Dear Readers,

It was an exciting spring for fans of men’s lacrosse as the team won its first ever America East title in an upset victory over Stony Brook on May 7. The team then headed to Ithaca, N.Y., to face second-seeded Cornell in the opening round of the NCAA Division I Lacrosse Championship, which ended with a 12-5 loss to Big Red. After earning more wins in the season than in the previous four years combined, the Hawks were ranked in two national polls for the first time in 11 years. All this and a team grade point average above 3.0!

Our special section features student learning opportunities outside the classroom, whether they be a research project with a professor, participating in the University’s first Day of Service, building houses on Alternative Spring Break trips, creating clean-water systems in India, or volunteering in shelters, soup kitchens, and other nonprofits in Hartford. These experiences prepare our students for the complex world around them and help them build a value system that will guide their future actions.

We also hear from four faculty members whose research topics recently have been in the media—cell phones and today’s youth, nuclear energy after the disastrous earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the Lost City of Atlantis. Plus, three graduating students show how their intelligence, persistence, and planning have helped them land their first jobs despite a bad economy.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for Hawktober Weekend, Oct. 21–23, 2011.

Go, Hawks!

Trish Charles
Editor-in-Chief
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Read the Observer online at www.hartford.edu/observer.
In the spring of 1967, while I was a junior at Trinity College, I signed up for a course called—if I remember correctly—Contemporary Religious Thought. As part of that course, my professor assigned us to work on a variety of projects in North Hartford. My project was a survey of women who were receiving a form of welfare then called Aid to Dependent Children. As a tiny part of what would become the Welfare-to-Work program, I interviewed a dozen or so women who were receiving this aid.

Through this outside-the-classroom experience I learned more than I ever could have in a classroom about poverty, gender relationships, and powerlessness. One incident illustrates this perfectly. Having just knocked on the door of an interviewee’s apartment, I heard a lot of banging around inside, and then a window opened. Later during the interview, I learned from the interviewee that I had interrupted her boyfriend’s nap, and he had scurried down the fire escape because they both thought I was a government official who would bust them for living together.

Only a few classroom experiences have stayed so vividly in my mind for 44 years. As a result, I have always been an enthusiastic proponent of student engagement. I also know, because of my personal experience, that such engagement is the result of the dedication and commitment of a faculty or staff member. Here at the University of Hartford we are very fortunate to have a number of faculty and staff who create wonderful engagement experiences for our students. I want to outline just a few of them.

Karen Breda, associate professor of nursing, and her colleagues created Project Horizon, which brings our nurse-students to homeless shelters to provide health care. Since students in our program are already registered nurses, they are able to provide what is frequently the only form of health care available to the people who live in these shelters.

Margery Steinberg, associate professor of marketing, created the Micro Business Incubator as part of her commitment to the merchants of Upper Albany Avenue. In her course our students work hand-in-hand with small-business owners, providing help in accounting, marketing, inventory control, and web design. As a result, our students get firsthand experience of the joys and challenges of being a small-business owner.

Mary Christensen, assistant professor of education, leads Educational Main Street (EMS), a program created by my predecessor, Humphrey Tonkin, to provide tutoring and mentoring experiences for our students in the public schools of Hartford’s North End. Now 21 years old, EMS has helped thousands of school children in the Greater Hartford community and changed the lives of thousands of University students.

David Pines, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, leads our student chapter of Engineers Without Borders, which engages our students (in engineering and other areas) in water projects in India and Kenya.

Natacha Poggio, assistant professor of visual communication design, leads students in a variety of projects that provide visual communication to important social causes, ranging from India to North Hartford.

Wick Griswold, associate professor of sociology, leads students on environmental projects involving water in the Hartford area, including yearly river cleanups on campus.

In addition, our Center for Community Service, led by Matt Blocker, provides dozens of opportunities for students to become engaged in projects throughout our community and our nation.

This only scratches the surface of the dozens of faculty and staff and the hundreds of University students engaged in our community and our world. Just thinking of all the people and projects I have had to skip in keeping this essay short, I realize that the University deservedly should be thought of as a leader in student engagement. I trust that our students’ outside-the-classroom experiences change their lives as much as my experience changed mine. For such invaluable educational experience, they have a committed campus community to thank, as do I.

Walt Harris
President
Close to 2,000 visitors came to campus for this year’s Community Day to learn about the University and enjoy an afternoon packed with more than 50 performances, attractions, and events.

Naturalist Rusty Johnson and his red-tailed hawk, above, were a new and popular addition this year. Children and adults alike clustered around Johnson and took pictures of each other with a live version of the University’s mascot. Fifth-graders from the University of Hartford Magnet School, left, played several songs on recorders to the delight of their parents and others in the crowd who gathered to listen.

Joseloff Hosts Environmental Art Exhibit

Oversized red map pins bearing numbers began appearing along the Park River on campus in April. Totaling 20 in all, the pins marked areas of interest identified by local scientists and historians as part of Mary Miss: City as Living Laboratory, Hartford. The multipart, ecologically themed art installation was created to bring attention to the Park River and its watershed by Miss, an internationally renowned environmental artist. The exhibit was on campus April 21-May 29, 2011.

The Hartford installation draws from another Miss project called FLOW (Can You See the River?), commissioned by the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Both seek to engage citizens and make them aware that local watersheds provide their drinking water and support their lives, and that their actions directly affect the watersheds that surround them.

The Hartford exhibition was part of Park Water Arts, a yearlong eco-arts festival spearheaded by Sherry Buckberrough, associate professor of art history and chair of the department, together with Mary Rickel Pelletier, director of the Park River Watershed Revitalization initiative.

At right: Inside Joseloff Gallery, visitors found a large floor map of the campus section of the river with the points of interest marked and a wall key with information on the highlighted points. Armed with a large foldout map detailing the map pin locations, visitors could visit the sites along the river selected by Miss.
Singing in the Rain
JOY AT COMMENCEMENT 2011 NOT DAMPENED BY SOGGY WEATHER

Nothing, and certainly not the rainy weather, could spoil the mood for the University’s 54th Commencement ceremony. Approximately 1,500 graduates and thousands of their families and friends huddled under rainbow-colored umbrellas for an abbreviated main ceremony on Gengras Lawn.

Anne Garrels, former National Public Radio senior foreign correspondent and author of Naked in Baghdad (2003), which chronicles her experiences in Iraq before and during the war, was the keynote speaker and recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Garrels received a loud burst of applause upon announcing that she was about to give the shortest Commencement speech ever.

“You are amazing,” Garrels told the graduates as they sat through on-and-off rain. “I don’t think anything could dampen the spirit of this amazing institution and your achievements.” Her full speech, as she intended to give it, can be heard at www.hartford.edu/commencement.

Also receiving honorary degrees at Commencement were dancer and choreographer Peggy Lyman Hayes ’05 (Doctor of Fine Arts), real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist Simon Konover (Doctor of Commercial Science), and Grammy Award–winning saxophonist, bandleader, and composer Paul Winter (Doctor of Music). In honor of the graduates, Winter performed his original composition, “Sun Singer,” on soprano saxophone.

Richard J. Cardin ’62, a visionary business leader and tireless supporter of the University, received the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award at the ceremony. Cardin, who earned a bachelor’s in English from the College of Arts and Sciences, has served on the board of regents for 11 years, and was cochair of the steering committee for the University’s $175 million Campaign of Commitment. A strong supporter of the liberal arts, he sponsors an annual lecture series that brings nationally acclaimed writers to campus and also underwrites the undergraduate literary magazine, Aeris.

The 2011 recipient of the Hartt Alumni Award is David Macbride ’73, a prolific composer and professor of composition and music theory at Hartt. Macbride, who holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Columbia University, has written more than 200 works, ranging from solo, chamber, and orchestral music to music for television, dance, and theatre, with particular emphasis on music for
7. Ten of 28 graduates from Saudi Arabia gathered for this photo before the ceremony. They are the first group to graduate after studying at the University under the King Abdullah Foreign Scholarship program. Most earned degrees in mechanical, electrical, or civil engineering. About 20,000 Saudi students study in the United States under the scholarship program, which is designed to foster greater cultural understanding between Saudis and people of other countries.

8. Anne Garrels, former NPR foreign correspondent, was the keynote speaker.
9. Simon Konover (left), real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist, with former chair of the board of regents Arnold C. Greenberg (Hon. ’89).
10. Composer and musician Paul Winter plays “Sun Singer.”
11. Peggy Lyman Hayes ’05, dancer and choreographer, listens as President Harrison reads the citation for her honorary degree.

7. Matthew Forte received the Belle K. Ribicoff Prize for academic excellence.
13. Kaitlyn Brescia was awarded the John G. Lee Medal for academic excellence and community service.
14. Joseph Dahlmeyer will study at Oxford University for two years as the recipient of the John G. Martin Scholarship.

perception. His compositions have been performed extensively in the United States and abroad. His Perussion Park was performed at the University in April (see story, p. 7).

Three graduating students were honored at Commencement for their exceptional accomplishments. Matthew Forte, a music history major in The Hartt School, was recognized with the Belle K. Ribicoff Prize, which is awarded for academic excellence. Forte received praise for his skill as a conductor and plans to pursue a Graduate Performance Diploma in orchestral conducting at Hartt.

Joseph Dahlmeyer, a chemistry major in the College of Arts and Sciences, received the John G. Martin Scholarship, which makes possible two years of study at Oxford University’s Hertford College in England. Dahlmeyer will be working toward a master’s in organic chemistry at Oxford with an ultimate goal of earning a PhD. Kaitlyn Brescia, an English major in the College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded the John G. Lee Medal, which recognizes academic excellence and community service. During her senior year, Brescia spent time in Natal, Brazil, working to help feed and provide clothing for the homeless. She turned her experiences into articles for Vá Livre, a quarterly missionary newsletter.

