Wethersfield, Conn., recently returned from a European tour that included performances in Germany and Italy. She also performed with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Handel’s Messiah. In addition to featured roles in Connecticut Opera’s Hansel and Gretel (2004) and Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess (1998), she was the 2000 Northeast district winner of the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition. Brown made her recital debut at Carnegie Hall.

JANET RANERI McCAFFERTY (M, BARNEY) of Winchester, Mass., was honored by the Visiting Nurse Association of Middlesex-East for her role as co-chairman of the agency’s $1 million Hospice House Capital Campaign. She is managing director of Tandem Solutions, a consulting and training firm that helps organizations optimize their operations and management structures.

1989

ABD RAHMAN BIN BAHARI (ENG) of Sabah, East Malaysia, is project manager, KTM Berhad. He manages the Project on Railway Rehabilitation for Sabah State Railway, on behalf of the Malaysia federal government.

CHARLES R. SCHULTZE (ENHP) of Corinth, VT, a senior trooper with the Vermont State Police, has received the Directors’ Award for outstanding performance of a unique nature. The award recognized his significant role in the successful resolution of a long-standing community dispute in Corinth that had led to threats of violence. His hard work, determination, and thoughtful intervention were instrumental in settling the conflict. Schultze is the son of retired nursing faculty member Mary Schultze.

1990

CYNTHIA McMahan BARTHOLOMEW (M, BARNEY) of Middletown, Conn., has joined The Children’s Home in Cromwell, Conn., as its director of development. Previously, she was the executive director at Covenant to Care for Children in Bloomfield, Conn.

JASON DAMIANOS (BARNEY) of Mattituck, N.Y., was named chief executive for Pindar Vineyards, the largest vineyard on Long Island. After earning his degree from the University of Hartford, Damianos earned a second degree in wine making at California State University in Fresno. He also studied viticulture and enology at the University of Bordeaux in France. He is the owner of Jason’s Vineyard in Jamesport, N.Y., a 20-acre boutique winery with which he plans to bottle 3,500 cases of high-end wine a year.

MICHELE M. GAUDET (BARNEY) of Glastonbury, Conn., has been promoted to principal at Haggett Longobardi, LLC, a certified public accounting and consulting firm in Glastonbury. Gaudet specializes in servicing nonprofit organizations and is in charge of developing and presenting nonprofit training seminars, both in house and through other agencies.

MARCOS GIL (A’89 HILLYER, BARNEY) of East Malaysia, is project manager, KTM Berhad. He manages the Project on Railway Rehabilitation for Sabah State Railway, on behalf of the Malaysia federal government.

1991

MICHAEL J. DAGLIO (ENHP) of Hartford, Conn., working with the chief of cardiology, used a team approach to build an advanced cardiac care services department, one of the finest in the state, at Danbury Hospital, Danbury, Conn. Daglio’s background in the health care industry includes management positions at Continuum Health Partners in New York, N.Y., and The George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

LAURA DRISCOLL JACHINO (ASS) of Darien, Conn., was among three new members elected to the Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County’s board of directors. As manager of corporate giving for the Thomson Corporation, Jachino oversees the corporation’s strategic giving program. The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County is a United Way partner agency and a vital resource to more than 300 agencies in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, and New Canaan.

REGINALD W. MARTIN (BARNEY) of Rockaway, N.J., has joined Morgan Stanley as vice president of enterprise client technologies, North America. His primary responsibility is the implementation of leading-edge technology platforms that ensure reliable and secure delivery of Morgan Stanley institutional trading products to external clients the world over. When not working, Martin is a sport-bike and sports-car enthusiast in the spring and a snowboarder in the winter.

PAUL J. MEONI (HARTT) of Randolph, Mass., has been elected to the Randolph School committee and teaches mathematics at Weymouth High School in Weymouth, Mass.

DOMINIC A. WHITE (HAS) of Portland, Maine, was appointed art director at Midnight Pass, a direct marketer and online retailer in Marshfield, Mass. Midnight Pass provides innovative and exclusive products to thousands of pet owners worldwide. White is the illustrator of the online cartoon Slugs. The strip will be highlighted in an upcoming book, The History of Online Comics, by T. Campbell.

