Let’s Celebrate!

pages 12–16
SUMMERTIME
AT THE HARTT SCHOOL COMMUNITY DIVISION

ADULT & YOUTH 8-WEEK SUMMER DANCE AND FITNESS PROGRAM
25 JUNE – 22 AUGUST 2007

INTENSIVE SUMMER BALLET PROGRAM FOR THE YOUNG DANCER
(8:30 am – 3:30 pm for ages 9 – 14)
9 JULY – 3 AUGUST 2007

FULL FORCE DANCE THEATRE SUMMER INTENSIVE
(a modern dance intensive for ages 16 and up)
9 – 20 JULY 2007

DANCING ON BROADWAY WORKSHOP
(all day for 5 days, ages 9 – 18)
HARTFORD: 25 – 29 JUNE 2007
SIMSBURY: 6 – 10 AUGUST 2007

CHILDREN’S BALLET WORKSHOPS
(5 days, 8:30 am – 11:30 am for children 3 – 8)
HARTFORD: 23 – 27 JULY 2007
SIMSBURY: 9 – 13 JULY 2007
16 – 20 JULY 2007
30 JULY – 3 AUGUST 2007

MUSIC & MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS
(5 days, 9 am – 11:30 am for children 3 – 5)
HARTFORD: 16 – 20 JULY 2007
SIMSBURY: 23 – 27 JULY 2007
13 – 17 AUGUST 2007

5-DAY INTRO TO FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC
(5 days, 4 levels for children birth – 5
and parent/caregiver)
SIMSBURY: 9 – 13 JULY 2007
HARTFORD: 6 – 10 AUGUST 2007

SUMMER VOCAL INSTITUTE
(open to students entering grades 8 – 12)
23 JUNE – 1 JULY 2007

HARTT SUMMER HORN INSTITUTE
HIGH SCHOOL 13 – 17 AUGUST 2007
MIDDLE SCHOOL 20 – 24 AUGUST 2007

HARTT SUMMER CLARINET INSTITUTE
DATE/TIME: TBA

HARTT SUZUKI INSTITUTE AND TEACHER WORKSHOP
STUDENT WORKSHOP 30 JULY – 4 AUGUST 2007
TEACHER WORKSHOP 28 JULY – 5 AUGUST 2007

HARTT MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND INSTITUTE
6 – 10 AUGUST 2007

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THE HARTT SCHOOL COMMUNITY DIVISION

University of Hartford
On the cover: Sam Falcetti ’57, owner of Falcetti Music stores, is joined by juggler and physics enthusiast Joshua Magee ’07. Each celebrates the University of Hartford in his own way. See story, page 14.

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In January the University learned that the state Bond Commission had approved a $4 million grant for the Performing Arts Center. This final piece of funding will allow the University to begin construction this spring.

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Irwin Nussbaum, vice president for student life and director of residential life, is the founder of the Lincoln Financial Music for a Change Benefit Concert Series, which has awarded more than $100,000 in proceeds to area nonprofits.

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Dear Readers,

Let me start by saying thank you to those who sent in favorite memories of their time on campus. We heard from a number of alumni and hope you enjoy reading their memories (see p. 16) as much as we did. We plan to run more in the summer issue, so if you haven’t submitted yours, please do.

We also had a great response to the Observer winter issue online survey. I was pleased to see that so many of the respondents liked our cover with the ’57 Chevy, Howie, and students. I think the overall comments about the cover can be summed up by the postcard we received from Tom Ramsdell ’69, who said, “Your winter Observer cover is terrific. As a matter of fact, the best ever.” Thanks, Tom!

The Trivia Contest question asked our survey respondents to give us the name of someone who received an honorary degree from the University during the past 50 years. About 20 people had correct answers, and here they are:

- Irma Carter ’90
- Jill Cohen ’96
- Jacqueline Eckers ’95
- Carl Franckowski ’83
- Doug Graham ’82
- Laura Irish Hefty ’86
- Robert Jacobson ’03
- George Kopp ’86
- Mark Kozma ’06
- Teri Bradley Kulakowski ’83
- Jan Laraia ’63, ’66
- Shelley Golden Nagley ’86
- Karen Paquette ’90
- Dianne Rechel ’79
- Scott Gray Rivette ’98
- Michael Silverman ’89
- Mark Vining ’82
- Natalee Wing ’95, M’05
- parent Jan Melnik
- University staff members Meghan McDonald and Brian Lehan.

There were other correct answers submitted, but without the name and/or address of the respondent. These were disqualified.

And the winner of the $50 Barnes & Noble gift certificate and UofH cap is Dianne Warwick (Hon’86), whose answer was Dionne Warwick.

This spring issue is filled with content related to the University’s 50th anniversary celebration on Founders’ Day, Feb. 21, 2007. From root-beer floats to poodle skirts and rock ‘n’ roll to basketball, a fun time was had by all. For more pictures of the day, go to www.hartford.edu/50th.

Don’t forget to respond to the online survey for this issue at www.hartford.edu/observersurvey. Someone will win a University of Hartford 50th Anniversary T-shirt, and it could be you!

Trish Charles
Editor-in-Chief
pcharles@hartford.edu
From the President

Architecturally Significant, Technologically Superb

My vision for a performing arts center for the University of Hartford—which culminated this winter when we completed the first phase of the most successful capital fundraising campaign in the University’s history—was born eight years ago, when I first visited the buildings of what was then the former Thomas Cadillac Dealership.

Judge Robert Killian, a regent of the University and a trustee of The Hartt School, and one of the most astute observers of the University and the Hartford region, suggested I take a look at the site as an option to an on-campus location for a much-needed addition to the overcrowded Hartt School.

So, I visited the empty buildings one day in early spring with Norman Young ’84, executive director of facilities, and Malcolm Morrison, dean of The Hartt School. Doug Thomas, then the owner of the site and now a trustee of Hartt, welcomed me. Standing before the doorway of the former Cadillac showroom, he told us that these buildings had been designed by the noted architect Albert Kahn.

“The Albert Kahn?” I asked.

“Yes,” Doug replied. “General Motors hired him to design the ‘automobile dealership of the future,’ and this site was chosen because it was next to railroad tracks and could serve as a hub for Cadillac distribution throughout New England.”

I had no idea that Albert Kahn had designed buildings for General Motors. I have subsequently learned not only that he had done so, but also that he was perhaps best known for bringing natural light into industrial spaces.

What I did know about him at that time was this: Albert Kahn had designed a dozen or so of the best-known buildings at the University of Michigan, where I had served as vice president for the previous nine years. Now I had a chance to link my former institution with my current one and develop an Albert Kahn-designed building for the University of Hartford.

Much has changed in the eight years since that first visit. We have designed a first-rate renovation of the Kahn buildings that
We have married the best of the old, the original Kahn design, with the best of the new, technically and technologically superb educational space for the performing arts.

— Walter Harrison, President

will retain his distinctive architectural signatures—lead windows bringing light into the building, wonderfully expressive brickwork, and large interior spaces undivided by structural walls.

We have married the best of the old, the original Kahn design, with the best of the new, technically and technologically superb educational space for the performing arts. In The Hartrt School, this University has one of the world’s greatest conservatories. Now it will have space that reflects that status. The Performing Arts Center represents a significant investment in the future of Hartrt and of the University’s place among the great arts education centers in the United States.

The center represents a significant investment in the city of Hartford and its neighborhoods too. It will provide a spectacular gateway to the city for people arriving by car from Route 44 and points west, and when paired with The Artists Collective, the creation of the late Hartrt School faculty member Jackie McLean and his wife, Dollie, the center will frame a wonderful four-block stretch of Albany Avenue that should become an emerging arts and commercial area.

More importantly, the Performing Arts Center will bring the arts to the neighborhood as well as provide a top-notch facility for our college-age students. This will result in new and exciting connections for both groups. The Hartrt School Community Division will hold both dance and music classes there, and children and adults from throughout the Hartford area will benefit from this new facility.

This spring we will break ground and begin construction of the first phase of the center, which includes the largest and most central building on the site. The cost of this phase is about $22 million. The next phase, which will include the two other buildings on the property, will begin as soon as we have raised the additional $10 million or so to make that possible. If the construction remains on schedule (and I expect it will), we will begin offering classes in the center in the fall of 2008.

The main entrance to the Performing Arts Center will face Westbourne Parkway. Shown at left is a second entrance that will be accessed from Granby Street.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell (front row, third from right) and Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele (far right) pose with President Harrison (far left), students and faculty of University High School of Science and Engineering, and their principal, Elizabeth Colli (third from left). The students were recognized as the future of Connecticut during Gov. Rell’s presentation of the 2007 state budget, which stresses the importance of education.

Funding this center is a real stretch for the University, but it is a vital one for The Hartrt School. While we have the funds to undertake the first phase of construction, we still need gifts and donations of any size so that we can finish this wonderful facility.

Governor Rell and the Connecticut General Assembly leadership understood the importance of this project when they approved a $4 million bonding issue to support it this winter. The Hartrt Foundation for Public Giving, the MassMutual Foundation for Hartford, Inc., and many other foundations and corporations understood the vision when they provided early and continued support for the project. Many, many individual donors have understood and embraced the importance of this center, and their enthusiasm for the project has served as an important catalyst throughout this campaign.

Chief among those donors have been Mort and Irma Handel, for whom the Performing Arts Center combines two longtime devotions: The Hartrt School and the Hartford community. It is their vision and drive that have given this project its start and are propelling it toward its wonderful conclusion.

And to think, it all began with Albert Kahn and a president whose career spans two campuses that will now boast Kahn’s signature buildings.

Walter Harrison
The devastating impact of European contact on the original, or indigenous, populations of the world is a familiar story. Although these initial contacts happened hundreds of years ago, the issue of how indigenous and nonindigenous populations interact is still very much with us.

Last fall, visual communication design students in the Hartford Art School participated in a collaborative project called MIX06 (Migrant Indigenous eXchange) AUSA with students at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. The students’ assignment was to explore the relationship between indigenous culture and national identity in their respective countries.

The result is One Step Back/Two Steps Forward, a series of square panels containing digital images produced individually and in teams by the students along with Native American and indigenous Australian collaborators from each student’s home country.

First shown at Monash University in October 2006, the exhibit appeared at the Silpe Gallery at the Hartford Art School Feb. 17–22. It is slated to travel to the Icograda (International Council of Graphic Design Associations) Secretariat in Montréal, Québec, and then to Havana, Cuba, in the fall of 2007 in conjunction with the Icograda World Design Congress. The project was also recently adopted by UNESCO as an inaugural initiative of INDIGO (the Indigenous Design Network), formed to encourage cultural exchange between indigenous designers around the world and to promote indigenous visual cultures.

The MIX06 project was initiated by Robert L. Peters of Manitoba, Canada, the 2006 Georgette and Richard Koopman Distinguished Chair in the Visual Arts at the Hartford Art School. Peters invited Russell Kennedy, a senior lecturer in visual communication at Monash, to come and work with HAS students. Kennedy and Peters also oversaw the project’s Australian component.

If you’re not planning a trip to Québec or Havana soon, you can view the exhibit online at www.mix06.com.au.
When Opportunity Knocks

STUDENTS GET A GLIMPSE OF THEIR FUTURE PROFESSIONS

BY TRISH CHARLES

Rarely do undergraduate students get a chance to work on real projects that result in professional-quality products. Except at the University of Hartford.

