AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE TALIBAN
A Hartford Professor Helps His Homeland
See page 11
The Magic of Music and Art
A Guided Tour of Berlin, Prague, and Budapest

October 8–19, 2003

Sponsored by the University of Hartford President’s College

Come with us on this glorious experience—nine days of music, art, sightseeing, and delicious local cuisine in three beautiful European cities. The group will attend Richard Strauss’s *Elektra*, performed in the lavishly restored Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, Verdi’s *La Traviata* at the Prague State Opera House, and Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* at the elaborate Budapest State Opera House.

The fully escorted tour includes

- 3 nights in Berlin, 4 nights in Prague, and 3 nights in Budapest
- Round-trip coach airfare from New York (JFK Airport)
- Transportation by private motor coach to all sites on the itinerary
- Breakfast and either lunch or dinner daily
- A private tour guide
- Sightseeing as listed on the itinerary
- Tickets to the scheduled performances
- All taxes and gratuities

Cost: $3,800 ($3,700 for Fellows of The President’s College)

per person, double occupancy

Our host and lecturer on the tour will be Julius Elias, former provost and dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut, a faculty member of The President’s College, and a great opera aficionado. Dr. Elias knows his way around Central Europe, having lived there for many years, and will share his expertise and contagious good humor as we wend our way through the countryside.

Call Patricia Cremins, director, University of Hartford President’s College, at 860.768.4350 for more information or to reserve your place. Send your deposit of $500 per person to her attention at 312 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. Checks are made payable to the University of Hartford.
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On the cover:
A young Afghan boy carries a plastic barrel of water at a refugee camp outside Kabul, Afghanistan. M. Saleh Keshawarz, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, is working to improve conditions in his homeland. (AP Photo/Rafiq Majbool)
See article on page 11

THE OBSERVER

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Last winter, the University of Hartford launched a three-pronged strategy to bring regional prominence and national visibility to our programs in science, engineering, and technology. It’s an ambitious plan, to be sure, but I believe we are well on our way to seeing a dramatic change in the face of our campus, both architecturally and academically.

Here’s what we have done. First, we have combined the College of Engineering and Ward College of Technology into one new College of Engineering and Technology. We have always had strong programs in these two colleges, but the relatively small size of each did not give us enough critical mass to achieve real distinction. The new college, which formally will be initiated this summer, will have approximately 800 students; that will make it roughly the size of The Hartt School.

The engineering and technology faculty and Dean Alan Hadad have launched a yearlong planning cycle that will determine the academic structure of the new college. While it is too soon to tell you what all the results will be, this new college will dramatically improve our profile in these two critically important fields.

In May the board of regents approved our plans for the second prong of this strategy, a new complex that will house all of our science, engineering, and technology programs. I have written previously about this project, which we refer to as the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology Complex (ISET). It will result in a new addition to Dana Hall to house all of our wet labs and a variety of new high-tech classrooms as well as a complete renovation of Dana. We are well under way in planning the new complex with William Wilson and Associated Architects, a Boston firm that has designed science, engineering, and technology buildings on college campuses across the country, ranging from Harvard to Tulane.

The key to the new complex is to bring all of our programs in these academic fields into the same physical space. Ward College will move from East Hall into new space in Dana, adjacent to the new engineering labs there and the current engineering space in United Technologies Hall. The basic sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences will also have all new space in the facility, as will the health professions in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

New and improved space is a tangible result of this plan, but the intangible results will be even more important to our future. Our faculty and students in these areas will now share common space, and the results of living and working together should produce big dividends. The word synergy is much used these days, so much so that many have forgotten that it came into common parlance from the field of physiology: the cooperative action of two or more muscles or nerves. That describes well what I hope will result from giving our science, engineering, and technology disciplines the opportunity to work in close proximity. We hope to break ground on this $32 million complex in late winter or early spring and to complete the entire project within four years.

While these two pieces of our strategy are dramatic, the third prong is even more of a departure from our past practices—or, in fact, those of other colleges and universities. We have received a $400,000 planning grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a new magnet high school on our campus. To be called the University High School of Science and Engineering, this new public school will give high school students from throughout the Greater Hartford region the opportunity to combine four years of high school with up to two years of college credit in science and engineering.

The Gates Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, with whom we are working on this project, have begun an initiative, called the early college program, to stimulate such high schools around the country. I am proud to say that the University of Hartford is among their earliest awardees, the first private university to receive such an award. We are currently working hard with the Hartford public schools, the Capitol Region Education Council, and the State of Connecticut to develop the plans and to apply for the funding to construct and operate the school. Our model in planning this school is the famed Bronx High School of Science in New York City, and we hope to achieve the same prominence for this school, this University, and the Hartford region.

We will need the help of our alumni and friends to make this initiative a success. You’ll be hearing more about that in coming months. So stay tuned: stronger programs in science, engineering, and technology will change the University and our society in very important ways for years to come.

Walter Harrison
**EIO IS NEW REGENTS CHAIRMAN**

Peter Eio, former president of LEGO Systems, Inc., was elected chairman of the Board of Regents on May 9. He succeeds Arnold C. Greenberg, who will remain on the board after having served as chair for the maximum period of five years.

“This University is indebted to Arnold for his vision, commitment, and leadership during years when we have seen burgeoning enrollment, a significant strengthening of our financial condition, major physical improvements to the campus, the construction and opening of the Magnet School, and a resurgence of campus spirit,” President Walter Harrison said in a May 9 letter to the University community.

“Arnold has been a valued member of the University community since his initial year as a regent in 1970. We are truly fortunate that he will continue as a regent.”

Eio, who became a regent in 1991 and served as vice-chair of the board from 1995 to 2000, has “an unyielding commitment to education and the community,” Harrison said. Eio also has been serving as chairman of the Campaign of Commitment Steering Committee.

Born and educated in England, Eio is an alumnus of the IMD Business School in Lausanne, Switzerland, and has worked in Britain, Denmark, and Sweden. “His global expertise will be invaluable as the University seeks more international students and academic partnerships,” Harrison said.

Eio has enjoyed a distinguished career of almost four decades of marketing and management experience with some of the world’s top consumer brands. He was named president of LEGO Systems, Inc., in January 1989, and until his retirement two years ago, he made LEGO one of the most respected names in the toy industry. Prior to moving to the United States, Eio spent seven years as managing director of LEGO U.K. Limited.

“Arnold has helped guide us into a golden age. There is no doubt that Peter will enable us to fulfill the even greater promise that the future holds for the University of Hartford,” Harrison said.

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**WELCOME, DEAN VOELKER**

Joseph C. Voelker became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) effective July 1. Voelker comes to the University of Hartford from Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, where he was associate dean of the faculty for four years and a professor of English since 1991.

Voelker succeeds Edward Gray, who announced last October that he would be stepping down as dean of A&S to return to full-time teaching.

“Joe’s experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to higher education made him the perfect candidate for this position, and we are truly fortunate to welcome him to our University community,” said Donna Randall, provost.

Voelker has a distinguished background as an educator and administrator. As associate dean of faculty at Franklin & Marshall, he served as liaison to the dean’s office for half of all academic departments and all interdisciplinary programs. He also chaired the college’s educational policy committee and oversaw the implementation of a new interdisciplinary general education curriculum as well as the creation and implementation of a new international studies major.

Voelker’s academic career began in 1974 as an instructor at Franklin & Marshall, focusing on the work of James Joyce. During the next 20 years, he expanded his teaching interests to include courses in Shakespeare, Renaissance literature, medieval literature, contemporary American fiction, and creative writing. He received an outstanding teaching award in 1984.

Earning his bachelor’s degree in 1969 from Franklin & Marshall, Voelker was elected to Phi Beta Kappa that same year. A Danforth Fellow from 1970 to 1974, he earned a master’s degree in English in 1973 and a Doctor of Philosophy in English in 1975, both from Yale University. He has written numerous articles and a book published in 1989 by the University of Missouri Press titled *Art and the Accidental* in *Anne Tyler.*
Thousands are expected to visit the University’s Museum of American Political Life when 20 cases of original documents and artifacts from American history arrive on campus in January 2004. Titled “American Originals: Treasures from the National Archives,” the exhibit’s stop at the museum is its last in a three-year, eight-city tour.

“We are honored that the National Archives selected the Museum of American Political Life for ‘American Originals’ and that United Technologies is generously supporting the exhibition in Hartford,” said University of Hartford President Walter Harrison. “We look forward to making this an exciting and meaningful educational experience for students and residents throughout Connecticut and New England.”

Visitors will see firsthand original documents that relate to events both great and small, familiar and unfamiliar, from the history of our nation. Among the documents are the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803, providing for a land purchase of 828,000 square miles for $15 million; pages from John F. Kennedy’s handwritten draft of his 1961 inaugural address; an order to arrest Wyatt Earp for “larceny in the Indian Country”; and a patent application from Thomas Edison for an “Improvement in Electric Lamps.”

The highlight of the exhibition will be a special public display of pages from the original Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 that announced President Lincoln’s intention to free the slaves. Because of their fragility, these pages can be displayed for only four days (dates to be announced), but the remainder of the exhibit will be open to the public from Jan. 30 through May 9.

United Technologies Corporation is the major underwriter of “American Originals.” Other display items that are of special interest in Connecticut include testimony from Bahoo, an Amistad African, to the circuit court in Hartford; and a deposition signed by Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin, when she sued the publisher of a German-language newspaper for translating and publishing her work without paying royalties.

“American Originals” was created by the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., and The Foundation for the National Archives. The exhibition’s contents were drawn from the holdings of the National Archives, which preserves and makes available to the public those records of the U.S. government that have permanent value. Included are both great treasures and the records of minor events. The documents and artifacts in “American Originals” were selected from the large number of items that the archive holds in trust for the American people.

The University of Hartford is one of only eight venues nationwide for the exhibition and the only location in New England where visitors can see “American Originals.”

With a collection of political campaign memorabilia second only to that of the Smithsonian, the Museum of American Political Life is currently closed for repairs and essential modifications in advance of the tour.
The Hartt School has named the Miami String Quartet as its new quartet-in-residence, a position held previously for 21 years by the Emerson String Quartet.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled,” said Malcolm Morrison, dean of The Hartt School and chair of the quartet search committee. “The Miami gave a brilliant and deeply satisfying concert, and the committee’s sentiments have been echoed by both Hartt students and the audience.”

“We were always aware of The Hartt School because of the Emerson,” said Keith Robinson, cellist with the Miami Quartet. “We have visited a number of higher education institutions, but Hartt was alone in its commitment to the community. It is really refreshing. I hope that we can be goodwill ambassadors for Hartt and carry its name wherever we go.”

The new quartet-in-residence will perform five concerts at the University’s Lincoln Theater each year. The fifth concert will feature the winners of a Hartt student competition, who will perform with the quartet. In addition, the Miami will coach Hartt’s graduate quartet and will conduct chamber music coaching and master classes with undergraduate, graduate, and Community Division students.

“Although it may befuddle geographers, I’m delighted we’ll be bringing the Miami to Hartford,” said President Walter Harrison. “I was delighted by their concert, and I found them personally engaging and exciting. I’m sure our students and our community will too.”

The decision ends a yearlong process that featured public performances by the finalists for the quartet-in-residence position. Competing with the Miami String Quartet for the position were the Colorado Quartet, the Lark Quartet, and the Miró Quartet. Hartt faculty and students provided input, as did members of the search committee, audiences at the concerts, and organizations that had supported the Emerson throughout the more than two decades of its tenure.

Ronald Borror, director of Hartt’s Instrumental Division and a member of the search committee, called the concert given by the Miami String Quartet one of the most exciting performances he had attended. “It was the perfect climax to a mini-residency that witnessed equally exciting and educational master classes and chamber music coaching. Both faculty and students are anticipating a fruitful relationship between the quartet and the Hartt community.”

The search began when the Emerson String Quartet ended its tenure at The Hartt School in 2002. The quartet’s decision was the result of the group’s demanding worldwide touring schedule, which made it increasingly difficult for them to satisfy the teaching requirements of their agreement with The Hartt School.

The Miami String Quartet—Ivan Chan and Cathy Meng Robinson, violin; Chauncey Patterson, viola; and Keith Robinson, cello—is one of the most respected young quartets in America. The group has performed extensively throughout North, Central, and South America and Europe. An interest in new music has led the quartet to commission and/or premiere works by Maurice Gardner, Bruce Adolphe, Eduardo Diazmunoz, Robert Starer, and David Baker. The group records for the BMG/Conifer label.
A Family Legacy

Calvert and Margaret Thomas, along with their sons, C. Bowie and Doug, have made a $100,000 gift to the University of Hartford Performing Arts Center. In recognition of their generous contribution, the courtyard in the Performing Arts Center will be named in honor of the Thomas family.

This gift preserves the Thomas family’s association with the historic buildings that will house the Performing Arts Center.

In presenting a check to University President Walter Harrison, Calvert Thomas underscored his commitment to the University’s vision for the facility. “Our family is excited to watch a property that launched our business become transformed into a 21st-century arts facility,” he said.

In accepting the gift, President Harrison said, “I am proud that our Performing Arts Center will be located on the site of your Cadillac dealership, and I know that our center will continue the tradition of excellence that your family has established there. I offer Cal and his family my gratitude on behalf of the entire University.”

Founded by Calvert and Margaret Thomas, Thomas Cadillac specializes in the luxury car market. For 26 years the company has served the Greater Hartford community with an emphasis on customer service. Today, the dealership, which is located on Weston Street in Hartford (and now known as Thomas Cadillac Jaguar), is run by C. Bowie Thomas and Doug Thomas.

Transforming a Student Showcase

The student gallery in the Hartford Art School’s Taub Hall will undergo a transformation, thanks to a generous gift from Linda and Donald Silpe.

President Walter Harrison announced the Silpes’ $100,000 gift to the University’s Campaign of Commitment at the annual meeting of the Board of Regents on May 9.

Linda Silpe, who received a Master of Education from the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions in 1965, is a regent of the University and served on the HAS Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1994.

“My earliest relationship with the Hartford Art School was 50 years ago,” she said, “taking Saturday morning classes on the second floor of the Avery Memorial at the Wadsworth Atheneum, which was then home for the Hartford Art School.”

The Silpes’ gift will be used to renovate Taub Hall and provide HAS students with a professional gallery to showcase their work (see sketch below).

“The new Donald and Linda Silpe Gallery will include a dramatic new entrance, new lighting, and improved acoustics,” said Power Boothe, dean. “The impact of this gift on the Art School, especially our students, and the Greater Hartford community will be felt for years to come.”