Five faculty members were recognized this year for their outstanding achievements. Jack L. Powell, professor of psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, received the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching; Timothy Black, associate professor of sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences and director of the Center for Social Research, was presented with the James E. and Frances W. Bent Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity; Jerry Katrichis, associate professor of marketing in the Barney School of Business, was recognized with the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University; and Joan O’Mara, associate professor of speech and drama in Hillyer College, received the Donald W. Davis All-University Curriculum Award. In addition, the Belle K. Ribicoff Junior Faculty Prize, now in its third year, was awarded to Bryan Sinche, assistant professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Also part of the Commencement crowd were the Golden Hawks, members of the Class of 1961. Fifteen members of the class, who graduated from the University 50 years ago, braved the weather to don golden robes and attend the ceremony.
Music with a Purpose
HOW A UNIVERSITY CONCERT SERIES BROUGHT JOY IN MANY WAYS

After 11 years, nearly 200 concerts, and almost $160,000 raised for Greater Hartford nonprofit organizations, the University’s MUSIC for a CHANGE benefit concert series ended on April 30, 2011, with a final show featuring musicians Kenny White and Liz Longley.

Irwin Nussbaum, associate vice president for student life and director of the Student Success Center, launched the series in 2000 with the goal of using music to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations.

“It’s been a real thrill for me to use music to help the community,” Nussbaum says. “There’s nothing better than that.” MUSIC for a CHANGE followed a long-standing tradition in folk and acoustic music of supporting social change.

Nussbaum points out that the series fit the University’s commitment to community because it welcomed community members onto campus for some great music, while the proceeds helped nonprofits serve people in the surrounding communities who need it.

During its run, MUSIC for a CHANGE series proceeds were distributed to a wide range of local nonprofit organizations, including Interval House, FoodShare, Habitat for Humanity, and Connecticut Special Olympics.

The series was able to raise the funds by bringing top-notch entertainment to campus, like music headliners Art Garfunkel, Wynton Marsalis, Shawn Colvin, Alison Krauss, Richie Havens, Jonathan Edwards, and Aztec Two-Step, rounded out by comedians Paula Poundstone, Steven Wright, and The Capitol Steps.

“For the last three years, the lack of an individual or corporate sponsor meant ticket revenue has just been covering the concert expenses, and there is nothing left over for our Hartford-area cosponsoring agencies,” said Nussbaum in explaining the demise of the series. “I would be very happy to revive the benefit concert series if a sponsorship presents itself.”

Keep Your Old Sneakers Out of a Landfill

Physical therapy doctoral student Alyssa Itzkowitz D’12 organized a Nike Reuse-A-Shoe drive on campus this spring. Itzkowitz, who is president of the Student Special Interest Group of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Student Association, had been searching for a project to bring together students in the physical therapy schools within the state.

The Nike sneaker-recycling program seemed to offer an opportunity for some friendly competition among the schools. Nike grinds up the collected sneakers, then sells the material to companies that build sports surfaces like running tracks and tennis courts.

“The idea of using these sneakers for basketball courts, tennis courts, high-school tracks, playgrounds, and other surfaces appealed to us,” says Itzkowitz. “We work with athletes and citizens who run or play sports for exercise. Recycling the sneakers as material for sports surfaces just made sense.”
The Halls Were Alive with the Sound of Music

COMPOSER’S GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY IS THE JOY OF PARTICIPATING

As many of the 100 or more attendees tried to jam into the elevator outside Millard Auditorium, Associate Professor Michael Anderson and graduate student Owen Weaver sat on the elevator floor to perform “Flowering,” a popular musical selection. Played with chopsticks on the rims of 10 ordinary clay flower pots, the piece was offered numerous times that evening.

The performance was a selection rendered during the mid-April premiere of Percussion Park: A Musical Landscape by David Macbride ’73, professor of composition and theory in The Hartt School. Macbride is also the recipient of the 2011 Hartt Alumni Award. The unusual composition, newly adapted for the Hartt Percussion Ensemble, was directed by Benjamin Toth, chair of Hartt’s percussion department. The multisite performance encouraged attendees to roam the halls of the Fuller Music Center at their own pace in search of the dozen or so mostly percussion ensembles.

It all began in Millard Auditorium with “Dancing—a quinter for pieces of wood, triangles, finger cymbals, and shakers.” Audience members received maps and a program and then ventured out, perhaps heading for “Noise—solo for three cymbals,” being performed in the second-floor hallway. A little more than an hour later, they would return to the Millard stage to participate in the finale, “Meditation,” using various provided percussion instruments.

Toth says that Percussion Park reflects Macbride’s interest in sharing his work with his community and is a natural extension of the many family concerts he has presented in the area. The composer agrees.

“All composers from time to time think about the relevance of their work to the real world,” says Macbride. “One way composers can bring their music to people is to present it in non-concert hall settings. Since I live across the street from Elizabeth Park, I wrote a piece in 1990 called ‘Rose Garden,’ which was a ‘site-specific’ work written for the Hartford Symphony to be played in the Rose Garden at Elizabeth Park that included audience participation.

“Musicians also think about finding new audiences to play for. I have been playing at senior citizen homes, community centers, and schools for many years, often with my two kids. When older and younger people can get together and enjoy doing something fun and meaningful, everybody feels good.”

SPRING 2011
Two Weeks in Haiti
PROVIDING AMPUTEES WITH NEW LIMBS

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake that shook the southern part of Haiti in January 2010 was the most powerful to hit the nation in a century. Despite assistance from U.S. and international aid groups, recovery has been slow, complicated by a cholera outbreak that has claimed more than 4,000 victims so far.

Last October, Paul Armstrong, an adjunct faculty member in the physical therapy department, flew into the Port-au-Prince airport to spend two weeks at Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Deschapelles, Haiti, fitting amputees with prosthetic limbs.

“It’s hard to describe the devastation and suffering in Port-au-Prince, which took the brunt of the shock from the earthquake,” Armstrong says. “There were tens of thousands of people living in tents with no electricity or running water and very, very poor sanitation. It’s no surprise that Haiti is now suffering from a cholera epidemic that makes things even more difficult for the people living there.”

In addition to teaching in the University’s prosthetics and orthotics program, Armstrong manages 14 employees who build prosthetic and orthotic devices for Hanger Orthopedic Group, a leading provider of prosthetic and orthopedic products and services. Hanger is also the University’s partner in the Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics degree program, which is launching its first cohort of students this summer. He also manages the practice and treats patients at Hanger’s branch office in Vernon, Conn.

It was through Hanger that Armstrong traveled to Haiti. His trip was sponsored by the Ivan R. Sabel Foundation, named for Hanger’s former CEO, which provides prosthetic and orthotic care to those who cannot afford it. The foundation maintains a regular rotation of three or four Hanger prosthetists who go to Haiti for two-week stays. Physical therapists at Hanger’s clinic come from Physicians for Peace.

Most of the patients that Armstrong saw arrived by van at Hospital Albert Schweitzer, which is about two-and-a-half hours from Port-au-Prince in an area not damaged by the earthquake. The hospital’s electricity came from two giant on-site generators. The staff also made weekly trips to an orphanage in Port-au-Prince, where they fitted patients initially for prosthetics who later came to the clinic to receive their new limbs.

“Every morning the van from Port-au-Prince would drive up, and the waiting room was suddenly filled with people. The youngest was about 3 years old and the oldest was probably 60. Half of our patients were victims of the earthquake, but the other half had lost limbs in accidents or due to poor medical care.” Armstrong says that in his Connecticut practice a busy day would mean seeing five or six patients. In Haiti, he would see 15 to 20.

Despite what most would consider very rough conditions at Hospital Schweitzer and a grueling pace, Armstrong enjoyed the experience. He was able to build prosthetic devices for patients and send them directly to physical therapy at the hospital. “We could see right away if adjustments were needed. You don’t get that kind of immediate feedback in private practice. And it was nice to focus on treating the patients and not have to worry about insurance coverage.”

Eventually Hanger hopes to turn the clinic over to Haitian medical professionals. Part of Armstrong’s time there was spent teaching new techniques and human anatomy to the four Haitian technicians who work at the clinic full time. With time and additional training from Hanger, he feels they will become capable clinicians.

Asked if he would be willing to return to Haiti at a later date, Armstrong says, “Yes, I would. I think anyone who works in health care is drawn to situations where they can help others. And being in Haiti made me see how much impact I could have in people’s lives.”
Lacrosse Wins First America East Title

Earning more wins during the season than in the previous four years combined, the men’s lacrosse team captured its first America East title in program history with a thrilling 11-10 victory at Stony Brook on May 7.

Junior Ryan Compitello netted the game winner with just one second left on the clock to propel the Hawks into the NCAA Tournament and a first-round game at Cornell on May 14. The Hawks fell to the second-seeded Big Red (12-5), finishing the season 11-7 overall—their best mark since 2000.

For head coach Peter Lawrence, the dramatic turnaround on the field was representative of the type of student-athlete who has been attracted to the program. Off the field this past year, the lacrosse program won the Department of Athletics’ community service award and earned a team grade point average over 3.0.

“We have eight seniors who didn’t win a game as freshmen,” Lawrence said, “and they stuck it out, believed in the program, and helped change the culture of Hartford lacrosse.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: In late May the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association announced its annual list of Division I All-Americans. For the first time in Hartford men’s lacrosse history, two Hawks were chosen. Tim Fallon ’12 was named to the second team and Carter Bender ’12 received honorable mention. Fallon was a two time, first-team All-America East honoree and the 2011 New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association’s Player of the Year. Bender was named to the America East All-Conference Second Team and NEILA First Team in 2011.

Men’s Soccer Welcomes Ninth Coach

Tom Poitras has been named the ninth head coach in the 54-year history of the University of Hartford men’s soccer program. A native of Southington, Conn., Poitras comes to Hartford with a polished résumé that includes 17 years of collegiate coaching experience.

“In Tom, we have an individual who has been a head coach at three highly respected institutions and comes to Hartford with a wealth of experience,” says Patricia Meiser, director of athletics. “In each case, he made a significant impact on the success of the men’s soccer programs.”

Poitras recently completed his seventh season as the head coach at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he piloted the Phoenix to an impressive 72-46-18 record, including four seasons with 10 or more wins and four Horizon League Championship game appearances. Most impressively, Poitras guided Green Bay to a historic season in 2009 that saw the program earn its first-ever Horizon League title, coupled with an NCAA Division I Tournament appearance, the first in 26 years.
Call Me—Any Time, Any Place, Anywhere
ROMANCE IN THE TIME OF CELL PHONES

Because I grew up with rotary phones and the only answering machine in the house was my mother, I've seen firsthand the development of new communication technologies and how we use them with family, friends, and romantic partners. I find the changes fascinating, leading me to one of my research interests.