Hartt students regularly appear in Hartford Stage productions and at Goodspeed Musicals. Engineering majors are designing new components for spacesuits at NASA’s Johnson Space Center.

This semester, Hartford Art School students and communication majors from the School of Communication are getting a chance to work at the professional level too, thanks to John Feierabend, professor of music education and director of the music education division at The Hartt School.

Feierabend is an internationally known expert on early-childhood music education. In 2001 he approached Dan McNamara, manager of the campus’s Kent McCray TV studio, about producing a DVD for educators who teach music and movement to young children. His publisher, GIA Publications, provided a budget to pay McNamara’s student employees. Any leftover funds went to the studio for supplies and equipment.

The first DVD, called Move It!, came out in 2002. This year, students are working under McNamara’s supervision with Feierabend on Move It 2, which also has a budget from GIA. The students plan to finish editing and creating the DVD during the spring semester. Plans are already under way for a third DVD, this time of Feierabend’s lectures.

“These kids learned so much on these projects, it was incredible. And it all goes on their résumés,” says McNamara. “When John brought us these projects, he really elevated the TV studio to a professional level.”

Feierabend, who has done dozens of educational books and CDs, and now DVDs, is always looking for new ways to capture the attention of young children.

After seeing student work in the art school’s Senior Show last spring, Feierabend wondered if illustration students could work on a new series of 18 children’s picture books that he was planning. He ran his idea by Power Boothe, dean of the Hartford Art School, and that conversation led him to Associate Professors Dennis Nolan and Bill Thomson, both published book illustrators.

“We’re always looking for ways to give our students experience with off-campus projects,” says Thomson. “And this is a great example of collaboration between the schools as well.”

This fall, Feierabend visited Nolan’s book illustration class and had the students sing the two American folk songs they would be working on and dance all the steps that went with the lyrics.

“They were stomping their feet, and swinging their hands, and singing,” says Nolan. “I thought, this is wonderful!”

Nolan’s class spent the semester working on book dummies—each page shows a sketch of the artwork and any copy that will appear on the finished book page—and completed three illustrations. The two finalists, who will have their books published by GIA, are Melanie Champagne ’07 and Aaron Joshua ’07. They will complete their books in Thomson’s Senior Project class this semester.

“Right now, Aaron and I are doing everything that professional children’s book illustrators do,” says Champagne. “I think it will be much easier for us to transition into the professional market because of this experience.”

Mark Helpern ’08 (foreground) and Darrell Kee ’09 are mass media majors in the School of Communication. Here they are operating digital cameras during the Feierabend DVD project.

Aaron Joshua ’07 (right) shows an illustration from his book, There Was a Man and He Was Mad, to Melanie Champagne ’07. Champagne chose ants to people her picture book, My Aunt Came Back.
Innocent but Incarcerated
NOTED ATTORNEY CALLS FOR REFORM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Noted attorney Barry C. Scheck spoke to a capacity crowd in Wilde Auditorium in March about the impact of DNA evidence in exonerating people who have been wrongly convicted of crimes. All together, 197 people have been exonerated through post-conviction DNA testing since 1989, including 14 who had been sentenced to death.

Of the convicted individuals who contact Scheck’s organization, the Innocence Project, and use DNA testing in an attempt to get their freedom, 40 percent are proven innocent, according to Scheck. “That’s astonishing,” said Scheck, a professor of law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and the nation’s foremost investigator of criminal cases in which an innocent person has been convicted.

Scheck’s talk was the annual Jon O. Newman Lecture on Law and Justice, which was established in 2005 through the generosity of Jon O. Newman, a senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Judge Newman is past chairman of the board of regents and a life regent of the University of Hartford.

One of the most recent cases of a wrongly convicted person’s being proven innocent by DNA evidence is that of James Tillman, a Connecticut man who spent 18 years in prison on a rape and kidnapping conviction before being exonerated in July 2006.

Tillman’s conviction was based on eyewitness misidentification, which is the “single greatest cause of conviction of the innocent,” Scheck said. He added that he hopes Tillman’s case and others like it will lead to a variety of reforms in the process of eyewitness identification.

For more information on the Innocence Project, cofounded by Scheck and Peter Neufeld, visit www.innocenceproject.org.
Acting Out
FROM PRATO TO VERONA, WINTERTERM STUDENTS TAKE IT TO THE STREETS
BY CATHERINE STEVENSON

“Dottore, Dottore, help me, please. I need your magic potion!” The cobblestoned streets of Prato, a Tuscan town north of Florence, Italy, rang with these words in January as 17 University of Hartford students performed classic *commedia dell’arte* skits in the piazza in front of the town’s 13th-century cathedral. Since most of the students were music theatre majors from The Hartt School, the development of theatre was a particular focus of the trip.

As local citizens stopped in the midst of their afternoon errands to watch, students donned traditional masks and slipped into the postures of standard *commedia* characters—the know-it-all doctor, the cranky old man, the crafty servant. Some, like Harlequin and Peirrot, are the ancestors of the modern clown. The figure of Pulcinella, the hunchback jester, is the basis for the character Punch, of Punch and Judy puppet-show fame.

The open-air performance gave the students a chance to display what they had learned in three workshops about the classic characters, standard plots, and comic *lazzi* (we know them today as *shticks*) of *commedia*.

It was all part of a Winterterm study-abroad trip, the second such trip to Italy offered as part of the University’s new initiative to increase opportunities for undergraduate international experiences. The group was lead by Professors Catherine Stevenson (A&S) and Henry Fonte (Hartt), with the assistance of Keith Stevenson and Shannon Michael Wamser. Wamser, a New York–based actor, is an expert on *commedia dell’arte*, the improvised comedy performed by professional troupes in Italy and across the continent beginning in the 16th century.

The 16-day course concluded with a visit to Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, the oldest free-standing indoor theatre in the Western world, and to Verona, the setting of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Not surprisingly, many versions of the famous balcony scene were enacted in front of Juliet’s house.
A Hartford-Herat University Connection

ENGINEERING FACULTY REACHES OUT TO COLLEAGUES IN AFGHANISTAN

Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering M. Saleh Keshawarz of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA) announced in February that the University of Hartford has been awarded a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant of more than $215,000—to be received over three years—that will help develop an engineering alliance with Herat University in western Afghanistan.

Since the fall of the Taliban in November 2001, Keshawarz, a native of Kabul and a graduate of Kabul University, has made many trips to Afghanistan, where he has observed widespread devastation to his homeland’s infrastructure due to years of warfare against the Soviets and neglect under the Taliban.

With the support of the local government in Afghanistan and the University of Hartford, Keshawarz has been seeking funds from USAID and the World Bank for several years to revitalize engineering education, specifically at Herat University.

Under the grant, Keshawarz and some of his colleagues in CETA will help revise the undergraduate civil engineering curriculum at Herat University. In addition, two Afghan engineering professors from Herat will come to the University of Hartford to pursue their master’s degrees to obtain more up-to-date training for teaching engineering at Herat.

Grant funds also will be used to purchase new engineering textbooks for students and computers for the full-time faculty at Herat University to improve the quality of their teaching and research work.

Keshawarz and two of his colleagues—Associate Professor Hisham Alnajjar, who is also assistant dean and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Ivana Milanovic, associate professor of mechanical engineering—are also working on a proposal to the World Bank that would expand this alliance with Herat. Under the new proposal, CETA faculty would go to Afghanistan to teach at Herat University while Herat faculty come here for graduate studies. Additional collaborations and exchanges would also be encouraged under this expanded alliance.

“This is two-way collaboration through which University of Hartford students and faculty will benefit from working with the Afghan students and faculty on joint projects and thereby gain valuable international experience,” says Keshawarz. “I believe through activities like these we can build bridges of understanding and goodwill between the people of Afghanistan and the United States.”

Let the Sun Shine

ENGINEERING STUDENTS IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN INDIA

In the village of Abheypur, approximately 30 miles south of New Delhi, India, the issue is drinkable water. Almost none of the 3,000 residents have running water in their homes, relying instead on two hand pumps to supply the 2.5 gallons per person needed each day.

Let the Sun Shine. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is a nonprofit organization established to implement sustainable engineering projects in developing communities worldwide.

At least, that’s the routine when the pump is working.

Sophomore students in a spring-semester engineering course taught by Adjunct Professor Subhash Chandra are determined to improve the villagers’ access to clean water. They are learning the technology and engineering of solar-powered water wells and working with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to help implement their plan. EWB is also working on a proposal to the World Bank that would expand this alliance with Herat University in western Afghanistan.

Associate Professor Keshawarz and his colleagues in CETA are working to revitalize engineering education at Herat University in western Afghanistan.

“A Hartford-Herat University Connection

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To get that water the women walk up to a mile to reach a well in their village, wait their turn at the pump, and then walk back to their homes, balancing containers of water on their heads. At least, that’s the routine when the pump is working.

Sophomore students in a spring-semester engineering course taught by Adjunct Professor Subhash Chandra are determined to improve the villagers’ access to clean water. They are learning the technology and engineering of solar-powered water wells and working with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) to help implement their plan. EWB is a nonprofit organization established to implement sustainable engineering projects in developing communities worldwide.

A $10,000 donation from United Technologies’ Pratt & Whitney funded a trip to Abheypur over winter break to assess the feasibility of the project and determine possible sites for the well. David Pines, associate professor and chair of the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Biomedical Engineering; Chandra; and Rachel Ladue ’09, president of Hartford’s student chapter of EWB, spent several days in Abheypur speaking with the villagers and the local rural development office.

“Our goal is to present our final design to the board of EWB in April for their approval,” says Pines. “We are actively seeking additional support from local foundations and corporations to fund another trip to India for the well’s installation, probably in late July or August 2007.”

Pines added that the student chapter of EWB is also looking for technical mentors and help with publicity, fundraising, and other areas. They would welcome support from alumni.
University faculty and staff joined members of the Greater Hartford community on Jan. 15 to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on campus. The crowd filled Wilde Auditorium to hear a speech by Deacon Arthur L. Miller, director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

"Dr. King asked America to look truthfully at its own reality. To open our eyes and recognize the truth," said Miller. "He told us we can no longer stand idly by while so many suffer."

Miller added that King's vision compels us to take action against suffering and injustice, whether it is halfway around the world in Darfur, Sudan, or a few blocks away in Hartford, Conn. Miller, who grew up on the South Side of Chicago, was 10 years old in 1955 when his schoolmate Emmett Till was brutally murdered in Mississippi at the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.

Alexander Daniels, a sophomore at University High School of Science and Engineering, introduced Charles Anderson and Abigail Tyron, fourth- and fifth-grade students at University of Hartford Magnet School, who recited excerpts from King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The pair ended their presentation by raising their clasped hands into the air, which brought the applauding crowd to its feet.

Ryan Green, a junior in The Hartt School, sang an a cappella solo of "Riding to Town" by Paul Laurence Dunbar, an early-20th-century African American poet. Also appearing was the Jackie McLean Youth Jazz Ensemble from The Artists Collective.

President Walter Harrison, who said he hoped the celebration would become an annual event, concluded his remarks by saying, "May we each in his or her own way, honor Dr. King's memory every day."

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day program was organized by a University committee chaired by Christine Grant of the Office of University Relations.
At the 2004 Hot Stove Dinner here on campus, Jeff Bagwell '89 said, “I wouldn’t be where I am today without the University of Hartford.”

