“I have never felt the University is more of a community than I do at this moment.”

Those words were spoken by Student Government Association President Jennifer Schlosberg just hours after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In the days, weeks, and months following the tragedy, Schlosberg’s comments seemed to sum up the sentiments of many people who witnessed the University of Hartford community pulling together as never before.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, regents, and friends of the University came together in the aftermath of Sept. 11 to share their grief, donate blood, collect money and supplies for victims and rescue workers, and seek understanding and tolerance in classroom discussions, forums, and other events.

Members of the University community began turning to each other for support from the moment the first horrific images of the attacks appeared on television screens.

On the evening of Sept. 11, about 2,800 students, faculty, and staff members filled the Chase Family Arena at the Sports Center to share their grief and try to make some sense of the unthinkable events of the day. Immediately afterward, hundreds of students held an emotional candlelight vigil, marching from one of the residential complexes to Konover Campus Center singing “We Shall Overcome.” One by one, students stepped up to the microphone outside Konover and shared their thoughts and their personal stories. Many students lingered long after the vigil had ended, hugging and comforting each other to the strains of John Lennon’s “Imagine.”

Three days later, on Sept. 14, more than 1,500 members of the University community observed President George W. Bush’s call for a “Day of Prayer and Remembrance” with a moving memorial service at the Sports Center. Wearing white ribbons that were handed out by students, participants in the service stood side by side in the bleachers of the Chase Family Arena, singing “God Bless America” and comforting each other with hugs and affection.

The service began with remarks from President Walter Harrison, followed by a powerful a cappella rendition of “Amazing Grace,” sung by LaDonna Manternach, a graduate student at The Hartt School.

“May we avoid hatred and prejudice in our search for justice,” Weinswig said. “May we respond with strength, but may we also continue to pursue peace.”

In one of the most moving portions of the service, eight students stood in a circle on the arena floor and read the names and ages of some of the victims of the attacks. Each student held a single white candle, which was lit as each one took a turn reading names.

As the magnitude of the devastation caused by the Sept. 11 attacks became clear, members of the University community worked together to provide relief and assistance in any way they could.

The University’s Center for Community Service collected money and supplies for rescue workers and victims’ families, and a number of student organizations and individual faculty and staff members started collection drives of their own. A Red Cross blood drive on campus drew large numbers of donors from throughout the University community. Performance 20/20, The Hartt School’s honors chamber music program, held a benefit concert to raise money for the Twin Towers Fund.

In addition to raising money and making donations, members of the University community came together for a variety of programs aimed at promoting healing and understanding. The Hartford

Many members of the University of Hartford community were personally touched by the events of Sept. 11, including students, faculty, and staff who lost loved ones, and several student reservists who were called to active military duty.

Tragically, four University alumni are known to have lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. They are:

James J. Hobin ’82
M.B.A., Barney

Robert L. Horohoe, Jr. ’91,’92
A.A., Hillyer; B.S.B.A., Barney

Richard Michael Keane ’84
M.B.A., Barney

Daniel R. Nolan ’83
B.S.B.A., Barney

The Alumni Association is planning a memorial garden to honor the victims of Sept. 11. It will be located in back of Bates House, near the north entrance to the campus.

“We are a community that is united in our grief and in our determination to make this a better world,” President Harrison said.

S. Edward Weinswig, professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, offered words of prayer and remembrance. He urged members of the University community to work toward peace and understanding, and not to be blinded by anger.

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In addition to raising money and making donations, members of the University community came together for a variety of programs aimed at promoting healing and understanding. The Hartford
Art School exhibited drawings by local schoolchildren of the Sept. 11 attacks, and the departments of history and of politics and government sponsored a faculty forum that explored the tragedies from a variety of perspectives. In another forum, faculty members met to discuss ways in which they had incorporated the events of Sept. 11 into their teaching.

During these difficult times, the University is fulfilling its most important roles by supporting open exchanges of ideas, promoting understanding and tolerance, and ensuring a brighter future through education, President Harrison said.

“In the response of this University community I have found the seeds for a renewed faith in all of our futures,” President Harrison wrote in a letter to alumni shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. “Education represents, at its heart, a hope for a better future. The University of Hartford has always stood for that, and I have never sensed it more here than I have [since Sept. 11].”

Finding Comfort Through Art

The American flag in Eric Cruz’s drawing was missing its stars, and yellow flames consumed one of its edges. There was an eye on the flag, red and swollen from crying, with a peace symbol covering the iris and pupil. The flag was planted in scorched, blackened earth, from which a hand reached up in a quiet gesture of hope.