The gift, he said, symbolizes the Silpes’ continuing support of the Hartford Art School and their commitment to the education of young artists.

Silpe said she hopes that the gift “is an inspiration for other alumni to renew their commitment to the Hartford Art School and the University.”
n the summer of 2004, the University of Hartford plans to put a shovel in the ground to begin phase-one construction of new fields that will change the face of University athletics. By mid-2006, athletes will stream onto new baseball and softball fields and a new, all-purpose track and field—long-awaited facilities worthy of a Division I university.

On April 22, the University took the first step toward achieving this $10 million goal with the kickoff of the leadership phase of Home Field Advantage, the Campaign of Commitment Athletics Project. One hundred guests, including members of the campaign’s leadership, advisory, and steering committees, joined coaches and student athletes for the official launch of the three-year campaign. University President Walter Harrison underscored the key role the athletics project will play in the University’s 10-year Campaign of Commitment, while Director of Athletics Pat Meiser-McKnett detailed plans for construction of the new fields.

Co-chairs of the athletics campaign are Gary LaRocque ’75, assistant general manager of the New York Mets, and Robert Forrester ’66, chairman and CEO of Payne, Forrester & Associates, LLC, who challenged the group to work together to raise one-quarter of the $10 million goal by the fall of 2003. Forrester urged his colleagues: “Provide your advice, your involvement, your contacts, and, when the time is right, your dollars.”

To learn more about ways in which you can participate in the Home Field Advantage campaign, contact Ellie Large, athletics campaign manager, at her e-mail address: large@hartford.edu.

Class of 2003 Leaves Its Signature

The number of graduating students who made $25 gifts to the University through the Senior Signature program has doubled over the past year. About 200 members of the Class of 2003 took part this year, compared to 100 students last year.

The Senior Signature program, which began in 2000, encourages graduating seniors to make gifts to the University of $25 each. Those who contribute have their names engraved on a senior class plaque, which is hung on the outside wall of University Commons. On Wednesday, May 14, many of this year’s participants gathered outside the Commons for the unveiling of the Class of 2003 plaque.

President Walter Harrison spoke to the seniors about the importance of supporting the University throughout their lives. “I hope you will think of all those students who went before you and gave to the University to help you,” Harrison said. “Whether you benefited from a scholarship or another form of financial aid, you too can help others in the future by giving to your alma mater.”

After the unveiling, President Harrison hosted a barbecue at his house for this year’s Senior Signature participants.
The University of Hartford, along with the Hartford Public Schools and the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), has been awarded a $400,000 planning grant to develop an early-college magnet high school. University officials expect the school to have an enrollment of 400 students when fully operational and to be a Hartford host magnet school, with 70 percent of the students coming from Hartford.

Current plans call for the first ninth-grade class to be admitted for the fall of 2004. To be known as the University High School of Science and Engineering, the school will focus on science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. This grant is part of the “Early College Initiative,” funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York and administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

“This school will break new ground in the continuum between high school and college and establish Hartford in the forefront of this effort,” noted University President Walter Harrison. The University High School will provide its students the opportunity to combine four years of high school with up to two years of college credit in science and engineering.

“This early-college high school will enable University faculty and school faculty, University students and high school students, to study and work together, creating a distinctive learning environment,” said Henry. “Students who attend the new high school will be encouraged to prepare for a future in the sciences, engineering, and technology, which are clearly the leading fields of the 21st century.”

CREC Executive Director Bruce E. Douglas said the University of Hartford and Hartford Public Schools should be commended for their leadership and commitment to the elimination of racial, ethnic, and economic isolation in the Greater Hartford region. “This school is the best example of regional cooperation to serve the best interest of children and families of the region,” he said.

In order to prepare students for the new high school, the University, Hartford Public Schools, and CREC will begin a preparation program in science on the University campus on Saturdays, beginning this fall. This program, which will be funded by the grant, will be open to all seventh- and eighth-graders and will feature programs in forensic science, robotics, and water quality. It will be free to all students from any school district.

The University High School will also build on the success of the partnership that launched the University of Hartford Magnet School, which provides state-of-the-art education to approximately 400 students (in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade) from Hartford and six surrounding towns.

The preliminary proposal calls for the University High School to be built on the east side of the University of Hartford campus, on Mark Twain Drive in Hartford.
Rhythm, Balance, and Style—That’s Swingin’!

Trumpet master Wynton Marsalis treated the University community to a day of music, lessons, and humor on March 5 during an afternoon master class and evening performance in Lincoln Theater.

The master class drew a standing room–only crowd to Wilde Auditorium. Dressed in jeans and sneakers, the soft-spoken Marsalis answered questions, shared technical advice, and told personal stories. Of playing music, he said, “Force yourself to pay attention to every detail. It’s a sign of integrity. Playing and integrity go hand in hand.”

Marsalis’s first student performer was Michael Pakulik ’03, a classically trained music education major, who played a simple warm-up scale. Marsalis proclaimed it “perfect,” prompting a collective audience chuckle. He then listened to a jazz septet individually and together, commenting on riffs, rhythm, balance, and style. Members included jazz major Nick Toscano ’04 on drums, Dezron Douglas ’04 on bass, Haneef Nelson ’00 on trumpet, Lumie Spann ’01 on alto sax, Ray McMorrin ’02 on tenor sax, James Burton ’02 on trombone, and Hartt faculty member Chris Casey on piano.

Marsalis kept the beat, offered advice, and picked up his trumpet during the set and played with members of the baseline, exclaiming, “Now, that’s swingin’!”

The septet performed a piece by bassist Douglas, who said, “We were amazed at the level of insight he was bringing to the music.” A true professional, Marsalis showed his skill in teaching by encouraging the musicians, asking them to make changes intuitively, using metaphor to deliver practical technical and stylistic advice, and holding them accountable for missed rests, sharp notes, or shallow breaths.

The master-class audience included Hartt School students, University faculty and staff, and students from West Hartford’s Hall and Conard high schools.

In answer to a question from a high school student, Marsalis offered advice he had received from his father. “If you want to make it out here playing music, don’t have anything to fall back on.” His mother was not pleased with this advice, he said, but it has worked for him.

Later that evening, prior to performing in Lincoln Theater, Marsalis received an honorary Doctor of Music from the University. He and his Lincoln Center Septet played for the benefit of the Northwest Boys and Girls Clubs, part of the University’s MUSIC for a CHANGE series.

Students Reap Goldfarb Awards

Lauren Bennett ’05 won a Purchase Award in this spring’s Alexander A. Goldfarb student awards exhibition for her mixed-media drawing titled Handbags at Ten Paces.

Mary Melendez ’03, also won a Purchase Award for Untitled, a digital-print collage and laminate. A Juror’s Prize was awarded to Leslie Ahern, a graduate student in painting, for Traverse #2, acrylic and oil on canvas.

Honorable mention went to Mari Skarp ’03 for Bull, made of driftwood, metal, and rubber.

Awards of Merit went to Adam MacHose ’05 for Northern Realm, pencil and acrylic on board, and to Jeremy A. Smith ’05 for a video titled True Story.

The awards are funded by the Alexander A. Goldfarb endowment trust.
Peanuts…
Cracker Jack…
Calypso?

Families from Greater Hartford arrived on campus on April 12 for a Saturday filled with fun and discovery. More than 40 events and exhibits greeted them as part of the University’s first-ever Community showcase.

Children flocked to an instrumental “petting zoo,” where they were encouraged to touch, play, and learn about a variety of musical instruments assisted by students from The Hartt School, including Tiger Robison ’05 (above left).

Not an Emmy, But Close

STN—Channel 2 News, the University’s student-run television broadcast, has received one of the most prestigious honors awarded to college media. The station won first place in the Society of Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence awards in the category Best Non-Daily Television Newscast in the Northeast region.

Danielle Freni ’03, the station’s outgoing general manager, who graduated this May, and photographer Tom Nelson ’04 were also honored by the society, receiving a second-place award for general news reporting. Freni said all 50 active staff members were excited by the honors and also pleased to be recognized this year by their peers at the University. The Student Government Association named the station Student Club of the Year for 2003.

As the day had not been special enough, Denise M. Miller and her parents received a wonderful surprise at the College of Engineering’s Commencement ceremony on May 18, when it was announced that she had been chosen to receive the Robert Bradford Newman Medal for Merit in Architectural Acoustics.

Acoustical Accomplishment

As if the day had not been special enough, Denise M. Miller and her parents received a wonderful surprise at the College of Engineering’s Commencement ceremony on May 18, when it was announced that she had been chosen to receive the Robert Bradford Newman Medal for Merit in Architectural Acoustics.

Miller won the award for her work in constructing an acoustical model of Hartt’s Millard Auditorium. Using a process called auralization, she produced a simulation of the auditorium’s sound from two different audience seats. She compared her simulation of Millard’s sound to recordings she made with a binaural head, which is a dummy head with microphones in its ears.

The highly selective national award, administered by the Acoustical Society of America, is named for Robert B. Newman of BBN (Bolt, Beranek & Newman), one of the original acoustical consulting companies in the United States. BBN became nationally known for its work with the Warren Commission when it was investigating the Kennedy assassination. BBN analyzed tape recordings of the event to determine how many shots were fired and if there could have been more than one gunman.
Building a Bridge to AFGHANISTAN

A Hartford Professor Helps His Homeland Recover
Yet Afghanistan’s history is one of wave after wave of invasion and occupation by conquerors—from Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan to the British Empire and the Soviet Union. Its strategic location amidst the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent has made it a desirable possession since the beginnings of the ancient Silk Route more than 2,000 years ago.

In modern times, the people of Afghanistan have suffered under the Soviet occupation (1979–89) and the years of civil unrest leading up to the rise of the Taliban, whose hard-line religious regime was overthrown in November 2001 with the support of a U.S.-led international coalition.

After nearly a quarter-century of war and political unrest, the country is in ruins and dependent on foreign aid. More than 10 million land mines, a legacy of the constant warfare, pose a daily hazard to Afghans. Roads are in bad repair from frequent use by heavy military vehicles. Many bombed-out bridges have not been rebuilt, and much of the country is without reliable electricity. Afghanistan’s minister of irrigation, water resources, and environment, Yusuf Nuristani, said recently that only one in five Afghans nationwide has access to safe drinking water.

Urgent attention needs to be focused on irrigation, transportation, agriculture, sewage and water systems, communications, and power generation. It is a monumental job, made even more difficult by the country’s critical shortage of engineers.

One University of Hartford professor is determined to see that aspiring engineers in Afghanistan receive the education they need to help rebuild their country. M. Saleh Keshawarz, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University, grew up in Afghanistan. He has made many trips back to his native country since 2001 to lend his expertise in such areas as water resources management and irrigation. Most recently, he has turned his attention to revitalizing engineering education at Herat University in western Afghanistan.

Since the fall of the Taliban government, much of the international aid to Afghanistan has been in the form of security and emergency relief. Keshawarz is concerned that these efforts will not have a lasting effect and that the country will revert to the prior conditions of poverty and anarchy that led to the rise of the Taliban.

“I am reminded of an old Afghan saying: ‘If you use clay to fill in a puddle, you will be able to pass today, but the clay will dissolve in the water by tomorrow.’

“To have an impact, the international community must establish priorities with an eye toward the long term. Providing food is not enough. Aid programs must help rebuild agricultural capacity so that Afghans can feed themselves. Also, in addition to building roads, bridges, and hospitals, we must establish the educational infrastructure needed to train engineers and doctors.”

Keshawarz points out that more than 80 percent of the population lives in the countryside and relies on agriculture to survive. Calling agriculture the “mainstay of the Afghan economy,” Keshawarz argues it should get top priority for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

“Our survey of five provinces found that nearly 25 years of war has devastated the farming community. For
example, the majority of irrigation systems are either dysfunctional or operating at about 20 percent of capacity. Since a major portion of Afghanistan’s cereal crop is produced on irrigated land, repairing the irrigation systems is essential.” And in order to do that, Afghanistan needs engineers.

Like many other parts of the infrastructure in Afghanistan, the country’s higher education system is ailing. Herat University, one of the country’s major educational institutions, has an antiquated engineering program, buildings damaged by years of war, no computer lab, and few supplies. “The condition of Herat University is not good at this time,” says Keshawarz. “Faculty are demoralized and that affects the quality of education provided.”

At the request of the local Afghan government and with the support of the University of Hartford, Keshawarz has focused on overhauling Herat’s struggling engineering program. Most engineering faculty at Herat have only bachelor degrees and are using a 30-year-old curriculum. Yet civil engineering is the second most popular major, after medicine, at Herat.

According to Thomas K. Grose, writing about Keshawarz’s efforts in Prism (February 2003), a publication of the American Society for Engineering Education, enrollment in the civil engineering program at Herat University nearly doubled, from 52 to 92 students, between 1995 and 2001. Grose also reported an “appreciable influx of women students” since 2001, after years of Taliban rule that banned women from both the workplace and the schoolroom.

Keshawarz plans to revitalize engineering education in Afghanistan through a proposed partnership between the University of Hartford and Herat University. Hartford would take a leadership role in training faculty and updating Herat’s curriculum. Last December, Keshawarz met with Sharif Faez, Afghanistan’s minister of higher education, to discuss the proposed collaboration.

Under the proposal, Herat University professors would come to the University of Hartford to earn most of their credits toward a master’s degree. A final independent study project, related to a topic about Afghanistan, would be completed at Herat and supervised by a University of Hartford professor through the Internet.

“Afghanistan needs more engineers, medical professionals, and agriculturalists,” Keshawarz says, “to help rebuild the country. Expatriates from various other countries are now filling this void. Should they leave tomorrow, the Afghans would be left trying to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps without the expertise they need to succeed.”

Keshawarz needs $500,000 in funding for his proposal to train the faculty, overhaul Herat’s curriculum, and provide textbooks and computers. He says it will take at least three years to fund the proposal through government agencies, foundations, and other sources. The University of Hartford has asked the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and the Asian Development Bank for funding. So far, no funds have become available. The lack of resources has severely curtailed Keshawarz’s efforts.

“My work is now limited to providing my personal books and guidance to the faculty,” he says.

Other U.S. universities are also taking an interest in helping to rebuild Afghanistan. Purdue University is attempting to establish a distance-education program for faculty development at Kabul University.

Keshawarz has also been working on a project with Cornell University faculty, conducting workshops and traveling seminars in Afghanistan to address best-management practices in water, soil, and crop management. Cornell has given him a visiting professorship at its College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Soil, Crop, and Atmospheric Sciences, for the duration of this project.