With Professor Robert Duran and then-graduate student Teodora Rotaru M’08, both in the School of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences, I conducted a study on college students’ use of cell phones in their romantic relationships. We were interested in whether 24/7 availability-by-cell-phone creates tension in relationships. Would people feel their independence was threatened? Most of us enjoy being connected to others but also want some autonomy to do as we please.

Constant availability seemed to be a double-edged sword. Those who expected their partners to be always available by phone felt their own freedom to spend time with friends was restricted: “If I want my partner to be a phone call (or text) away at all times, I have to be too,” was the attitude. One student complained about having to “call too much to check in when we are away from each other.”

Some had conflict because the partner did not always answer the phone. One student wrote, “How come I couldn’t get in touch with her? Where was her phone?” Like a parent who buys a teen a cell phone to keep in touch, he knows the truth: she has her phone but sees that it is him (again!) and refuses to pick up.

Negotiating rules about when it is and isn’t appropriate to call or text might reduce tension. Thirty-four percent of our study participants said they did have rules about contacting each other. Even more of them felt that rules are unnecessary, but not having rules didn’t always work out well. Such was the case with the student who said his girlfriend “can call whenever she wants, but if I am busy or doing something else, she always gets mad.”

The idea of cell phone rules intrigued me and was the focus of a next project, completed with Professor Duran and another colleague, Assistant Professor Aimee Miller.

Students rated cell phones as a very important means of communicating in their romantic relationships. We found that if they were happy with their use of cell phones, they were more satisfied with the relationship overall. But what about rules?

“No thanks,” they told us. Couples were happier when there were no cell phone rules. That meant they could call or text each other as often as they wished and check one another’s call and text logs to see who else their partners were contacting.

We found one exception to the preference for no rules. Study participants said they were happier overall if they did have rules about not fighting over the phone.

Although many students seem to text a great deal, when it comes to romantic relationships, they often weigh the appropriateness of communication channels before choosing. My other research has shown that study participants say miscommunication is the biggest drawback to texting. Despite this fact, they overwhelmingly prefer texting to calling for uncomfortable or unpleasant situations.

Since they know they are more apt to text, and texting leads to miscommunication, they recognize that rules about not using the cell phone to fight are important.

Readers might be relieved to know, too, that 96 percent of participants said they would opt for face-to-face communication to say, “I love you,” for the first time, and only 4 percent said they would break off a relationship with a text message.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Lynne Kelly is professor of communication and director of the School of Communication at the University of Hartford.
The Sound of Silence
FIVE DAYS WITHOUT A CELL PHONE

“Of the students who thought it a useful experiment, several mentioned noticing the campus for the first time.”
—WILLIAM MAJOR

By William Major, associate professor of English in Hillyer College. A longer essay by Major was published under the title “Thoreau’s Cell Phone Experiment” in the Jan. 16, 2001, issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education. The essay generated so many comments that The New Yorker wrote about it in an online article.

Inspired by Henry David Thoreau’s experiment described in his book Walden—living a life of simplicity and solitude in the Massachusetts woods—I have conducted my own experiment in my sophomore literature class for the last few years. On our final day of discussing Walden, I ask students to get out their Blackberries and smartphones and lay them on their desks. Then I explain that they will receive added points for the course if they will let me keep their phones for five days.

From the looks on their faces, you would think I’d asked the class to remove their collective clothes. Which, in a way, I had.

While it might seem that Thoreau’s most difficult lesson for American college students is to “simplify,” to reduce both needs and wants, I don’t see it that way. My students say they are generally in favor of conserving, spending less, and living with fewer things—at least in theory. Where they take a stand is when Thoreau asks them to spend time alone, away from family and friends. Solitude scares them. For Thoreau, the opposite was true.

“I find it wholesome to be alone the greater part of the time,” Thoreau writes. “I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.” This is a sentiment so disturbing to some of my students that it makes them angry.

Their reluctance to give up their phones (many students did not participate) seemed to derive primarily from fear. They worried that they would miss something: a family emergency, a party, a job offer, a friend who “really needed” them. Many were anxious they would be stuck somewhere on the road, having had an accident, and be unable to call for help. In short, most thought little good could come of an experiment meant to liberate them from the incessant presence of other people.

I asked my students to write about being left in the technological cold. Several wrote that they missed their morning classes because I had their alarms. One or two had to deal with angry significant others who hadn’t received answers to their many text messages.

One student confessed: “My expectation as well as fear about giving up my phone was that I would not have anyone to talk to. I imagined myself all alone for the entire weekend. I was basically afraid of being alone.” She said she experienced “a feeling of emptiness. I felt like I lost a friend.”

One student confessed that her fingers wouldn’t stop twitching while I had her phone. Others reported that they found themselves reaching for their phones in vain as said phones lay silent at the bottom of my desk drawer near the hand lotion and ibuprofen.

It took several hours, they said, to adjust to not having that little shot of adrenaline or whatever they feel as they receive an important communication: “I’m at the library where r u?”

Of the students who thought it a useful experiment, several mentioned noticing the campus for the first time. One said he found himself talking with strangers, a practice Thoreau was fond of and one that may have helped this student understand the difference between real and misplaced fears.

Even the students who mentioned feeling liberated said their behavior wouldn’t change. Their novel sensation of freedom was perhaps too much to bear. But Thoreau had hope. He knew that “it is never too late to give up our prejudices.” I, too, have prejudices. I, too, have a smartphone. I will endeavor to give up both.
Making Nuclear Power Safe
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM FUKUSHIMA

The tragic events that have unfolded in Japan surrounding the Fukushima nuclear plants that were damaged by an earthquake and tsunami may have some Americans questioning the safety of nuclear energy in the United States. This country currently has 104 nuclear plants in operation, and they generate 20 percent of the nation’s electricity. In Connecticut, 50 percent of our electricity comes from the two operating units at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station near Niantic. We rely on nuclear power as one of the nation’s emissions-free power options; eliminating it would be a mistake for the environment and would increase our dependence on natural gas and coal.

The recent events at Fukushima should spur efforts in this country to build a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel. The disaster should promote comprehensive reviews in the United States of our operating nuclear plants to determine the level of natural and manmade calamity they might have to withstand. Japanese officials’ confidence in the ability of its seawalls to protect the coastal plants in Fukushima led them to place backup diesel power on the ground level—a miscalculation that proved disastrous when seawater flooded the plant.

The Japanese disaster has clearly shown the importance of backup power for older nuclear reactors, predominantly those constructed in the 1970s that lack internal safeguards against power loss. It has also shown the potential for a significant radioactive release from spent fuel rods stored at the reactor sites. Fortunately, there is technology to resolve both of these issues, but the lack of political will and negative public outcry have so far derailed the location and construction of a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel.

It is inherent in nuclear fission that post-shutdown cooling is required (unlike fossil-fueled power, which goes to zero power immediately). The decayed energy in the nuclear reaction drops to 1 percent of full power after several days, but it takes several years to drop low enough for air cooling to be adequate. The newest reactor designs have incorporated large water supplies within the containment structure to provide cooling in the event of a loss of power—and without any human-directed intervention for at least three days—to prevent meltdown of the reactor core. Beyond three days, it is generally acknowledged that external cooling could be initiated even after the largest natural, or worst terrorist-instigated, calamity.

But that doesn’t solve the problem of storing spent fuel. The Fukushima situation has shown that spent fuel stored on site does not receive the same level of protection as the fuel inside the reactor core. Core fuel is housed in a thick, steel-walled pressure vessel and further enclosed by several feet of concrete. By contrast, spent fuel is stored in deep pools of water, usually in an adjacent building that is not constructed to the same level of protection as the reactor core.

At present the United States stores all spent nuclear fuel at the power plant where it was used. Some of these storage facilities have been in existence for more than 40 years. Even plants like Connecticut Yankee in Haddam Neck, Conn., that have long been closed and demolished are still storing spent nuclear fuel. Lawmakers need to have the political will to create a long-term storage repository and remove much of this high-level radioactive waste from individual reactor sites. The viability of a storage technology has been demonstrated at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M., which has been storing defense-related spent fuel products for more than a decade.

If the United States constructs a commercial spent-fuel storage facility, verifies that the current nuclear power plants can safely shutdown after a natural disaster, and incorporates passive safety features into new nuclear-reactor designs, nuclear power can be a safe technology that meets our needs for reliable generation of electricity while reducing carbon dioxide emissions and our carbon footprint.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thomas Filburn is associate professor of mechanical engineering, and David Pines is associate professor and chair of civil, environmental, and biomedical engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA). Filburn previously spent four years as a plant engineer at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station and worked on nuclear reactor core design and fabrication for United Nuclear Corporation. He presently teaches a graduate-level nuclear engineering course in CETA. Pines is the study manager for a Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering program that is examining the potential for additional nuclear-powered electricity in Connecticut.
The Lost City of Atlantis—Now Found?
PROFESSOR MAY HAVE HELPED SOLVE AN ANCIENT MYSTERY

Did the fabled lost city of Atlantis actually exist? If so, where was it located? What happened to it?

An international team of experts whose leaders include archaeologist Richard Freund, director of the University of Hartford’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, believes it has found the answers to those questions in the marshlands of southwestern Spain. Using satellite photography, ground-penetrating radar, and underwater technology, Freund and his colleagues say that they have found the remains of an ancient city that they believe is Atlantis, submerged by a tsunami some 4,000 years ago.

Their work was chronicled in a National Geographic Channel documentary, Finding Atlantis, which was broadcast nationally on March 13, just two days after the tragic tsunami in northern Japan.

The possible discovery of an answer to one of the most tantalizing mysteries of the ancient world—combined with the devastating, modern-day disaster in Japan—created worldwide interest in the Atlantis project and put Freund at the center of an international media frenzy.

From Newsweek to The Jerusalem Post to the BBC, Freund was interviewed by media outlets around the world. He also received hundreds of e-mails inquiring about the discovery, including many offers to help with the project.

“Everyone was surprised at how the story of an ancient civilization destroyed after an earthquake and tsunami was just so much more real after seeing the devastation in Japan,” Freund says.