At that time, Bagwell was near the end of an outstanding career with the Houston Astros that some day may land him in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. In December 2006 the 38-year-old first baseman acknowledged that his arthritic right shoulder had forced him to retire after 16 seasons with the Astros.

“I wish I could continue to play and try to win a World Series in Houston,” Bagwell said in making the announcement. “But I’m not physically able to do that anymore. This is a day that I knew was coming.”

One of Houston’s best-loved athletes, Bagwell’s enormous popularity with the fans helped triple attendance in the 1990s, and his playing helped lift the team from mediocrity to the World Series.

Astros owner Drayton McLane acknowledged Bagwell’s importance, saying, “Jeff has really been the heartbeat of the Houston Astros.” Bagwell will continue with the Astros organization in the player development department, working with hitters and making public appearances.

A third baseman at the University of Hartford from 1987 to 1989 for former major leaguer Bill Denehy, Bagwell set a record all-time batting average (.413) that still stands today. His batting average also set a New England collegiate record. In 1988 and 1989, Bagwell was an American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-American and Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Player of the Year. In 1997 he was inducted into the University of Hartford Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame.

A Red Sox fan, Bagwell saw his childhood dream come true when Boston drafted him in the fourth round in 1989. He played two seasons in the Red Sox farm system before being traded to the Astros in August 1990 for relief pitcher Larry Anderson.

Although Anderson played a significant role in Boston’s 1990 drive to the playoffs, Red Sox fans have lamented that trade ever since. In 1991, Bagwell burst on the scene, earning National League Rookie of the Year honors. In 1994 he was voted National League Most Valuable Player.

Between 1996 and 2001, Bagwell became only the fourth player in baseball history to post six straight, 30-home-run, 100 RBI seasons. The others in this group include Hall of Famers Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Jimmie Foxx. Bagwell also joined immortals Joe DiMaggio, Hank Aaron, Frank Robinson, and Ted Williams as the only players to hit 300 homers, knock in 1,000 RBIs, and score 1,000 runs in their first 10 years of major league baseball. Bagwell walked away as the team’s all-time leader in home runs (449), runs batted in (1,529), and extra-base hits (969). He also finished with a .297 career batting average.

“Jeff Bagwell is an outstanding model for University of Hartford student-athletes,” said President Walter Harrison in commenting on Bagwell’s retirement. “As a player, he was hard-working, self-effacing, and humble. He never forgot the most gratifying part of playing a team sport is being a member of that team. And he has brought that same spirit to the University, making a very generous gift to the Home Field Advantage project that helped us reach our goal. When we most needed him, he was there.”
A Fabulous Foursome

MEN’S GOLF TEAM WELCOMES OUTSTANDING FRESHMEN

Most college golf teams look to their seasoned upperclassmen for leadership and stellar performance, but the Hawks’ men’s golf team now has an additional weapon. Actually, four of them.

Following an outstanding recruiting season, four freshmen joined the team and are already making a big difference. In fact, two of the four, Nick MacDonald from Lebanon, N.H., and Maki Kobayashi of Newington, Conn., were top performers in the fall.

“Nick leads the country in rounds played and is sixth in the country in birdies,” Head coach Bill Poutre `88 said. “That’s pretty impressive for a freshman.” Poutre called Kobayashi, who was the 2006 Connecticut High School Player of the Year, “the best player to come out of Connecticut since Tim Petrovic.” (Petrovic `88, a Hawks Hall of Famer, joined the PGA Tour in 2002.)

The other freshmen, Nick Pokora of Agawam, Mass., and Zack Ungvarsky of Wilmington, Mass., also played important roles on the team.

Pokora played 17 rounds for the Hawks last fall, three of which he finished under par. Ungvarsky, the nephew of pro golfer Joey Sindelar, improved greatly over the course of the fall season, and will “have more of a role for us in the spring,” said Poutre.

The men’s golf team welcomed freshmen (l–r) Maki Kobayashi, Zack Ungvarsky, Nick Pokora, and Nick MacDonald, who all contributed to the team’s successful season in fall 2006. The outlook for the spring is even better.

2007 Basketball Wrap-up

BOTH MEN’S AND WOMEN’S TEAMS PUT THE EMPHASIS ON TEAMWORK

Expectations were high again this year for the women’s basketball team. America East Coach of the Year Jennifer Rizzotti admits she worried that the pressure would have a negative impact on her young team, which had three sophomores in the starting line-up.

“We had growing pains,” Rizzotti said. “The wins weren’t coming as easily as they had in the past.”

Early in the season, the team’s resiliency was tested. Outstanding sophomore forward Erica Beverly was benched for the season due to a knee injury, which Rizzotti called “a big loss for us.” But the team was anchored by senior guard Ikea Witt and junior forward/center Danielle Hood, both 1,000-point scorers and America East First-Team All-Conference selections.

To top off the season, freshman forward/center Diana Delva dazzled with her play off the bench. Delva not only was named to the America East All-Rookie Team, but she also was a Third-Team All-Conference honoree.

When all was said and done, the Hawks had amassed 25 wins for the second straight year, including a 15-game winning streak near the end of the season that carried the team to its second consecutive America East regular-season title.

The Hawks made their third straight postseason appearance, defeating Bucknell in the opening round of the WNIT before dropping a second-round game at South Carolina.

While the women’s basketball team was completing its third straight 20-win season, first-year coach Dan Leibovitz began the work of rebuilding the men’s basketball program.

The men’s team got off to an inspired start, taking nationally ranked Georgetown down to the wire in the season opener. By early January the Hawks had posted a 9-7 record. The team gained a reputation for stirring comebacks, none better than a 49-47 victory over Stony Brook in the first round of the America East Tournament.

“I thought we would have ups and downs this year,” Leibovitz said. “The injury to [junior guard] Rich Baker was the thing that hurt us the most.”

While trying to win in the present, Leibovitz is also building for the future.

“The best thing we accomplished this year was to create an identity for our program,” Leibovitz said. “Our guys put their egos aside and tried to win games.”
Let the Celebration BEGIN!

Rising Star Breakfast
Harrison Kicks Off 50th Anniversary with Speech to Business and Community Leaders

President Walter Harrison publicly launched the University’s 50th anniversary celebration on Feb. 13, when he addressed approximately 400 Greater Hartford business and community leaders—and a large contingent of University faculty, staff, students, and regents—at the MetroHartford Alliance’s Rising Star Breakfast.

The featured speaker for the event, Harrison traced the history of the University from its founding in 1957, when lack of appropriate space and growing enrollments after World War II caused the Hartford Art School, the Hartt College of Music, and the original Hillyer College to join forces.

Harrison’s speech was titled “A Private University with a Public Purpose,” which, he said, has defined the University’s mission since the founders decided to create a university for Hartford.

Describing the University today for his audience, Harrison spoke of its transformation from a commuter school to a residential one, from three initial schools to the seven schools and colleges of today, from farmland to a bustling and beautiful campus.

“[We are] a university distinguished by the visual and performing arts, centered on the liberal arts, and surrounded by professional schools—an unusual model, but it works very well here.”

In the last nine years, the University has recommitted itself “with a new vitality and energy to the mission its founders envisioned,” Harrison said. He cited University of Hartford Magnet School and University High School of Science and Engineering as two important initiatives that have increased the University’s connection with the region’s public schools.

Harrison said the University has also undertaken a renewed building program that has added important new academic buildings, such as the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology complex; a new residence hall; and many renovations to existing buildings.

In closing, Harrison said that the University has “much to celebrate on its 50th birthday: the vision of its founders, the support and encouragement of its local supporters and donors, the commitment of its staff and faculty, and the success of its alumni. But most of all, it celebrates the energy and vitality of its student body.”

Visit www.hartford.edu/50th to see the Video Café and an interactive timeline featuring the University’s first 50 years.
Founders’ Day Fun

(Far left) Nearly 800 students packed the Chase Arena to watch the women's basketball team’s 64-60 win over Boston University; (left) students from Hartt’s musical theatre program rocked and rolled to ’50s tunes; (right) ARAMARK employees served mini-hamburgers and hot dogs in Gengras Cafeteria; (far right) students enjoyed the root-beer floats and other ’50s food items on the menu.

(Left photo) Irene ’57 and Oliver ’58 Mclean (center) with their daughters Marlane ’92 (left) and Marsha ’82 (far right), and Marsha’s daughter, Gabrielle; (right photo) Director of Athletics Pat Meiser and President Harrison hold up jerseys signed by the men’s and women’s basketball teams. The shirts will go into a 50th anniversary time capsule to be buried on campus this fall.

(Left) The first 1,500 attendees to enter the Chase Arena for the BU game received free 50th anniversary T-shirts; (below left) attendance at the game was a near-record 2,511; (below) library employees dressed for the occasion; (bottom) the Residence Hall Association sponsored a dessert social in Konover Campus Center after the game.
Some Things Never Change

GRADUATES OF 1957 AND 2007 SHARE A PASSION FOR TEACHING AND THE UNIVERSITY

You might think that a 1957 graduate of the University of Hartford and a soon-to-be 2007 graduate would have little in common. Surprisingly, the opposite is true.

Sure, Sam Falcetti had to commute 80 miles round-trip every day to the Hartt College of Music when it was on Broad Street in Hartford. Josh Magee, by contrast, lives on today’s beautiful 320-acre residential campus in West Hartford. Hartt College concentrated on preparing musicians; the University now offers more than 80 undergraduate degrees.

Nevertheless, Falcetti and Magee have very similar things to say about their experiences at the University. Both say their passions were nurtured by dedicated faculty. Both benefited from small classes and individualized attention. Both credit their schools with giving them the tools for success after graduation. Falcetti has maintained a link with Hartt, and Magee seems poised to do the same with the University.

Many things have changed over the past 50 years at the University, but many things have remained the same.

“Like my professors at Hartt, I take teaching very personally,” Falcetti says. “Fortunately, I still have as much energy today as I did when I was in college.”

A Passion for Music and Teaching

Sam Falcetti ’57, founder of Falcetti Music, has been living his dream for the past 50 years.

“Thanks to the outstanding education I received at the Hartt College of Music, I’ve been able to pursue my passion fully and completely for the last five decades.

“I started Falcetti Music with a $50 loan from my mother, who was also my first employee,” Falcetti says. “We opened our doors on February 22, 1957, the day after the University of Hartford was founded. I was still in school at the time, but I knew this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.”

Falcetti taught 40 students at the Westfield Accordion Center in 1957. There are now six Falcetti Music stores in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut, with a roster of 2,000 students ranging in age from 4 to 104 years old.

Falcetti still teaches classes and still provides a personal evaluation for every new student, a practice that began in 1957. “Like my professors at Hartt, I take teaching very personally,” Falcetti says. “Fortunately, I still have as much energy today as I did when I was in college.”

Falcetti has always been willing to go to great lengths to pursue his passion. As a student, he made the 80-mile, round-trip journey from his home in Westfield, Mass., to Hartt College on Broad Street in Hartford every day, hitchhiking when he needed to.

Hartt was a small, intimate school in the 1950s. “There were 26 students in my graduating class,” Falcetti recalls, “and we all knew each other very well. I made friendships at Hartt that have lasted a lifetime.”

Even though he was running his own business, Falcetti maintained a 3.8 grade point average during his four years at Hartt. “We had fantastic professors,” Falcetti says. “They nurtured my passion for music.”