A 1978 graduate of Kabul University’s engineering college, Keshawarz holds a master’s degree from Tennessee State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. He has taught at the University of Hartford since 1988 and was chairman of the civil engineering department from 1996 to 2002. He has been active in Afghan reconstruction efforts for the past 10 years.

In Afghanistan from March to June of this year, Keshawarz will return there in August and continue his relentless efforts to rebuild his native land.

“I am hoping the international community will finally realize that without a stronger commitment to higher education, Afghanistan will not benefit in the long run. We must ensure that military victory in Afghanistan leads to long-term economic success. Otherwise, all our efforts will be like clay dissolving in a puddle,” says Keshawarz.
It was a picture-perfect day. Under the brilliant blue morning sky, members of the graduating Class of 2003 were recognized for their academic success and received counsel from the diverse worlds of broadcast journalism, insurance, and the arts during the University's 46th Commencement ceremony on May
It was a picture-perfect day. Under a brilliantly blue morning sky, members of the graduating Class of 2003 were recognized for their academic success and counsel from the diverse worlds of broadcast journalism, insurance, and the arts during the University’s 46th Commencement ceremony on May
Charles Gibson, co-anchor of ABC’s “Good Morning America” and “Primetime Thursday,” told the graduates that they would face difficult decisions in the years ahead and that the code of ethics they developed as students at the University of Hartford must be their guide.


“Your four years were never about memorizing facts,” Gibson said. “These four years, you had a much broader mission. You were here to learn how to think, how to analyze, how to interpret, how to form an argument. And perhaps most important, you were here to develop a sense and a code of ethics because there are ethical imperatives in this life—compassion, honesty, fairness, trustworthiness, and a respect for others,” he said.

“You are part of what my daughter calls the post-9/11 generation,” Gibson told the graduates, “and that means two things to me. First, you cannot live in fear, you cannot let anyone compromise our civil liberties in the name of security. And second, you have got to be involved, and part of that is to be an informed consumer of my product...which is the news.

“Know what is important news and what is not. Make it a point to keep abreast of foreign affairs, domestic politics, and economic issues, and turn us off when we get fixated on...lurid murders or sex scandals. When an announcer says ‘a report you have to see,’ you probably don’t. When an anchor says ‘shocking details,’ they probably aren’t. When a reporter claims his news is fair and balanced, it probably isn’t. And when politicians say, ‘I’m going to level with you,’ they probably won’t,” he told a chuckling audience.

Gibson’s concluding charge drew enthusiastic applause from the graduates and their family members: “You are full of dreams; you are full of energy; the hormones are raging. You should be intoxicated with possibility. Go get ‘em. Show your folks out there how wisely they have invested in you.”

The Hartford’s Chairman and CEO Ayer urged the graduates to “get involved and encourage others to follow in your path, so that they, too, can aspire to all of the opportunities you will enjoy.

“Every graduate here today embodies the value of a commitment to education. Education is the single best secret to...transforming a person’s life,” he said, offering special praise for the more than 300 students and faculty members who have participated in the University’s Educational Main Street program as tutors in the Hartford public schools.

“Nothing will benefit the city of Hartford more than helping it build a world-class school system,” Ayer said.

Newman told the graduates that “those who do what they want to do live longer and happier lives. Why should I stop doing what I love? I can’t, and I don’t want to. Creative people are like that,” the 85-year-old photographer explained. “Renoir said, ‘It’s like the call of nature: you simply have no choice.’ The choice is enjoying doing what you like or being trapped in a field you don’t like. Try to select work that will give you the most pleasure in life. If you choose a profession for the sake of money, that’s very sad.”

At Hartford College for Women’s Commencement ceremony later that day, Pat Meiser-McKnett, the University’s director of athletics and special assistant to the president, told the graduates about her career-long effort to help advance Title IX, the federal mandate against discrimination in education, beginning in 1972 when she was an assistant women’s basketball coach at Penn State University.

Elizabeth Horton Sheff received HCW’s Pioneer Woman Award. Sheff is the majority leader for Hartford’s Court of Common Council and a longtime community activist whose son was the plaintiff in the landmark Sheff v. O’Neill school desegregation suit. Margaret W. Nareff, Class of 1967, was the recipient of the Marcia Savage Alumna Award.
Five faculty members and three students were honored at Commencement.

Mary L. Carsky, professor of marketing in the Barney School of Business, was honored with the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Award for Service to the University. Over the years, Carsky has taken on an enormous range of projects that have resulted in important contributions to the Barney School, the University, and her profession. Among her many accomplishments, Carsky developed and implemented the Barney School’s “No-Hassle” MBA services, served on the search committees for president and provost, co-chaired a task force that studied issues of importance to adjunct faculty, and served on the committee that has been developing standardized procedures for student evaluations of faculty. She has worked tirelessly to promote faculty development and to encourage the use of technology in her department.

Anne Fitzmaurice, who stepped down last year as vice president for student affairs and dean of students in order to return to teaching, received the University Medal for Distinguished Service. During her 24 years at the University, Fitzmaurice has served in a wide range of roles, including associate professor of mathematics, department chair, dean of Hillier College, acting provost, vice president, and regent. Her work has been defined by her deep devotion to students and to the University. She was responsible for creating a more student-centered environment on campus, establishing the Center for Community Service, directing the development of a five-year plan to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, and expanding the University’s substance abuse prevention efforts.

Richard Freund, Maurice Greenberg Professor of Jewish Studies and professor of history, was the recipient of the James E. and Frances W. Bent Award for Scholarship and/or Artistic Creativity. Anyone who has ever sat in one of Freund’s classes or public lectures or worked with him on an archaeological dig in the Israeli desert will readily attest to his boundless energy and his expertise. His work in such areas as biblical archaeology, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, early Christianity, Rabbinic Judaism, Jewish ethics, and Jewish philosophy has been cited and praised by fellow scholars. But what truly sets Freund apart is his ability to put those subjects in a context that the average person can understand.

Yvonne Jehenson, professor of modern languages and literary and cultural studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, received this year’s Donald W. Davis All-University Curriculum Award. The students in Jehenson’s AUCS 150 class, Gender, Identity, and Society, describe her as one of the best interdisciplinary teachers and scholars at the University, and they portray her class as stimulating, engaging, and even life-changing. Jehenson challenges students’ ways of thinking, encourages them to express their opinions, and opens them up to new perspectives through a wide variety of speakers, films, lectures, trips, articles, and other materials. She is an internationally recognized scholar who speaks Spanish and French fluently and has studied biblical Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Raymond J. McGivney, professor of mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences, received the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching. During his 33 years at the University, McGivney has helped generations of students master the most complex material in the study of mathematics by helping them understand how math relates to familiar situations. McGivney’s colleagues and students describe him as a rare and gifted teacher who has the singular ability to bring a mathematics classroom to life and turn the most math-phobic students into motivated learners. He has co-authored two textbooks and written manuscripts for three. His energy and creativity were intrinsic to the development of two significant mathematics courses: Contemporary Mathematics and Modeling with Elementary Functions.

Sarabeth Grant is this year’s John G. Martin Scholar. Graduating with a double major in English literature and American history, she is described as an exemplary student who is “insanely curious.” She was the 2002–03 Humanities Center Scholarship winner, a 2003 Senior Regents Award recipient, chapter president of Sigma Tau Delta (the international honor society for English) and president of the Alpha Chi honor society, which recognizes the top 10 percent of the University’s junior and senior classes. Grant is relocating to England with her husband, Jonathan, to pursue a master’s degree. As the University’s 17th Martin Scholar, she will study modern history and English for two years at Oxford University’s Hertford College.

Ghaith M. Hammouri was the recipient of the Belle K. Ribicoff Prize, awarded to a graduating senior who has achieved academic excellence, taken on leadership roles, and been active in extracurricular activities. A double major in electrical engineering and physics, with a minor in mathematics, he partnered with Dean Alan Hadad to finish a 20-year-old paper written by Hadad’s late uncle on prime numbers for submission to the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). The paper was scheduled to be presented at ASEE’s annual conference in June 2003. His senior project included a digital power meter that communicates with a personal computer. A native of Amman, Jordan, Hammouri was president of both the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi, and the Muslim Student Association.

Jessica Johnson was the third recipient of the John G. Lee Medal, awarded each year to a graduating senior from Greater Hartford who has excelled academically and is engaged in extensive community service. A psychology major with a grade point average of 3.98, Johnson has an extensive record of community service. She has spent the past year as a volunteer at Planned Parenthood of West Hartford and previously as a volunteer assistant instructor with the T.E.A.M. Health, Inc. (Therapeutic Equine-Assisted Mental Health) program. The program teaches social skills to developmentally disabled students through the use of equestrian training. She is enrolled at Yale University for the fall of 2003, where she will pursue a graduate degree as a psychiatric nurse practitioner.
The Class of 2003

by Judie Jacobson

How time flies! As avid Observer readers will recall, our Winter 1999 issue introduced nine wet-behind-the-ears freshmen as they began navigating their way through their first year on campus. Five of the nine remained and graduated this May. We now bring you the final chapter in their University of Hartford stories.

Music Feeds Her Soul

Erica Geller arrived at the University with a song in her heart—and with a song in her heart, she leaves it. Graduating with a degree in vocal music education from The Hartt School and a nearly-perfect grade point average, the New Jersey native earned a spot on the President’s List (minimum GPA, 3.75) in her first semester—and never gave it up.

Geller hopes to combine her love of music with her love for children by finding a general music teaching position in the Hartford public schools. Because of the University’s strong teacher-training program, she says, “the prospect of going on job interviews is more exciting to me than frightening.” She student-taught at several elementary and high schools throughout the Greater Hartford area.

“You do fieldwork from the time you take your first education course,” Geller explains, “and as you advance, you take on more and more responsibility.” Ultimately, you have full responsibility for a class for an entire semester—as she did in 2002–03 at East Hartford High School.

Geller’s extracurricular interests extended well beyond the world of music. “I’ve made use of just about everything on campus!” she says. Especially satisfying was time spent at the University’s Center for Reading and Writing, where she worked with special-needs children.

Along with her PC and stereo system, Geller packs up and takes with her a host of accolades and honors. A member of Alpha Lambda Delta, a freshman honor society, and Alpha Chi, an honor society for juniors and seniors, she also was nominated for Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honor society. In addition, she designed a special education and music Web page that has been linked to the Organization of American Educators and is now used by the education department in the University’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

Looking ahead, Geller plans to return to school for a master’s degree after she has a few years of teaching under her belt.

Ready for His Close-up

He started out as an electrical engineering technology major at Ward College of Technology, but after logging thousands of work hours at STN–Channel 2, the student-run television station, Mike McCarthy decided to switch gears, or at least re-tool them. “I really grew to love broadcasting,” he says, “and I realized that narrowing my engineering major down to broadcasting, rather than electronics in general, would give me a much better chance of getting the kind of job I wanted.”

As a result, McCarthy became a “contract” major. With the help of an advisor, he put together a series of courses and suggested it as a major or concentration. In May the Rochester, N.Y., native received a bachelor of science in Technology with an emphasis in broadcast engineering. Two months ago he landed a job at WFSB-TV in Hartford, working at his craft and loving it.

McCarthy’s association—or, as he puts it, “obsession”—with STN–Channel 2 began the day he arrived on campus. He has served as STN’s chief engineer major down to broadcasting, rather than electronics in general, would give me a much better chance of getting the kind of job I wanted.”

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Taking Time to Unwind

Erik Rugar has definite plans for life after graduation: putting all thoughts of a career on hold and taking some time to relax, unwind, and have fun. And why not? Four years of hard work and rigorous play have earned this personable young athlete from Suffield, Conn., the right to delay what he calls “getting serious.”

According to Rugar, life at the University of Hartford has been a 50-50 proposition—50 percent of his time and energy cracking the books as a finance and economics major in the Barney School of Business, and 50 percent of his time and energy on the soccer field as a star player for the Hawks. Encouraged by his soccer coach, he also participated in community activities, including the Walk for Hunger and reading days at local public schools.

A lifelong soccer player, Rugar was surprised to find himself greeting the end of the soccer season this year with a sigh of relief. “My time over the past four years has been taken up by my studies and soccer,” he says. “When soccer was over, I was relieved. I realized that I finally have the time now to pursue some of the things that I couldn’t pursue before.”

As he is quick to point out, putting a career on the back burner doesn’t mean he won’t earn a living. “I’ve pretty much always worked,” he says, running down a laundry list of jobs that he has held at the University, “and I intend to continue to support myself. I just want to take some time to relax and think seriously about the kind of career I eventually want.”

Leaving the campus, however, won’t be easy for the two-time America East Academic Honor Roll recipient. “I can’t imagine a school that could have fit me better than the University of Hartford,” Rugar says. “I’ve made great friends, and through soccer, I’ve had the opportunity to meet people from every country imaginable.”

Setting a Family Milestone

Commencement day gives every graduate’s family the right to overflow with emotion. For Eulalia Garcia’s family, the day brought with it incomparable pride and joy, and with good reason. When Garcia walked off with her degree in criminal justice, she became the first person in her extended family to graduate from college.

Garcia represents a success story not only for her family but also for the Hartford Scholars program that helped make her college career possible. She maintained her spot in this special scholarship program for Hartford public-school graduates by consistently earning a 3.5 grade point average or better.

Not satisfied with only taking from the program, Garcia gave back by becoming actively involved with The Associates, an organization composed of members of the Greater Hartford business community who play a major role in funding the Hartford Scholars program. Just weeks before graduation, Garcia was guest speaker at the organization’s annual gala fund-raiser, an encore performance for her. When she spoke at the gala three years ago, her passion and sincerity in describing the program’s impact on her life inspired a standing ovation.

Long active in Naciones Hispanas Unidas, the campus organization for Hispanic students, Garcia has also consistently offered her assistance to incoming freshmen as a campus Red Cap. Committed to community service, she holds a part-time job at AIDS Project Hartford, where she helps clients with such needs as finding housing or budgeting household income.

Garcia began her pursuit of a degree in criminal justice at Hillyer College and then transferred to the College of Arts and Sciences, where she founded the UI chapter of the Criminal Justice Association. With her sights set on a career in forensics, Garcia will begin work toward her master’s degree this fall at the University of New Haven. She was also accepted at Quinnipiac Law School.

Making a Statement Through Art

For Pedja Zdravkovic, who arrived here four years ago from Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on a tennis scholarship to study graphic design, a shaky start has led to a strong and winning finish.