The Greek philosopher Plato wrote about Atlantis some 2,600 years ago, describing it as “an island situated in front of the straits which are by you called the Pillars of Hercules.” He was referring to the Strait of Gibraltar and using the name by which it was known in antiquity. The strait connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean between southern Spain and northwest Africa. Plato wrote that “one grievous day and night . . . Atlantis was swallowed up by the sea and vanished.”

Eight years ago, a pair of German scientists examining satellite photographs identified what looked like a submerged city in the midst of one of the largest swamps in Europe, the Doña Ana National Park in southern Spain. The satellite photos showed a circular structure set deep in the swamp, which fit with Plato’s description of the city of Atlantis.

In 2006 a group of Spanish archaeologists began following up on the satellite photographs. They invited Freund, who is well known for his use of cutting-edge imaging technology—ground-penetrating radar, digital mapping, and electrical resistivity tomography—to join them. Freund assembled his team, including three Canadian geophysicists led by chief geophysicist Paul Bauman and geographer Philip Reeder from the University of South Florida, and they headed to Spain to work in the mudflats of Doña Ana. Another group of Spanish marine archaeologists worked just off the coast.

Freund’s team and the Spanish archaeologists found many artifacts, including multiple images carved as stone signposts of what looks like an Atlantean warrior guarding the entrance to the ringed city.

But the most powerful evidence, Freund says, was his discovery of a series of “memorial cities” built in the image of Atlantis about 100 miles away, in central Spain. Freund believes that the refugees of the Atlantis tsunami built these miniature versions of Atlantis as memorials to their former home.

Today, the media frenzy surrounding the possible discovery of Atlantis has begun to die down, but work continues at the archaeological site in the Spanish marshland. The Atlantis project will be chronicled in Freund’s new book, Digging through History: From Atlantis to the Holocaust (Rowman and Littlefield, 2011), which is due out later this year. ■

Left: Richard Freund holds two female clay figures found at the Doña Ana National Park site in southern Spain.
Right: Freund at Badajoz Archaeological Museum in Spain with a stele found at one of the “memorial cities.” He believes that the circular image carved into the stone slab may represent Atlantis and that the stele is commemorating the lost city.
SUPER SENIORS
ABLE TO LEAP TALL BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT
Jasmaine Seaberry finished her bachelor’s in communication with a concentration in public relations during the fall 2010 semester and received her degree at spring Commencement. Seaberry is the first in her family to earn a bachelor’s degree. She is also enrolled in the accelerated master’s program in the School of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences, which means she will complete her master’s at the end of the fall 2011 semester.

Born and raised in Queens, N.Y., Seaberry never envisioned staying in the city. “It was time for me to get out, and the University of Hartford had everything I wanted. I knew I had to get my master’s to get a good job, and I love that I could get both degrees in five years—plus my mother loved the campus.”

She worked hard all four years—as a resident advisor in the freshman complexes for the past three years, a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America, and a member of Women Against Rape and Sexual Assault—all while being on the Dean’s List. Last summer she was determined to get an internship. She started researching and sending out letters to every public relations company she could find in New York City.

“I never gave up and then something popped up,” Seaberry says. That something was an internship at a new public relations company on the Upper West Side, Cordelia Donovan, Inc. Seaberry’s persistence paid off. She interned there all summer and has a full-time position waiting for her in December when she finishes her master’s.

Sometimes networking is the answer both online and off. Clay Pipkin, a senior acoustical engineering major in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, was born and raised in Taiwan by his American parents. He came to the University of Hartford after a brief stay in India and six months in Arizona, where he learned to build a guitar. That experience made him realize that being an engineer and building things sounded like an interesting future.

While an undergraduate, Pipkin was a member of the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders and traveled to India several times to help build a clean-water system in a village there. As his time at the University was ending, he realized he had to buckle down and find a job.

“I went to Career Services on campus. They told me to post my résumé on LinkedIn [an online networking site],” says Pipkin. Sure enough, being on LinkedIn led to a job offer. “When I checked my e-mail later, I saw that not only was someone interested in my résumé, they had offered me a job if I interviewed with them.” That someone was Victoria Cerami ’81, an alumna of the University’s acoustics and music program, who owns Cerami & Associates, Inc., an acoustical, audiovisual, and technology design firm in New York City. Thanks to LinkedIn and an alumni link, Pipkin starts his new job in July.

Like Jasmaine Seaberry, James Ogwu knows the importance of an internship. A native of Nigeria who moved to Hartford at age 12, Ogwu, who was named a Hartford Scholar and received a half-tuition scholarship to the University, was determined to be active and successful while here. In addition to his studies, he worked campus jobs, including managing the Anchor Fund call center, tutoring in Hillyer College, and working at the library circulation desk.

Ogwu majored in both economics/finance and insurance in the Barney School of Business. His honors include membership in the Sigma Alpha Phi Honors Society and Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, being named to the President’s List and the Dean’s List, and being recognized as the University of Hartford outstanding student during the 2011 College Academic Day at the State Capitol. He was a member of the Barney Leadership Council, the Economics and Finance Society, and the Global Ambassadors Club, which seeks to increase intercultural understanding and awareness on campus.

For the past two years, Ogwu interned at UnitedHealthcare in Hartford, Conn., through Inroads, a national program that places talented minorities in corporate internships and helps them become leaders. He was offered a job at UnitedHealthcare after his internship.

“It’s so important to intern. I wish I had done it all four years,” says Ogwu, who will begin his new job in July. He was excited to graduate and start his career. “I’m working in a new department, so I don’t really know what to expect. But my eyes and hands are open to try new things.”

Their weapons are intelligence, achievement, confidence, perseverance, hard work, and promise. They use them to defeat the negatives in today’s job market—high unemployment, economic downturn, inflation, downsizing, and despair. As members of the Class of 2011, they offer the successes they have had in the classroom and their experiences in internships and study abroad opportunities to employers. And guess what: with a mix of preparation and determination, these new graduates are on the path to achieve their career dreams. Meet three examples of the Class That Could.
GETTING ENGAGED

Student learning outside the classroom

Our mission: As a private university with a public purpose, we engage students in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in, and contribute to, a pluralistic, complex world.

The ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius said, “Tell me and I will forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I will understand.” At the University of Hartford, faculty and staff purposefully offer students many opportunities to become involved and engaged in learning. Sometimes these opportunities are extensions of classroom assignments; at other times they are outside-the-classroom programs that enable students to learn more about their community and their world.

Our students can apply their growing academic expertise to various projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Not only can they learn about the environment, but they can participate in “green” projects as well. They can build and install life-changing wells and farm equipment for people in India and Kenya. They can conduct research to improve people’s health. They can assist the elderly, paint murals on buildings, perform for shut-ins, give lessons and tutor children in Hartford and surrounding towns. And they can help small-business owners create business plans and assist local communities and nonprofits with architectural and planning projects.

The following section features examples of just a few of the many ways our students get involved and engaged in our community and the world.
LENDING A HELPING HAND IN HARTFORD

The University’s first-ever Day of Service, “Hawks Helping Hartford,” on April 8, attracted approximately 200 participants who raked and mulched along the Connecticut riverfront in downtown Hartford, picked up litter along Albany Avenue in Hartford, and did various cleanup jobs at local nonprofit organizations.

The event was organized by the University’s Center for Community Service and the Student Government Association, which provided transportation from Konover Campus Center to the service locations and a barbecue for participants afterwards. Matt Blocker, director of the Center for Community Service, was pleased with the turnout for the inaugural event.

“Our first Day of Service was highly successful for both our participants and nonprofit community partners. People were exchanging positive feedback and encouragement as they enjoyed the closing barbecue. We hope this program will become a long-lasting tradition here at the University of Hartford.”

In implementing a Day of Service, the University of Hartford joins many other colleges and universities that sponsor days of volunteer service for faculty, staff, and students, as well as corporations and nonprofit organizations and the federal government. President Barack Obama has encouraged Americans to make Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday a national day of service.

“The community needs people like us—people who take time out of their busy schedules to paint a bathroom or to organize a shelter’s donations or to play with children in after-school care. The people who need our help are right under our noses,” says Marissa Giannarino ’12, a Student Government Association senator who helped plan the event. “During the day I saw people’s faces light up from the help we were providing. I also saw students and faculty with smiling faces, coming together with other members of our own community to give back to the [larger] community we live in.”

The University also launched a new website, uofh.volunteermatch.org, to encourage faculty, staff, students, and alumni to sign up, in groups or as individuals, for volunteer opportunities in Greater Hartford and their hometowns. As its name suggests, registered users can choose from a database of opportunities to find the one that matches their interests, location, or talents.
HONOR SOCIETY BOOK DRIVE SUPPORTS YOUTH LITERACY

CAMPUS DONATES MORE THAN 400 BOOKS TO MAGNET SCHOOLS

University faculty, staff, and students donated more than 400 books suitable for kindergarten through 12th-grade students during a campus book drive in February. The University of Hartford chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Society held the drive, and the collected books were distributed to the libraries of the University of Hartford Magnet School and University High School of Science and Engineering.

Alpha Chi chapters across the country partner each year with Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), a national literacy-promotion program that helps children learn to read and helps provide the resources for them to do so. Alpha Chi at Hartford participated in Books for Ownership, an RIF program that donates 15 million books annually.

“The librarian at the University of Hartford Magnet School said the children were ecstatic when the books arrived,” says Lisa Karwowski ’12, the chapter’s public-relations officer. “They kept some of the books in the library but handed out the rest to the students. She said some of the children had never owned a book before.”

Alpha Chi National Honor Society admits the top 10 percent of an institution’s juniors, seniors, and graduate students across all academic disciplines. The Hartford chapter, founded in 1974, currently has 159 members, 97 of whom were inducted this spring. The new members had to have a minimum grade point average of 3.84, according to faculty advisor Donald Jones, associate professor and chair of rhetoric and professional writing.

TURN! TURN! TURN!

STUDENT RESEARCH TEAM WORKS TO IMPROVE BALANCE IN ELDERLY AND DISABLED

When you’re a child, turning around and around in circles until you’re dizzy and you fall down is fun. But when you’re elderly or physically disabled, turning and falling can be disconcerting and dangerous.

How to help reduce falls among those with balance problems is a research interest of Adam Goodworth, assistant professor of physical therapy in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions. Goodworth, who has a background in engineering and a fascination with the human body, combined these interests in a project and put out a call for students to help.