Falcetti is still linked to The Hartt School. Falcetti Music has placed more than 20 pianos at Hartt’s Community Division and helped provide 50 pianos at a significant discount, some of which will be used at the new Performing Arts Center. A portion of that discount was a donation to the center. In addition, Sam’s son, Tony Falcetti, is on the board of The Hartt School.

“The last 50 years have been great for me,” Falcetti says. “I’ve accomplished everything I ever dreamed of and more since I graduated from Hartt. I give them full credit for my success.”
A Seeker of Knowledge and Experience

Joshua Magee ’07 is an honors student majoring in mechanical engineering with an acoustics concentration and has a 3.73 grade point average. He teaches an introductory lab in optics. He has mastered the Segway, the 21st-century personal transporter (right). He serves as a mentor to incoming engineering majors. And he's worked on research grants for NASA.

“I started out as a music major at The Hartt School,” Magee says, “then switched to mechanical engineering, and finally discovered that physics is my true passion. I can’t think of another university this size that gives students so many choices.”

That decision put him behind other students studying physics. “My professors have all been very supportive, especially Jim McDonald, who helped me catch up very quickly.”

McDonald, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, is teaching Magee a course in modern physics one-on-one. And Magee is performing spectacularly, as usual.

“Josh has an amazing ability to absorb new material from self-directed study, and his questions demonstrate an understanding and inquisitive nature unusual for his age and experience,” McDonald says.

Magee has a wonderfully generous spirit as well. “Giving back to the community is a long tradition at the University of Hartford,” he says, “and I’m proud to carry on that tradition.”

In his sophomore year Magee founded a local chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, the nation’s largest service-based fraternity. “We’re providing over 500 hours of service each semester to people in need in the Hartford community,” he says.

Magee’s not always working. In his spare time he trains in Aikido, a Japanese martial arts system dedicated to the peaceful resolution of conflict. He attends the Cambridge Culinary Institute and is becoming a gourmet cook and pastry chef. He’s also an amateur magician and juggler.

Magee brings great passion to everything he does. “My parents are both teachers, and they inspired me to excel in my studies and to find ways to give back for all the blessings I’ve received,” he says.

What happens after graduation? Magee plans to get a PhD in physics and teach at the university level.

“I may even end up back at the University of Hartford when I’m done. I’ve had amazing opportunities to develop academically and personally over the last four years. It would be a real thrill to help a new generation of students achieve excellence in their lives.”

Although Falcetti and Magee may have employed different methods for getting themselves to class, what they found, once there, was the same—small classes, caring professors, and support in reaching their goals.
Thanks for the Memories

I remember 1970–74... **streaking**... the pie duel between President Woodruff and Student Association President Eric Litsky... being a member of the **Student Association** and having “Jimbo” Diamond presiding... And the great experience I had being an RA (or as I was called, “Shelley RA-RA”),... **the concerts at the gym**... Seals and Croft, Loggins and Messina, Flo & Eddie... the pros. I remember fondly... Ed Weinswig, Dr. Schloss, Dr. Muraskin, Bruce Esposito, Dr. denOuden, and Ruth Meyerwitz.

Shelley Pakman Weisberg '74
ENHP

The University was in discussions with **Claes Oldenburg** (Hon. ’81) to install one of his pieces (he proposed a toothbrush) the year before I graduated. Some of my friends in the civil engineering program made a **fake oversized toothbrush** and attached it to a light pole in front of Dana Hall behind the Commencement seating and in view of the stage!

Doug Graham '82, M'97
College of Engineering

[One of] my fondest memories at the West Hartford campus is **Saturday morning orchestra practice** at Hartt with Moshe Paranov, then Bernard Lurie... But the best was when I toured with the Hartt School Orchestra to Communist Romania for two weeks in 1971. I shall never forget my great times on campus from 1963 [in children’s program] through 1973, when I graduated from the University of Hartford.

K. Joyce Brown Seltzer ’73
Hartt School of Music

I still listen to WWUH, where I spent many hours and long nights spinning records... And sometimes, when I would leave the station at 6 a.m., I’d go outside into the stillness of a campus devoid of people and in the sky would be **hot air balloons**. The quietness was quite a contrast to the small, hot studio where I’d been playing loud music for hours. I would also stop by the loading dock of the dining hall and get a donut sometimes.

Jeff Becker A’81, ‘82
Ward College of Technology

I’m sorry I will not be there to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UofH... For those who remember it, the **old Hillyer College building** was in a middle school originally, and some of the classrooms still had the **script alphabet** on the walls above the blackboards. The cafeteria and the bookstore were in the basement. The instructors’ offices were in what had been coat closets. **Those were the good old days.**

Ed Knight ’56
Hillyer Founding College

I offer the fact that James Holloway (deceased) and I made the first move toward the formation of the **University of Hartford Alumni Association**... I am most probably the only survivor among the persons present on the platform at the laying of the cornerstone of the Alfred Fuller Building... In 1964 I received the **Alumnus of the Year** award from both Hartt School of Music and the University of Hartford.

Howard T. O’Connell Sr. ’49, M’56
Hartt College of Music
Making a Difference

SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED BY BEQUESTS

We wish we knew more about Anna Russell Moore, a benefactor of the University who died in 1991. But what we do know is that she was both thoughtful and very considerate, and clearly had faith in the future of the University of Hartford.

The proof of that faith comes to us a quarter century after her death in the form of a gift realized by the University of Hartford in the summer of 2006.

Sometime in 1987, Moore sat down with her attorney and clearly demonstrated her concern for others. Fortune had been good to her, so she arranged a trust under her will to provide for her niece, Florence B. Bonanno, for the rest of her life. Confident that the trust was sufficient, Moore added the stipulation that the remaining principal should then be put “in trust” for the University of Hartford.

Further evidence of Moore’s altruism was the fact that she entrusted the University to make annual awards in the name of her son, Frederick Russell Moore, an alumnus of Hillyer College. These scholarships were “to provide tuition scholarships for either graduate or undergraduate study to young men and women who are born U.S. citizens, and who shall be selected by said University solely on the basis of demonstrated scholastic achievement, character, superior intellectual ability, and exceptional promise.”

The Founders’ Planned Giving Society comprises like-minded and similarly generous people who believe in the future of the University of Hartford. Most have taken that extra step in ensuring that their legacies will live on at the University for the benefit of others.

Anna Russell Moore accomplished a great deal through her careful planning. Not only did she ensure a lifelong source of financial support for her niece, but this year, also receive merit-based awards in the name of her now deceased son. We only wish we could have thanked her while she was still here among us.

We still have time to thank you, however. If you have already made charitable arrangements for the University of Hartford, or any of its schools, colleges, or programs, we would like to welcome you into the Founders’ Planned Giving Society. Please let us know about your plans in general or take a look at our comprehensive planned-giving website, www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving. There you can find recommended bequest language for your will, try out our gift calculator, and see a list of our established endowment funds, just to name a few of the website’s features.

For more information, please contact Director of Planned Giving Peter H. Congleton at 860.768.2415 or e-mail him at congleton@hartford.edu. You may also write to him at the Planned Giving Office, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

HCW Legacy Moves Forward

FIRST WELFUND GRANTS AWARDED

A symposium and film festival on women in film. A series of speaker lunches with successful female alums. A book on the first woman to serve as a full-time judge in Massachusetts. Scholarships for adult women returning to finish their degrees. These are just a few of the 14 projects selected as the inaugural recipients of funding from the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund), a legacy of Hartford College for Women.

Jennifer Sanborn, executive director of WELFund, announced in January that 34 projects were submitted last fall to the WELFund board of directors for consideration. Sanborn says that those selected “honor the history of Hartford College for Women and will shape the future of the University of Hartford as a leader in women’s education among coeducational institutions.” The total amount awarded was $100,000.

The 34 proposals came from all corners of the University, including students, staff, and faculty. Among the distinctive projects: Margaret Mair, archivist at the University of Hartford, will collaborate with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford to create an exhibit on the life of the entertainer Sophie Tucker, a Hartford native who defied the stereotypes of her day; while Yvette Blanchard and Susan Diehl, associate professors of physical therapy and nursing, respectively, will study the effectiveness of an intervention tool to help adolescent first-time mothers communicate and bond with their babies.

Applications for a second round of grants were accepted in March, and those projects selected for funding will be announced in June.

WELFund’s vision is to give women and girls access to educational and leadership opportunities that serve as catalysts for personal and professional growth. For more information on the fund and a full list of selected projects, visit www.hartford.edu/welf.
Let the Drums Roll Out, Let the Cymbals Ring!
FUNDRAISING FOR PHASE I OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER COMPLETED

Thanks to a $4 million grant recommended by Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell and approved by the state Bond Commission in January, the University will begin construction on Phase I of its new Performing Arts Center (PAC) at the former Thomas Cadillac dealership in North Hartford, a mile southeast of the University’s Bloomfield Avenue campus. The funds were awarded from the state’s Urban Action Program.

“This will be a major community resource. It will draw people to the neighborhood and will serve as an important catalyst for economic development,” Gov. Rell said in a press release. “Hartford’s Upper Albany Avenue will become a richer cultural corridor, flanked on one end by the Performing Arts Center and on the other by The Artists Collective and its acclaimed community arts programs.”

A ceremonial groundbreaking will take place this spring, followed by the start of construction. The new arts facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

“I am ecstatic,” said University President Walter Harrison in announcing the bond approval. “I am very thankful to Gov. Rell for her strong support for this project. I began intense efforts to access the state’s funding two years ago and never doubted that we would succeed. The governor’s announcement demonstrates our shared belief that the PAC will be an extremely valuable resource for the University and the North Hartford community.”

The $30 million PAC will alleviate space shortages for The Hartt School’s undergraduate programs as well as those in Hartt’s Community Division. Enrollments for both have nearly tripled since the Fuller Music Center opened in 1963, partly due to the addition of dance and theatre divisions.

“We are delighted to have this opportunity to both expand our space and consolidate our programs,” says Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison. “The Hartt School has developed into a comprehensive performing arts school, training professionals in music, dance, and theatre. This new building will give each of our programs appropriate, dedicated, and state-of-the-art facilities. This is a wonderful expression of the University’s goals and an affirming vote of confidence from our supporters.”

In 2001 the University went public with plans to buy the 7.2-acre site at the corner of Albany Avenue and Westbourne Parkway and convert the buildings, kicking off what Harrison describes as “the long and complex process of raising funds for this facility.”

A number of significant pledges have been made to the project by individual donors, as well as the state and federal governments and various foundations and corporations.

These funding sources include $2.5 million from the Connecticut Development Authority Brownfield Program in conjunction with the city of Hartford; $1.5 million from the federal government through the efforts of U.S. Rep. John Larson and U.S. Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman; a $1 million pledge from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; and a $610,000 grant from MassMutual Financial Group of Hartford, Inc.

The project will transform three buildings, designed in 1929 by pioneering industrial architect Albert Kahn, into a world-class performing arts facility that will benefit both University students and the neighboring community. Phase I will reconfigure the interior of the main building into much-needed space for The Hartt School’s dance, theatre, and music theatre programs. It will also provide a bank, a coffee shop, and space for use by community organizations.

Due to space shortages on campus, Hartt’s Dance Division must rent the former studios of Dance Connecticut, which are on Farmington Avenue in Hartford. This means the dance students must board a shuttle bus around 7:30 a.m. every morning that takes them into Hartford to the studios. After a long day, they return to campus at 4 p.m. to attend academic classes in the two evening courses that are required each semester. Once the Performing Arts Center is completed, dance students will be on a normal schedule, taking their courses in the daytime and rehearsing in the evenings.
Do You Trust Your Doctor?