The artwork, titled Black Soil, was one of 36 drawings by local schoolchildren that were displayed in the Hartford Art School’s Taub Hall Gallery shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The works by the young artists, who are in first through eighth grade, reflected their thoughts and feelings about the tragic events.

Hartford Art School Dean Power Boothe and his assistant, Mikki Dembar, contacted art teachers throughout the Hartford area and invited them to exhibit their students’ drawings about the attacks.

“I believe the arts can have a healing effect in highly emotional times,” Boothe said. “We turn to the arts when our words fail because it is a way to come to terms with things we can’t quite explain.”

Children’s art is especially powerful because it is so straightforward and spontaneous, Boothe said.

The two art teachers whose students took part in the exhibit are alumni of the Hartford Art School: Aaron Flynn ’95 teaches art and ceramics at Breakthrough Charter School in Hartford, and Susan Bradley ’78 teaches at The Cobb School Montessori in Simsbury. Flynn and Bradley both received bachelor’s degrees from the Hartford Art School, and Bradley earned a master’s degree from the University’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

The drawings exhibited by Flynn’s and Bradley’s students were powerful in their stark depictions of the Sept. 11 tragedies. They showed planes crashing into towers ablaze in bright orange and yellow flames. They showed human figures falling from buildings. The works featured symbols that are universally understood—flags, hearts, peace signs, and above all, tears.

Some of the older students, like 13-year-old Eric Cruz, expressed their feelings with drawings that were less literal and more symbolic. Eric’s Black Soil drawing was accompanied by a poem that explained some of the symbolism in his work.

“When I draw, I let myself go. It [the drawing] was everything I felt,” Eric said. “I don’t put a picture in there, I put myself in there.”

Boothe said he hopes that the post–Sept. 11 exhibit will lead to future partnerships between the Hartford Art School and schools in the surrounding community. The exhibit provided healing experiences not only for the children who displayed their drawings but also for Hartford Art School students and visitors who came to view them, Boothe said. “Our students have really responded to it,” he said.
Home for the Holidays
by Jessica Levine-Pizano '98

There’s no place like home for the holidays, especially when that means helping others. As part of a Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA) project, Michael Morris, an associate in music theatre at The Hartt School, and several string players from Hartt’s Orchestra and Community Division who dubbed themselves The Hartt String Machine, came together to help record Broadway Cares: Home for the Holidays.

The album, which had been in the works before Sept. 11, originally was conceived as an AIDS benefit project. Now, profits from the sale of the album will benefit the Twin Towers Fund, the American Red Cross, and BC/EFA.

A highlight of the album is Liza Minnelli and Alan Cumming, both noted for their performances in Cabaret, singing “Baby It’s Cold Outside,” with orchestration and arrangements by Morris and accompaniment by The Hartt String Machine. Other songs that feature Hartt musicians are “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” sung by Tony Award winner Christine Ebersole from 42nd Street, and “O Holy Night,” sung by Liz Callaway and Ann Hampton Callaway.

Morris also supervised the orchestration of "Silver Bells" for Gary Beach and Roger Bart, both from the Broadway smash hit The Producers.

“Due to space limitations in the recording studio, the album’s producer originally wanted to use a string quartet and simply overdub it to simulate lots of strings,” said Morris. “I wanted to assemble a much larger string section recorded in an appropriate acoustic environment, so I approached the Hartt Symphony Orchestra.”

His persistence paid off, and on Oct. 12, The Hartt String Machine was formed. Its members are Hartt students Nadine Megill (violin), Morrigan Kownacki (violin), Rachael Bertch (violin), Roberto Abreu (violin/viola), Sarah Smale (viola), Beth Ringel (cello), and Yun Yang Lin (cello), as well as Community Division faculty Linda Fiore (violin), Domenick Fiore (double bass), Mat Pegis (violin), and Community Division student Ashley Martin (violin). The group spent six hours in Bliss Auditorium under the direction of Morris and with the aid of music production and technology faculty member Justin Kurtz, who engineered the recording session.

Morris was asked to join the recording after the CD’s producer heard his recent orchestration and arrangements on a holiday recording by the London Symphony and Philharmonic. “I got a call in late September, and the next day I was in Liza’s [Minnelli] town house arranging “Baby It’s Cold Outside,” Morris recalls. “Because of the hectic schedules, we had to record the vocals the following day, and then I had to create the orchestration around their vocal tracks. The process was a bit backwards, but we’re all pleased with the outcome.”

