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.

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

THEN CAME YOU TO FALL WEEKEND 2007

Be sure you check out Martinis, Manhattans, and Monte Carlo Night. We’ll Say a Little Prayer for You as you roll those dice.

Don’t Walk on By the delicious food at the alumni, parent, and student barbecue.

Share all your news with former roommates, teammates, and professors. After all, That’s What Friends Are For.

And much more!

If you would like to be on the 2007 Homecoming Committee, please contact Kandyce Aust, director of alumni relations, at 860.768.2409 or aust@hartford.edu.
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 alumnus/a. 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!
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
MARIYL LISSE 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
AMYE ROSENBERG (HAS) of New York, N.Y., after a long career as a children’s book author and illustrator for publishers Simon & Schuster, Golden Books, and others, launched Zany Angel™ Projects last year. Rosenberg’s new venture specializes in picture/project books for children in school, hospital, and disadvantaged settings. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book is donated to organizations that serve children, including the George Harrison Fund for UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, and others. Zany Angel information and publications are available only online at www.zanyangel.com.

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 loans-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 MERCiER (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 Pembridge Capital. Corbiere, a senior vice president of Freddie Mac, is responsible for the company’s $93 billion multifamily portfolio.

NANCY 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 Hamisch.

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.

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

1981
DAVID ALMOND (M, HARTT) 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.

1982
JULIUS P. WILLIAMS JR. (M, HARTT) of Ellington, Conn., was interviewed for Fanfare magazine in an article titled “A Conversation with Julius P. Williams.”

1983
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.

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.

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.

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

1985

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 McMahan (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.

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.

Photo: Cie Stroud
Weddings

Gina Perezella & Frank LaRosa ’88
Julianne Parisi ’90 & David L. Gunas ’89
Tina B. Feldman ’94, M’97, & Adam A. Halpern
Jennifer M. Mazzucco ’94 &
William H. Mathews Jr. ’94
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
Jannell 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. Riegle ’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 Slot Fish ’91 & Howard Fish (Jonah Stephen)
Vanessa & Brian List ’91 (Madelyn Grace)
Greta & Michael T. Ryan ’93 (Madeline Marie)
Erika Schlein Eill ’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)

Top row (l–r): Lorraine Stolarz Lanius ’80 & Brian Lanius (Cristian with little sister Eva)
Jennifer 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)

Wedding photos
Top: Gina Bennicasa A’89, ’89 (Barney), and Joseph Gallart were married on June 17, 2006. Joining the bride are friends from the Class of 1989: (l–r) Tina Papachristou Canno, Maria Daskos Kohilakis, Stacy Collman Becker, Meg Smiley Wheaton, Sherri Jedell Wiener, Roz Pelleman Guttentag, Laura Arrigo Nicholson, and Randi Rubin Waisfisz.

Left: Michelle Ponto A’01, ’02, and Matthew M. Grosso ’00, M’03, celebrated their nuptials on July 30, 2006, in Ridgewood, N.J. The bridal party included several Hartford alumni: Jen Kesselman ’01, Jessica Toth ’01, Jennifer Robertson ’02, Bridget Byron ’02, Courtney Markov ’03, and Judy Satus ’02, as well as several Delta Sigma Phi fraternity brothers.

Right: Rachel Williams ’02 (ENHP) and Christopher Vitello ’03 (ENHP) were married in South Windsor, Conn., on Sept. 30, 2006.
**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 WYYZ 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.

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**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.

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**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.

**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.
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.

1989

JONATHAN J. GOUTHIER (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.

1990

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 piano, was recently published by Hal Leonard music publishers.

KHALED M. EL MARSAFY (BARNEY) of New York, N.Y., was appointed to the board of directors of Triton Distribution Systems, Inc., a next-generations, Web-based travel distribution service provider. El Marsafy 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.

1991

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.

1992

JENNIFER SZWALEK (A&S) of New Hope, Pa., was named director of communications at the Lawrenceville (N.J.) School. 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.

CHRIS WILLIAMS ’93.

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.”

PAUL J. FRANCESCONI (A&S) of Medway, Mass., was named senior mortgage consultant at MetroWest Mortgage Group, Inc., in Upton, Mass.

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.