1992

TIM BENESKI (M, ENHP) of West Suffield, Conn., is one of the featured interviewees in a new career guide for English majors, I’m an English Major—Now What? by Tim Lemire. The book includes job-hunting advice, information on graduate programs, and additional resources. Featured are interviews with English majors who have distinguished themselves in a variety of fields.

BLAKE WILCOX (A&S) of Emmaus, Pa., is celebrating a decade as the afternoon personality on 95.1 WZZO, the rock station in Allentown, Pa. The station is commemorating the milestone with special events throughout the year. Wilcox has been at the station for 12 years. He previously...
Paula Madrid M’99, D’01, specializes in helping people who are suffering from posttraumatic stress. In just the few short years since earning her doctorate in psychology, she has faced the special challenges brought on by Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina.

Madrid serves as director of the Resiliency Program of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She also holds positions in the Psychiatry Department at Columbia University and at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. The recipient this past fall of a University Anchor Award honoring exceptional alumni, Madrid has published articles and presents internationally on the treatment of trauma.

The use of the word resiliency in describing the program she directs at Columbia is important, Madrid says. “We want to focus on people’s strengths, their natural inclination to recovery and to well-being. Resiliency is also about people being able to learn how to deal with future traumas and stress.”

Madrid regularly travels to Mississippi and Louisiana as part of a mental health initiative run jointly by the Resiliency Program and Operation Assist to aid Katrina survivors. She works with a mobile unit that visits schools to run training groups for the therapists who counsel the children. “Many of the therapists are suffering themselves as a result of Katrina,” she says. “They’ve lost homes and are dealing with other losses. So we are helping the helpers, so that they in turn can work with the children and help them feel safe.”

Paula Madrid M’99, D’01
Heidi Woods Mulligan (A’92 Hillyer, A&S) of West Warwick, R.I., was appointed vice president of career development for Pioneer Financial Group, overseeing Warwick, R.I.; Avon, Conn.; and Massachusetts.

1996

Karl J. Badey (M, Barney) of Glastonbury, Conn., is a tax manager with Blum Shapiro, an accounting and business consulting firm.

Neal R. Fitzpatrick (HARTT) of Branford, Conn., gave a jazz and classical guitar recital at the Southington Library. Included were selections from Fats Waller, Villa-Lobos, Kern, and Barrios, as well as Fitzpatrick’s own compositions.

Dara Eve Kurlander (ENHP) of Manalapan, N.J., was appointed supervisor of language arts, reading, and character education by the Woodbridge (N.J.) Township school district (K-12). Kurlander is certified for elementary, special education, supervisory, and principal positions. Over the past several years she has taught a variety of special education classes, ranging from severely handicapped to learning-disabled students in high school and elementary school settings. The school district encompasses 24 schools with more than 13,000 students.

