Thanks to the generosity and foresight of University regent Jean-Pierre van Rooy and his wife, Marie-Claire, the University of Hartford has established the van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis. Their $2 million gift, one of the largest in University history, will allow faculty and students to learn about complexity theory and use it to analyze many aspects of the world around them.

Complexity theory applies to phenomena as disparate as voting patterns, global warming, and the patterns formed by large flocks of birds in flight. It is a relatively new field, one that examines how complex systems generate outcomes. Conflict analysis uses complexity theory to generate practical and applicable knowledge to help understand and possibly resolve conflicts between humans or between humans and nature.

“The science of complexity—the study of complex systems and how their parts interact and where the sources of conflict are—is the scientific frontier of the 21st century,” explained Jean-Pierre van Rooy. “This is an opportunity to build intellectual excitement, pursue learning across disciplines, and prepare University of Hartford students to be the alphas of a brave new world.”

Already, 20-some faculty members from various University schools and colleges have met to find common ground in the shifting and multidisciplinary field of complexity, according to Joseph Voelker, interim provost and a leader in the effort to organize the center. Jane Horvath, associate professor of economics and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named as its founding director.

The center “will bring individuals from very different disciplines—economics, politics and sociology, chemistry, engineering, computer science, mathematics, psychology, business, and others—together to work on intellectual problems, [which will] lower individual college walls,” said Voelker.

He went on to suggest that the van Rooy Center could pursue a number of efforts, including stimulating innovative curriculum design, publishing papers and books on complexity theory, organizing conferences, and establishing a website to allow the exchange of ideas between scientists in the field of complexity theory from around the globe.

“J.P. and Marie-Claire van Rooy understand how important this way of looking at [things] is and want very much for our students to see it as a way to analyze the world,” said President Walter Harrison in announcing the gift. “From physics to psychology to business, complexity theory provides new understanding of very difficult subjects. As a result, our students will have a jump on others in the critical thinking needed to succeed.”

Jean-Pierre van Rooy is the former president of Carrier Corporation’s international division and the former president and chairman of Otis Elevator Company. He is chairman of the Malta House of Care Foundation, which is a free clinic for the uninsured of Hartford. Van Rooy also serves on the board of directors of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and of Bristol Hospital. He was president of Special Olympics Europe-Eurasia and served on the board of Special Olympics International. Marie-Claire van Rooy serves on The Hartt School Board of Trustees. In 2000 the van Rooyos established the annual van Rooy Competition for Musical Excellence for Hartt students. The grand prizewinner of the competition for undergraduate instrumental performance majors receives $10,000; second prize is $5,000 and third is $3,000.
Ed Knight ’56 Remembers
HILLYER COLLEGE ALUMNUS GIVES SOME 30 YEARS LATER

BY PETER CONGLETON

Ed remembers the low water fountains and alphabet stenciling on some classroom walls. He worked the second shift at Pratt & Whitney to accommodate his daytime classes at Hillyer.

In 1987 Ed finished his working career at Farm Credit Banks of Springfield, a co-op created during the Depression to help local farmers stay on their farms by raising money on the bond market to provide loans. As a computer analyst, Ed designed programs that helped farmers analyze their milk production and feeding requirements. After volunteering in various capacities for 10 years, he retired to Arizona in the late 1990s to be near his brothers.

Then Ed’s niece and her entire family were killed by a drunk driver in Seattle, Wash. Ed’s brother set up a charitable remainder trust (CRT) at Seattle Pacific University in their memory, and Ed made a contribution. A CRT allows an individual to contribute assets to a trust, then receive income payments for a lifetime or term of years. The CRT donor receives a charitable income-tax deduction in the year of the gift.

When the trust ends, the remaining principal is distributed to designated charitable organizations.

After giving to his niece’s college, Ed saw the advantage of making a similar arrangement for his own alma mater and established a CRT for the benefit of the University of Hartford. He is pleased to be receiving a reliable stream of lifelong income, and he’s especially glad to be leaving something behind in his own name. By setting up the CRT, he has entrusted the University to spend the proceeds when and where it needs them most, even after he has left us.

To read more of Ed Knight’s and other University of Hartford planned-giving donors’ stories, please visit www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving. You may also contact our director of planned giving, Peter H. Congleton, at 860.768.2415 to learn more about gift-planning opportunities that could work well for you and your family.
The New, Improved 1877 Club

The 1877 Club in the Harry Jack Gray Center on campus is sporting a new, elegant look, thanks to the generosity of longtime University supporters Helen and Harry Jack Gray and an anonymous donor.

After 20 years of steady use, this favorite campus lunch spot and special-event site had started to show “significant wear and tear,” says Zina Davis, director of the Joseloff Gallery and the designer and coordinator of the makeover.

Cosmetic updates include new wall covering and carpet, new chairs, window treatments, and lighting fixtures. The columns in the rotunda were also stripped and recovered.

Stop by and take a look!

Today and Tomorrow
SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY FOR YEARS TO COME

Your tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $10,000 or more can be used to create a named endowed fund.

These funds can support the University as a whole, student scholarships, faculty research, or a specific college, school, or program. The University invests your gift to generate income that is used both to fund the endowment’s purpose, such as study abroad, and to expand the fund for the future.

You determine the name of the fund and where its income goes. Endowed funds can be in your name, the name of a family member or friend, or the name of the recipient of the support, such as the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Appreciation Award.

The endowment you create will exist in perpetuity, honoring its namesake and benefiting future generations of University of Hartford students and faculty. The University is pleased to announce some of the new endowed funds created between Jan. 1 and July 31, 2007.

Abraham M. Huang Endowed Memorial Prize for The Hartt Community Division
Purpose: Talent prize for Community Division’s honors audition
Created by: Eugenia Huang

Hedda Windisch von Goeben Endowment
Purpose: General support of the University
Created by: Hedda Windisch von Goeben ’66

Nancy ’76 and Stanley Wells Graduate MBA Endowed Scholarship
Purpose: Financial support for one entering MBA student
Created by: Nancy ’76 and Stanley Wells

Dr. Nathan Dubin Endowed Scholarship—HAS, Inc.
Purpose: Scholarship in memory of Nathan Dubin
Created by: Renée Dubin

Physical Therapy DPT Endowed Scholarship
Purpose: Supports students in physical therapy doctorate program
Created by: Catherine Certo

Sal Lopes ’71 Endowed Photographic Excellence Award
Purpose: Support for undergraduate photography students
Created by: Sal Lopes ’71

Susan Wilmarth-Rabineau Endowed Scholarship
Purpose: Honors Susan Wilmarth-Rabineau; provides scholarships for painting and drawing students at Hartford Art School
Created by: Hadass and Matthew Rubin, Susan Wilmarth-Rabineau and Nick Ullo

Sylvia Koski Endowed Scholarship
Purpose: Support for undergraduate music students at The Hartt School
Created by: Sylvia Koski

For information on establishing a named endowed fund at the University of Hartford, please contact Toni Robinson, director of donor relations, at 860.768.2435 or robinson@hartford.edu.