Jacob M. Lebovitz A’42 10.31.06
Thomas J. Angelo A’43 10.22.05
Clifford R. Nelson ’46 12.24.06
Christine M. Volzo A’47 10.4.06
Frank L. Buscarello A’48 9.29.06
Joseph A. D’Onofrio ’48, M’54 7.22.06
Malvin F. DuLac ’48 12.18.06
Henry F. Malin A’48 10.10.06
George N. Stamboulis ’48 10.23.06
George J. Fischer ’49 10.14.06
Lawrence R. McIntosh A’49 8.15.06
Joseph H. Toropilo A’49 11.20.06
Karl H. Kochman A’50 10.10.06
John V. Tarascio Cert’52 9.27.06
Charles M. Byron M’53 10.18.06
Mildred Ellovich Noll ’54 10.27.06
Donald F. Cowles ’56 11.18.06
Francis L. DeTolla ’58 10.11.06
Sandra Wickstrom Lazovic A’58 12.9.06
Lawrence H. Seifel Cert’58 11.24.06
Johnny R. Kolenda M’59 12.20.06
Stanley H. Wasziewicz ’59 10.12.06
Richard L. Ceruti ’60, M’69 11.17.06
Robert C. Goldsnider Cert’60 10.19.06
Mario J. Cecere M’61 12.1.06
Walter J. Dobek M’61 10.25.06
Florence Brown Dickinson Kraft M’61 11.9.06
James J. Brezinski M’62 10.17.06
Nelson A. Youngerman M’63 10.28.06
Dorothy T. Adams M’64 10.11.06
Arnold C. Johnson ’64 1.6.07
Robert E. Murray ’64 11.3.06
Lillian K. Thomas ’64, M’67 11.13.06
Irra Wolf Abramson M’65 11.26.06
Vincent J. Amodeo A’61, ’65 10.24.06
Kenneth J. Donahue A’65 12.20.06
Stephen W. Galovich A’62, A’65 9.17.06
Raymond A. Remisz Jr. ’65 9.7.06
Anne N. Trifiro ’67 10.29.06
Omer J. Perriotat C’69 1.4.07
Lee E. Powell M’69 1.1.07
Ralph S. Conz C’72 12.7.06
Michael J. Callaghan M’73 10.16.06
Harvey R. Cohen ’73 1.14.07
Roger J. Armata M’74 10.12.06
Ira J. Cohen ’75 9.22.06
Melvin Conners Jr. ’78 1.2.07
William R. D’Aquila M’82 11.9.06
Edward J. Borowski ’84 1.5.07
MaryEllen Gallivan ’84 1.1.07
Theodore Mourses Sr. ’87 9.28.06
David R. Schlaper M’94 12.7.06
Mary Dunlap Donaldson Cert’97 10.8.06
Ilyssa Panitz Lipschultz A’89, ’91, and her husband, Brent Lipschultz, welcomed daughter Jaiden Rose on Dec. 18, 2006. Here, Jaiden and her mom meet celebrity real-estate developer Donald Trump at a red-carpet event at FAO Schwartz in Manhattan.

Brent Lipschultz, welcomed daughter Jaiden Rose on Dec. 18, 2006. Here, Jaiden and her mom meet celebrity real-estate developer Donald Trump at a red-carpet event at FAO Schwartz in Manhattan.

JAIMEE J. ROBERTS (BARNEY) of New York, NY, was promoted to associate director in the external financial reporting department of Bear Stearns in New York City.

1995

DANIELLE A. EVANCHIK (ENHP) of Bristol, Conn., is 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 Norwalk, 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.

ELIZABETH DERWIN MORRIS (HARTT) of Redding, Conn., was hired as a music teacher at Weston Intermediate School. Morris joined the Weston school district after teaching five years at Weston Intermediate School. Morris joined the Weston school district after teaching five years at Weston Intermediate School.

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. Geysen 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 Belmore, N.Y., 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 entertaining audiences at The Russell in Hartford, Geraldine’s Night Club in West Springfield, Mass., HuKeLa 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, WFJS, 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., 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 BILODEAU (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.

MERISSA A. HADDAD (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 (A&S) 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, NY., 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 lightning 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.
CAREY R. BROWN (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., appeared as Maria in the Portland Center stage production of West Side Story.

JENNIFER M. DUBIS (HAS) of Lynn, Mass., is creating an art portfolio for every student in her classroom, with the collaboration of Artsonia, the largest online student art museum. Students can see their artwork on the Web, share it with relatives and friends, and even purchase keepsakes with their artwork on it. Dubis teaches at Pine Grove School in Rowley, Mass.

STEPHEN M. GREENSTEIN (AM'02 HILLYER, BARNEY) of Brighton, Mass., has accepted a position as sales assistant for Axis Promotions at the production of Coffeehouse. He previously worked at Blue Man Group Vortex 2006.

ROXANNE L. TIFFANY (HARTT) of Brooklyn, Conn., is employed as a music teacher by the Cheshire School District at the Doolittle School.

SCOTT BEAN (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., assistant conductor of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and complex director for the Honors Residential College of the Arts, was one of two winners of the fourth annual International Conductors Workshop, held in January at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. Bean and winner Keitaro Harada of Tokyo, Japan, will guest-conduct the Macon Symphony Orchestra during the 2007-08 season. Bean is currently pursuing his master’s in orchestral conducting at Hartt.


