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 alumnae. 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.