To order a CD, visit the Web site, www.charitycd.com

Giving the Gift of Life

Faculty, staff, and students came out in large numbers to donate blood for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The American Red Cross and the University’s Center for Community Service sponsored the blood drive on Oct. 16 at the Konover meeting room.

Waiting to donate are (l-r): Emily Jehcarelli ’05, Kara Matossian ’04, and Gretchen Metzger ’02.

Jake Wilk ’05 does his part to support those affected by Sept. 11.
As the University community tried to find understanding in the weeks following Sept. 11, six faculty members examined the attacks on the U.S., their causes, and the aftermath, at a forum sponsored by the departments of Politics and Government and History. Moderated by Associate Prof. Harald Sandström and introduced by President Walter Harrison, the forum was held Oct. 10 in Wilde Auditorium.

While unanimous in their denunciation of the attacks, several of the faculty members sought to provide insight into why they had occurred.

Steven T. Rosenthal, associate professor of history, addressed the frustrations of Muslims who see in their recent history a loss of grandeur and power to the non-Islamic West. “Starting in the 13th century with a territory one-third the size of Rhode Island, by the 16th century the Ottoman Turks had used Holy War to build the best Island, by the 16th century the Ottoman Empire in history,” he said. Then, the Turks had used Holy War to build the best Islamic West. “Starting in the 13th century with a territory one-third the size of Rhode Island, by the 16th century the Ottoman Turks had used Holy War to build the best Island, by the 16th century the Ottoman Empire in history,” he said. Then, the balance of power shifted as European countries took over much of the Muslim empire. “For the past three centuries,” Rosenthal pointed out, “the basic challenge to Islam has been how to respond creatively to the pressures of Western society without losing its soul, how to come to terms with Europe and modernity, without forfeiting religious belief or cultural distinctiveness.”

As 20th-century defeats by Israel brought further blows to their pride, Arabs began to reaffirm their Islamic heritage. “It is very important to know that Israel is not hated and despised because it’s Jewish,” he said, but “is seen as a colonial settler state by the Muslim world, and as such its existence is a continuous reproach to the Arab world.”

Muslims believe that they not only defeated Russia in Afghanistan but also brought about the collapse of communism, Rosenthal said. “Today, the United States has obviously replaced Russia as the great Satan.” Osama bin Laden has become a hero, even to many of the Muslims who do not subscribe to his terrorist methods, Rosenthal said. “No matter what else they [bin Laden and his supporters] stand for, no matter what else they do, they are striking a blow for Islam against an America that Muslims would like to see stripped of its arrogance.”

David Brooker, visiting professor of politics and government, maintained that “the reason for these attacks was not American freedom or American democracy, or even American lifestyle, but rather American power. And the fact that American power is often used to support governments in the Middle East that Osama bin Laden and some of his associates would like to see done away with.”

Brooker noted the parallels to the situation in Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic “played upon Serbian fears…and used these feelings and fears to propel himself into power.” Although the Serbian people suffered, Brooker pointed out, Milosevic was able to retain power for 10 years by continuing to play on their fears.

To counter the present situation, Brooker said, attempts must be made “to hold leaders accountable for their actions.” Any legitimate complaints about American foreign policy fail to “justify flying crowded jetliners into buildings.” Milosevic is being held accountable for his actions in Yugoslavia, Brooker said, and is now jailed in The Hague.

Also needed is “a long-term program to reduce some of the sources of anger, reduce some of the sources of dissatisfaction,” Brooker stated. If those responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks are held accountable but without a longer-term strategy focusing on “underlying causes of frustration,” he concluded, current problems “might just have a tendency to repeat themselves.”

Jilda Aliotta, associate professor of politics and government, used her topic, “The Constitution Under Stress,” to point out how much we expect from our Constitution—a pretty sparse blueprint—that has constantly demanded interpretation and re-negotiation over the years. “One of the things that we are seeing now, in Congress and in our national debate,” Aliotta said, “is an effort to re-negotiate [the] balance between liberty and security.”

In times of stress, the liberty presumed by equal protection under the law is tested. Because the Constitution “serves as a symbol” and as “a repository of all good things,” Aliotta reminded her audience, debate rages on where the line should fall “on that continuum between liberty and security.” If the country is going to “balance the needs for security with the needs of liberty,” she concluded, “we’re going to have to do it in the context of a very short, concise, pithy 200-plus-year-old document.”