“When I first came here to live,” he says, “I was in culture shock. I was a year older than many other freshmen, and I didn’t feel that I fit in. I went back home on every break. Then I got involved in school. I really started to enjoy my classes; my professors were really great.”

continued on page 40
Operation Iraqi Freedom concluded with a series of startling images, many of them positive, all of them pointing to unanticipated and historic possibilities. The April 9 scenes of Baghdad residents embracing American soldiers and cheering the toppling of a statue of Saddam Hussein were unlike anything witnessed before in the Middle East.

With the exception of Israel, it is difficult to think of any comparable historic situation in which inhabitants of a region were so visibly enthusiastic about a demonstration of American power. Should postwar realities in Iraq take a turn for the worse, posterity will point out that the victory images in April were actually ambiguous. In Baghdad and elsewhere in the Middle East, Arabs witnessed the toppling of the garish Saddam Hussein icon, but they also noticed that it took U.S. Marines and an American tank recovery vehicle to pull down this symbol of tyranny. On-the-spot American media can be forgiven, however, for overlooking such nuances.

Operation Iraqi Freedom ended in a dizzying whirlwind of emotion, rumor (including reports of Saddam Hussein’s catlike survival), and hope. Journalists were reporting on a new reality whose specific inspiring moments and inauspicious episodes, such as the looting of Baghdad’s National Museum, were not anticipated by either army or civilian planners.

As New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof pointed out, everyone had the end-of-the-war scenario wrong. Years before the war began, neoconservative hawks like Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz suggested that popular uprisings and returned Iraqi exiles would do the job; all that would be needed would be some American weapons and air cover. Conversely, in the months leading up to the war, liberals warned of street-to-street fighting in Iraqi cities, terrorist reprisals in the U.S. or elsewhere, and other bleak events. In the meantime, the Bush administration promised the discovery of caches of unconventional weapons. By the time of this writing at the end of April, none of these scenarios had come to the fore.

In the weeks preceding Operation Iraqi Freedom, little attention was paid to the issue of “What happens the morning after the war?” Media coverage focused on debates in the United Nations on Iraqi noncompliance with the arms-inspection process and on the case that members of the Bush administration presented to support the impending conflict. At the time, this focus appeared perfectly natural.

The lack of media discussion about the “Morning After,” however, is symptomatic of broad structural issues that hamper American coverage of the Middle East. Generally, print and visual media relate to immediate, image-friendly events and tend to neglect complex, long-term processes. They prefer incidents that either contain authentic drama or are amusing signs of the times, like the renaming of the French fries in Capitol Hill cafeterias as “Freedom fries” in a culinary rebuke of French intransigence at the U.N. The on-the-ground dynamics of social change and potential democratization in countries whose distant and recent histories are as disparate as Lebanon and Iran are largely foreign to American media. As Edward Said points out in his book Covering Islam, American journalists tend to lack basic familiarity with Islam and the various languages and cultures in the Middle East.

In the final analysis, the issue goes well beyond this or that reporter’s training and ingrained habits in American coverage of the Middle East. As in many other cases, the problem of coverage—or noncoverage—of the
Morning After isn’t entirely a media issue. It straddles the realms of pure information and moral values, media and politics. Specifically, the issue relates to conflicting beliefs about the exportability of democracy and the legacy of the 9/11 attacks.

One liberal view, passionately defended by New York Times correspondent Thomas Friedman, argues that America was well within its rights to identify Saddam Hussein as a potential patron of future terror assaults and to take military action against his criminal regime. Friedman warns, however, that should the War on Terror not be accompanied by a positive program of democratization for Iraq—and, subsequently, elsewhere in the Arab world—the Bush administration will have squandered the patriotic resolve that 9/11 generated and betrayed its global responsibilities.

Though there was no substantive Morning After debate in the American media, Friedman attempted in his New York Times columns to raise the bar sky high. If democracy building in Iraq and elsewhere “goes wrong,” Friedman warned on Feb. 26, 2003, “the world will never be the same.” Arguably, the conservative view is skeptical about this corollary of Arab democratization. The U.S.’s historic isolationism collapsed in the rubble of the World Trade Center, and yet conservatives who advocate a global War on Terror remain wary of meddling in the political affairs of other countries.

Predictably, American commentators deferred discussion of the Morning After until it became evident that the capture of Baghdad and a conclusive result to the war were within reach. By the weekend of April 4, when the newspaper headlines were reporting that the “noose around Baghdad is tightening,” some columnists finally began to wonder aloud what America and Britain might offer Iraq after the Hussein regime was taken to the gallows. “This administration wages war better than it wages diplomacy,” Nicholas Kristof fretted in The New York Times. “Today the paramount question is not whether we will win this war, but whether we can persuade ordinary Iraqis to accept our victory.”

To outsiders, Kristof and many other commentators were correct to pose this issue of the Morning After as the paramount question. But the recognition seemed belated and anomalous, given America’s unrivaled military power and the prolonged contacts with sundry Iraqi opposition figures and groups in which State Department officials have engaged since the late 1980s.

To outsiders, the White House–Pentagon doctrine of overwhelming military force was accompanied by an underwhelming measure of thought about the Morning After.

Now that the war has ended, administering Iraq will be a tremendously difficult tightrope act. Western media outlets ritualistically conceptualize Iraq in tidy ethnic-religious groupings—Turk, Shiite, and Sunni—and definite geographic clusters—Shiite in the South, Kurds in the North. While these divisions might conform broadly to Iraqi reality, they ignore a multitude of details, such as 2.5 million Turkmen, 650,000 Christians, and the dense mingling of populations in key cities and regions.

Before the war ended, a handful of seasoned American journalists, such as The New York Times’s Ethan Bronner (whose expertise in the region stems from his days as a foreign correspondent for The Boston Globe), contemplated these questions by way of analogy. In an opinion piece titled “The Lesson of Lebanon—Don’t Forget to Leave,” Bronner drew on Israel’s bitter experience in Lebanon to warn that Shiite groups in southern Iraq might not extend American troops in southern Iraq a long welcome. The perception of Americans as liberators could have a short shelf life in Iraq.

Will Operation Iraqi Freedom mean exactly that for Iraq? For those of us who live in the Middle East, a war by any other name would not be the same war. If it is not about freedom and democracy, then the sacrifices of American and British servicemen have not been fully honored, nor has the region been well served.
Rita Garvin ’05 is working with a troublesome batch of film. It is late afternoon on a dreary Wednesday in April. Garvin, a sophomore, and her classmates are hard at work in room 114, the black-and-white darkroom at the Hartford Art School.

The oldies drifting softly from the beat-up boom box perched in the corner seem out of place in the company of the young students. The smell of developing chemicals, distinct in the hall outside, is unavoidable here. Two low-wattage, industrial-looking lamps mounted overhead throw what little light they can straight up to the ceiling, casting an eerie, yellow glow. Gradually the equipment, the sink, and chemical baths come into focus. Once you get used to it, it’s kind of cozy.

In a corner, Garvin contemplates her negatives. During the shoot, she made a small mistake: one setting on her 35mm camera was off, and now she needs to see if she can salvage the film. She hopes she can “push” the film, massage it into usable prints, by playing with the timing on the enlarger.

Garvin doesn’t mind, though. She’s patient—willing to try and fail if, in the long run, it makes her a better photographer. That’s what school is all about. It’s what brings students like Garvin to places like the Hartford Art School. But beyond her desire to learn and willingness to struggle with her craft, she is fortunate in one other sense: someone who had never met her, who had never laid eyes on her photographs, established a scholarship at the University of Hartford. That scholarship has helped make her studies at the Art School possible.

Jane Keller Herzig knows what it’s like to be a young artist struggling to learn her craft. She’s a graduate of the Hartford Art School herself, having earned a master’s in art education in 1981. Today, she considers herself a goldsmith first but works in a range of media. Two major projects have been filling her time recently. She’s writing and illustrating a children’s book, and her cow was selected for the West Hartford CowParade. Cities and towns worldwide have hosted these events, in which local artists paint fiberglass cows that are then placed around the town for viewing and later auctioned to benefit a charity.

Herzig has always been involved with the University. It’s something of a family tradition. For many years, her parents, Richard and Marion Keller, served as advocates for people with disabilities in the Greater Hartford region. Richard Keller eventually became the University of Hartford’s ombudsman for the handicapped. Long before it was accepted as standard practice, he worked to ensure that architects and builders took people’s special needs into account. The University of Hartford campus never had to be retrofitted for accessibility.

Thanks, at least in part to Keller, it was built that way from the very beginning.

When Herzig and her husband, Ed, along with her brothers Peter and James and their wives, wanted to honor the Kellers, it didn’t take them long to decide how. They thought of students at the University and established the Marion and Richard Keller Financial Assistance Fund for students with disabilities. Garvin, who is deaf, is the current beneficiary of the fund.

Garvin and Herzig had the opportunity to meet in April at a luncheon sponsored by the University that brings together donors and scholarship recipients. Several students spoke appreciatively of what their scholarships have meant to them. Ninth-grader Abe Cantwell entertained the crowd with a couple of pieces on his violin. Cantwell, the beneficiary of a special scholarship, studies at the Hartt Community Division. In between presentations, Garvin and Herzig talked—two artists at different stages of their careers, comparing notes. They discussed what art they each liked, and Garvin shared her plans for the future: she thinks she wants to open her own studio.

It was appropriate that she talk about her future. Speaking at the luncheon, President Walter Harrison asked the students to remember the moment. In 20 years, he suggested, they might be back for another luncheon, this time as donors themselves. Harrison urged the students to stay involved, whether at the University of Hartford or elsewhere. Scholarships, he noted, are an investment in the future.
On this occasion, Jane Herzig had the chance to meet the future in the person of Rita Garvin. One wonders if, when she was a student, Herzig had ever imagined such a moment. The University of Hartford holds a special place in her life. Now, through the Marion and Richard Keller Financial Assistance Fund, she and her family have become a special part of the University, helping to support the dreams of students and the future.
Ordinary citizens are deposited in a wilderness setting where they form tribes and battle each other in a series of “immunity challenges.” A group of gorgeous young women vie for the affection of an attractive young man whom they believe to be a millionaire but who is actually a construction worker. Another young woman dunks her head into a tank to bob for rings that are floating in 50 gallons of cow’s blood.

Every night during prime time—those magic hours between 8 and 11 p.m., when more people in the U.S. are watching television than are engaged in any other single activity—these are the images and stories that the networks parade before us in the guise of the latest hit genre: “reality television.” Think about that designation for a moment. Reality TV. Hmm, last time I checked, my “real” life was nothing like that. I haven’t hooked anyone up to a lie detector lately, I try to avoid having tarantulas crawl on my face whenever possible, and the last time I was flown to a desert island was...oh yeah, never.

Yet we tune in, episode after episode, week after week, in such great numbers that television producers are climbing over each other in their haste to put the next “Survivor” or “Joe Millionaire” on the air.

All of this because, in the strange world of commercial television, the only thing that matters is that we watch. It doesn’t really matter what we watch. Or, to be more accurate, that those of us who fit the profile that advertisers most desire—young, affluent, urban, or suburban—watch in numbers large enough to justify charg-
bers large enough to justify charging upwards of $1 million for a 30-second commercial spot. The first thing that we all should understand about commercial television is that the real reality of television is advertising. The rest is just filler designed primarily to get our eyeballs directed at the screen. Our time is the real product that is being sold in the television marketplace. It simply doesn’t matter whether the news informs us about what is going on in the world or whether situation comedies make us laugh. As long as we watch.

And watch we do. Reality shows are frequently the top-rated programs in the Nielsen ratings. This system, despite ridiculously small samples skewed toward wealthier Americans, determines the fate of television programs. One rating point can mean literally millions of dollars of profit or loss for a network. Profit is the key here. In addition to their high ratings, television executives love reality shows because they are relatively inexpensive to produce. In an age when the biggest TV stars are demanding weekly salaries that resemble Powerball payoffs, it’s easy to see why the networks would take a group of mail carriers and flight attendants, drop them off in a house somewhere in an undisclosed location, and just let the cameras roll.

Embracing Unreality

A s long as we keep tuning in, the networks will keep devising more and more unreal schemes that they can sell to us as “reality.” But why do we keep tuning in? Why do we embrace unreality that is packaged to us as reality? Well, let’s consider real reality for just a moment. In the last several years—a time frame that coincides with the rise in popularity of these sorts of unreal reality programs—what has the real world brought to American citizens?

A contested presidential election. An economy that is flaccid, with no apparent good news in sight. A devastating terrorist attack that forced us to realize that we no longer live in a secure bubble. A war on Afghanistan. A war on Iraq. A war on...who’s next? And now the rise of a new epidemic that has airline passengers wearing masks while they are being strip-searched and patted down by airport security personnel.

Tarantulas on your face are starting to look pretty good in comparison, no? When the real world seems so dreary and bleak, is it any wonder that we yearn for a different sort of reality? The unreal reality offered to us night after night after night as this genre continues to rise in popularity is comforting in a way. After all, the trials and tribulations of the latest “Survivor” tribe are really silly and humorous in comparison to the trials and tribulations that most of us must confront in our daily lives.

Central Storyteller of Our Culture

B ut are these programs completely harmless? Are they just mindless entertainment, a momentary escape? Despite many conflicting theoretical perspectives and contradictory results, decades of media research have taught us this: there is no such thing as just entertainment. Something else is always going on when we watch television. It offers us a vision of the world, moral lessons, and information and ideas that we would otherwise be unlikely to encounter. Most of us spend more time with television than we do interacting with our friends and families or in educational, religious, or fraternal institutions. As media scholar George Gerbner has pointed out, television has become the central storyteller of our culture, the primary source of much of what we know or think we know.

So what vision of the world do most of these reality programs offer us? Primarily, it is a world of humiliation, ridicule, and greed. Contestants are insulted for flaws in their personal appearance on programs like “Extreme Makeover” or “Are You Hot?” (In the latter program, one judge used a laser pointer to highlight problem areas on the contestants’ bodies.) Over and over again, people appear in dangerous or degrading situations—usually in a fierce competition for material gain. After all, the program was called “Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?”—not “Who Wants to Marry a Real Person Who Will Love Them, Treat Them with Respect, and Allow Them to Find Happiness?”

In most of these programs, one person emerges as the Ultimate Winner, and the rest drag themselves home as Pathetic Losers. And we continue to watch, squirming during the really disgusting moments, laughing at other people’s misery, peering through the keyhole as people “just like us” are humiliated for our viewing enjoyment. Then we turn off the set and return to the real real world—a world of dwindling bank accounts, bombs and battalions, and...oh yeah, SARS. Welcome to the 21st century.