ROGOW LECTURER MICHAEL PALMER, M.D., WRITES MEDICAL THRILLERS

“What if the most ruthless terrorist in the world had a brain tumor and needed surgery?” That, in a nutshell, is the plot of author Michael Palmer’s thriller, *The Patient*. Creating what he calls the “what if” question, Palmer told the audience, is how he begins each of his books.

Palmer, a physician and author of 11 previous thrillers, came to the University in March as a 2007 Rogow Distinguished Visiting Lecturer. Speaking in Lincoln Theater to a large crowd, he described his newest book, *The Fifth Vial*, and talked about his writing process and how he came to be a writer in the first place.

Palmer, who was an undergraduate at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, said that after medical school he went to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In 1978 he read Robin Cook’s classic thriller, *Coma*, and it was then that he asked his sister a very important question.

“Robin was two years ahead of me at Wesleyan and trained at Mass General when I was there. If he can write a book and has the same education as I do, why can’t I write a book?”


Dianne Harrison, a scholar of mystery literature, introduced Palmer to the audience. Harrison, who also studies 19th-century Victorian literature, is the wife of University President Walter Harrison.

Prior to his talk, Palmer appeared at a private reception in The 1877 Club for members of the University’s giving societies. These include all individuals who contributed $1,000 or more in gifts to the University in the past year. For about an hour, Palmer spoke about living in Hartford, where some of his family members still reside, and mingled with the approximately 100 guests. He also signed copies of *The Fifth Vial* that were raffled off to five winners.
Then came you to Fall Weekend 2007

Ahoy!

It’s The Anchor Online!

- Catch up with old friends and classmates
- Search for a new career
- Receive news about your alma mater

These opportunities are just a few clicks away! Check out The Anchor Online—the official community for University of Hartford alumni. To find out more, visit www.hartford.edu/alumni and click on the Online Community button.

All graduates of the University of Hartford can access this electronic benefit. Once registered, you’ll be able to

- Search for friends and classmates
- Create your alumni home page with photos
- Receive a permanent e-mail address
- View upcoming events in your area
- Read about fellow alumni and submit your own class notes online

We’re Wishin’ and Hopin’ that you’re planning to return to campus for a very special Fall Weekend celebrating the University of Hartford’s 50th anniversary.

In honor of our golden anniversary, we have invited one of our favorite alums, the wonderful Dionne Warwick (Hon. ’86), to give a concert in Lincoln Theater on Sat., Oct. 20, during Fall Weekend. So Make It Easy on Yourself and mark that calendar now!

Do You Know the Way to Hartford U.? You can come on Trains and Boats and Planes, we don’t care which, as long as you save October 19–21, 2007, for us.

Dionne Warwick
Ticket presale in May and June for University community, including alumni, so stay tuned.

Ahoy!

Dionne Warwick

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Dionne Warwick

Ticket presale in May and June for University community, including alumni, so stay tuned.
Please join me in welcoming Nicole Bocra ’95 (Barney), as the new president of the D.C. Alumni Chapter. A registered private investigator in Virginia and a licensed private detective in New Jersey, Bocra has over 10 years’ experience as an accountant and securities investigator, including more than six years with NASD Inc. (formerly known as the National Association of Securities Dealers).

Bocra’s company, Infinity Investigative Solutions, is an owner-managed, licensed, private investigation firm, specializing in investigations, consulting, research, and business strategy in the white-collar and financial industries. The company offers expert services in the following areas: asset recovery, fraud, broker-dealer/investment advisor compliance and consulting, intellectual property, corporate intelligence, and difficult background and financial investigations.

Bocra was the lead investigator in a well-publicized case against a high-profile investment banker. She is a member of the National Association of Legal Investigators, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the National Council of Investigation & Security Services, and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. She is also the secretary of the Private Investigators Association of Virginia.

For additional information on the University of Hartford – D.C. Alumni Chapter, please e-mail Bocra at nicolebocra@gmail.com.

SAVE THESE DATES: OCTOBER 19–21

Join us for Homecoming 2007, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

GO, RED SOX!

Join the Hartford Alumni Chapter and travel to Fenway Park to see the Boston Red Sox take on the Los Angeles Angels in a 2 p.m. game on Sunday, Aug. 19. The cost of the trip includes round-trip bus transportation and tickets in section 7 of the right-field grandstand. The bus will depart from the University campus at 10:30 a.m. for Boston. Tickets are $80 per person and are limited to four per alumna/us. To register, contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD

The Alumni Association has been working diligently to obtain new benefits, discounts, and services for alumni. If you would like to learn more about the many benefits—including ZipCar, Choice Hotels International, and major rental car agencies—visit our website at www.hartford.edu/alumni.

THE ANCHOR ONLINE

The Office of Alumni Relations is pleased to announce the arrival of our online community. This is a group of Web-based communication tools enabling alumni to keep in touch with classmates and faculty, as well as stay connected to the University. This is a private site monitored by University staff. The available resources include your personal home page, online directory, permanent e-mail, discussion groups, event registration, and chapter pages. If you would like to join the community, go to www.hartford.edu/alumni and click on “Online Community.”

THANK YOU, PROFESSOR KELLER

Professor Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63, shared her extensive knowledge and unbridled enthusiasm for Tutankhamun with alumni and friends during her slide presentation and lecture, “Legacy of Tutankhamun: Impact, Innovation, and Imagination” (see photo, page 31). In addition, she led a group of alumni and friends on a sold-out tour of the Franklin Institute’s King Tut exhibit and the Philadelphia Art Museum. On behalf of the alumni and friends who benefited from her knowledge, enthusiasm, and the generous gift of her time, thank you!
1958
DORLEE CLARK ROHLFING (A, HCW) of Milwaukee, Wis., is the author of The Front Porch Is Gone, a coming-of-age novel published by AuthorHouse and available at most bookstores. Rohlfing, who lives with her husband, David, a minister, is a retired administrator of the Milwaukee public school district.

1959
ESTELLE LASCHEVER (M, ENHP; M’78 HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., conducted a mask-making workshop at Hall Memorial Library in Ellington, Conn. Laschever conducts workshops at libraries and museums and is employed at Manchester Community College as a continuing-education art teacher.

1965
RONALD J. ISYK (BARNEY) of Wilmington, N.C., is currently on the executive advisory board of the Cameron School of Business at the University of North Carolina–Wilmington and vice chairman of the board of trustees of the New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Isyk retired from Deloitte & Touche as national administrator of the New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

MARGARET BERGER MORSE (ENHP) of Guilford, Conn., wrote Torrey's Miracle in 2001, about her daughter's fight with cancer. Torrey is now a 28-year survivor. In 2003, Morse published Vermont Life Stories: Memories of Summer Living in the Green Mountain State. All profits from the sale of both books go to a cancer fund for patients and their families who are in financial need. Morse's first novel, A Matter of Perception: Breaking Through, released in November 2006, is the story of one woman's journey of continuous self-healing. The book is dedicated to all men and women who no longer believe themselves to be victims.

1966
CAROL DE MONTRICHARD-DALLEAS (A, HCW) of LaForge, France, wants to promote tourism in southwestern France, where visitors can get to know the French people in their own kitchens and gardens, artists' and woodworkers' studios. For more information, see her website at www.whatscookinginfrance.com.

1967
MARTIN I. BRESNICK (A&S) of New Haven, Conn., was profiled in a New York Times article, “Happy Jazzy, Operatic, Symphonic Birthday, Dear Teacher.” Bresnick is the coordinator of the composition department at Yale University.

SUZANNE OGORZALEK MITORAJ (A&S) of Berlin, Conn., was inducted into the Sheehan High School Hall of Fame in Wallingford, Conn. This hall of fame honors students and faculty for contributions to the school and their communities. Retired from teaching, Mitoraj is a docent for Historic New England, guiding tours throughout New Hampshire and Maine.

1969
MARILYN LISSIE COON (HAS) of Kingston, N.H., showed her work in an exhibit titled Two Views in the Laura Coombs Hill Gallery of the Newburyport (Mass.) Art Association, where Coon also teaches.

PATRICIA SHEILDS DICOSIMO (HAS) of Bristol, Conn., has been honored with the John Nerreau, Retired Art Educator of the Year award by the Connecticut Art Education Association. DiCosimo was National Art Educator of the Year for Connecticut in 1983, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year in 2000, and a Crayola Gold Star Teacher in 2003.

KAREN A. MATTE (A&S) of Madison, N.J., exhibited her work at Chase Gallery in the Madison Public Library. Shared Enthusiasm VI, featuring the work of a group of 10 women artists, was the sixth show for the group in the last 18 months. Matte, with three paintings accepted into the juried Tewksbury Historical Society Art Show, received an honorable mention. Further updates may be found on her website, www.karenmatte.com.

1972

1973
MICHAEL B. DITKOFF (A&S) of Lanham, Md., was promoted to senior budget analyst with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which processes applications for citizenship and work permits.

CORTLANDT B. HULL (HAS, M’76 HAS) of Bristol, Conn., will realize a lifelong dream when his Witch’s Dungeon museum, begun in 1966 in Bristol, opens year-round as part of the newly expanded Silver Screen Movie Museum & Archive. The new Witch’s Dungeon House of Wax features highly accurate, life-sized figures from horror and sci-fi classics.

SHARON ROWLEY MORGIO (HAS) of North Haven, Conn., exhibited her paintings and calligraphy at the Mary Baldwin Room of the Cheshire Public Library. Her watercolors are nature based, and her calligraphy combines letters, painting, and drawing as design elements.

1974
DAVID GEWANTER (ENHP) of Simsbury, Conn., has accepted a position teaching AP physics and astronomy at John Jay High School in the Katonah-Lewisboro school district in New York State.

EDWARD A. SANTOS (M, BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., was part of the loaned-executive program in the 2006 United Way Community Campaign. He was sponsored by Otis Elevator Company and People’s Bank and assisted with the community-wide fundraising effort.

BONNIE S. STRADER (ENHP) of Fairfield, Conn., is employed by the Wilton, Conn., school district as a reading teacher. She previously taught for eight years in New York.

1975
SUZANNE M. GROSS (M, BARNEY) of Meriden, Conn., was a presenter at the Respect Life Conference in Meriden. Her topic was “Our Mission: To Live the Gospel of Life in Love.” Gross, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, is program coordinator for the Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

CHRISTOPHER C. Hodgson (BARNEY) of Wakefield, Mass., received the 2006 Kenneth O. Hodgson Distinguished Service Award from the New England Water Works Association, the region’s largest and oldest not-for-profit organization of water works professionals. Hodgson is vice president of marketing and New England regional manager of Natgun Corporation in Wakefield.

MARK MERCER (HARTT) of Windsor, Conn., was named music director at the First Church of Christ in Simsbury, Conn. He also is a member of the blues band Max Creek and a sometime keyboardist for the Pete Scheips Band.
SUSAN M. WEAVER (HAS) of East Haddam, Conn., was chosen Teacher of the Year for the East Haddam school district. She has been the art instructor for the past 19 years at the East Haddam Elementary School.

1977
ADRIAN B. CORBIERE (M, ENHP) of Reston, Va., was appointed to the advisory board of Pembrook Capital. Corbiere, a senior vice president of Freddie Mac, is responsible for the company’s $93 billion multifamily portfolio.