That’s how five engineering students from the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture joined six physical therapy students and a recent biomedical engineering graduate to help design and build an apparatus that examines how people keep their balance while walking in a circle. Turning while walking often leads to falls among the elderly and disabled, perhaps because the body must tilt at just the right angle to compensate for gravity and for the force created by the circular movement.

The apparatus features a treadmill mounted onto a motorized rotating wooden disk. Depending on where the subject stands, the machine can mimic or minimize the centripetal acceleration created while walking in a circle. Test subjects wear electrodes and sensors that detect muscle activity on the back and pelvis as they walk on the spinning treadmill. A computer then measures body motion and muscle activity; the data is used to infer how the brain keeps the body balanced.

“I really could not have done it without the students,” says Goodworth. “They came up with many of the ideas.” For example, two engineering students figured out how to attach a motor to the disk to make it spin at just the right speed. Some of the physical therapy students built the platform, while others conducted the first complete set of experiments on healthy human subjects.

Eventually the database being created will be used to develop a physical therapy plan for, and hopefully help reduce falls among, patients with balance problems.

“I was lucky to be a part of the construction and the ideas behind the platform we built for the project,” says Katherine Terry D’12. “This was a great experience that had me thinking in a way I don’t usually think in the classroom, and it was exciting to come up with a way to find the answers to important questions in our field.”
HEALING THROUGH ART
ART STUDENTS CREATE WITH RESIDENTS IN CARE CENTER

Ever since she was a young child, Lucia Esposito ’11 has used art to express herself. After three years as a ceramics major at the Hartford Art School (HAS), she realized she wants to use art to help others express their voices. She decided she wants to become an art therapist.

As a first step toward that career, Esposito enrolled in HAS Assistant Professor Cat Balco’s new Arts in Healthcare course for the spring semester. Once a week, students in Balco’s class visited the Wintonbury Care Center, a rehabilitation and skilled-nursing facility in Bloomfield, Conn., to work with residents on painting, drawing, and sculpting projects.

Because Balco decided to have her students work with the same people every week, Esposito and her resident partner, Mario, were able to form a friendship.

“I didn’t want them to just pop in and do a project but to develop a relationship with someone,” says Balco. “Their job as facilitators is to find a project that engages the residents on their own terms. I tell my students to take advantage of their partners’ interests, their facilities, their coordination, and in some way wake up that life inside of them.”

Esposito helped Mario make animal sock puppets and put on a puppet show during which the animals tell jokes. She made a video so he could remember their time together after she graduated.

Balco’s class also included visits from several artists and art therapists who spoke about their artmaking processes, and the class took field trips, including one to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford. The students used the lessons from the professional experts to help them connect with the Wintonbury residents and bring out their artistic sides.

“It’s so inspiring for me to see all this creativity from people who may have done little or no art,” says Allison Litera ’12, an illustration major. “People have opened up a lot.”

Esposito also noticed a change after a few visits. “When I first walked into the center, everyone was shy and modest about making art,” she says. “After a while, when we walked in, they were happy to see us and wanted to make new things every day.”

Balco has no doubt that art has a healing power. “We’ve heard from artists who are also cancer survivors,” she says. “They’ve talked about how the experience of being sick was a viscerally important transformation for them as artists. And we’ve heard from other individuals who have seen art heal people psychologically and physically.”

The residents are not the only ones benefiting. Daniella Brown ’13 is now a visual communication design major in HAS, but she had taken some time off from art early in her college career. The Arts in Healthcare class helped rekindle her love of art, and now she is considering becoming an art therapist.

“My favorite part is watching someone create, seeing what they come up with, even the simple things like how they handle the brushstrokes,” says Brown. “I like seeing the ideas they come up with, what colors they choose, and how art makes them feel.”

As for Esposito, she is even more certain about her goal of becoming an art therapist. “I love to go into Wintonbury and reach out and put smiles on their faces. We know they are feeling a sense of self-worth and that we are lifting their spirits.”

MASTER’S WITH A MISSION
NEW DEVICE HELPS PREVENT WHEELCHAIR INJURIES

Christopher Diyaolu ’08, M’11, pursued his master’s in mechanical engineering while working with Devdas Shetty, professor of mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), on a project that became his master’s thesis.

Shetty shares a patent with Montefiore Medical Center in New York City on a wheelchair safety mechanism that enables the chair to descend a curb without pitching forward and possibly throwing the occupant to the ground. The prototype for the mechanism was too expensive to manufacture, however, so Shetty turned to Diyaolu.

“I have found him to be a student with a very good combination of theory and practice,” says Shetty.

Diyaolu received a bachelor’s in biomedical engineering from the University of Hartford in 2008 and accepted a position in the North Haven, Conn., facility of Covidien, a large global manufacturer of health care products. But he felt he needed more background in mechanical engineering, and in 2009 his employer agreed to send him back to Hartford for a master’s in mechanical engineering.

Diyaolu says he originally came to CETA for its hands-on engineering programs. He has literally had his hands full since beginning work on his master’s. Shetty gave Diyaolu the task of redesigning the wheelchair attachment to reduce its cost without sacrificing its effectiveness. Diyaolu says he has spent every waking moment and a lot of nonwaking ones struggling to find the answers to that puzzle.

“One Tuesday night after class, I went home and fell asleep,” he says. “While I was sleeping, I figured out how to solve a problem with the attachment. I jumped out of bed and ran to my desk to find a pen and paper so I could write it down.”

Diyaolu managed to get the cost of the attachment to less than $1,000, which was his assignment. He did so by replacing the custom-machined parts that make up the prototype with off-the-shelf materials. Although the project kept him up at night at times, he says he found the work rewarding.

“I have spent most of my time learning the theory behind product design and development,” says Diyaolu. “With the wheelchair safety enhancement, I was able to see how something you develop will truly impact the lives of others, which is what I was hoping to achieve during my final days at the University of Hartford.”

HAWKS PUT THEIR MUSCLES TO GOOD USE

When the volunteers were finished, the grounds of the University of Hartford Magnet School on the University’s campus, shone in the spring sunlight. Approximately 60 University student-athletes partnered with nearly 30 students in grades 3–5 of the magnet school and their families to rake leaves, repaint playgrounds, and plant flowers in a general cleanup of the school grounds on an April Saturday.

The spring makeover was the culminating event of a partnership between Hawks student-athletes and the magnet school throughout the academic year. During the year student-athlete mentors conducted tutoring sessions, joint community service projects, and campus tours with elementary student mentees, who often had opportunities to watch a Hawks athletic event.

All nine America East Conference schools participate in a mentorship program at schools selected by College for Every Student (CFES), a national, nonprofit organization committed to raising the academic aspirations and performance of underserved youth.

In late March a group of eight student-athletes and four Department of Athletics staff, including Director of Athletics Pat Meiser, took part in a spring cleanup at the Hole in the Wall Gang camp, founded by the late actor Paul Newman, in Ashton, Conn. The group raked the grounds to ready the camp for approaching Family Weekend visits from prospective campers and their families who might be interested in attending the camp in the summer.

“I had a lot of fun knowing that I was doing something that benefited such an amazing camp for kids,” said Keyokah Mars-Garrick ’12, a forward on the women’s basketball team. Members of the men’s soccer and women’s volleyball teams also participated.
FORSAKING CANCÚN

The 22-hour bus ride from Hartford, Conn., to Valdosta, Ga., was nothing. After all, to raise money for the trip, these students had held a pasta dinner, sold boxes of doughnuts, and coaxed sponsors. Weeks into fundraising, they still didn’t have the funds they needed. But that changed when the University’s student chapter of Habitat for Humanity won a $7,500 grant in the Newman’s Own Foundation Campus Community Service Challenge. They received the check on March 6 during halftime at a semifinals game at the America East Basketball Championship in Chase Arena. It came just in time.

Six days later, 24 student members of Habitat for Humanity boarded the bus for Valdosta for an alternative spring break experience. Rather than sun and fun at a beach, they were going to help create a home over spring break.

Accompanied by Matt Blocker, director of the University’s Center for Community Service, the group stayed at a house owned by the Park Avenue United Methodist Church. They took showers at nearby Valdosta State University, and local churches hosted them for evening meals.

On Monday morning, they arrived at their work site: a small house stripped down to its frame and drywall. For the next four-and-a-half days, they installed vinyl siding on the exterior and painted the interior. Some students also worked in the local Habitat ReStore, which sells donated new and used building and home-improvement supplies to generate funds for the construction of more houses.

Five of the students on this year’s trip helped build a house in Valdosta two years ago. It is now occupied, and they were able to meet the owner. Cassey Stypowyanyak ‘11, president of the student chapter of Habitat, describes the experience.

“When we pulled up at the house, I was overwhelmed with emotion. There it was. They had painted it blue. There were curtains in the windows and a stroller on the porch. To see a house that you helped build become a home for a deserving family is just something words cannot describe. You feel a sense of utter joy and accomplishment—like you really did something that helped someone out when they needed it most.”

Asked why students would give up a week at the beach for a long bus ride and several days of hard work, Stypowyanyak says, “I think students pick Habitat over Cancún because they have an idea of community instilled in them and a passion that inspires them to want to help wherever they can. It’s a chance to make a difference in just a week, and heck, it’s fun.”

TWO OTHER ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK TRIPS—
to Savannah, Ga., and Wilmington, N.C.—were sponsored this year by the Center for Community Service, the Office of Student Centers and Activities, and the Office of Residential Life.

Eleven students traveled to Wilmington, where they volunteered at the First Fruit Ministries, a nonprofit organization that serves homeless people through various programs. The group in Savannah volunteered with the Humane Society, worked at Second Harvest food bank, and tutored middle and high school students at the Moses Jackson Advancement Center.
PROJECT HORIZON
ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY’S FIRST LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY

Mirroring the University’s heritage as a private university with a public purpose, the Department of Nursing in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP) has offered service-learning opportunities for nurse-students in the community for nearly 30 years. It began by offering free health and education services in Hartford’s schools and neighborhood agencies. In 1988 the department expanded its outreach to the shelters in Hartford.

Today, Project Horizon, created in 2002 by Karen Breda, associate professor of nursing and director of Project Horizon, welcomes faculty, staff, and students from across campus and disciplines to work for the well-being of our neighbors.