Bill Yousman is an assistant professor in the School of Communication.
Sitting in a rocking chair on a porch in jeans and T-shirt, swatting away the occasional mosquito, I’m enjoying the sunset and sultry summer air. I am sentimental, wanting to cry and laugh at the same time, thankful for the moment, and my week.

The weather in Georgia in March is like the beginning of summer in New England. It is a welcome change from Connecticut’s long and bleak winter. The South is a great place to spend your spring break, especially among a diverse group of some of the kindest, most intelligent, thoughtful, and caring of your peers.

During the Alternative Spring Break, the University of Hartford contingent paid a visit to the international headquarters of Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Ga.
Forty-four University of Hartford students opted to spend this year’s spring break with Habitat for Humanity in Albany, Ga. Members of the University’s Habitat Campus Chapter worked throughout the year to raise money for and awareness about Habitat’s Collegiate Challenge.

Forty-eight-plus hours were spent traveling up and down the East Coast, from Connecticut to Georgia and back, in four 12- to 15-passenger vans. Forty-four 18- to 24-year-olds forfeited a week of relaxing, bumming around, working for profit, and playing in tropical getaways. Forty-four people started their spring breaks at sunrise as friends, acquaintances, strangers, and ended them after midnight a week later as a type of family.

The University’s Habitat Campus Chapter has been blossoming since its inception three years ago. Each year, it participates in the Collegiate Challenge, or Alternative Spring Break. Past destinations have included Durham, N.C., and Franklin, W.Va. This year, it was Albany, Ga., similar in some ways to our past Habitat spring break destinations but also different. The common goal of building affordable housing and a caring community in an area of need is always present, as is the spirit of the students to help, learn, and grow. The geography and memories are as individual as can be; all are precious. Each experience is life changing.

Our Habitat work site in Albany was in a beautiful neighborhood with other completed Habitat houses. Students were divided into groups to finish sanding and painting the interior of one house; put up the framing, walls, and roof of another; and clear land on an adjacent lot. The beauty of Habitat is that volunteers need no experience, just big hearts and open minds.

Monday through Friday, we rose at 6 a.m. at breathtaking Camp Kirksey—reminiscent of a summer camp, complete with bunks, a dining hall, tall trees, ponds, warm weather, mosquitoes, campfires, and cookouts—and started working at 8:30 a.m. Lunches were generously provided by local service organizations. Days ended at approximately 4:30 p.m., when dinner was again provided for us. There is nothing quite like Southern hospitality!

We worked alongside high-schoolers from Minnesota and students from Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. We awoke in the middle of the week to the news that a tornado had devastated a community merely 20 miles away—and brought our lunches to the relief workers. We were fortunate enough to visit the international headquarters of Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Ga. Nights were spent bowling, watching movies, roller-skating, talking, doing homework, and sleeping.

You may go into a community service project expecting to sacrifice, to give of yourself, more than anything else. The amount that you take away is one of the most amazing and overwhelming things you could ever experience. It’s what brings me back to Habitat and Alternative Spring Break year after year.

Kimberly Joy Schell ’04 is an English major in the College of Arts and Sciences and a University ambassador.
I Don’t Know What I Want, But I Know It’s Not This
A Step-by-Step Guide to Finding Gratifying Work
Julie Jansen ’81

Penguin Books
by Margaret Withey

Julie Jansen ’81 has written a career-change book that provides exactly what the title promises. I Don’t Know What I Want, But I Know It’s Not This is a concise “guide to finding gratifying work.” In contrast to a number of other exhaustive guides of the same genre, Jansen’s book provides essential information and exercises in self-knowledge without overwhelming the reader with too much information or too many time-consuming assignments to prepare in the course of career searching.

An interview in the 2002 spring issue of The Observer anticipated the publication of Jansen’s book by Penguin in 2003. A feature story recalled her own employment changes leading to her present career as writer and consultant. Since receiving her degree in mass communications from the University, Jansen has worked in broadcasting, recruiting, outplacement, and training. Her writing has been featured in a number of publications, and she is a frequent speaker for nonprofit and for-profit corporations and associations. She also plans another book.

I Don’t Know What I Want, But I Know It’s Not This, Jansen’s first book, treats shifting gears in the job market as a skill in itself. Through text and questionnaires, she helps job changers ask the right questions of themselves. She looks at the causes of employment dissatisfaction—age, corporate acquisitions, lack of balance in work life—and the effects of staying in an unpleasant job. Readers are asked to analyze six work situations that often lead to thinking about change and to answer questions about their own circumstances.

Other sections of the book and assessment questionnaires address personal values, attitudes, personality, and interests. Chapters are devoted to answering objections that job-changers raise, creating a plan for change, planning retirement, assessing the requirements of starting one’s own business, and observing the qualities possessed by successful people.

Also included is a section that Jansen calls the “Nuts and Bolts” of a job search, along with a list of other resources. One strength of Jansen’s approach is that questions require relatively short answers rather than the lengthy essays suggested by other career guides.

About her book, Jansen says, “I wrote [it] to motivate others—to help them feel confident that being happy with work is a choice you can and should make.”

Smack Dab in the Middle
Anita Riggio ’75

Penguin Putnam
by Margaret Withey

The story and illustrations for Smack Dab in the Middle, Anita Riggio’s newest children’s book, recall an era when today’s grandparents were themselves children. The heroine of the story, however, belongs to all generations, sharing a timeless problem with her young readers. Rosie Roselli, a middle child, feels neglected.

A highly successful author and illustrator, Riggio ’75 has drawn upon her own large, extended Italian family to create Rosie, a little girl who feels overlooked. Riggio portrays Rosie’s feelings by illustrating her as a white figure among her brightly colored friends and family members.

When Rosie takes “good work” home from school, hoping for praise and a hug, every adult is preoccupied with the needs and wants of another child. Rosie is shown slumped in a colorless heap. Like many other real and fictional children, she reacts by planning to run away. One of the teachers in her Catholic school helps Rosie discover that she is loved and she is central to her family.

Created with India ink, gouache, cut paper and stamps, Riggio’s art manages to look both retro and modern. Father wears a tie; Mother, a dress and pumps; and the children, saddle shoes. Because of the details of dress and the flat style of the drawings, we as readers would not be surprised to meet a cheerful mailman or friendly policeman from children’s books of another era, nor are we surprised to find Rosie’s teacher wearing a nun’s traditional habit.

At the same time, the book looks thoroughly modern. Riggio’s use of color—together with present-day techniques of composition, illustration, and printing—leaves no doubt that this book is aimed at today’s child.

Riggio is the author-illustrator of continued on page 40
In Memoriam

Ann Beck


“Ann was a remarkable colleague, scholar, teacher, and friend,” said Peter K. Breit, professor emeritus and former chair of the departments of politics and government and history. “Hers was an intellectual life well lived and given.”

Although Beck retired as a full-time faculty member 30 years ago, she continued to conduct research in East Africa, contribute to scholarly publications, and teach at the University well into her 80s.

Born in Germany, she came to the United States in 1938. Here she received a Ph.D. in science history and taught at a number of colleges. She was named a full professor of history at the University of Hartford in 1960. She was particularly interested in how the British and German colonial powers introduced Western medicine to East Africa. Her work was published by Harvard University Press, Crossroads Press, and many academic journals.

Domenica DiMatteo

Friends, colleagues, students, and family members gathered at the Senior Common Room on May 2 in a moving tribute to Domenica DiMatteo ’02, a beloved member of the University of Hartford community, who died on March 13, 2003. She was 53.

DiMatteo came to the University in 1988 as a secretary in the Department of International Studies. She was named study abroad administrator in 1994, a role that enabled her to open the world of international study and travel to countless students.

“Domenica helped so many students broaden their minds,” said Associate Professor of Politics and Government Harald Sandstrom. “We are forever in her debt.”

DiMatteo was born in Alvignano, Caserta, Italy. Committed to education, she studied in the United States while working full time and earned her bachelor’s degree in international communication from the University in May 2002.

“Her kind and gentle spirit and her incredible devotion to students will be greatly missed,” said Chuck Colarulli, associate provost and dean of undergraduate studies.

A scholarship fund established in her memory will help make study abroad opportunities available to students who might otherwise not be able to afford them.

Elizabeth H. Gengras

A life regent of the University of Hartford, Elizabeth H. Gengras died at home on May 2, 2003. She was 86.

She and her husband, E. Clayton Gengras, a founder of the University, were generous donors for many years, as evidenced by the Gengras Student Union. After her husband’s death in 1983, she continued her commitment to the University, receiving the University’s Medal for Distinguished Service in 1990.

Gengras was a member of the boards of the Bushnell Memorial, the Wadsworth Atheneum, and the national board of governors of The Institute of Living. A resident of Avon and the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook, Conn., she is survived by her three daughters and seven sons.

Maurice Ghnassia

Maurice Jean-Henri Ghnassia, author, journalist, jazz aficionado, former French Resistance leader, and longtime adjunct faculty member at the University, died on Jan. 4, 2003, after a long illness. He was 82.

Ghnassia taught a variety of courses, including an All-University Curriculum (AUC) course, Western Heritage: The Humanities. In 1998 he received an AUC award for outstanding teaching. “His classes were enlightening, thought-provoking, and challenging,” said Karen Barrett, associate dean of undergraduate studies and director of the AUC.

Born in Paris, Ghnassia was a resident of Avon and the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook, Conn., she is survived by her three daughters and seven sons.
1962
CHARLOTTE G. KOSKOFF
(HCW) of Plainville, Conn., participated in a roundtable discussion on careers, sponsored by Hartford College for Women's Leadership Association.

VALERIE F. LEWIS
(HCW) of Vernon, Conn., has been elected president of the State Higher Education Executive Officers, a national, nonprofit association that serves statewide coordinating boards and governing boards of postsecondary education.

1963
JEAN PHILLIPS NELSON
(HARTT) of Keene, N.H., has received the 2002 President's Outstanding Women of New Hampshire Award, presented at Keene State College, and the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from the Lions Club International Foundation for contributions to the state and community through music.

1965
JOHN J. CARSON
(A&S) of Bloomfield, Conn., was featured in a lighthearted story on FOX 61's "News at Ten" about local people with the same names as well-known celebrities.

DOUGLAS J. KEELER
(ENHP, '66 ENHP) of Claremont, Calif., has retired as superintendent of the Claremont Unified School District. He and his wife, Susan, are planning to move back to the East Coast and make their home in Virginia.

1967
COLLETTE M. HURST
(BARNEY) of Unionville, Conn., performed at Peaberry’s Café in Simsbury, Conn. Hurst, a singer and songwriter, appears with the Satin Tones.

MARGARET W. NAREFF
(HCW) of Granby, Conn., participated in a roundtable discussion on careers, sponsored by HCW’s Women’s Leadership Association.

ROLAND L. RICHARDSON
(HAS) of St. Martin, West Indies, recently exhibited "Caribbean Impressions," a collection of original oils, watercolors, and etchings based on the Caribbean region. The exhibit was hosted by Ennio & Michael Ristorante in New York City’s Greenwich Village.

LINDA WEBBER
(ENHP) of Bloomfield, Conn., painted the 20-by-8-foot mural at the Center for Women’s Health of the University of Connecticut Health Center, where she is curator.

1968
FREDERICA B. HOFFMANN
(HCW) of Avon, Conn., participated in a roundtable discussion on careers, sponsored by HCW’s Women’s Leadership Association.

LUCILLE SCHONBRUN
(ENHP) of Tucson, Ariz., has received a Doctor of Education from Argosy University/Sarasota.

1969
CHERYL MELODY BASKIN
(HARTT) of Hopkinton, Mass., recently released her sixth CD, Celebrate! Baskin, who writes as Cheryl Melody, received the 2001 Parents’ Choice Foundation award for her CD Let’s Pretend (& More!). She is an independent recording artist, composer, educator, and international performer of original, interactive concerts titled “Peace Begins with Me.” She describes her music as “dedicated to nurturing inner peace and a vision of a world filled with respect, nonviolence, understanding, and love.” Her song “World Peace Anthem” is being translated into several languages and is the official song for the United Nations–sanctioned “One Day in Peace” campaign (www.oneday.net).

1970
ELIZABETH C. BOUKUS
(ENHP) of Plainville, Conn., has been reelected to the Connecticut House of Representatives from the 22nd District.

ANTANAS J. VAN REENAN
(A&S, ’79 ENHP) of Kaunas, Lithuania, is teaching the history of the Lithuanian diaspora at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Republic of Lithuania. He also teaches English and world history to high school students in Kaunas. He is also introducing American baseball to Lithuanian youths. At present, he has four Little League teams and two college teams. You may contact him at sigiskam@one.lt.

More Than Just an Illusion
An enthusiastic audience of approximately 400 contributed nearly $43,000 to the University of Hartford Magnet School Library Fund at “The Magic of Reading, an Evening of Fantasy and Illusion,” held at Lincoln Theater on May 10.

People vanished all over the Lincoln Theater stage, reappearing in other places and guises through the magic of Lyn Dillies, a master illusionist. Mentalist Denis Lacombe of Cirque du Soleil impressed the audience by first identifying a number in a sealed envelope and then proving it to be the sum of a series of numbers on a grid that he had created earlier. As promised, juggler Mark Nizer, who opens for Barry Manilow, juggled an electric carving knife, a bowling ball, and a propane torch (unlit because of fire laws but with a flag as its flame), and stunned the audience with his physical strength and agility.

The proceeds of this event enable the magnet school library to take a major step toward filling its shelves. The evening was made possible through the generosity and creativity of Hollywood producers Susan and Kent McCray ’51, who conceived of the fund-raiser and supplied the entertainment. Kent McCray, an alumnus of The Hartt School, serves as a University regent. Susan McCray is a corporator of the Hartford Art School.

Edward Crowell (right), art teacher at the University of Hartford Magnet School, presents his wood carving of a magic hat as a gift to Kent and Susan McCray (left) to thank them for their generosity to the magnet school. Principal Cheryl Kloczko (third from left) looks on.
ALUMNI NEWS

1971
RONALD C. CORMIER (A&S, ’76 A&S) of Marco Island, Fla., and Lebanon, Conn., has completed a two-week program for the U.S. Coast Guard Air Training Station in Mobile, Ala. He is a staff member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Leadership and Management School in New London, Conn. Cormier was a major in the U.S. Marine Corps and a former adjunct professor in criminal justice. He is a retired judicial administrator from the Connecticut judicial system who also spent 10 years as a parole agent and warden for treatment programs at the Cheshire (Conn.) Correctional Institution. He and his wife, Nan, have four children and seven grandchildren.