In Memoriam

Harriet Rosenfield Kaplan ’40
November 4, 2005

Jean Hamilton Hultgren ’41
October 17, 2005

Natalie Marcus Friedman ’42
November 12, 2005

Gynyk Sharkiewicz ’44
August 26, 2005

Erma Swedberg Anderson ’45
December 13, 2005

Mark D. Ciraldo ’48
September 7, 2005

Veliko E. Jardstrom ’48
August 10, 2005

Daniel V. Manfredi ’48
December 5, 2005

Herbert Porter Risley, Jr. ’48
November 14, 2005

Robert M. Hilley ’49, ’50
December 25, 2005

Francis H. Meheran A’49, ’50
December 9, 2005

Richard F. Snelgrove ’49
December 29, 2005

Franklin S. Goss ’50
September 25, 2005

John Der Magerdecian ’50, M’62
June 16, 2005

Anthony Gentile ’53
December 7, 2005

Henry M. Wist ’54
October 31, 2005

Ralph E. Kingsbury ’55
December 23, 2005

Edward A. Gombieski ’56
November 7, 2005

William J. Quish ’56
December 14, 2005

Kurt E. Peterson ’57
October 22, 2005

Mary Cowles Fitzgerald ’58
October 19, 2005

Peter Ladyka ’58
October 6, 2005

Norbert C. Lux ’58
November 17, 2005

Roger J. Smith ’59
January 10, 2006

Helen A. Yinshanis ’59
January 20, 2006

Harry L. Birch, Jr. ’60
December 18, 2005

Patricia C. Holohan ’60
November 26, 2005

Henry J. Kowalski ’60
January 2, 2006

George P. Anastasia ’61, M’66
January 2, 2006

Lorraine Venskunas Bruemmer ’61
January 13, 2006

Sylvester A. Markowski ’61
December 19, 2005

Nicholas P. Murdocca ’61
January 7, 2006

Raymond G. Wilcox ’61
January 4, 2006

Gertrude Golden Bason ’62
December 16, 2005

James C. Harrington ’62
November 5, 2005

Harold E. Lunge ’62
December 30, 2005

Richard Rutkauskas ’62
November 9, 2005

Warren B. Schleicher ’62
August 23, 2005

Eriks R. Cerlins ’63
October 27, 2005

Lucy F. Harrington ’63
December 27, 2005

Audrey P. Marzano ’64
January 27, 2006

Jerome H. Levinson ’65
November 11, 2005

Charles S. Lincoln ’65
December 31, 2005

Elizabeth L. Dorr Welch ’65
January 7, 2006

John T. Creehan ’66
January 24, 2006

Raymond P. Dotchin ’66
December 29, 2005

Sharon D. Smith A’66, M’73, C’76
September 11, 2005

Maryland W. Lincoln Sprague ’66
September 11, 2005

Kees Alexander Bueters ’68
January 6, 2006

Marilyn T. Purves ’68
December 18, 2005

Margaret Gagosz Schwensfeir ’68
November 18, 2005

Arthur D. Bassell ’69
January 3, 2006

James K. Cagney ’69
January 1, 2006

Dennis E. Blanchfield ’70
November 11, 2005

Miriam J. Brooks ’71
August 11, 2005

Charles G. Griffin, Jr. ’71
October 11, 2005

Melvin H. Mildwurf ’71
January 26, 2006

Adrienne Anderson ’72
November 17, 2005

Michael L. McDonald ’72
December 5, 2005

Francis A. Nardello ’72
December 4, 2005

Mary Ann Allen Barton ’73
December 30, 2005

Barbara H. Davis ’73
December 3, 2005

Stephen S. McGann A’73
November 25, 2005

Walter C. Scappini ’73
December 23, 2005

Ralph D. Ditson ’74
August 11, 2005

Robert B. Mogensen ’74
October 26, 2005

Robert J. Portera ’75
November 20, 2005

Judith R. Santasiere ’75
November 19, 2005

Adolph Buddy Meth ’76
November 25, 2005

Joanne Barjokas ’79
September 12, 2005

Peter J. Carlson ’80
December 11, 2005

Rebecca Faith Albert Ganci ’99
October 17, 2005

Veronica M. Villafane ’99
October 11, 2005

Gail Hawley-Zygmunt ’84
January 3, 2006

Gary C. Anderson ’85
December 29, 2005

Thomas M. Altman ’87
December 9, 2005

Lisa Eng Petrovich ’89
January 6, 2006

Donald J. Roberge ’93
November 22, 2005

Rebecca Faith Albert Ganci ’99
February 13, 2006

John P. Christ ’01
November 8, 2005
1997

STEPHEN J. FORESI (ENHP, M’01 ENHP) of Southington, Conn., was appointed principal of John Paterson Elementary School in Newington, Conn. Foresi created the Positive Referral Program, in which teachers may refer students to the principal’s office for exceptional work or good behavior. Foresi immediately calls the students’ parents so that the students can tell them the good news. Previously, Foresi was assistant principal at Jack Jackter Elementary School in Colchester, Conn.

JAMES S. GREENE, JR. (HARTT), of Hartford, Conn., performed at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library in Newington, Conn., as part of a musical series that brought different styles of jazz to Newington. Greene has won numerous awards, including first runner-up in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone competition. Downbeat magazine named him as one of the 25 rising stars in jazz.

NOREEN LAURINAITIS (BARNEY, M’99 BARNEY) of Southington, Conn., was named to the Planning and Zoning Commission of Southington. Laurinaitis is the community development coordinator for the City of Bristol.

RODRIK D. OSTERER (A&S) of Manhattan, N.Y., was named to the Cerebral Palsy board of directors. He is an elementary school teacher at a Montessori school in Manhattan.