NANCI C. FITZGERALD (HAS) of Unionville, Conn., has been named vice president, business development, of The Rideshare Company in Windsor, Conn. Rideshare, a nonprofit organization helping commuters find ways of sharing the ride to work, offers schedules and routes for all buses, vans, and trains, as well as information to individuals looking to carpool.

1978
HASHIM AL-TAWIL (M, HARTT) of Dearborn, Mich., who completed a PhD in art history from the University of Iowa in 1993, has been chair of the art history program at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn since 2003. Al-Tawil received a Fulbright senior research grant to conduct field study this spring and summer in Palermo, Sicily, Italy, on aspects of Islamic-Arabic culture during the 12th-century Norman reign.

PAUL P. BISACCIA (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., gave a recital at the Community Room of the East Lyme Public Library. He played selections by Chopin, Debussy, Satie, Berlin, Gershwin, and Marvin Hamlish.

DAVID M. MILLWARD (M, BARNEY) of Williamsville, N.Y., has received his master’s in economics from the University of Buffalo. Millward is retired from the full-time practice of psychiatry.

CARL SPADARO (A, HILLYER) of Jacksonville, Fla., was the 2006 recipient of Hillyer College’s Distinguished Alumnus Award. Spadaro is president of Earthcore Industries, exclusive U.S. supplier of the Danish Isokern fireplace. In 2005 he was awarded The Prince’s Medal of Honour by His Royal Highness Prince Henrik of Denmark.

RICHARD F. WELCOME (M, BARNEY) of Ellington, Conn., joined the Valley Bank in Bristol, Conn., as vice president in its commercial lending group.

1979
BEN D. KAPLAN (BARNEY, M’80 BARNEY), a University of Hartford regent, of Branford, Conn., has joined Electronic Recyclers, California’s largest recycler of electronic waste, as chief financial officer.

Peter Waite, Station (Frankfurt), 2004 (acrylic on panels, 8 x 10 feet). Courtesy of the Edward Thorp Gallery, NYC. The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Conn., has invited Waite ‘73 (HAS), Rachel Berwick, Ellen Carey (HAS faculty), Barkley Hendricks, Eva Lee, Sol LeWitt, Jessica Stockholder, and Pawel Wojtasik to participate in its Connecticut Contemporary exhibition, April 19–Aug. 12, 2007. Each artist was asked to select another Connecticut artist, who in turn selected another Connecticut artist, for a group of 24 exhibiting artists, in order to reflect the diversity of talent in the state. Waite’s work was also on display at the New Britain Museum of American Art through March 11, 2007.

BERNARD L. KAVALER (A&S, M’88 BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., was appointed assistant vice chancellor for public affairs for the Connecticut State University system.

1980
JOHN W. MARTIE (M, BARNEY) of Mason, Ohio, is the new president and general manager of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Colorado. His responsibilities include managing small-group and local large-group business and overseeing group underwriting practices areas.

1981
DAVID ALMOND (M, HARTT) of Ellington, Conn., was interviewed for Fanfare magazine in an article titled “A Conversation with Julius P. Williams.”

BERNICE R. NAHMS (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., held teaching positions at Hillyer College and the University of Connecticut in Storrs, since 1967. She received her PhD from Brandeis University in 1972. Nahms, a master teacher, is an accomplished pianist with wide-ranging experience of music literature.

KRIEGER ’85.

1982
KENNETH STEEN (HARTT). See JEFFREY KRIEGER ’85.

SUSAN TERRY (HARTT) of Brooklyn, N.Y., performed in the Aetna Theater at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, a performance that was incorporated with the Jazz at the Atheneum series presented by the Hartford Jazz Society. Terry is the leader of the “Sweet” Sue Terry Quintet. She has appeared as jazz soloist with the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Brooklyn Philharmonic at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall.

1983
DONALD A. DEVIVO (A&S, M’84 BARNEY) of Berlin, Conn., was named president of New Britain, Conn.–based DATTCO, Inc., a transportation company.

ZDZISLAW MARCISZ (ENG) of Danville, Calif., has been appointed sales director of Solido Design Automation, a pioneer in transistor-level design-enhancement solutions for analog/mixed-signal design, as well as custom digital and memory design for the electronic design automation market. Marcisz’s purview is the San Francisco Bay area.
Leader of the Stacks
Barney alumna presides over American Library Association

BY BEVERLY KENNEDY

From ancient papyrus scrolls to 21st-century audio tapes, books have been the bedrock of civilization. And almost as long as there have been books, there have been libraries.

As the 2006-07 president of the American Library Association (ALA), Leslie Berman Burger M’88 (Barney) is the chief elected officer of the world’s oldest and largest library association, founded in 1876.

“Serving as president of the 65,000-member American Library Association has been both rewarding and challenging,” Burger says. “It’s enabled me to use the knowledge gained from my MS in organizational behavior to lead the hundreds of membership-based committees that make ALA so successful.”

Following her conviction that “libraries transform communities,” Burger has drafted an ambitious agenda for her term in office. Among several key initiatives is a “transformation summit” to provide practical tips to enable communities to transform their libraries regardless of budget constraints. She also plans to establish a Librarians without Libraries volunteer program to match people who have talents and skills with libraries that need assistance.

When not making one of her numerous appearances throughout the United States and Canada, this president can be found at her “day job” as director of the Princeton (N.J.) Public Library. In addition to being the parents of three grown children, Burger and her husband, Alan, are also partners in Library Development Solutions, a consulting firm Burger founded in 1991 that has guided more than 100 urban, suburban, rural, academic, state, and other libraries across the United States in strategic planning, space needs assessment, evaluation, and program implementation.

Attention, Alumni Artists!

The Observer welcomes your art. Your work in any medium is a great addition to our Alumni News section. We’re proud to publish the art you’ve worked so hard to create.

Let us give your art a wider audience. Send in digital photos of your artwork from a recent or upcoming exhibit. Photos should be high resolution, less than 2MB each, saved in .jpg format, and e-mailed to observer@hartford.edu. Larger files may be mailed on CD to Observer, Office of Communication, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

BRIAN T. MAURER (M, ENHP) of Tariffville, Conn., has published Patients Are a Virtue, a book of clinical tales in the art of medicine. Inspiration for the book grew out of Maurer’s practice as a physician assistant for the past 27 years.

IVY LEAVITT PATTEN (A&S) of Franklin, Mass., with Mary-Regina Bennett, co-founded Hot Shots for the Cure, a group that raises funds and participates in the annual Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s Boston Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes. In the past four years the group has raised in excess of $93,000. If any UofH alumni are interested in joining Hot Shots for the walk next fall, or would like to make a donation through Hot Shots, please contact Patten at ivpatten@yahoo.com.

CRAIG A. ROLAND (A&S) of Douglasville, Ga., has been named division manager of Invest In Atlanta Homes, LLC, a subsidiary of Top 100 National Homebuilder Forrest Homes, Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga.

1984
CARY A. FRIEDMAN (ENG) of Linden, N.J., has published his latest book, Wisdom from the Batcave (Compass Books, 2006). A spirituality consultant to the FBI’s behavioral science unit for the past six years, Rabbi Friedman designs tools and methods to fortify law enforcement officers against the barrage of horrors they face every day. See www.batwisdom.com or www.spiritualsurvivalbook.com for more information.

1985
JANET C. ROSEN (M, HARTT) of Cheshire, Conn., is an instrumental music teacher at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan, Conn.

PAUL F. DIFRANCESCO (M, BARNEY) of Kings Park, N.Y., was appointed president of OneBeacon Insurance Group’s AutoOne Insurance subsidiary. AutoOne is headquartered in Melville, N.Y.

JUDITH A. HANDLER (M, HARTT) of Vernon, Conn., with her husband, Mark Levesque, performed a program of music for guitar and mandolin at the Hagaman Library in East Haven, Conn. The duo blended Brazilian, Latin American, gypsy, classical, and European influences in the program. Handler has given concerts and workshops at numerous venues throughout the United States.

DAVID M. KATZ (A&S) of Hartsdale, N.Y., was appointed director, strategic business development, at InsightExpress, an online market research firm in Stamford, Conn.

JEFFREY KRIEGER (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., an electronic cellist, performed in a two-week, solo recital tour of India this past February, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy. At the embassy’s request, several of the concert programs were built around a work titled Shadows and Light by KENNETH STEEN ’82 (HARTT), associate professor of composition and theory at The Hartt School. The concert tour supported the embassy’s efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention education in India, where the disease is spreading at crisis level.

EVELYN McMAHON (M, BARNEY) of Salisbury, N.C., has resigned as executive director of the Elizabeth Hanford Dole Chapter of the American Red Cross. She has been elected to a regional Red Cross board of directors. McMahon is also founder of the Marrow Match Foundation, a nonprofit organization that sponsors bone-marrow drives in Rowan County.
**Weddings**

Gina Perezella & Frank LaRosa ‘88  
Julianne Parisi ‘90 & David L. Gunas ‘89  
Tina B. Feldman ‘94, M’97, & Adam A. Halpern  
Michelle S. Weintraub ‘95 & David Gevanter  
Carolyn Colonna ‘97 & Don Lancaster  
Leigh M. Ritt ‘98 & Scott Farber  
Amanda W. Veilleux & Shawn E. Halpin ‘99  
Christine F. Koong & Kevin J. Hedstrom ‘99  
Melissa A. Kaler ‘99 & Joseph P. Matrullo  
Suzanne P. Marcus ‘99 & Joseph Rubenstein  
Amy Ackley ’00 & Shawn Musselman  
Jannel C. Pellicio ’01 & Caleb C. Cook ’00  
Jodi M. Faro ’00 & Christopher A. Langellotti  
Elian Lebel ’00 & David T. Frank  
Jessica O. Monska & Gregory P. Sposato ’00  
Stacey M. Allen ’02 & David P. Montemurro ’01  
Kumari K. Gongaju ’02 & Ryan S. Riegel ’01  
Ann F. Nieranowski ’04 & Joseph I. Harwood ’02  
Christina E. Loomis ’02, M’04, C’05, & Eric Halle  
Colleen M. Lussier & Terrence G. Cage ’03  
Marcy Gotterbarn ’03, M’04, & Ivan J. Weiss  
Christine M. Veronneau ’06 & Jason D. Basil

**Births**

Shirley & Steven J. Mangione ’88 (Zachary Giovanni)  
Jodi Klingens Brachman A’87, ’89, & Jordan Brachman (Matthew)  
Nanci Berkin Ross A’88, ’89, & Jamie Ross (Jessie Madison)  
Lori Sotle Fish ’91 & Howard Fish (Jonah Stephen)  
Vanessa & Brian List ’91 (Madelyn Grace)  
Greta & Michael T. Ryan ’93 (Madeline Marie)  
Erika Schlein Eli ’94 & Will Eill (Mason Connor)  
Grace Ferraro Solomon ’96 & Daniel L. Solomon ’95 (Nicholas)  
Lindsay & John P. Benesek M’97, D’99 (Riley Elizabeth)  
Sarah Brandenburg Graumann ’97 & Richard Graumann (Blake Werner)  
Shannon McGrath Hesketh ’97 & David Hesketh (Samuel)  
Stacey Brooks Nordstrom ’99 & Christopher Nordstrom (Aidan Maxwell)  
Lindsey Rupert Rosario ’01 & Richard Rosario (Alyssa Marie)  
Theresa & Matthew R. Hoch M’03, C’04 (Hannah)

**Wedding photos**

Top row (l–r): Lorraine Stolarz Lanius ’80 & Brian Lanius (Cristian with little sister Eva)  
Jenifer Rouillard Mercer ’96 & Clint Mercer (Sierra Elizabeth with big brother Jackson)  
Corie Bromberg Sackett ’98 & Adam Sackett (Benjamin Kyle)  
JoAnna E. Harrell ’01 & Lucas A. Marquardt ’99 (Anne Elizabeth)  
Bottom row (l–r): Kristy Petoske Bassolino ’00 & Christopher Bassolino ’99 (Audrey Madison)  
Jessica & Keith A. Larit ’00 (Emma Ashley)  
Marlena McNamee Kross ’02 & Jeffrey Kross (Owen Jeffrey)
Show Me the Way to Go Home
Alumna and Local Celebrity Lutzker Makes the Commute Bearable

BY TERRI RAIMONDI

On weekday mornings, scores of Connecticut’s commuters drive through rush-hour traffic with their radios tuned to the sound of Rachel Lutzker’s voice.