NANCY J. OSGOOD (HCW) of West Suffield, Conn., has been named a counselor with HCW’s Career Counseling Center. She recently participated in a roundtable discussion sponsored by HCW’s Women’s Leadership Association.

STUART SAUNDERS SMITH (’73 HArTT) of Gwynn Oak, Md., professor of composition and theory at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus, is an internationally known composer. The Hartford School’s Institute of Contemporary American Music presented Sylvia Smith & Friends performing Saunders’ Smith’s music at a Hartford concert in April, organized by DAVID MACBRIDE ’73, associate professor of composition and theory at Hartford.

1972
JOHN H. PEARSON, JR. (A&S), of Lowell, Mass., has been named vice chairman of the American Textile History Museum in Lowell. The senior partner of Pearson & Pearson, patent attorneys, and chief executive officer (CEO) of Butler Bank in Lowell, Pearson has served on the museum’s board of directors for several years. In his new position he will work to further the American Textile Museum’s mission within the community and beyond.

1973
EDWIN P. McCausland, JR. (BARNEY), of New Albany, Ohio, has been elected chief investment officer of Nationwide, offering a broad range of products in personal and commercial insurance, retirement savings, and asset management.

KAREN S. NOBUMOTO (A&S) of Los Angeles, Calif., has concluded a term as the first minority female president of the State Bar of California. Nobumoto, a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles, was the second woman and first public lawyer to head the 178,000-member organization.

SHARON NALBONE RICHARDSON (A&S) of Malvern, Pa., superintendent of the Pottsgrove School District in Pottstown, Pa., was awarded an Educator of the Year award by the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce. She has been reappointed by the district’s board of school directors for another four-year term as superintendent, after serving in that capacity for the last 10 years.

JOSEPH C. SERRA (BARNEY) of Middletown, Conn., was reelected to the Connecticut House of Representatives from the 33rd District.

NORMA J. WALKER (ENHP) of Bethesda, Md., was named vice president for professional development for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The professional development division plans and conducts conferences, institutes, and online education. Walker will provide strategic and operational leadership to the division and oversee the implementation of the curriculum. Advancement training is provided for entry- through senior-level personnel, including CEOs. She will staff the commission on philanthropy and the member services committee of the board of trustees.

1974
RAYMOND M. NOWAK (BARNEY) of Nanuet, N.Y., has been named executive vice president, chief financial officer, and chief administrative officer for the North American operations of Viacom Outdoor, the outdoor advertising unit of Viacom Inc.

EDNA NEGRÓN ROSARIO (’62 HCW) of Hartford, Conn., was honored at the West Indian Foundation award dinner with its dedicated service award. She is Connecticut and Rhode Island regional director for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico’s federal affairs administrative office.

1975
ALAN S. GOLDBERG (A&S) of New York, N.Y., has been named regional vice president of the Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) Association of North America. Based in New York City, the association is the leadership network and central agency for the Jewish community center movement, comprising more than 275 JCCs, YM-YWHAs, and camps in the United States and Canada. Prior to this position he was associate executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Cleveland.

CARLTON E. HELMING (BARNEY) of Cheshire, Conn., founding principal of Helming & Co., P.C., has been elected president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

WAYNE S. KRIEGER (HArTT) of Lake Worth, Fla., was named cantor of Temple Torah of West Boynton Beach, Fla., a Conservative synagogue with 1,400 members.

CHERYL-LANI (SEALANI) BRANSON WEINER (A&S) of Albuquerque, N.M., is a counselor with Decades, an initiative in Albuquerque to make mental health counseling available to seniors in their homes. The objective of the initiative is to decrease the number of elderly psychiatric admissions in New Mexico. Weiner holds a master’s degree in counselor education from Queens College and a license in social work from Hunter College.

1976
BARRY D. FRIEDMAN (’73 ENHP) of Dahlonega, Ga., was recently installed as chancellor of the Atlantic Region for the 2002-05 triennial period of Pi Gamma Mu, an honor society for the social sciences. Friedman is a professor of political science and coordinator of the Master of Public Administration program at North Georgia College and State University.

RICHARD E. NEAL (BARNEY) of Springfield, Mass., was reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 2nd District. He is the former mayor of Springfield.

MICHAEL SCHELLE (HArTT) of Ossining, N.Y., saw his “Struwwelpeter Songs” included in a New Music Café concert on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University in November 2002. Texts of the comedic songs come from German children’s books about what happens to children who behave badly. On the evening following the concert, the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra performed an orchestral work by Schelle, who is composer-in-residence in music theory and composition at Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind.

1977
DAVID KATZ (HArTT, ’84, ’89 HArTT) of Danbury, Conn., music director of the Danbury Symphony Orchestra and artistic director of Hat City Music Theater, conducted performances of Humperdink’s Hansel and Gretel and Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker.

1978
PAUL P. BISACCIA (HArTT) of Hartford, Conn., was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award for 2003 at The Hartford School’s annual Alumni Dinner in April.

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THOMAS J. HERLIHY, JR. (ENHP), of Weatogue, Conn., was recently reelected to the Connecticut State Senate from the 8th District.

JOHN C. HONOR, JR. (BARNEY), of Oakton, Va., has been named director of human resources by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). His career in human resources includes stints in the aerospace, automotive, professional sports, insurance, and professional services industries. Most recently, he served as vice president, human resources and development, for US Airways. He has held posts as national director, human resources, for KPMG, LLP; vice president for human resources and development for Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance; and executive director for human resources, Baseball Office of the Commissioner, Major League Baseball, New York.

1979

SUSAN M. LORICCHIO (HARTT) of Jersey City, N.J., combined her two loves—flying and music—by becoming the East Coast coordinator of Flight Across America. The mission achieved its goal by using “the privilege and freedom of aviation to deliver the support of every state in the Union to New York City, and by helping to bring together the American people to honor and remember those fallen on 9/11/01.” On Sept. 8, 2002, 52 planes—one from each state, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico—made history flying its state flag down the Hudson River. In an honor flight past Ground Zero, they paid tribute to the people who lost their lives at the World Trade Center. Loricchio writes that she holds a private pilot certificate and is an active member of the National Aeronautical Association, Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Society, The Ninety-Nines, Inc., and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. She is also a member of the Mid-Atlantic Pilots Association in Essex County, N.J., and the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum in Reading, Pa., where her choir is scheduled to sing for the field mass at the World War II Reenactment Weekend in June. She also orchestrates an active music program at the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Nutley, N.J., where she trains two choral groups and 10 cantors.

DAVID G. NORD (BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., was named vice president of finance and chief financial officer at the Hamilton Sundstrand division of United Technologies Corporation (UTC). He has been UTC’s vice president and controller since October 2000 and previously was acting controller and assistant controller. Before joining UTC in 1996, Nord served as corporate controller at the Pittston Company and senior manager at Deloitte & Touche.

MARK D. RUBINFELD (A&S) of Salt Lake City, Utah, manages the sociology program at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is the author of *Bound to Bond: Gender, Genre and the Hollywood Romantic Comedy and Shoot to Thrill: Hollywood Action Films, Rationalization, and the American Spectacle*. Rubinfeld previously served as a professor of sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Assumption College; and Loyola University, New Orleans.

1980

WILLIAM B. BRIGHENTI (BARNEY) of New Britain, Conn., has joined Scillia, Dowling & Natarelly, LLC, in the audit department of the Hartford office. He serves clients on major accounting and tax matters with an emphasis on the construction business.

MAGGIE ALSTON CLAUD (HCW) of Hartford, Conn., received the Antoinette Bascetta Women’s Career Development Award from Hartford’s Trust House.

MARTIN ELSTER (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., has released his newest book of poetry, which celebrates man’s best friend and loyal companion, the dog. With more than 300 poems, *There’s a Dog in the Heavens!* A Universe of Canine Verse explores canine life, from training to tail wagging, chewing to bathing, hunting to petting, and everything in between. Elsner writes that he must have been inspired by his own motley mutts. Why else, he asks in his preface, would an otherwise rational person write hundreds of limericks about dogs? Elster is a percussionist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

WARREN J. HANSEN (BARNEY) of Granby, Conn., a retired police detective with the Simsbury Police Department, former instructor at the Connecticut Police Academy, and former director of security for the Simsbury School District, is teaching criminal justice courses in the sociology department at the
University of Hartford.

STEPHEN P. HARRIS (BARNEY, ‘82 BARNEY) of Rockaway, N.J., is employed by an innovative, two-year-old company called DigitalGrit. He is interested in hearing from his alumni friends and may be reached at sphmail@stephen-harris.com.

1981

CURT M. BUCKLER (A&S) of North Bergen, N.J., has returned from his role as Big Jake in the national tour of Guys and Dolls with Maurice Hines. Buckler also played the role of Gangster 2 in Kiss Me, Kate in Elmford, N.Y.

EUGENE HEADY (ENG) of Snellville, Ga., is a partner in the Atlanta law firm of Smith, Currie & Hancock LLP. The firm has a national practice in construction law, government contract law, and employment law. A published writer on legal issues affecting the construction industry, Heady is admitted to the state bars of Georgia, Florida, Colorado, and Texas.

CHUCK ROSE (BARNEY) of Pelham Manor, N.Y., recently opened a restaurant in Queens called the F&J Pine Ramada, located across from Shea Stadium. Rose invites all alumni, whether attending a game or just in the area, to come in and say hello.

1982

MARCI M. ALBORGHETTI (A&S) of Stonington, Conn., has published her latest book, Freedom from Fear: Overcoming Anxiety through Faith. The book is a collection of anecdotes, prayers, and other means to address anxiety.

KENNETH H. McGOVERN (BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., is vice president of business development at Addressing Services Company (ASCO) in East Hartford, Conn.

MARK A. VINING (BARNEY) of Columbia, Conn., was reelected as a corporator of the Windham Community Memorial Hospital. He is a realtor affiliated with Prudential Connecticut Realty in West Hartford and serves as a member of the University of Hartford Alumni Council and Hawks Athletics Board.

EDWARD M. WASSUNG (WARD) of Merrimack, N.H., a technical director at BAE Systems Information and Electronic Warfare Systems, was honored with BAE’s 2002 Jack L. Bowers Award for his work on the Set-On Low Cost Expansible Receiver/Jammer (SOLER), an innovative countermeasure technique that reduces the complexity, volume, and cost associated with previous jammer approaches. Wassung’s creation has been incorporated into several key electronic warfare initiatives. BAE Systems is a major producer of aircraft self-protection systems and tactical surveillance and intelligence systems for all branches of the armed forces.


1983

PERRY W. HASSON (BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

DEBORAH OLEYNIK (BARNEY) of Great Falls, Mont., is a naturopathic physician at the Natural Health Clinic in Great Falls and was formerly at Integrative Medicine Clinic.

JEAN MARIE PARADIS (HAS) of Whitinsville, Mass., showed her paintings and sculpture at Booklovers’ Gourmet in Worcester, Mass. The show, titled “It Just Looks Like Paradise,” was an eclectic blend of colors and shapes, acrylic paintings complementing the sculptural pieces made from wood, metal, steel, charcoal, and wax.

1984

LORIANA DECRESCENZO (HARTT) of North Kingston, R.I., was the featured soprano in a presentation of Phantom of the Opera at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

SALLY J. IRVIN (A&S) of Indianapolis, Ind., has started a program called ICAAN (Canine Assistant Adolescent Network). The program benefits teenage prisoners who train service dogs and the physically disabled adults for whom the dogs are trained.

1985

MARK M. FULCO (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., has been named vice president for strategic marketing and business development at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Conn. He previously served as senior vice president at Cardium Health Services in Simsbury, was vice president of Masonic Management Services Corporation in Wallingford, and was senior marketing manager at Pharmedica Inc. in New Haven.

WILLIAM J. MURPHY (A&S) of West Warwick, R.I., was named speaker of the house of the Rhode Island state legislature.

JOSEPH A. OZLACKI (A&S, ’86, ’94 HARTT, ’01 ENHP) of East Hampton, Conn., was honored at the Bloomfield Public Schools’ first annual all-district arts festival, held in the University’s Lincoln Theater. President Walter Harrison gave high praise to the music and art teachers and to Olzacki, chairman of the district’s department of visual and performing arts, as the prime mover of the program.

MICHAEL B. SMITH (A&S) of Edinburgh, Scotland, was appointed director, United Kingdom, of the Alumnae- Alumni Association of the University of Hartford.

Congratulations!
Best wishes to our alumni and their spouses on recent nuptials

Cheryl Luni Branson ’75 and Alan Weiner
Christine Hoffmann ’80 and Michael Joseph Golabek
Lizbeth Anne Chellman ’82 and Richard M. Link III
Janet L. Boescharr ’87 and Charles Paul Joscelyne
Jill A. Baumgarten ’88 and Sam Beer
Rachel Beth Katz and William A. Lo Presto ’88, ’90
Christina Poulos and Robert Joseph Solerno ’89, ’91
Renee Lynne LaBanca and Charles Robert Schulze ’89
Sheri F. Jedell ’90 and Scott Wiener
Suzanne C. Boudreau ’91, ’93, and Brian A. Doherty
Sabrina Yocona and Robert S. Mess ’91
Beth S. Rosenberg ’91 and Patrick Sanders
Dana Leigh Meltzer ’93 and Jeffrey Steven Berkowitz
Jennifer L. Seager ’93 and Vincent Dones, Jr.
Mara Denise Steinberg ’93 and Mark Ira Shapiro
Rita Bouloy ’94 and Jonathan Sigler
Tiffany Gouz and David I. Katz ’94
Jennifer Lee Fanning and Ronald Richard Megus ’95
Jennifer Frick and Michael J. Aniskiewicz ’96
Rebecca Wartell and Gill K. Label ’96
Andrea Suzanne Mill ’96 and Kenneth B. Martin
Alison B. Pressman ’96 and Darren Fruman
Abigail Larsen Trueblood ’96 and Todd Edward Ivin
Lauren Beebe ’97 and Phil Lyons
Lindsay R. Farrall and John P. Benesak ’97
Nicole Prato and Jamie A. Hoy ’97
Stacey J. Brooks ’98 and Christopher Nordstrom
Jessica Nowosacki ’98 and David S. Markowitz ’98
Pamela Janette Schwarz ’99 and Michael Pock ’98
Lea Bankler and Christopher S. Taylor ’99
Kristi Ann Sacco ’01, ’03, and Patrick Adorante
Leah Weisberger and Gabriel M. Deutsch ’02
Rebecca L. Friedman ’02 and Kyle Bruce Klockar
Keri J. Hardina ’02 and Sean D. Magrath ’00
Gayle Zahnke ’02 and Robert Levine
and to our alumni parents

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Alumni from page 33

Kingdom client relationship management, for the Kleinwort Benson Private Bank in London. Smith was previously with the Merrill Lynch International Bank in Scotland.