“Focusing on health, quality of life, and social advocacy, Project Horizon makes more than 2,000 contacts per year helping needy families and individuals in the Greater Hartford community,” says Breda.

Project Horizon works primarily to enhance the quality of life and the health status of children and families living in shelters in Hartford. In doing so, it hopes to open the eyes and hearts of the University of Hartford community by engaging its members in socially conscious advocacy and service.

Jennifer Nabor’s “I started volunteering at South Park Inn last semester. “Once I began doing my service learning for Project Horizon in my senior year, I immediately became amazed at what they give to the community and the homeless shelters here in Hartford. It was an experience that opened my eyes greatly about the homeless population.”

Now an initiative of the Center for Health, Care, and Well-being, Project Horizon uses research-based findings to inform its outreach projects, bringing the knowledge and resources of the University to bear in partnership with community agencies. It symbolizes ENHP’s goal of translating knowledge into action. Through its efforts, not only does academic work remain meaningful in the communities, but the practical experiences in the field also inform classroom and laboratory experiences for students.

A FUTURE TEACHER TUTORS

Since 1990, students at the University of Hartford have been tutoring in local schools through Educational Main Street (EMS), a program founded by former University President Humphrey Tonkin. EMS’s partnership schools were initially those in Hartford’s North End. In later years the program branched out into surrounding Greater Hartford communities.

Jacob Silver ’13, a secondary math education major, began tutoring at Carmen Arace Middle School in Bloomfield, Conn., during spring semester last year. He moved to the University High School of Science and Engineering (UHSSE) this year, where he has been working with the students in Ms. Susan Pedrick’s Algebra I class.
ALUMNAE COUNCIL FOR WOMEN EVENTS

It’s been a busy spring for the Alumnae Council for Women (ACW). We teamed up with a number of other organizations across campus to cosponsor a variety of events over the last few months. A number of you who live in the Greater Hartford area came out to join us on May 5 for “Spring into Fashion,” an evening of fun, fashion, style inspiration, and confidence building. Now that we have learned what to wear, we are hoping to move outdoors. And we really mean move!

We’re taking a break from the lectures and social gatherings to focus on women’s health and fitness. We hope to take the University of Hartford’s signature red off campus and into the community by building a team of alumnae and friends to participate in the Red Dress Run for Women on July 9, 2011. The event, sponsored by UnitedHealthcare is a 5k run/walk exclusively for women that begins and ends in beautiful Elizabeth Park in West Hartford, just in time to see the roses in bloom. Register online for the Red Hot Hawks team at www.hartfordmarathon.com. Under “Events” look for the Red Dress Run. Registration closes at 11 a.m. on July 5.

ACW will continue to work on programming to bring you after the lazy days of summer. Please stay in touch and tell us what you would like to see or do next. We welcome your ideas and stories. If you would like to get involved with future events, please contact either Angela Henke at angelhenk@alumni.hartford.edu or Cheryl Chase at thebluehydrangea@yahoo.com. For a schedule of all current alumni events, please visit the alumni section of the University of Hartford website at www.hartford.edu.

JOB-HUNTING HELP

Whether you’re about to graduate or you’ve been in the workforce for many years, finding a job in this economy is indeed a job in itself. In an effort to help with the process, Alumni Relations spoke to Christopher Perugini ’06 (A&S), whose new online company, How to Land a Job (www.howtolandajob.net), might just be the key to opening that next professional door.

AR: How did your company originate?
CP: How to Land a Job actually formed out of one of the cloudiest points in my career. I was finishing my graduate program and was in need of work in late 2009, amid a collapsed job market that was only getting worse. I applied to over 100 companies in two weeks. I interviewed for four different positions and ended up getting a job offer from all four employers! That’s when I realized that I must be doing something right and thought that others might benefit from what I had to say.

AR: What is a good tip that you give to job seekers?
CP: More than anything else, be prepared. Whether you’re preparing for an interview, a job application, or just starting your job hunt, there’s always something you can do now that will pay you back tenfold down the road. Always keep your résumé up to date and stay in contact with your references. Continue to learn through certifications and self-study. The average job search lasts a lot longer than it did a few years ago. If you’re ready to apply for work the day you become a job seeker, you’ll be able to start your search immediately and with a lot less stress.

AR: What is a good tip for making a job seeker’s résumé more desirable?
CP: Aside from ensuring that the résumé is neatly laid out and has no spelling or grammar errors, it’s important to highlight the specific achievements and goals you have accomplished in your past work. Don’t simply list your job description. Quantifiable numbers are great. If the marketing campaign you designed led to a 26 percent increase in sales for the quarter, highlight this accomplishment on your résumé. This is your only opportunity to make a good first impression on someone who has never met you before.

AR: What advice can you give to new graduates?
CP: Your education isn’t over. Staying current in your given field is going to give you the edge over other applicants, especially in technical fields. When you’re just starting your career, you need to build out your résumé with relevant work experience any way you can. This means not only internships but also relevant side projects and volunteer work.

AR: How useful can social media sources be when looking for employment?
CP: Social media is one of the many tools that should be in a job seeker’s toolbox when looking for employment. It can help you organize and utilize your professional network with ease, which is critical to finding job leads.
Alumni CONNeCTions

1949

JACK N. KIMMELL (HILLYER, M’SO HARTT) of Grand Rapids, Mich., over the years has been musical director for several Michigan theaters, including the Circle and Civic Theatres, the Harrisburg Theatre, the Red Barn Summer Theatre, and the Phoenix Theatre. He has arranged and composed Michigan State University marching band shows as well as conducted the Grand Rapids Symphony. With many of his choral works published by Shawnee Press, Kimmell has also written more than a hundred arrangements for large jazz/dance bands.

1964

DENTON L. WATSON (A&S) of Freeport, N.Y., is a faculty member at SUNY College at Old Westbury. Author of the biography Lion in the Lobby: Clarence Mitchell Jr.’s Struggle for the Passage of Civil Rights Laws, Watson is also editor of The Papers of Clarence Mitchell Jr., a documentary sponsored by Old Westbury and funded by the National Historical Publications Commission and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.

1965

ROMEO T. BACHAND (A&S) of Granbury, Texas, was elected president of Ruth’s Place Clinic in Granbury. Ruth’s Place is a free clinic where Bachand is also the adult medical director.

1966

JUDITH L. BEACH (HARTT) of Keller, Texas, earned her National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards as a public school music specialist in 2005. That same year, she sang the National Anthem for the New Orleans Saints, with a repeat performance in 2006 due to overwhelming response. She extends her gratitude to the teachers and staff of The Hartt School.

1967

JOHN L. BEHLING (M, ENHP) of Newtown, Conn., is the author of The DNA of Terrorism: Behind the Muslim Curtain. His previously book is The Science of Language and the Art of Teaching (Scribners, 1972).

1973

BRUCE R. BLEACH (HAS) of Goshen, N.Y., has created installations for Once Beacon in Farmington, Conn., the Veterans Administration in Pittsburgh, Pa.; and McGladrey Corporation in Washington, D.C.

1977

DAVID L. KATZ (HARTT, ’84 HARTT, M’89 HARTT) of Danbury, Conn., has started a blog about the wit, wisdom, and career of the great Lithuanian maestro, Vytautas Marijosius, who taught at Hartt for more than 30 years. Support for “Remembering Marijosius” was a gift from the conductor’s family. Katz was Marijosius’s graduate assistant at Hartt. Additional information is available at www.rememberingmarijosius.blogspot.com and www.theamericanprize.org.

1978

JOAN C. AFMAN (HAS) of Tequesta, Fla., is author and illustrator of Death Island, her second novel. Classified in the adventure-verse genre, the book is available through camelpress.com or amazon.com.

1982

ELIZABETH R. AUSTIN (M, HARTT) of Storrs- Mansfield, Conn., was featured in SCOPE, a new online journal (www.scope-mag.com) focused on finding and presenting the best new ideas from thinkers around the world. SCOPE’s topics range from art and architecture to film, music, and literature. Austin was interviewed about her work as a composer.

PAUL P. PELLERIN (M, BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., has published Connecticut Created Cars. Pellerin is the owner of Antique & Classic Car Services in Avon.

Let ‘er Rip, Bernie!

Bernie Rosen ’61, M ’66, threw out the first pitch at a Rock Cats’ game on May 13, 2011, at a home game in New Britain, Conn. He must have brought them luck because the Cats won 2-0 in the second of four games (all wins) against the Portland, Maine, Sea Dogs.

Merry Minstrels Keep Renaissance Sound Alive

From left: Daniel Green ’83, M ’90 (Hartt), Gwendolyn Winkel ’86, C ’91 (Hartt), and Peter Braunfield have been delighting audiences throughout the Northeast as the Alia trio for more than 25 years. The group performs the music of the civic wind bands, or ways, of Renaissance and baroque England on period instruments of the 16th and 17th centuries—recorders, shawms, sackbuts, dulcians, crumhorns, and flutes, along with percussion accents. Alia appeared at Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford, Conn., in April. Listen and learn more at www.altawindtrio.org.
Alumni Board Adieu

Da'Rel Eastling ’99 (left), Alumni Board vice president, and board member Celia Lofink ’79 (right) wish board member Nat Kennedy ’66 all the best as he completes his term of service on the Alumni Board. The board presented Kennedy with a departing gift of appreciation for a job well done.

1983

MARK L. BOXER (ENGINEERING) of Glastonbury, Conn., was named chief information officer at CIGNA in Bloomfield, Conn. In this position Boxer leads CIGNA’s global technology strategy.

ROBERT D. VAN WINTER JR. (BARNEY) of Cumberland, R.I., was elected to the board of trustees of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. As a leukemia survivor, Van Winter brings a patient’s unique perspective to the mission of the board.

1984

MALIK K. RAHMAN (BARNEY, M’90 BARNEY) of Charlotte, N.C., was appointed chief information officer at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif.

1985

ANNE P. MINICOZZI (ASS) of Villanova, Pa., earned an MA in theology from Villanova University. For nearly 10 years Minicozzi has been writing a twice-monthly newspaper column on political, community, and social justice issues for the Main Line Suburban Life. Her volunteer activities include serving as a trustee of the Radnor Memorial Library in Wayne, Pa.