Lutzker, who graduated from the University of Hartford in 1999 with a bachelor’s in communication, delivers daily traffic reports on Hartford television and radio for Clear Channel Communications.

A native New Yorker, Lutzker knew in high school that she wanted to be in broadcasting after interning at the Ricki Lake and Sally Jessy Raphael shows. She continued her broadcasting career at the University, reporting traffic on a local radio station. During her senior year, her hectic schedule included reporting traffic while going to classes and interning at another station. Soon after graduation, Lutzker was hired by Metro Networks, a supplier of traffic news to the broadcasting industry.

Lutzker moved to New York City in 2001 to do traffic for WCBS-TV, but unlike others who dream of a job in the City, she felt there was something missing. “For some people, success is being in New York, but not me,” she says.

Fortunately, Lutzker paid a visit to friends at Clear Channel Communications in Hartford and learned about the launch of “TimeSaver Traffic” at WFSB-TV, Channel 3, part of a collaboration with Clear Channel. The following morning, the job was hers.

Lutzker has since evolved into a broadcasting jack-of-all-trades. On WFSB-TV Eyewitness News, she gives the rush-hour “TimeSaver Traffic” reports, and she does morning and evening traffic on WWYZ 92.5, WKSS 95.7, and WHCN 105.9 FM radio stations. Then, after her evening drive-time gig is over, she deejays the Acoustic after Dark show on WHCN 105.9 each weekday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

And that’s not all. In September, she will cohost Better Connecticut, a daily magazine show on WFSB, Channel 3, with her colleague Scott Haney, the station’s upbeat morning meteorologist. The two hit it off immediately, Lutzker said, with a relationship that viewers love to watch.

Despite her busy schedule, Lutzker finds time for community and charity events. She says she is also contemplating a part-time return to the University for a graduate degree.

Closing the Gap

Yvonne R. Davis ’91 (A&S) spent a week last November among widely diverse groups throughout Israel, bringing her message of women’s empowerment through communication and economic independence.

Here, Davis (second from left) stands with members of the Association for the Improvement of the Status of Women Desert Embroidery Project in the Bedouin town of Laqiya. President and CEO of DAVISCommunications in Windsor, Conn., Davis specializes in public affairs and media campaigns. Her work has taken her throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. In addition to having received several business and journalism awards, Davis was a presidential appointee as ambassador of the arts to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from 2001 to 2005.

1986

DONALD ALLAN JR. (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., was named vice president and corporate controller of the Stanley Works Corporation. His responsibilities include Security Exchange Commission reporting, corporate financial planning and analysis, general accounting shared services functions, internal control policies and procedures, and finance process improvement.

DOUGLAS J. DOMIAN (BARNEY) of Tolland, Conn., has published a golf journal called Days of Glory. Learn more about his work at www.mygolfjournal.com

1987

VIRGINIA KIRWIN JOHNSON (HARTT) of Rockland, Mass., won the Female Entertainer of the Year award in the New Country category from the New England Country Music Organization.

ROBERT A. LOSINNO (HARTT) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., performed with international singing sensation Andrea Bocelli at the Hard Rock Casino as part of Bocelli’s Under the Desert Sky tour.
In Memoriam

**1988**

**DOUGLAS RIAHI** (A, HILLYER; ’88 BARNEY) of Stamford, Conn., was the recipient of Hillyer College’s Outstanding Young Alumnus award for 2006. Riahi is managing director of corporate and investment banking at Fortis Capital Corporation in Stamford. He counts Kebbler Foods and Weight Watchers among his most successful client turnarounds.

**JONATHAN J. GOUTHER (HAS) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., principal and creative director of Gouthier Design, was selected as a winner in the 2006 American Graphic Design Awards by a nationwide panel of judges. The awards are presented by Graphic Design USA.

**COLLEEN O’KEEFE** (M, BARNEY) of Basking Ridge, N.J., was named vice president and general manager of the payment solutions business at NCR Corporation. This department provides imaged-based services, such as check-image processing, to the finance and retail industries.

**JEFFREY R. ASTRACHAN** (A&S) of Old Bethpage, N.Y., and his family appeared on ABC’s America’s Funniest Home Videos as a top-three finalist in January. Astrachan also joined 10 of his rabbinic colleagues on a mission to Berlin, Germany, to have a dialogue with German high school students about Judaism and Jewish-German relations.

**LAUREN BERNOFSKY** (HARTT) of Bloomington, Ind., had her ballet composition for The Wizard of Oz premiered by the Hartford Ballet (Joppa, Md.). Her “Hanukkah Lights,” for treble chorus and orchestra, was performed by school students about Judaism and Jewish-German relations.

**KHALED M. EL MARSAFY** (BARNEY) of New York, N.Y., was appointed to the board of directors of Triton Distribution Systems, Inc., a next-generation, Web-based travel distribution service provider. El Marsasy is general manager of Al-Deera Holding Company, a Kuwait-based shareholding company that has holdings in several publicly and privately held companies in the Middle East, United States, Europe, and Africa.

**FREDDERICK JOUSSET-DROUHIN** (BARNEY, ’91 BARNEY) of Beaune, France, was appointed chief executive officer of the family-owned and managed wine business, Maison Joseph Drouhin. The vineyard was founded in 1880 and has been handed down through three generations.

**JOHN W. GALLANT** (M, BARNEY) of Alpharetta, Ga., was promoted to vice president of the service operations area in the group benefits division of Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.

**1990**

**JENNIFER SZWALEK** (A&S) of New Hope, Pa., was named director of communications at the University of Connecticut’s Von der Mehden Recital Hall. The group’s opening performance was held at the University of Connecticut’s Von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**1992**

**JENNIFER SZWALEK** (A&S) of New Hope, Pa., was named director of communications at the University of Connecticut’s Von der Mehden Recital Hall. She oversees the management, planning, and direction of all communication in support of the school’s mission.

**FRANCIS J. VOGT** (M, HARTT) of Dubuque, Iowa, has been appointed director of the Dubuque Chorale. Vogt is assistant music professor at Clark College in Dubuque. He also directs the Collegiate Singers at Clark and teaches music history.

**1993**

**PETER BOYER** (M, HARTT; D’95 HARTT) of Altadena, Calif., completed scoring four episodes of the new series Engineering an Empire for The History Channel. The episode titles are “Carthage,” “The Persians,” “Napoleon: Steel Monster,” and “The Byzantines.”

**1994**

**LUCY COLWELL-SNYDER** (AD, HARTT) of West Brookfield, Mass., joined a new group of brass musicians called The Avant Brass Quintet. The group’s opening performance was held at the University of Connecticut’s Von der Mehden Recital Hall.

**MATTHEW T. CURTIS** (A&S) of Ellington, Conn., has been named principal of the Squadron Line Elementary School in Simsbury, Conn.

**PHILIP JOHNSON** (M, BARNEY) of Hudson, Maine, assumed the role of vice president of human resources at Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems.
amanho. He has also expanded the company’s material. He has also expanded the company’s solutions to include the Avaya VoIP phone system.

1995

DANIELLE A. EVANCHIK (ENHP) of Norwalk, Conn., founded an IT consultant for AT&T Communications in New Haven. Evanchik is a project manager on the Internet applications development team. She is also the new mother of Olivia Justine.

DAVID R. FELTON (A&S) of Darien, Conn., celebrated Canaan Technology’s fifth year in business. Founder of the company, Felton has opened an office in Norwalk, Conn., and redesigned the corporate-identity logo, website, and marketing material. He has also expanded the company’s solutions to include the Avaya VoIP phone system.

1996

JASON P. CARON (HARTT, M’01 HARTT) of Hudson, Mass., was named assistant conductor of the Symphony Pro Musica. Caron is also director of bands at Hudson High School, conducting the concert band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, marching band, and pep band. He teaches music theory and music history courses, as well as a course in American popular music history, for Virtual High School.

NEAL R. FITZPATRICK (HARTT) of Branford, Conn., performed at the Cheshire Public Library’s Sunday Showcase concert series in a flute/guitar duo called Serenade for the Flute and Guitar.

GEORGE GEYSEN (M, A&S; D’01 A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., has opened ChangePoint, a forensic and clinical psychology consulting firm in Glastonbury. Geyse is on the clinical staff at the Whiting Forensic Division of Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown. He is a clinical member of the Connecticut Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders.

CHERYL-ANN RESHA (M’96 ENHP, D’06 ENHP) of Winsted, Conn., was appointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell to the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund’s board of trustees, through a term ending on July 1, 2009. The 17-member board administers the state fund established to support programs that reduce tobacco and substance abuse.

1997

MEEGAN BERNSTEIN COLEMAN (HARTT) of Bethel, Conn., has released her debut CD, I Hear Music. Her driving rhythms, searing vocals, and soulful interpretations of classic vocal jazz standards makes this a significant listening experience. Infused with scat solos, invigorating embellishments, and unexpected treatments, the CD is available at www.meegancoleman.com.

WAYNE S. ESCOFFERY (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., performed at Firehouse 12 in New Haven, Conn., to rave reviews. The CD that is produced will be dedicated to his mentor, the late Jackie McLean.

LATANYA R. FARRELL (M, ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., has been performing audiences at The Russell in Hartford, Geraldine’s Night Club in West Springfield, Mass., Hukelau in Chicopee, Mass., and during Homecoming at The 1877 Club on campus. She has also performed at The Atrium at Foxwoods Resort and Casino and at Red Rock Tavern. Farrell appeared on Hartford Channel 3, WFISB, to promote her involvement in Fame the Musical.

MARLO MARRERO FERNANDEZ (M, HAS) of Farmington, Conn., participated in a group show at City Lights Gallery in Bridgeport, Conn. The exhibit was titled Identity: Caribbean, Latin American & CT Artists and Their Impression on Identity.

1998

BORA A. CELIK (M, BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., is a software engineer with his own company, has another job in the evening: an event promoter. Celik promotes electronic music in Hartford, an interest he discovered while working as a disc jockey in his native Turkey.


TODD C. DOEbler (M, A&S) of University Park, Pa., has been hired as head men’s tennis coach at Pennsylvania State University. The former associate head coach at Notre Dame University, Doebler was named Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year in 2004 and 2006 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.


1999

JOSEPH R. GORNEAULT JR. (HAS) of Cromwell, Conn., was the featured artist of the month of December for the Belden Library in Rocky Hill, Conn. Gorneault’s work has been viewed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York galleries. He is a member of the Hartford chapter of An Artist in Real Time.