GUILLAUME P. BODSON (BARNEY) of Canary Islands, Spain, writes that he is a private consultant in sales and marketing management for the timeshare industry.

W. KEVIN UNSWORTH (BARNEY, ’84 BARNEY) of Enfield, Conn., was promoted to the position of vice president and district manager in Connecticut of the Gilbane Building Company. As district manager, he oversees a number of projects, including Hartford’s Adriaen’s Landing complex and the University of Connecticut’s Rentschler Field football stadium in East Hartford. Unsworth has been honored frequently by the company, including receiving two excellence awards; New England Region Builder of the Year, which opens the jazz show that runs on all Northwest Airlines flights. The music is an eclectic blend of Latin, smooth jazz, and rhythm and blues.

RICHARD A. BATTISTINI (ENG) of Duncan, S.C., has purchased Precision Door Services, Inc., a national garage-door repair business.

JOSEPH F. DIAMOND (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., has a newly released CD, Island Garden, which opens the jazz show that runs on all Northwest Airlines flights. The music is an eclectic blend of Latin, smooth jazz, and rhythm and blues.

1986
GUILLAUME P. BODSON (BARNEY) of Canary Islands, Spain, writes that he is a private consultant in sales and marketing management for the timeshare industry.

1987
RICHARD A. BATTISTINI (ENG) of Duncan, S.C., has purchased Precision Door Services, Inc., a national garage-door repair business.

1988
JONATHAN R. BENNETT (BARNEY) of Suffield, Conn., has been promoted to senior vice president of the property-casualty personal lines division of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. He oversees underwriting and development of The Hartford’s auto, homeowners, and other personal insurance products. Delois C. Lindsey (ENHP) of Torrington, Conn., and her sister, Sheila L. Traynum, have co-authored A Promise to My Mother, the historical account of African American folk artist Ellis Ruley of Norwich, Conn., the great-grandfather of the authors. The work is the fulfillment of a promise to their mother to write a book that would honor those relatives who came before them.

1989
JOLIE ROCKE BROWN (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., appeared in the Connecticut Concert Opera presentation of “A French Opera Gala” at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford. She also sang in the chorus of Madama Butterfly for the Connecticut Opera and performed in a concert, “Harmony for the Soul,” for the Catholic Charities/Family Services. Brown was honored at the 15th annual Apple for the Teacher award luncheon, sponsored by the members of the Beta Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda.
ALUMNI NEWS

Sorority. The awards honored 10 teachers from the Greater Hartford area who have contributed significantly to educating children and improving schools.

BETS GROSSMAN (ENHP) of Boynton Beach, Fla., was recently honored for her leadership role in the Palm Beach County Jewish Federation. She was among six representatives from Palm Beach selected to represent the agency in a weeklong fact-finding mission to St. Petersburg, Russia, during Passover.

JEROME “JERRY” KELLY (BARNEY) of Madison, Wis., garnered national attention when he joined two other alumni, TIM PETROVIC ’88 and PAT SHEEHAN ’92, in the Sony Open golf tournament in Hawaii. It was the first time the three had played together in a PGA tournament.

PAUL E. TORMEY (A&S) of Orrington, Maine, has been named assistant vice president in the cash management department at People’s Heritage Bank, Bangor. He will continue to assist corporate clients in treasury management and commercial banking. Tormey joined People’s in 1996 and previously served as a cash management officer, mortgage originator, and branch manager.

1991

DIANE DONCHAK (BARNEY-PARIS) of Brooklyn, N.Y., has requested that our thoughts and prayers include her seven-year-old daughter, Alexandra Capellini, who is being treated at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for bone cancer.

GARA B. FIELD (A&S, ’93 A&S) of Atlanta, Ga., is associate director of athletics and girls varsity soccer coach at Pace Academy in Atlanta. She has been accepted to attend the School Leadership Program of the Harvard Graduate School of Education for the fall 2003 semester.

ROBERT S. MESS (A&S) of New York, N.Y., is pursuing a career in writing and acting in New York City.

RACHELLE RUBIN TILBOR (BARNEY) of East Brunswick, N.J., and her husband, Allen, have expanded their family by one. Two-year-old Scott Ian now has a baby sister, Alexis Rose.

MARK N. WINARSKY (A&S, ’93 BARNEY) of Atlanta, Ga., has accepted a consulting position at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Ga. He was a core member of the initial team assigned to establish and staff a CDC 24/7 emergency operations center, designed to respond to public health and bioterrorism events in this country and around the world. As a senior analyst, Winarsky consults with the CDC’s Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response, focusing on threats to public health and national security. He continues to volunteer as an auxiliary patrol officer with the city of Alpharetta, Ga., police department.

WILLIAM F. SCHLOSSTEIN (BARNEY) of Warren, Mass., has had his designation renewed as a certified Massachusetts municipal treasurer. Renewal is awarded every five years only to those previously certified candidates who continue to attend the annual school of the association every August and successfully complete required courses in municipal law, finance, and administration. He is the town treasurer of Warren.

PATRICK SHEEHAN (ENHP) of Orlando, Fla., was awarded his PGA Tour card this past year and garnered national media attention when he joined two other alumni, TIM PETROVIC ’88 and JERRY KELLY ’89, in the Sony Open golf tournament in Hawaii. It was the first time the three alumni had played together in a PGA tournament.

ROBERT D. STRAUS (BARNEY) of New York, N.Y., has joined Independent Research Group LLC as a senior analyst to cover small- to mid-cap stocks in the communications, technology, consumer and retail, and biotech sectors.

1993

DANA MELTZER BERKOWITZ (ENHP) of Woodcliff Lake, N.J., graduated from Hofstra University with a Master of Science and is employed by the Financial Times as a business development manager in its financial learning division.

JEANNAE M. DEGRANCE (A&S) of San Antonio, Texas, former All-America soccer player at the University, received her M.D. in 1997 and is currently an assistant professor, researcher, team physician, and clinician at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Her state-of-the-art research on physical activity and exercise in the geriatric population has been published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. DeGrance, her husband, Kevin Cochran, and their two dogs continued on page 36

continued on page 36

Congratulations! from page 33

Sandra and Paul B. Cohen ’86 (Peter Oren)
Elyse and Thomas J. DelZoppo ’86 (Tyler James)
Vanessa L. Maskowitz Greenberg ’88 ’91, and Barry B. Greenberg ’91 (Jamie Cydni)
Robin Rosenkranz Leon ’88, ’90, and Matt Leon (Joshua Reeco)
Christine DiGiorgio Lukaszczyk ’88 and Thomas Lukaszczyk (Kate Anne)
Cathy and Mason Wilson III ’88 (twin girls, Alexandra Sherriell and Hayden Prichard)
Elizabeth Kane Rawicz ’89 and Scott Rawicz (Seth Martin)
Suzanna P. and Craig L. Schwartz ’89 (Abigail Rachel)
Erika and Jeff Bagwell ’90 (Blake)
Jessica Mokoff Gallin ’90, ’92, and Mark D. Gallin ’92 (Tyler Joseph)
Seattle Johnson Newson ’90 and Mark Steven Newson (Symn Myos)
Brigit Burr Stronge ’90 and William F. Stronge, Jr. ’93 (Emma Connelly)
Meri Harary Fleishman ’91 and Wayne Fleishman (Micah Chaim)
Rachelle Rubin Tilbor ’91 and Allen Tilbor (Alexis Rose)
Liza Trupin ’91, ’93, and Gene Cansleya (Dylan Gene)
Christine Chamides Kordie ’92 and Scott D. Kordie ’90, ’92 (Cheleka Grace)
Elizabeth Mertiller ’92, ’93, and Matthew J. Coyle ’94 (Carolina Grace)
Melissa Rogow ’92 and Jack B. Holden ’95 (Joshua Andrew)
Adina Leshnower O’Neill ’94 and Mark O’Neill (Nathan)
Diane Pinto Shaw ’94 and Gregory W. Shaw ’95 (Elizabeth Grace)
Susan Pastor Epstein ’95 and Peter M. Epstein ’94 (Brandon Harris)
Alexandra Slater Bertol ’96 and Rob Bertol (Olivia Morgan)
Jodi Doffner Frankel ’96 and Shane Frankel (Dhan Phillip)
Amy Sabo Allen ’97 and Chris Allen (Christopher Joseph, Jr.)
Lindsay R. Farrell and John P. Benesek ’97 (Jordan Chervat)
Valerie and Aaron Wing ’97 (Rhiannon Morgenstern)
Stefanie Bolognese Castellucci ’99 and Louis P. Castellucci ’99 (Aidan Louis)
A Special Night in Honor of Hartt Alumni and Faculty

Faculty and alumni of The Hartt School, including members of the Classes of 1940 through 1988, participated in the annual Alumni Dinner, held on April 6 at The 1877 Club.

Dean Malcolm Morrison presented the Alumnus of the Year Award to pianist Paul Bisaccia, Hartt Class of 1978, a former student of Professors Raymond Hanson and Anne Koscienly and a protégé of renowned Brazilian pianist and Hartt Professor of Piano Luiz de Moura Castro. It was a special day for Bisaccia, whose television show premiere, “Paul Bisaccia and the Great American Piano,” was aired by Connecticut Public Television on the same date. In recognition of Bisaccia’s accomplishments, Dean Morrison presented him with a citation from Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland proclaiming April 6, 2003, as “Paul Bisaccia Day” in the state of Connecticut.

Nancy Compton was presented with the Alfred C. Fuller Award, which celebrates the memory of Hartt’s principal benefactor by honoring a trustee who exemplifies the Fuller spirit through sustained commitment, outstanding service, and valuable contribution to the School. An alumna of Hartford College for Women, Class of 1955, Compton’s love for Hartt dates from her childhood days when she took harp lessons at the School’s Broad Street address in Hartford. She has served as a trustee since 1992 and was a member of the executive committee. As a special tribute to Compton, harpist Haley Hewitt from Hartt’s Community Division performed Berceuse Russe by Marcel Tournier and Rondeau by Marin Marias on the harp that Compton donated to the school in 2001.

Dean Morrison also acknowledged the contributions of Violin Professor Bernard Lurie ‘55, ’57, who is retiring from Hartt this year. Lurie retired from the Hartford Symphony Orchestra in 2001 after playing for more than 50 years, the last 32 as concertmaster.

Alumni from page 35

spend their spare time skiing in Colorado and scuba diving and fishing in Mexico.

REBECCA FABIANO (A&S, ’91 HILLYER) of Brooklyn, N.Y., contributed to the book Teacher Training by Dave Rushkin. For the past four years she has directed an after-school program at Martin Luther King Jr., High School in Manhattan. She has also started her own business called Scramble T’s, Inc., whose motto is “Changing the world one T-shirt at a time,” targeting a percentage of the profits for charitable organizations. Fabiano may be contacted at www.ScrambleT’s.com.

MAT SARUAN KADIS (BARNEY) of Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia, is a course coordinator and lecturer in the Police Officers College, Kuala Lumpur.

1994

1995

CHERYL PARKS CHASE (’99 HCW) of Suffield, Conn., has opened Blue Hydrangea Antiques and Decorative Accessories in Suffield.

1996

ANTONIO DYBOY (BARNEY) of Madrid, Spain, recently left DRM Consulting, where he was a project manager; to work for an organization that helps children in Tibet through education and health projects. His wife works as a translator and language teacher.

1997

JOHN J. ANTHONY III (A&S) of Norwich, Conn., is an application architect at The Hartford. He is also pursuing a Master of Science in Computer
Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. This summer, he is looking forward to competing in his first Eco challenge.

JOHN P. BENESK (A&S) of Franklin, Va., is senior psychologist at Rivers Correctional Institution, a subsidiary of Wackenhut Correctional Corporation.

STACEY E. BURNHAM (A&S) of Washington, N.H., is recruitment communications coordinator for the Student Conservation Association, which administers internship opportunities at national parks and other areas around the country. Burnham writes that she still sees her friends from the Class of ‘97 twice a year and would love to have classmates e-mail her at StacyBinNH@hotmail.com.

KEITH A. COHEN (A&S) of Bensalem, Pa., had his poetry published in America at the Millennium: Best Poems and Poetry of the 21st Century. The poems were reprinted in a new volume, Barefoot Afternoons, available from the International Library of Poetry or through local bookstores.

JOHN L’ABBATE (A&S) of Oakland Gardens, N.Y., is a paralegal at Llabbate, Balkan, Colavita and Contini in Garden City, N.Y.

LAUREN BEEBE LYONS (A&S) of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., teaches kindergarten in San Diego.

JOSEPH V. MENDES (ENHP) of Forest Grove, Ore., graduated with honors and received the Outstanding Graduate Award in academics and clinical excellence from Pacific University’s Graduate School of Physician Assistant Studies. Joseph received his master’s degree in physician assistant science, together with the Josiah Hill Memorial Award and Scholarship for diversity in clinical medicine and public health. He is currently employed in the area of head and neck otolaryngology, department of surgery, at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Yale School of Medicine. He hopes that other members of the UH respiratory therapy Class of 1997 are doing well, and he would enjoy hearing updates from them.

CHIP MUZOREWA (BARNEY) of Harare, Zimbabwe, has been elected a board member/secretary of the Rotary Club of Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe. Muzorewa is working on a project called the Mt. Kilimanjaro–Keyne Project.

SUSAN FERRANCE ORION (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., was named assistant manager of marketing for the University of Iowa’s division of performing arts. She is pursuing her M.B.S. at the university.

1998

JASON C. ASHLEY (HARTT) of Montgomery, Ala., is a strings teacher in the prestigious Booker T. Washington Magnet High School in Montgomery, one of the only magnet schools in Alabama that specializes in the performing arts with an emphasis on integration. Ashley is a member of the Montgomery Symphony along with fellow Hartt alumnus PETER M. ROVIT ’98, both of whom performed in a December 2002 concert that aired on Troy State National Public Radio. The featured soloist at the National Black Democratic Caucus in Montgomery, Ashley also performs with the Mobile Symphony and the Tuscaloosa Symphony. He is preparing for a graduate assistantship in violin performance at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, where he will focus on orchestra audition material.

