Nearly a decade after receiving his criminal justice degree at the University, Hartford Police Department Detective Steven Citta ’05 was back on campus this year to be recognized for a career achievement. At a Hartford Police Department (HPD) ceremony held in the University’s Wilde Auditorium, he was presented with the Chief’s Medal of Valor for “the intelligent performance of his duty and, at grave and imminent personal danger, engaging in successful combat with an armed and dangerous adversary.”

Citta had apprehended an individual who fled from a car during an attempted police traffic stop. When he located that individual on a nearby city street, the suspect turned and pointed a gun directly at him. Citta was able to wound and then subdue the suspect.

It’s obvious that Citta has put to good use the major that attracted him to campus. He says he was always interested in criminal justice and envisioned himself as a law enforcement officer. So the University’s criminal justice degree program prompted the Charlton, Mass., native to enroll in 2001. Also appealing was the requirement that all criminal justice students do internships within the field.

“I really liked the idea of exploring the field while still a student,” Citta says. He did internships with the adult probation program in Bristol, Conn., and with the U.S. Marshall’s Office, he experienced firsthand the court to interacting with people, the skills I gained really helped me professionalize my career,” he says, “so it is very helpful for a student to start that process early.”

The internship component of the criminal justice program is compelling for many prospective students, according to Alberto DiChiera, director of the program in the University’s College of Arts and Sciences, because they receive hands-on experience in fields where jobs are increasing. “For example, as a criminologist, you have to spend time meeting with criminals,” he says, “so it is very helpful for a student to start that process with a mentor in an internship setting.”

The criminal justice program has strong connections with the state’s judicial system, particularly in probation services, where many students do their internships. The program also has a strong relationship with the HPD. “Our department has a good relationship with the University, so we’ve done lots of programs there,” Citta says, adding that he comes back to the University on a semi-regular basis, including to work as part of the HPD detail at the University’s Spring Fling event.

Citta is currently a detective assigned to the State Intelligence Center, a task force that focuses on criminal intelligence and Homeland Security issues in the state. He is also a bomb technician on the department’s bomb squad. Citta has also been an instructor in six subjects at the police academy. He qualified for certification to teach at the academy because of his major in criminal justice and minors in sociology and psychology.

Citta says he regularly uses all of the wide-ranging skills he acquired at the University in his work. “From writing reports to help us go to court to interacting with people, the skills I gained really helped me professionalize my career. The courses I took gave me the tools to get the job done better.”

Steven Citta ’05, a former criminal justice major, is now a detective in the Hartford Police Department. His companion, Cabot (above), is an explosive-sniffing dog in training.

**DISTINCTIVE ALUMNI**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ALUM SERVES THE PEOPLE OF HARTFORD

New Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology

This is the first year that the University’s criminal justice program is joined with sociology under the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. This move was made in the fact that there is a true balance between theoretical studies and hands-on work in the criminal justice system, says Albert DiChiera, director of the criminal justice program. On the theoretical side, students study the causes of crime, society’s attempts to control crime, ways to prevent crime, and how to think critically about the issues of crime and criminal justice. The hands-on work comes through internships with the Connecticut Judicial Department and the Department of Corrections, as well as research work in the field for the University’s Center for Social Research.

“...the change in the department name recognizes the full scope of the department’s offerings and the collaborative relationships that exist between the two programs,” says Katherine H. A. Dean, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “Criminal Justice is ASU’s third-largest major, with more than 100 students, and it’s only fitting that it is represented in the department name. This change coincides with moving the Center for Social Research back on campus (from the Asylum Avenue campus), and housing it within the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department,” she adds. “The center will expand its focus to include crime studies and increasing opportunities for students to get involved in the research. In this way, both sociology and criminal justice majors will benefit enormously.”

The year was 1964, and five decades later, Provost has become the first University of Hartford employee to be recognized for 50 years of service.

The founder and longtime chair of the University’s Hartford Guitar Department, Provost received a standing ovation at the annual Recognition Day event this spring. Each year, the event honors faculty and staff for 25, 35, and even 45 years of service, but Provost is the first to hit the half-century mark. Provost—who has worked under at least five University presidents and seven Hartford School deans—is also a University of Hartford alum, having earned a Bachelor of Music from Hartt in 1960. After graduating, he began teaching at Hartt as an adjunct, becoming a full-time faculty member in 1964.

Provost started the collegiate Guitar Department that same year and served as its chair from 1964 to 1989 and from 2008 to 2012. He is retiring as a full-time faculty member this year but will continue to teach on a part-time basis.

Over the years, graduates of the highly acclaimed guitar program have gone on to successful careers as guitarists for Broadway musicals, studio musicians, heads of college

**GUITAR DEPARTMENT FOUNDER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WHEN PROFESSOR RICHARD PROVOST ’60 BEGAN TEACHING FULL TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD, LYNDON JOHNSON WAS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, “BEATLEMANIA” WAS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY, AND UHART WAS JUST 7 YEARS OLD.**

**“Technology has made a difference in that you can record a student’s lesson and immediately play it back for them, and you can really speed up the learning process,” he says. But one thing that has not changed is the talent and drive of his students.**

“I am humbled by the success of this program, its students, and alumni, and the impact we have had on music education across the country,” Provost said at an event held in 2014 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hartford Guitar Department. “From day one, my students’ passion for classical guitar inspired me, and it continues to motivate me every day.”

Provost’s legacy at The Hartt School is continuing under the leadership of another former student: the award-winning classical guitarist Christopher Ladd AD’03, the current chair of the Hartt Guitar Department.

“...it is difficult to put into words the effect that Dick Provost has had on my life and career as a performer and teacher,” Ladd says. “I am honored to have had him as a teacher and to have him as a mentor, but somewhere in the last 15 to 20 years our relationship reached a turning point, and today I am equally honored to consider him my friend.”

Top: Richard Provost ’60, right, with Cliff Morris ’68, the first student to graduate from the Hartt guitar program funded by Provost, a guitarist and professor of music at the University of Connecticut. Bottom left: Provost, right, with President Walter Harrison at the University’s 2013 Recognition Day event. Provost is the first Hartford employee to complete 50 years of service in the history of the University.

Bottom right: Provost, in a 1968 photo taken in San Sebastian, Spain, was attending a master class taught by renowned virtuoso classical guitarist Andrés Segovia.

**DISTINCTIVE FACULTY**

DISTINCTIVE FACULTY

CHILDREN'S GARDEN OF MIRACLES

**OBSERVER**

SPRING 2015