1998

JOSEPH EUNKWAN CHOI (M, HARTT) of Evansville, Ind., was appointed assistant conductor of both the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra in Kentucky. He was also appointed principal conductor of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Evansville Philharmonic Chorus, and was named music director and conductor of the Owensboro Symphony Youth Orchestras. Friends may reach him at jchoi@evansvillephilharmonic.org.

ROBERT J. MCCARRY, JR. (WARD), of Falls Church, Va., announces his marriage to Jen Rice, whom he met while volunteering at the Arlington Red Cross. McCarry is employed at the United States Patent and Trademark Office and is a volunteer firefighter for the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department. Jen McCarry is a preschool teacher in Fairfax and is pursuing her master’s degree at George Mason University.

ELLEN P. RICHARDS (ENHP) of Woodbury, Conn., gave a presentation on the technology of quantum biofeedback at the Woodbury Public Library. Richards discussed how quantum biofeedback works to reduce stress and improve physical, mental, spiritual, environmental, and cognitive health.

CATHERINE A. WADE (ENHP) of Westbrook, Conn., was a runner-up in a nationwide review of ADVANCE for Nurses Best Nurse Leader contest. She has been the clinical nurse manager of the emergency department at Middlesex Medical Center Shoreline in Essex, Conn., for the past three years.

2000

DERRICK PAUL MILLER (GPD, HARTT) of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was the main focus of an article, “Born to Perform,” written by Laverne Steward in The Daily Gleaner (Jan. 14, 2006). The article gives biographical information on Miller and his performances, from New York City and Toronto to Copenhagen and Hong Kong. His roles run the gamut from singing to dancing in musicals and operas. Miller’s ideal for himself lies somewhere in between the music of Josh Groban and Bette Midler.

HEIDI LARKIN PETRUCCELLI (BARNEY) of Bristol, Conn., has joined the Kohler Company of Kohler, Wis., as sales executive, construction, for Connecticut.

2001

LYNN LEEFAVOR ASHWORTH (BARNEY) of Weymouth, Mass., has launched a new company called Palmetto Professional Services, a human resources consulting firm located in Anderson, S.C. Palmetto specializes in helping small businesses recruit for permanent job openings and larger companies recruit for peak seasons and special projects.

MOSHE BURSUCKER (HAS) of Cheshire, Conn., participated in the Creative Arts Workshop’s Celebration of American Crafts exhibition and sale in New Haven, Conn. Bursucker is a glass artist and has exhibited at art shows in Hartford, the Lehman Gallery in Brooklyn, the 2005 Baltimore Wholesale Market of the American Crafts Council, the annual Glassblowers Ball in New York City, and the International Exposition of Sculpture Objects and Functional Arts in Chicago. He is the recipient of the 2005 Metropolitan Contemporary Glass Group Fellowship.

GABRIEL J. CARRERA (A&S, M’02 A&S) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., received his Juris Doctorate from the Shepard Law Center at Nova Southeastern University. He is a member of the Moot Court Honor Society and the Pro Bono Honors Society. Carrera was the 2003–05 regional president of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), Law School Division. The HNBA is the only national Hispanic bar association in the United States.

MEREDYTH N. COLEMAN (M, HARTT) of Overland Park, Kan., performed with the City Winds Trio at the Taneck (N.J.) Public Library in a Music on Sunday Afternoon concert series. The trio’s “Broadway Spectacular” was a celebration of 80 years of Broadway, with a selection of hits from each decade between 1890 and 1980. Coleman has performed solo recitals and chamber music concerts in top venues across the United States and won numerous awards, including the Emerson String Quartet top prize and the Best of Chamber Music award from The Hartt School.

DALE E. DEMILLE (M, ENHP) of New Britain, Conn., was named clinical nurse specialist for the critical care, cardiovascular, and telemetry units at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury, Conn.

MARY ROSE DYMOND (M, HARTT) of Shelton, Conn., was promoted to interim assistant principal of North Street School in Greenwich, Conn.

JUSTIN T. FOLEY (M, HARTT) of Weatogue, Conn., is a drummer with the metal band Killswitch Engage. The band recently filmed a live DVD, (Set This) World Ablaze, at the Worcester Palladium. Nominated for a Grammy Award this past year for Best Metal Performance, the group has sold more than 250,000 copies of its latest album, The End of Heartache. The band has been touring for the past two years.