GARY M. RICHTER (BARNEY) of Glastonbury, Conn., was named director of Marcum LLP, one of the largest independent public accounting and advisory services firms in the nation.

1986

LINDA-LEE CARRIER (HARTT) of Westhampton, Mass., earned her doctorate in educational administration from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Carrier is director of curriculum and instruction for the Monson Public Schools in Monson, Mass., and an adjunct professor in American International College’s educational leadership program.

1987

ROBERT A. LOSINNO (HARTT) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., performed Julius Fucik’s Der Alte Brummbar with the Sunrise Symphonic Pops at the Ralph R. Bailey Concert Hall in Davie, Fla.

1989

ROBERT J. COUTO (HARTT) of Annapolis, Md., is a chief in the United States Navy and the assistant solo cornet and a section leader in the United States Navy Concert Band.

1994

JONATHAN P. GREENE (ASS) of Brooklyn, N.Y., was appointed director of exhibitions at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, N.J.

1995

PHILLIP L. BOYKIN (HARTT) of Montclair, N.J., made his New York City Opera debut as Inspector Watts in Séance on a Wet Afternoon.

GENEVIEVE P. SALVATORE (M, BARNEY) of Milford, Conn., has joined the law firm of Itkowitz & Harwood in New Haven, Conn., as of counsel.

TARA C. WASHINGTON (BARNEY, M’08 BARNEY) of Windsor, Conn., was named procurement division manager for the City of Hartford. It is Washington’s responsibility to oversee the integrity of the bidding process and to ensure that the purchasing of goods, supplies, and services is done in a cost-effective manner.

1999

ALEXANDRA ZACHARELLA (HARTT) of Fort Smith, Ark., is director of bands and assistant professor of low brass at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Zacharella was invited to give a guest trombone performance at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

They’ve Got the DownBeat

The Octopipers, at left—Marcos Carreras’s ’95, M’02 (Hartt), select junior high school girls’ choir at Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford, Conn.—have just been awarded DownBeat magazine’s 2011 Student Music Award in the vocal blues/pop/rock group category. It was the group’s second award in four years. Carreras is coordinator of vocal music at Kingswood Oxford.

WHAT’S YOUR PLAN?

The Fuller Legacy

Alfred C. Fuller, founder of the Fuller Brush Company, played an instrumental role in the founding of the University of Hartford. His early support and planning led not only to the University’s first charter in 1957 but also to a transformational bequest for The Hartt School from the estate of his wife, Mary.

Each member of the Founders’ Planned Giving Society has made some kind of charitable arrangement for the University. Although the Fuller bequest was unusual for its magnitude, every gift represents its respective donor’s own full measure of devotion for the future well-being of the University of Hartford.

As you prepare to update your will or visit your financial advisor, please consider including a charitable provision for the University in your will, retirement plan, insurance policy, or revocable trust.

We will be delighted to recognize you as a member of the Founders’ Society.

Visit www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving to learn more about how your thoughtful planning today can leave a lasting legacy for future scholars and educators.

FOUNDERS’ SOCIETY

To discuss a planned gift to the University of Hartford, contact

Peter H. Congleton
Director of Planned Giving
congleton@hartford.edu
860.768.2415
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
**Alumni Connections**

**Marriages**

Clockwise from top left:
Clare V. Scanlan ’08 and Noah Rosenberg ’08 embrace on the dock at Lake Oconee in Eatonton, Ga., where they celebrated their nuptials on Aug. 21, 2010. Guests included fellow alumni Josselyn Esquivel A’06, ’08; Jesse Goodwick M’09; Steven Pelini ’06; Christopher Riley A’04, ’07; Michael St. Pierre ’08; and Scott Zullo ’06.

Sarah Reuter M’08 and John O’Leary M’09 strike an unexpected wedding pose against the frosty backdrop of Perkinsville, Vt., on Jan. 8, 2011. Residents of Glastonbury, Conn., the bride is the University’s director of international studies, and the groom calls IKON Office Solutions his professional home.

Crystal Hall A’06, ’09, and James Cyr were married on Feb. 14, 2011, in Hamden, Conn. The bride is part of the Institutional Advancement team at the University of Hartford. The groom is a foreman with Connecticut Basement Systems.

Lauren Giacone and Joshua S. Rivera A’02, ’04, had a Jan. 8, 2011, wedding in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Joining in the festivities were Ilissa Felman ’05; Jacqueline Morin ’04; Michael Anzalone ’05; David Eng ’05; Kevin Maher ’97; Kevin Matthews A’03; Colin Montgomery ’06, ’07; and Nicholas Scalia ’04.

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**Hawk Hatchlings**

**Births & Adoptions**

From left:
Michelle S. Gevanter ’95 & David Gevanter (twins Samantha and Noah, II.4.10)
Alyssa Rosenstein Mathieu A’09 & Corey Mathieu (Benjamin Scott, 10.15.10)

Susan Lola Tycz ’92 & Daniel Tycz ’92 (Mason Daniel, 2.14.11, joins big sisters Emily, 9, and Gabriella, 4)
Miriam R. Likey A’01, ’03, & Jeffrey Likey (Brianna Li, 3.11)

**How and Where to Be Picture Perfect**

The Observer is pleased to publish your alumni news and photos of the milestones in your life. Help us put your photos in their best light by submitting only high-resolution images taken on your camera’s highest resolution setting. The quality of photos saved from the Internet is not acceptable for the Observer.

Photos should be high resolution, approaching 1MB or more in size, saved in jpg format, and e-mailed as attachments to alumni@hartford.edu. Mail prints of photos to the Office of Alumni Relations, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

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master class at the Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California. She has also been invited to do a series of wind ensemble clinics for Branson on Stage Live!, a musical experience for high school and junior high school bands from across the United States.

2000

MATTHEW F. LEWANDOWSKI (HARTT) of Brooklyn, N.Y., recently returned from China, where he was production manager and lighting designer for a year-end celebration performance of Shen Wei Dance Arts on China’s main entertainment channel, HNTV. As director of production for the New York City-based modern dance company, Lewandowski has performed internationally in Beijing, Jerusalem, Monaco, and Milan, as well as at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

2003

GREGORY P. CAPIZZI (CETA) of New Milford, N.J., was featured in The New York Times for his work as the superintendent of 20 Pine, a 409-unit luxury condominium complex in Lower Manhattan. The building features interior design by Armani/Casa, and Capizzi oversees a staff of 20, including three handymen, six porters, four doormen, and four concierges.

2005

ELLEN M. AUGARTEN (M, HAS) (left) of Northampton, Mass., was the photographer for the book Psalms in Ordinary Voices: A Reinterpretation of the 150 Psalms by Men, Women, and Children, a contemporary rewriting of ancient psalms. Augarten was invited by Andrea Ayvazian (right), the editor of the book, to capture each contributor in context so the book would better portray the person.

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26 OBSERVER
ABBA-cadabra!

ALUMNI RELISH THE MAGIC OF INFINITY MUSIC HALL

Set in Connecticut’s picturesque northwest corner on Route 44 is Infinity Music Hall & Bistro in charming Norfolk, where a lively group of University of Hartford alumni gathered in March for dinner and “The Music of ABBA.” The concert featured original musicians from the Swedish pop sensation of the 1970s and ‘80s.

The owner and resuscitator of the former 1883 opera house, barber shop, and saloon that are now Infinity Hall is Hartford’s own Dan Hincks A’76, ’80 (Hillyer, A&S). Stepping in where the previous owners’ restoration efforts had left off early in 2007, Hincks added a world-class sound system to already superb architectural acoustics, along with cabaret-style mezzanine seating, expansion of the lower level, and a restaurant offering creative American cuisine.

The intimate, 300-seat theater opened in October 2008; Infinity Bistro, in May 2009. Since then, Infinity Music Hall has hosted more than 600 shows, Hincks says, with headliners like Kenny Rankin, Melissa Manchester, Spyro Gyra, Richie Havens, Judy Collins, and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

“Our success is a direct result of our dedication to quality and the great attitude of our team,” says Hincks. “The artists and our concert and bistro patrons appreciate the attention to details and the relaxed, happy energy.”

Hincks calls Infinity a “magical space,” and the public seems to agree. In April the theater was named Best Concert Venue, with a Best Bathroom win also, in the Hartford Advocate’s 2011 Best of Hartford readers’ poll. Yankee magazine readers voted it Best Music Hall in New England in 2010. That same year, Infinity Bistro was named Best New Restaurant in Litchfield County and Best Place for Dinner and a Show by Connecticut Magazine readers.

But Hincks isn’t resting long on these laurels. In a partnership forged with CPTV, Infinity Hall Live debuted on June 17.

“Broadcasting the amazing musical talent that performs at Infinity Hall has been a part of our plan from the start,” Hincks explains. “Infinity Hall Live provides viewers an ‘all-access backstage pass,’ showing glimpses into the hall and its artists in addition to the concerts. We have completed taping the first seven shows, which will air on Friday nights on PBS for 21 weeks. We also plan to syndicate the TV show nationally.”

Hincks says he’s proud to be a graduate of the University of Hartford. He met his wife, Sarah Bennett Hincks ’78 (HAS), in 1976 while they were both undergraduates. They were married the following year and now have two grown daughters and one grandson.

“It was a special treat to host the alumni at Infinity Hall,” Hincks says enthusiastically, “They were a spirited group, and I look forward to having them back for dinner and a show!”
JOSEPH M. CATRINO (M.A.S) of Newington, Conn., was named assistant dean of career services in the School of Communications at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. In his new role Catrino helps students determine how to prepare for their futures, whether in graduate school or in the working world.

SUZANNE M. SUSTAITA (HAS) of West Haven, Conn., has earned an MA in art therapy/counseling from Southwestern College in Santa Fe, N.M. During her internship at the New Haven Veterans Center, Sustaita introduced an art therapy program that provided counseling services to veterans and their significant others.

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**

HAS Alumni: The 2011 Hartford Art School Alumni Juried Exhibition will be held Oct. 10–25 in the Silpe Gallery at the Hartford Art School. Only online entries for this year’s show will be considered and must be submitted by Aug. 26. Check below for details and entry website.