2000

LACEY M. BARTLETT (A&S) of Fairfield, Conn., has joined the New Canaan YMCA as a program director. She is responsible for youth and teen...
programs that include Y-Guides and Princesses, Teen Nights, and Project Adventure.

DEBRA CHEVERINO (M, HARTT) Dana Point, Calif., received a Fulbright grant to Florence, Italy, to assist Zubin Mehta at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. As a direct result of the grant, Cheverino is the associate conductor of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

NOELL M. DORSEY (HARTT) of Berlin, Conn., a member of the Beautiful Weekend duo, was the winner of the Most Appropriately Named Band Ever award, sponsored by Boston's Weekly Dig alternative/entertainment newspaper.

NICHOLAS SMITH (BARNEY). See JEANNETTE HAUG SMITH ’01.

2001

MARY KURTZ ABBOTT (A&S) of Littleton, Colo., received her master's degree in school counseling from the University of Northern Colorado.

KEVIN BILEDOUE (A&S) of Charleston, S.C., reviewed the series Windfall and My Name Is Earl for the “BoobTube” section of Co-Ed Magazine. The magazine asked four graduate students to rate the believability of the series dealing with their field.

MERIASSA A. HADADD (ENHP) of Los Angeles, Calif., was voted LA’s Next Great Stage Star by Sterling’s Upstairs at Vitello’s in Studio City, Calif. She is headlining at the supper club, which is dedicated to presenting the best of Broadway performers and nightclub artists.

S. ANTHEA KRESTON (M, HARTT) of Middletown, Conn., is a member of the Amelia Piano Trio, which performed at the Edmond Town Hall in New Fairfield, Conn. The trio was the grand prize winner at the Yellow Springs National Competition and recipient of the ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. In 2003 the group was asked by National Public Radio to be its Young Ensemble in Residence.

ELISA ROGERS SHEEHAN (HAS) of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., produces innovative designs of logos and Web and print materials for a diverse client base, ranging from local boutiques to nonprofit organizations and corporations. Sheehan is president of Lis Designs.

NEIL E. SHILANSKY (M, HARTT) of Bloomfield, Conn., performed with his Neil Shilansky Group at Amazing Things Art Center in Framingham, Mass. Shilansky has released his first CD, Something I Know, which spotlights seven original compositions, produced with and featuring his brother, Mark.

JEANNETTE HAUG SMITH (AS) of Wenonah, N.J., has returned to school to study nursing full-time. She also launched a small business creating custom-designed, boutique-quality bows for little girls. Her website, www.oliviabowtique.com, is named after her daughter with NICHOLAS SMITH ‘00 (BARNEY).

2002

THOMAS A. CORDIER (M, A&S) of East Hartford, Conn., has opened an office at New England Behavioral Health, which focuses on behavioral treatment for children, adolescents, and adults in Glastonbury, Conn.

CHRISTOPHER J. COSTA (WARD) of Rensselaer, N.Y., ran in the New York City Marathon to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He dedicated this marathon to his wife, Heather, who has cystic fibrosis.

BRIAN A. D’AMICO (A&S) of New York, N.Y., is a television show editor currently working as lead editor on the ABC show Wife Swap. He has also worked on productions for the Food Network, Bravo, and MTV, as well as a new show called Ice T’s Rap School, premiering on VH1.

LISA M. HUNTER (HARTT) of Sarasota, Fla., is moving from the Sarasota Ballet of Florida to the Montgomery Ballet in Alabama.


KELLY A. MASSUCCI (M, ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., and her husband, Fran, opened their second Talcott Center for Child Development clinic, specializing in therapeutic-based programs for special-needs children. School officials and parents are discovering that the center can help all children become more successful in the classroom and with social interaction of many kinds.

JENNIFER R. MOODY (A&S) of West Hartford, Conn., is lending her professional expertise to the 2006 United Way Community Campaign as a loaned executive. Sponsored by Hartford Hospital and The Hartford Courant, Moody assists with community-wide fundraising efforts.

2003

REINALDO M. AMARAL (M, BARNEY) of Newington, Conn., is president of the Economic Council of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Hartford. Amaral is a senior reporting analyst with Uniprise, a division of United Healthcare.

LAUREN C. BETANCOURT (A&S) of West Suffield, Conn., was named Miss North Haven 2007 and will be competing in the Miss Connecticut Scholarship Pageant in June. Lauren is a master of science candidate in the sports science program at Springfield College.

Follow Your Dreams
Barney grad helps job seekers escape daily grind

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

Lorne Epstein ’89 had been working in the recruitment field for several years in 1998 when lightening struck.

A casual conversation with a young woman while the two waited at a bus stop changed everything. A theatre major at a local college, the woman confided in Epstein, telling him she really wanted to be a journalist. He was stunned. How could anyone not pursue her dream?

By the time the two parted, Epstein had convinced the student to reach for her personal star. The conversation had a profound effect on him as well. “I realized that my own path is to support people in finding careers and jobs they really love,” explains the New York native who now lives in Virginia.

Within 18 months, Epstein had published his first book, You’re Hired! Interview Skills to Get the Job, aimed at demystifying the interview process for job seekers. Today, Epstein also has an Internet radio show and a podcast, both devoted to career coaching. He says he enjoys engaging in “coaching conversations” with people, either at the start or at the crossroads of their professional lives. Still a recruiter, Epstein is in the process of transitioning to being a full-time career coach.

A Barney School of Business graduate, Epstein, who was a marketing major, says the school prepared him well.

“My experience at Barney gave me the confidence to know that I could learn whatever I needed along the way,” he says.

Now, Epstein is giving something back by offering University of Hartford students and alumni career coaching at a greatly reduced fee. And he includes a bit of practical advice. “Allow yourself to change. Remember: your education serves as the foundation...but not as the whole house.”

If you’re looking for a job or deciding on a career and could use some help, Epstein encourages you to e-mail him at Lorne@YoureHiredBook.com.
**Observer Goes to Commencement**

The University's 50th Commencement takes place on Sunday, May 20, 2007. Representatives of each of the previous 49 classes, including members of the Class of 1957, will participate in the ceremony. Go to [www.hartford.edu/50th](http://www.hartford.edu/50th) around June 1 to see a special 50th Commencement edition with stories and a photo gallery. The fall 2007 print issue of the Observer, out in late September, also will contain coverage of the event.
Alumni Art Show

Approximately 160 Hartford Art School alumni had work displayed in an HAS Alumni Small Works Exhibition at the Joseloff Gallery on campus between November and January 2007. This was the first HAS alumni art show since 1991.

The works, which were limited in size to 18 inches square or smaller, included paintings, sculptures, ceramics, drawings, and photography, and came to the show from all corners of the United States.

Alumni Events

Right: Washington Brunch Bunch
This lively, T-shirted group of fans, better known as the Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter, gathered for a pregame brunch before the Hawks’ men’s basketball game against Georgetown University in Washington on Nov. 11, 2006. No, we didn’t win, but it wasn’t for lack of enthusiasm!

Above and right: November Network
Early November 2006 brought a number of alumni together for a Hartford Entrepreneur Networking session. Judging by the smiles, the event was a great success!

Above right: Exploring Egyptology
Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63 (HAS), introduces her audience to the “Legacy of Tutankhamun: Impact, Innovation, Imagination,” a slide lecture presented on Jan. 30 in Wilde Auditorium. The event, open to alumni and others, was offered in preparation for an alumni overnight excursion to Philadelphia, Pa., to view the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition at the Franklin Institute in February. Keller, professor and chair of the Department of Fine Arts and Performing Arts at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, was also the group’s docent for the exhibit.
Irwin Nussbaum
Music for a Change

Art Garfunkel, Suzanne Vega, Wynton Marsalis. Those are just a few of the more than 100 top-shelf musical artists who have graced the stage of what is now called the Lincoln Financial Music for a Change Benefit Concert Series since the program began in April 2000. The series has raised $70,000 to benefit a number of local charities—a figure that is expected to exceed the $100,000 mark by the close of the current season.

“Using music to help the community—what could be better than that?” says Associate Vice President for Student Life and Director of Residential Life Irwin Nussbaum, who conceived the series and continues to be its guiding force.

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE NAME “MUSIC FOR A CHANGE”? Fred Sweitzer, who’s the associate dean of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, suggested it. My original plan was to call the series “Sit Down, Shut Up, and Listen!” (He laughs.) But it didn’t have the philanthropic tone I was looking for.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY LAST-MINUTE NIGHTMARES OR NEAR-DISASTERS ALONG THE WAY? On one occasion, our headliner—who will remain nameless—arrived a half-hour late on a night that we didn’t have an opening act. He grabbed a cigarette, took a shot of whiskey from the bottle in his guitar case, and went on stage to perform an absolutely flawless show—without ever doing a sound check. I was ready to strangle him, but he pulled it off beautifully.

TELL THE TRUTH: DO YOU SECRETLY WISH IT WERE YOU UP THERE ON STAGE? I am definitely a frustrated performer, and I can’t imagine a more enjoyable way to make a living. I would give my wife’s right arm for the talent to be a successful singer. I couldn’t give my arm because I would need it to play the guitar.

OVER THE YEARS, HAVE YOU HOSTED ANY OF THE ARTISTS AT YOUR HOME? I have had a number of performers stay with me rather than head home after a concert or pay for a motel. David Roth left his overcoat in my hall closet for almost a year. I only had him back to do another concert so I wouldn’t have to pay to ship him his coat.

DOES YOUR FAMILY SHARE YOUR TASTE IN MUSIC, OR DO THEY SIMPLY TOLERATE YOU? My two daughters—Dara, 26, and Lauren, 23—grew up listening to music all the time, and it’s still a very important part of their lives. They regularly attended my concerts, sitting in the front row, singing along with all the performers. I believe my wife, Sheila, married me to get free tickets to Alison Krauss and Art Garfunkel.

HOW DO YOU SEE THIS SERIES FITTING IN WITH THE UNIVERSITY’S MISSION? The University calls itself a private university with a public purpose. Since our founding, we have worked hard to stay connected to our neighbors. I think the series represents that effort well. We’re welcoming community members onto our campus for some great music, and we’re helping the nonprofits to help those in our community who can use a little assistance.

For more information on upcoming concerts, go to www.hartford.edu/mfac or contact Irwin Nussbaum at 860.768.7904.
Who benefits from University of Hartford scholarships?
Meet Eliana Cardeno '09 and Brian Cutino '07, University of Hartford scholarship recipients.

Scholarships often are the deciding factor in whether students can attend college, complete their studies, and pursue their dreams. The University of Hartford enjoys a 50-year tradition of excellence in higher education, thanks in large part to scholarships of all sizes established in a variety of ways.

You can help students like Eliana and Brian achieve their dreams and help the University of Hartford graduate more future leaders through your gift to the Annual Scholarship Fund.

VISIT www.hartford.edu/giving
CALL 860.768.2412
USE the convenient postage-paid envelope on page 24 to mail your check, payable to the University of Hartford, to

University of Hartford, Office of Development
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
In honor of the University’s 50th anniversary, the annual Brothers and Sisters United Fashion Show included models dressed in poodle skirts. Shown are (l–r) Elizabeth Rodriguez ’07, Courtney Suess ’07, and Brittany Duncanson ’09. Proceeds from the show go to the BSU Book Fund, which gives students the opportunity to receive one free textbook a semester.

Photo by Cadesha Pearson ’07