JESSICA L. LASS (BARNEY) of Pepper Pike, Ohio, was married to Ben Ackroyd, Ph.D., in a small ceremony in Southern California. ORIT S. LLOYD ’01 (A&S) and KATIE L. OLSON ’01 (A&S) were bridesmaids. Lass is working for Progressive Insurance as a government claims analyst outside of Cleveland, Ohio.

JONATHAN LITSKY (A&S, M’03 ENHP) of Simsbury, Conn., has been named head golf professional at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, Conn.

2002

Ben Fain ’02 (HAS), Introduction, parade float (18’ x 8’), 2005. The artist’s allegorical creation was presented in the 2005 Atlanta (Ga.) Biennial exhibition at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, after which the show was paraded through the streets of Atlanta. Fain, a resident of Atlanta, is a member of Dos Pestanos, a local, independent arts collective working to curate alternative exhibitions and collaborative projects.
2003

HEATHER E. BALL (A&S) of West Islip, N.Y., an account executive with Grossman Strategies, was honored by the National School Public Relations Association for her work on Horizon, the Port Jefferson, N.Y., school district’s newsletter. Ball received an award of excellence in the finance publications and presentations category and an award of merit in the external print newsletters category.

MATTHEW J. BROOKS (HARTT) of Las Vegas, Nev., conducted “P.D.O. Bach: The Vegas Years” as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. The performance featured Peter Schickele (P.D.O. Bach) and some of his orchestral compositions, including A Little Nightmare Music and Unbegun Symphony. This was Brooks’ debut performance in Las Vegas’ premier classical concert series, which has featured the renowned artists Emanuel Ax, Edgar Meyer, and Itzhak Perlman.

2004

ALISON AMERICA ’04 (A&S) of Grotton, Conn., and JACOLYN TUMOLO ’04 (A&S) of Havertown, Pa., are the co-authors, with Associate Professor Len Milling, of a chapter titled “Depressive Disorders” in the Encyclopedia of Human Development, published by Sage Publications. America is a research technician at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory in New London, Conn. Tumolo is enrolled in the master’s program in school psychology at Towson University in Maryland.
SHAWN M. MURPHY (A&S) of Maplewood, N.J., is an assistant account executive with Coyne Public Relations in Parsippany, N.J. 

IRENE “TONI” ROBINSON (A&S) of Enfield, Conn., was the inaugural recipient of an Association of Donor Relations Professionals (ADRP) Service Award. The award ceremony was held in Birmingham, Ala. The ADRP award honors an individual who has gone above and beyond in contributing time and energy to enhance the association and the donor relations profession. Robinson is the director of donor relations at the University of Hartford. 

RIFAT SALEH (M, CETA) of Wolcott, Conn., has opened his own engineering firm, RHS Consulting Design, in Wolcott. The firm handles a broad range of projects, including highway and roadway design, structure inspections, site grading, and building rehabilitation. Salen grew up in Jordan and always dreamed of America as a land where success is just around the corner. He feels he now has achieved his dream. 

ERIK J. SZOBOTA (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., has been promoted to percussion sales and marketing specialist at Kaman Music Corporation in Bloomfield, Conn. Kaman Music is the largest music distribution company in the world. Szobota will travel throughout the United States to merchandise, brand-manage, and increase selling through Kaman’s main percussion lines—Gretsch Drums, Gibraltar Hardware, Dixon Hardware, and Sabian Cymbals. He will also organize artist clinics and events around the country. 

2005 

LISA PANNELLE EELS (C, ENHP) of Avon, Conn., was appointed assistant principal of the University of Hartford Magnet School, located on the University campus. The school was created to reduce social and economic isolation of urban and suburban students. Its conceptual foundation is based on Howard Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences. 

VICTOR KHODADAD (GPD, HARTT) of Brooklyn, N.Y., recently sang the role of Alfredo in La Traviata at the Mississippi Opera in Jackson, Miss. 