Greater Hartford-area alumnae gathered for an evening of fun, fashion, style inspiration, and confidence building on May 5, 2011, at Stackpole Moore Tryon/Tuesday’s in downtown Hartford. The event featured Debbie Wright, “The Confidence-Building Stylist,” on Better CT TV, Channel 3, WFSB; Mary Jones, host of WFRC’s The Mary Jones Show; and Kate Howard, psychic medium and angel therapist.

Pictured above: Top photo: left to right, Debbie Wright (wardrobe consultant) with University of Hartford alumnae models Elsa Chin A’07, ’09; Eileen Peltier ’86; Erin Marks ’11; Janice Klein A’70; Naomi Tussin ’77; Bobbi McNeil ’94; Shelby Asen ’10; and Ilena Rosenstein A’04, ’07, M’09. Bottom row left: Grace Mitchell A’95, ’98, left, with friend, Jane Gotshaulk. **Bottom row middle:** Monika Pfieffer M’88, left, and Barbara Ohlheiser ’83. **Bottom row right:** Debbie Wright.
In Memoriam

Theodore L. Maguder Jr., a biology professor and chair of the department from 1968 to 1994, died on April 13. He was 71. A recognized Civil War researcher and author, Maguder also wrote for wildlife publications and taught summer courses at Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk, Conn., and at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies in Cape Cod, Mass.

Winfield J. “Wink” Young, a faculty member for 44 years in Ward College of Technology (now part of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture), died on March 9 in Farmington, Conn. He was 75. Beloved for his gentle, calm demeanor, Young taught engineering technology from 1955 until his retirement in 1999.

Dorothy C. Nelson A’35 2,19.11 Nancy J. Sheehan M’63 2,4.11
Peter P. Wilmot A’41 1,27.11 Margaret H. Thomas ’63 4,9.11
Donald B. Coney A’46 2,5.11 Claire M. Agee ’64, M’67 4,20.11
Nadia T. Fischer A’47 3,28.11 Graham B. Martin A’64 2,5.11
Irving S. Goldberg A’48 2,17.11 Henrietta M. Tycz M’64 1,8.11
William H. McKinney A’48 1,21.11 Richard W. Peck ’65 2,12.11
Anthony J. Polydys A’49 1,8.11 J. Norman Comeau M’66 12,30.10
Leon Daresky A’47, ’49 1,25.11 Esther K. Kerschner M’67 1,14.11
Marilyn P. Winthrop ’50 4,22.11 Joseph A. Velleux ’63 3,12.11
John A. Kwasaki A’51 3,22.11 Howard T. Dean ’68 4,7.11
John E. Turansky ’51 10,10 Sebastian J. Amato M’69 4,27.11
Robert A. Valleria C’51 3,6.11 Peter J. Brandon ’69, M’70 2,16.11
Jesse L. Mariner C’52 2,15.11 Arthur A. Breaux ’70, M’72 3,30.11
John H. Sartori A’50, ’52 4,11.11 John S. Hardy ’70 3,11.11
Jerry Perelman ’54 1,16.11 Theresa Meluzzo-Voss ’70, M’77 1,30.11
P. George Phillips ’54 8,26.09 Judith E. Ouellette M’70 2,15.11
Elizabeth M. DeVinl A’56 1,31.11 Frank M. Clark A’49, ’71 3,10.11
Ronald A. Finnegan C’56 4,27.11 Anthony J. Toce ’73, M’78 4,16.11
Casimir Bednarczyk A’55, ’57, M’73 2,10.11 Ruth W. Addison M’75 3,23.11
Michael J. Borselle M’57 3,23.11 Robert J. Phaneuf M’76 4,21.11
Arthur D. Deacon M’57 1,29.11 Philip M. Brown M’78 3,24.11
Earl W. Herrington A’57 2,28.11 Colleen A. Reardon A’80 3,8.11
Francis S. Tierney ’57, M’68 3,27.11 John C. Johnson M’81 2,22.11
Robert E. Blankenburg A’58 1,15.11 Richard T. Bowen M’82 1,9.11
Robert L. Kaminski ’58 3,9.11 C. Joseph Cornello M’82 4,21.11
Edward M. Ashline A’59 2,14.11 Linda McCabe-Sankow ’82 3,26.11
Joseph E. Pavone M’59 4,14.11 Deborah Ann Coie-Fowkies ’83 4,11.11
Albert J. Proulx M’59 9,23.10 Nancy D. Kennedy M’86 2,23.11
Charles E. Singler Jr. M’59 1,18.11 Kristian J. Laratte M’86 2,28.11
Richard J. Belman ’60 4,13.11 Ann McGinnigle M’86 4,19.11
Paul H. Gagnon C’61 1,4.11 Jennifer M. Schiller C’90 4,20.11
Gabriel N. Gaulin ’61 3,27.11 Winfield J. Young ’91 3,9.11
Sylvia Z. Schindelmann M’61 4,17.11 Holly P. Ducot ’92 1,10.11
Irving D. Warner M’61 3,14.11 Patricia E. Wilson ’92 3,3.11
Kalp R. Shumway M’62 1,16.11 Keila L. Moore ’94 5,4.10
Lois L. Wankert M’62 1,18.11 Pamela L. Vecchiarino M’99 4,16.11
Robert J. Burbank M’63 1,8.11 Lynne J. Relation M’01 3,22.11
Dominic J. D’Angelo ’63 2,12.11 Anne R. Giddings D’03 4,25.11
Dorothy Schramm ’63 3,10.11 James R. Frulla M’05 1,12.11

Are you and your spouse alum receiving multiple issues of the Observer and you’d rather receive just one?

Parents, are you receiving a copy of the Observer addressed to your son or daughter who resides elsewhere now?

Are you moving and want to make sure you don’t miss any upcoming issues?

SPRING 2011 29
1. Current Hartford parents watch the Hawks men's basketball team take on Boston University on Feb. 12 in Boston.
2. Fraternity brothers join alumni at the Hartford vs. BU men's basketball game in February.
3. An alum and her husband enjoy the Hawks men's basketball game in Boston.
4. Boston-area alumni come out to support the men's basketball team against BU in February.
5. These alumni look radiant themselves as they dine on the Radiant Reflections Cruise to the Mediterranean in April.
6. Alumni take in the newly completed, $345 million Art of the Americas Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in March.
7. Caryl Goldberg ’81 (left) and Bobbi McNeil ’94 mingle at the alumni reception on board the Radiant Reflections Mediterranean cruise.
8. Edris Strong ’94 and Leonard Goldberg join the 20 or so alumni who set sail for the Mediterranean in April.
9. Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63 (right), guides alumni through the fascinating exhibits of the Art of the Americas Wing at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
10. Alums enjoy February’s Hartford vs. Boston University men’s basketball game in Boston.
11. Presenter Vanessa Stevens ’06 (left) and attorney, author, and workshop presenter Susan Omilian stand beside Alva Notice, father of alumna Tiana Notice ’07, who was killed by her boyfriend on Feb. 14, 2009.
12. Members of Women for Change lock arms with presenter Susan Omilian (second from left); performer Vanessa Stevens ’06 (third from left); and Maia Matarian, associate professor and director of undergraduate studies (far right), at the “Telling Maggie’s Story” presentation on dating violence held on campus in February.
13. Beth Kavaler ’07, M’07 (left), has her Thrive workbook autographed by author Susan Omilian.
14. Women for Change members show off their “Thrive!” T-shirts at February’s Susan Omilian lecture on domestic violence.
15. Interested members of Women for Change attend “Telling Maggie’s Story,” author Susan Omilian’s presentation of the story of her niece, a 19-year-old college student who was killed by her ex-boyfriend.
16. Happy campers (right foreground, l-r) Bobbi McNeil ’94; Kandyce Aust, director of alumni relations; and Edris Strong ’94 bring bagfuls of treasures back to the ship after a day of shopping in one of several Mediterranean ports of call.
Today Is Your Birthday!
GIVING RATHER THAN GETTING ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Imagine it’s your birthday and instead of bringing you gifts to unwrap, your guests are handing you bags of food. It’s a new concept for birthday parties that helps feed the hungry.

Hunger is a problem in the United States that currently affects one in six Americans, according to the nonprofit organization, Feeding America. Kate Darcy Hohenthal has found a new way to try and make the hungry stomachs of America stop growling.

Hohenthal founded The Birthday Club, which encourages families to provide nonperishable foods to food pantries in 15 different states so far. The idea came to her when she started taking her daughter to birthday parties nearly every week in preschool and realized that the cost of buying all the gifts was adding up. Not only that, but all the stuff she was accumulating when it was her children’s birthdays was out of control. She decided to change the way birthdays were celebrated in her family.

Hohenthal received her MBA in 1994 from the University and her doctorate in educational leadership in 2010. She incorporates ideas from her doctoral thesis about learning and how to make it sustainable into her birthday club idea.

“My concept is that doing service with learning makes it more sustainable,” explains Hohenthal.

There is no actual club to join says Hohenthal. In 2009 she launched a website, www.thebirthdayclub.net, in which she explains how the birthday parties work, suggests party themes, provides a list of food shelters to which people can donate, and encourages people to share stories and submit photographs from past parties. When children have a party for food, they are given the opportunity to actually go to the shelter and place the food on the shelves. “It’s a wonderful feeling of fulfillment for the children. They get to see how they are helping others,” says Hohenthal.

Hohenthal credits the University of Hartford with giving her support and providing her with opportunities to showcase her work on The Birthday Club. During the men’s and women’s basketball America East Championships that were held at the University in March, Hohenthal was able to set up a booth and tell people attending the games about her ideas.

Passionate about fighting hunger, Hohenthal is doing more than her fair share to feed hungry people in her community. However, she credits professors in the Barney School of Business with helping her make The Birthday Club what it is today. “The professors really helped me and became not only my mentors but my support,” says Hohenthal.

Throughout all her research and time put into The Birthday Club, one mentor who continues to support Hohenthal is Associate Professor Karen Case. “The Birthday Club is a testament to her work in our educational leadership program. She has brought attention to the hunger problem on a local and national level,” says Case.

With the continued success of The Birthday Club, Hohenthal hopes that more and more people across the country will have food parties and that, one day, all Americans will have enough to eat every day and night.

“A lot of people donate food for Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the interesting thing about birthdays is that they happen year round, so you can give year round,” says Hohenthal.