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Threatening rain clouds held off on Saturday, May 16, for the Graduate Commencement ceremony. More than 400 master’s and doctoral candidates and recipients of graduate certificates gathered with family and friends under the large, white tent on Gengras lawn to receive their degrees and celebrate.

The University bestowed four honorary doctorates that day upon Maria Livanos Cattaui, former secretary general of the International Chamber of Commerce; actor, singer, composer, and minister Clifton Davis; internationally acclaimed architect Tai Soo Kim, who designed the Harry Jack Gray Center on campus; and legendary jazz saxophonist Sonny Rollins. Rollins received a standing ovation from the audience.

Cattaui, also the Saturday Commencement speaker, urged graduates to be flexible and expect change in their future careers. “The careers, the jobs that you pursue from now on, will mutate pretty quickly, more than at any other period in history.”

On Sunday, keynote speaker Caryl M. Stern, president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, invited the more than 1,000 undergraduates receiving their associate’s and bachelor’s degrees to “open your eyes, open your ears, and open your heart by giving voice to those less fortunate than yourself. You will not be sorry.” When I care, when I act, when I give, my life is at its richest,” Stern added. “This University understands that mission. Committed to diversity and the growth of ideas, committed to giving back, this is an institution whose students choose community service trips over traditional spring breaks, an institution that raises money for relief efforts in Haiti, and a community that comes together for a Day of Service.” Stern received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the ceremony.

Fifteen members of the Class of 1965 were recognized as Golden Hawks on the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Also recognized were John J. Carson ’65, University senior advisor for external relations; and Thomas J. Perri ’74, MBZ, associate vice president and
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Caryl Stern

Faculty Awards

Roger Desmond, Adam Goodworth, Nat Reeves, Joan Pedro

University Medals

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Student Awards

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ALUMNI AWARDS

Leonard Epps '90

Philip Boykin '95

David Pritikin A’91, ’93, with Joan Sittard A’81, ’83, and Hillyer Dean David Goldenberg A’73, ’76, M’76.

Sunday’s undergraduate ceremony included presentations to two extraordinary graduating students. Anna Pan, of Burlington, Conn., a double major in chemistry-biology and accounting with a double minor in mathematics and actuarial science, received the John G. Lee Medal, which recognizes a graduating senior from Greater Hartford who has excelled academically while demonstrating a deep commitment to the community. Jeremy Sickles, from Mechanicsburg, Pa., a music theatre major in the University’s Hartt School, received the Belle K. Ribicoff Prize, which is awarded for academic excellence. Also honored were faculty members Roger Desmond, professor of communication in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S), who was presented with the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching; Nat Reeves, associate professor of music (jazz) in The Hartt School, who received the James E. and Frances W. Bent Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity; Joan Pedro, associate professor of education in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP), who received the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Sustained Service to the University; Nicholas Ealy, associate professor of English and modern languages in A&S, who was awarded the Donald W. Davis All-University Curriculum Award; and Adam Goodworth, assistant professor of physical therapy in ENHP, who was presented with the Belle K. Ribicoff Junior Faculty Prize.

University President Walter Harrison echoed Stem’s theme on Sunday in his remarks to the Class of 2015: “Today we celebrate your academic, artistic, and intellectual accomplishments, but I am convinced that during your time here—from your friends and fellow classmates, from the University’s staff, and, most of all, from our talented and wise faculty—you have learned some of these lessons of the human heart that will last you a lifetime. I know these character-building moments help define a University of Hartford education. Most importantly, they are just a beginning, an invitation to live a life of purpose, a life spent serving your fellow human beings.”
COMMENCEMENT 2015

FACULTY AWARDS, STUDENT AWARDS, AND UNIVERSITY MEDALS

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Continued from page 17

treasurer, who each received the University Medal for Distinguished Service. Three additional alumni received special recognition. The University’s 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Leonard Epps ’90, principal of the Journalism & Media Academy Magnet School in Hartford, Conn. During The Hartt School’s diploma presentation ceremony in Lincoln Theater, Philip Boykin ’95—a Tony Award–nominated performer, teacher, and recording artist—received the 2015 Hartt School Alumni Award. During Hillyer College’s diploma presentation ceremony in Millard Auditorium, the Distinguished Alumnus of Hillyer College award was presented to David Pritikin A’91, ’93, an Emmy Award–winning co-executive producer of The Deadliest Catch and numerous other reality television shows.

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