NAOMI L. KRAVITZ (HAS) of Canton, Conn., was featured in the Neighbors section of Canton Life, in an article titled “If there’s a glass ceiling for artist Naomi Kravitz, it may just be some of her work.” Noted for her glass sculpture, Kravitz attended two high-profile facilities in glass art this past summer: the Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, N.Y., and the Pilchuk Glass School in Seattle, Wash. 

DAVID J. PULA (BARNEY) of Granby, Mass., has made a major career change from Mass Mutual to Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, where he is a sales representative. 

Top row. Women’s Basketball Game: (left) Marilyn Litts M’89 and her daughter, Kristy, and (center) Courtney LaBarge ‘01 with husband John and son Ty; (right) Hartford Wolf Pack Game: Christopher ‘05 and Orianda ‘95 Doskos with children Luke and Gabriela. 

Middle row. (left) Baseball Game and Picnic at Legends Field in Tampa, Fla.: Kim ‘88 and husband Joe Sharra; (right) Sweeney Todd Performance/Reception: Penelope Collins Whalen ‘87, M’94 (left) and Leonor Snow ‘87, M’89. 

Bottom row. Prudential Networking Reception: Melanie Scheibenpflug ’78 (left) and Linda Wollens M’B4; La Dolce Vita Wine-Tasting and Dinner: Gloria Ragosta M’95 with her husband, Michael, and daughter, Jessica; Edie Strong ’94 (left) and Bobbi McNeil ’94, also at La Dolce Vita event.
Jennifer Rizzotti  
Head Women’s Basketball Coach

Jennifer Rizzotti is now in her seventh year as head coach of the Hawks women’s basketball team. A former All-American on the UConn women’s team that captured its first national championship in 1995, she played five seasons of professional basketball in the WNBA and ABL. Since coming to Hartford in 1999, Rizzotti has led the team to three NCAA Tournament appearances, including this year’s first NCAA tournament win (64-58), against Temple University. The Hawks were defeated in their second-round game against the University of Georgia (73-54).

Jennifer Rizzotti

Jen, TO A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THIS STATE, ESPECIALLY LITTLE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN, YOU’RE A VERY SPECIAL PERSON. WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU THAT MAKES YOU A GOOD ROLE MODEL?

When I meet people and they realize how short I am [editor’s note: she’s 5’5”] and the success I’ve had in basketball, they’re amazed. It does seem to inspire people to work hard and put their heart into everything.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN YOU’RE RECRUITING STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR THE UNIVERSITY?

We look for kids who do well in school, who are good teammates, who have strong family values, and who know how to work hard. At the same time, they need to be good at basketball. We’ve stuck with that recruiting strategy, and it’s worked brilliantly for us. We’ve had four semesters in a row now with a team GPA of over 3.0.

HAVEN’T YOU SAID THAT DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS PAT MEISER-McKENNED SAW THE COACH IN YOU BEFORE YOU DID?

If you had asked me a month before I got the job [about being a women’s basketball coach], I would have thought you were crazy! When she called me in to talk about the job, I was pretty surprised. Once I thought about it and saw the opportunity in front of me, I realized it was something I would love doing. I feel very fortunate that Pat had faith in me. I’ll always be grateful to her for that.

WHAT DID SHE SEE IN YOU?

Being a former coach herself, Pat knows you can’t just hire somebody who knows the game of basketball. You have to hire someone who can do the job of head coach. And whether it’s recruiting, or speaking out in the community, or handling media attention, there’s so much more to being a head coach than just basketball. I think she saw that, as young as I was, I could handle that gracefully.

YOU HAVE FOUR SENIORS GRADUATING THIS YEAR. DO YOU SEE NEXT YEAR AS A REBUILDING YEAR OR A CONTINUATION OF THIS YEAR’S INCREDIBLE SUCCESS?

Our seniors got us started and helped me recruit better and better players every year. Because of that, I don’t see us needing to rebuild. We still have a lot of great players, and I think our seniors have left us with a new, higher standard of excellence and determination that was never here before.

YOU’VE HAD A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON THIS YEAR. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT?

This team was really determined to go into the first round of the NCAA Tournament and win, and they never wavered from that for one second. Standing on the sidelines, with 10 seconds left to go in the game and the realization that we were going to do it—that is my fondest memory of the whole year.
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IN MEMORIAM

John Lenwood “Jackie” McLean
MAY 17, 1931 – MARCH 31, 2006