ERIK W. BOWEN (HILLYER), ’02 A&S of Hartford, Conn., is the cinema coordinator for Real Art Ways in Hartford.

MARGARET CONWAY-ORGEL (ENHP) of Goose Creek, S.C., is working at the Medical University of South Carolina in the neonatal intensive care unit. She also teaches at the college of

continued on page 38
nursing at the university.

MARLENE M. FRAY-BONSU (ENHP, ’02 ENHP) of Bloomfield, Conn., has launched a new business enterprise. She is president of Quality Nursing Services LLC. The company is a staffing agency dedicated to providing quality healthcare delivery in local hospitals and nursing homes by aligning healthcare professionals with nursing opportunities.

JENNIFER L. GOLDSCHMIDT (A&S) of Windsor, Conn., graduated from Quinnipiac University with a physician’s assistant degree and has begun her new career working at a community health clinic in Waterbury, Conn.

NEAMATULLAH NOJUMI (A&S) of Somerville, Mass., is teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on Afghanistan at the American Military University. Titled “Afghanistan Country Analysis,” the courses focus on the military and political challenges that Afghanistan faces in the post-Taliban era. Nojumi is a former mujahadeen commander, political advisor, and author of The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

RUSSELL A. SHANNON

(ENG) of Princeton, N.J., has completed his Ph.D. at Oxford University in England. His thesis title is “Ultrasound to Assess Lipid Content in Salmon Muscle.” He attended Oxford on a University of Hartford Martin Scholarship in 1998 and may be reached at russ@ieee.org.

1999

JARON R. BROWN (BARNEY) of Shaker Heights, Ohio, has joined Coffee, Haller & Griswold LLP as an attorney concentrating in general corporate law. As an associate with the firm, he provides counsel to privately and publicly held companies on a variety of business and legal matters.

CHARLES M. DEMUYNCK (HARTT) of Ontario, Canada, recently conducted the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra in Magale Recital Hall on the Northwestern State University campus. The program included Harold Faberman’s The Great American Cowboy Suite, Camille Saint-Saëns’s Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso and Johannes Brahms’s Symphony No. 1.

PAULA A. FONTANA KING (HARTT, ’01 A&S) of Newington, Conn., is marketing and public relations coordinator for Liquid Plastics, Inc., in Middletown, Conn.

REBECCA F. GANCI (HCW)

of Tolland, Conn., wrote “Introduction to Medicare Appeals” for the October-November 2002 issue of the National Paralegal Reporter. She is a registered paralegal with the Center for Medicare Advocacy in Willimantic, Conn., and serves as secretary of the Central Connecticut Paralegal Association.

DAVID A. MILLER (BARNEY) of Fort Lee, N.J., is assistant vice president of treasury and bank management at UBS PaineWebber.

EARL C. SNYDER III (A&S) of Plainville, Conn., was picked up by the Boston Red Sox and assigned to its minor-league camp. He previously was with the Cleveland Indians organization.

2000

DAHLIA N. BAHIA (BARNEY, ’03 BARNEY) of Newport Coast, Calif., was featured in the April 13, 2003, edition of The Orange County Register. She recently responded to the Iraqi National Congress call for Iraqi-Americans to come forward and volunteer to help rebuild their country. She also wrote to the U.S. State Department to offer her bilingual skills to be used in any way it sees fit. Bahia’s parents left Baghdad for London when she was 4 and came to the United States when she was 7. Returning to Iraq is “like a calling,” she says. “This is the time to give if you can.” She recently started a job as a staffing consultant for a Newport Beach, Calif., accounting firm, but, she says, “I am one of the few people who are able to drop everything and go.”

ANNE CAMPBELL-MAXWELL (BARNEY) of Manchester, Conn., has been named director of medical specialties for Fallon Clinic. She previously served as president and chief executive officer of the Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center in Waterbury, Conn.

MATTHEW P. ERIKSON (HARTT) of Bloomfield, Conn., is a music and arts reporter for The Hartford Courant.

HEIDI M. LARKIN (BARNEY) of Manchester, Conn., has joined The Office Works, Inc., in Plainville, Conn., as a sales consultant. The Office Works represents Toshiba digital laser copiers, printers, high-speed scanning, document management systems, and facsimiles. You may contact her at hlarink@theofficeworks-inc.com.

DERRICK P. MILLER (HARTT) of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has accepted a position as the tenor soloist with Calvin Presbyterian Church Choir in Toronto. Miller, who teaches voice, has also been offered the role of Herman in the musical Sweet Charity with the Curtain Call Players.

RYAN P. O’ROURKE (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., has work included in American Illustration 21, published by Harper Design International, and Illustrators 41, published by the Society of Illustrators. He won first prize in the recent “Of Art and People Show” at the Huntington House in Windsor, Conn. In addition, O’Rourke does freelance artwork for magazines and newspapers and murals for Centre Coffee House in Windsor.

ANGELA M. PARISI (A&S) of New York, N.Y., earned a master’s degree in special education from Dowling College. She is a third- and fourth-grade special education teacher in Brookhaven, New York.

LAURA J. SCALLI (ENHP) of New Windsor, N.Y., has been a special education teacher in Connecticut for the past three years and has also started a work-at-home business based in the wellness industry.

DAVID L. THATCHER (HAS) of Westfield, Mass., has been elected president of the Springfield (Mass.) Art League for 2003. Thatcher has his studio in Mill Park, a former Civil War-era factory in Springfield.

DIANE E. ZEISS (ENHP) of New York, N.Y., graduated from
West Point and the CIA

Join University of Hartford alumni Oct. 2 on a day trip from Hartford to Hyde Park, N.Y., for tours of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) and West Point Military Academy. The day will include round-trip transportation from the University of Hartford campus, a tour of the Culinary Institute, a three-course lunch at the Escoffier restaurant, and a tour of historic West Point Academy. Cost is $80 per person. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 1.888.UH ALUMS or chapters@hartford.edu.

2001

AMANDA H. BOEHEMER (HARTI) of Hollywood, Calif., has begun studies at Southwestern University School of Law. She received the Paul W. Wildman Scholarship offered by the university to entering students who have demonstrated exceptional academic promise.

SANDY A. DESILVA (A&S) of Warwick, Bermuda, has earned her Master of Arts and is currently completing her doctorate in clinical psychology.

BETSY A. FROEBEL (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., was awarded the First-Year Top Achiever award from American Express Financial Advisors for 2002. She ranked number 40 in the nation out of 2,500 first-year advisors, earning her national recognition from her company.

BRYAN A. GIANSANTI (HARTI) of New York, N.Y., currently employed by Columbia Artists Management, Inc., has been selected as a board member of One Year Lease, a New York theater company dedicated to working with classic texts.

STEWARD L. MADER (A&S) of Manchester, Conn., addressed the Jeremiah Wadsworth Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution in Canton, Conn., on the topic “Benjamin Silliman’s Philosophical Cabinet Meets the 21st Century: Technological Advances in the Teaching of Chemistry.” Silliman, a 19th-century Yale University professor, was the holder of America’s first professorship in science. Mader is an assistant instructor in chemistry at the University of Hartford.

LENORE C. MORROW (A&S) of Kingston, N.Y., is employed by the advertising and marketing agency Keiler & Company of Farmington, Conn., as assistant account manager to support client Lockheed Martin. Morrow will assist in the systems integration and technology services divisions.

KAZUNORI NINOMIYA (BARNEY) of Tokyo, Japan, is employed by Optrex, as a business planner/sales in the TFT display division. Optrex’s strongest product area is the manufacture of speedometers. Eighty percent of the cars in the world have Optrex’s display systems in their automobiles.

JESPER P. STJERNFALT (BARNEY, ’02 BARNEY) of Indianapolis, Ind., has relocated to the Carrier Corporation/ North American Residential Headquarters in Indianapolis.

ARUPDAS VASUDEVAN (BARNEY) of West New York, N.Y., is employed by Brooks Brothers as a merchandise planner.

2002

GABRIEL M. DEUTSCH (HILLYER, A&S) of Chicago, Ill., is currently working for a Jewish youth organization in Chicago.

ROBERT I. GELB (HAS) of Enfield, Conn., is employed by LEGO Direct as an associated designer.

KRISTIN M. KACMARCIK (HILLYER) of Suffield, Conn., has joined the United States Navy. She will be stationed in Japan for the next three years and is planning a career in the navy in the medical field.


Ward Alumnus Killed in Iraq

Chairman Warrant Officer 4th Class Erik A. Halvorsen, a 1986 graduate of Ward College of Technology, was killed on April 2 while serving his country in Iraq. Halvorsen, 40, an army pilot, was one of six soldiers who were killed when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed near the city of Karbala on the Euphrates River.

A military funeral for Halvorsen took place on April 17 in his hometown of Bennington, Vt. He was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart.

Halvorsen earned an associate’s degree in 1984 and a bachelor’s degree in electronic engineering technology from Ward in 1986. Associate Professor Thomas Gendrachi, who was Halvorsen’s advisor at Ward, said he remembers him as a good and conscientious student.

Halvorsen was a career soldier who joined the army immediately after graduating from the University of Hartford. He served as a pilot with an aviation regiment of the Third Army Infantry Division and had been stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., prior to the war. Halvorsen had served in Bosnia and in Operation Desert Storm.

“The University extends its deepest sympathy to Erik’s family and friends,” President Walter Harrison said in an e-mail message to the University community. “We honor his courage, his sacrifice, and his deep commitment to serving his country.”
The measure of his success at the Hartford Art School is underscored by his bold and imaginative senior art project—what he refers to as “activist” art. Titled Crimes Against Culture, the project is a powerful ad campaign that brings to dramatic light the systematic destruction of monasteries in Zdravkovic’s homeland.

Though he hopes to remain in the United States for a year or two to gain practical experience, the young Serbian plans to return home eventually and use his design skills to help his country. “Design is a tool for propaganda throughout the world,” he explains. “For the last several years my country has been portrayed very negatively in the media. I would like to use design to help change that.”

Zdravkovic foresees his life’s mission as creating graphics campaigns for social-service and human-rights projects, and he may have his first opportunity to tackle just such a project this summer. Ovation Advertising, where he will intern, has already tapped him to be part of a creative team to design an ad campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the refugees from war-torn Kosovo.

With design as his first love, Zdravkovic has danced his last dance with tennis. But what a dance it has been. A Hawks tennis team superstar, he was named Most Outstanding Player of the America East championships two years in a row. He is a three-time All-America East selection and was the first rookie tennis player to be named America East Scholar-Athlete, an honor he repeated.

His shaky start notwithstanding, Zdravkovic advocates study at an American university—at least, this one—to his fellow Europeans. “The universities are more organized [in the United States] than they are in Europe. The classes here are small. The teachers get to know you personally. They become your friends. This doesn’t happen in Europe. You just have to remember to be open-minded and try everything. Home will always be home, but if you make the most out of where you are, you will really learn a lot.”

Judie Jacobson is an adjunct professor in the University’s School of Communication.

In addition to her University of Hartford degree, Riggio holds an M.F.A. from Vermont College, where she was a member of the inaugural class in its writing-for-children program. She lectures widely and is the past coordinator of the New England regional advisors for the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Remembering Ralph Aloisi

Family, friends, and colleagues paid tribute to the late Ralph M. Aloisi at the May 2 dedication of a memorial garden in his name, located between Dana and United Technologies Hall. Shown with President Harrison are (left to right) daughter, Jennifer Aloisi Coleburn ’94; wife, Carol ’82; son-in-law, Christopher Colebourn ’94, holding grandson, Samuel Ralph; and son, Kevin Aloisi ’98, with grandson Zachary Colebourn. Aloisi, professor of biology and health sciences and former associate dean, died on Nov. 25, 2001. During his 23 years at the University, he played a key role in the development of the All-University Curriculum (AUC) and the creation of the University’s successful Health Professions programs. The Ralph M. Aloisi Health Professions Scholarship has been established in his memory.

Board of Regents Changes University Spending Policy

The Board of Regents of the University of Hartford has adjusted the spending rate for endowed funds from 5 percent to 4 percent, effective July 1, 2003. The Board of Finance Committee and its Investment Committee review the spending policy every two years or sooner and make recommendations to the full board concerning the spending rate.
What does it take to make a great education possible?

A STRONG ANNUAL FUND

When you give to the Annual Fund, your gift benefits every student and faculty member at the University of Hartford.

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Please mail to University of Hartford, Alumni House, Annual Fund Office, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117

Thank you!
Thursday, July 10
Percussion recital featuring faculty member Benjamin Toth
The Hartt School presents Music for a Summer Night
8 p.m. in Millard Auditorium
Admission: $15, $12, $10
For tickets, call 860.768.4228.

Thursday, July 24
Le Nozze di Figaro by Mozart
The Hartt School presents Music for a Summer Night
8 p.m. in Millard Auditorium
Admission: $15, $12, $10
For tickets, call 860.768.4228.

Thursday, July 24
The Koffman/Blind Duo, a classical saxophone and piano duo
The Hartt School presents Music for a Summer Night
8 p.m. in Lincoln Theater
Admission: $15, $12, $10
For tickets, call 860.768.4228.

Thursday, July 31
Die Fledermaus by Strauss
The Hartt School presents Music for a Summer Night
8 p.m. in Millard Auditorium
Directed by James Marvel and conducted by Steven Crawford of the Metropolitan Opera
Admission: $15, $12, $10
For tickets, call 860.768.4228.

Tuesday, Sept. 2
University Convocation

Wednesday, Sept. 3
Classes begin.

Oct. 8–19
“The Magic of Music and Art,” a 10-night tour of Berlin, Prague, and Budapest
For more information, contact Patricia Cremins, director of The President’s College at 860.768.4350.

Friday–Sunday, Oct. 24–26
Fall Weekend 2003
Homecoming events, alumni reunions, and Parents Weekend

Sunday, Dec. 7
Fall Commencement ceremony

Jan. 30–May 9, 2004
“American Originals: Treasures from the National Archives” will open at the University’s Museum of American Political Life. United Technologies Corp. is the major underwriter of this exhibition. Hartford is the last stop of a three-year, national tour for “American Originals,” which showcases original documents that reveal significant moments in American history.
For more information, contact Terri Raimondi in the Office of Communications at 860.768.4330.

Wed.–Sat., March 10–13, 2004
Friendship Cottage Cheese America East Women’s Basketball Championship
For more information, call 860.768.4295.

Saturday, May 22, 2004
Special Olympics
The University will host more than 1,400 athletes for the 2004 Special Olympics Regional Games. Irwin Nussbaum, associate vice president for student life, will be the University coor-