2004

CHRISTOPHER M. DABBO (HARTT) of Waterbury, Conn., is teaching piano at the Renaissance Center in Southbury, Conn. A songwriter for the band Thrive, Dabbo plays the organ for the First Congregational Church in Bethlehem, Conn., and performs in the largest online student art museum. Students can see their artwork on the Web, share it with relatives and friends, and even purchase keepsakes with their artwork on it. Dubis teaches at Pine Grove School in Rowley, Mass.

MELINDA S. FORMICA (M, SS) of Cheshire, Conn., has been appointed director of development and alumni affairs for the School of Business at Quinnipiac University. Formica works with alumni, parents, students, and friends of the School of Business to advance the institutional interests of the university.

LAURIE K. GRUNIN (HAS) of South Easton, Mass., won second prize in the 18-plus age division in Blue Man Group Vortex 2006: A Juried Exhibition for her oil painting titled Bailey’s Balloon Dog.

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2005

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JULIE A. BRIERE (C, ENHP) of Barkhamsted, Conn., was welcomed as a special education teacher of the LINKS program at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted, Conn.

BRIAN ROSS (HAS) of Hartford, Conn., joined Taylor Design as a print and interactive designer. Taylor Design is a Stamford, Conn., graphic and interactive design firm.

RUTH I. LEVY (M, HARTT) of Middlefield, Conn., has been named assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Connecticut Region 4 district.

MICHAEL SALERNO (A&S) of Wayne, N.J., co-produced, filmed, and edited a feature-length horror movie, Plasterhead, that has played in New York City and Atlanta, Ga. You can view the film’s trailer at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bn4dqJvvyH8.

2006

CHRISTOPHER BEERS (CETA) of Chesterland, Ohio, and ERIK MILLER-KLEIN (CETA) of Seattle, Wash., tied for first place in a national student design competition last fall at the 121st Audio Engineering Society meeting in San Francisco, Calif. The pair’s study mapped how the human voice changes in relation to new microphone locations necessitated by smaller cell phones and hands-free devices. Beers is currently enrolled in the graduate program in acoustics at Pennsylvania State University. Miller-Klein is employed by SSA Acoustics, an acoustical consulting company based in Seattle.

AMY L. DUBENSKY (AOS HILLYER, BARNEY) of Bellmore, N.Y., who is employed at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, suggests applying at Sloan-Kettering to anyone graduating this year or to any other alumni. She says it is a great company with much room to grow. Sloan-Kettering has several locations, in New York City, on Long Island, and in New Jersey.

DEBORAH FITZSIMMONS (M, BARNEY) of Marlborough, Conn., and her husband, Ryan, have opened a portrait studio called Picture This! at The Shops at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor, Conn.

NICOLE K. KONJEVODA (HARTT) of Falls Church, Va., is the new music teacher at Sharon (Conn.) Center School.

LAURA M. MELSON (HARTT) of Bloomfield, Conn., is teaching general music and chorus at the University in Macon, Ga. She splits her time between Dodd Middle School and Highland Elementary School.

Cecilia Philips-Ritchey (HAS) of East Hampton, Conn., was selected as the recipient of a 2006 American Graphic Design Award. “First Impressions 2006 Annual Report,” a senior project, was chosen for excellence in communications and graphic design by Graphic Design USA. Philips-Ritchey has opened CPRdesignco in East Hampton, specializing in marketing and visual communications for not-for-profit corporations and small businesses.

MAXINE ROSENBERG (AS) of Orlando, Fla., has been working in the college program at Walt Disney World, which offers housing and a stipend as part of its training package. As a steam train conductor in the Magic Kingdom section of the resort, Rosenberg, who loves her assignment, says her job is to keep the magic alive and bring smiles to families from all over the world.

GRETCHEN MECK TAUBL (HARTT) of New Haven, Conn., performed with her family at the South Methodist Church in South Middleboro, Mass., and at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Mass. The performance was called “The Taubl Family in Christian Concert.” Taubl’s parents and their seven children have trained variously at The Juilliard School, The Hartt School, and the Yale School of Music. The nonprofit family ministry has performed several times at the United Nations.

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 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.

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**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.
Eliana is pursuing a health sciences major with a focus in pre-dentistry and a minor in psychology. She participates in the Campus Activities Team, the Pre-Med Club and Best Buddies to “give back to the community and the people who have given me the opportunity to pursue my dreams of a better future.”

Brian is pursuing dual degrees in management and politics and government. He is business manager of The Informer, the University’s student-run newspaper. He demonstrates his commitment to community service by organizing food drives and Habitat for Humanity building projects. Brian “aspires to help others and leave a positive mark on society.”

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