Jessica Kulynych, assistant professor of political science, addressed issues of morality. In response to a “morally reprehensible act,” she asked, “is it possible to have a just, moral, ethical war?”
ENHP’s New Dean Has Already Made Her Mark
by Barbara Steinberger

The new dean of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP) left an indelible mark on the College even before she was officially appointed as its leader. Dorothy M. Zeiser was named dean of ENHP in October. But she was hardly new to the College; for the previous 14 months, Zeiser had served in an interim position in which she was enormously successful.

During her time as interim dean, Zeiser worked tirelessly to reverse a September 2000 decision by the Connecticut State Board of Education to place the University’s teacher certification programs on probation. Thanks to a wide range of improvements implemented by Zeiser and the faculty and staff of the Education Division, the state board voted on Oct. 3 to renew the accreditation of the University’s teacher preparation programs for two years, effectively taking them “off probation.”

“Dr. Zeiser has provided an exceptional level of leadership over the past year,” said Provost Donna M. Randall. “She has earned the respect and admiration of faculty, staff, students, regents, her fellow deans, and members of the external community.”

Zeiser said she is delighted with her appointment. While much of her time as interim dean was focused on addressing concerns in the Education Division, Zeiser stressed that she is equally committed to the College’s programs in nursing and in the health professions.

“It is exciting and gratifying to be at the University of Hartford to continue my life’s work in the health-related and helping professions, including education,” Zeiser said. “The College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions provides strong professional preparation programs, and we offer some of the best clinical and experiential fieldwork opportunities found anywhere. I look forward to continuing and strengthening these programs, and to addressing the challenges of today in

A Visit from the President of the Israeli Supreme Court

Aharon Barak, president of the Supreme Court of Israel and a man who has helped shape Israel’s legal process, delivered the Arnold C. Greenberg Constitutional Law and Judaic Studies Lecture in Lincoln Theater on Oct. 14. Prior to the lecture, Barak was presented with an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to human rights, jurisprudence, teaching, and scholarship.

Barak, who is considered one of the world’s leading legal scholars, spoke about the role of a supreme court in a democracy. He said that judges’ rulings must reflect a society’s basic values, and must not be driven by the public opinion of the moment. For example, he said, the rights of accused terrorists must not be violated, even when the public is clamoring for strong and swift action.

After the lecture, Barak attended a reception in his honor at Taub Hall Gallery in the Hartford Art School. The gallery was the site of an exhibit of dramatic photographs of the University’s archaeological excavations in Israel.

Christine Dalenta ’91, ’94, an instructor at the Hartford Art School, photographed the Israeli archaeological excavations being directed by the University’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies. Those photos were on display in Taub Hall Gallery during the visit of Israeli Supreme Court President Aharon Barak. Shown with Dalenta in front of her photographs are Richard Freund (center), director of the Greenberg Center, and Power Boothe (right), dean of the Hartford Art School.

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Artist Dale Chihuly, designer of the handblown glass chandelier recently installed in the atrium of the new Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, gave a slide presentation to University students on Nov. 6, and later that evening received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree. Following the degree presentation, he spoke to a packed house in Millard Auditorium. Now internationally known, Chihuly made 25 glass chandeliers before he sold his first one. Despite injuries from an automobile accident, he continued to work by assembling and directing a team of artists. His international work has enabled him to bring disparate groups together. “I didn’t realize,” he said, “how close people working together on these projects would get.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anthony Lewis was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters prior to his Oct. 17 Rogow Lecture in Lincoln Theater. Lewis, a columnist for The New York Times, shared his concern that civil rights may be lost as part of the government’s response to the war on terrorism. Rights have been suspended during other troubled times, when “fear won out over freedom,” he said. Lewis closed his speech by quoting Israel’s Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, who “I revere and respect.” Barak, a proponent of rights for all citizens, had received an honorary degree from the University a few days earlier.

In his Oct. 9 lecture in Lincoln Theater, Thomas Murray told the crowd that he and other members of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission are opposed to human reproductive cloning for two reasons. First, “it doesn’t work and it’s very risky,” he said, and second, “it raises issues of control in the development of human life.” Murray is president of the Hastings Center, a medical and scientific think tank.

Among those who responded to the lecture during a subsequent panel discussion was Jacob Harney, University assistant professor of biology, who spoke in favor of “therapeutic cloning,” that is, generating healthy cells to replace those that no longer work in an individual, as in diabetics or people with Parkinson’s disease.

Deeds Speaker Reno Urges Students to Get Involved

Former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, now a Democratic candidate for Florida governor, was the speaker at the University’s annual Deeds Symposium on Nov. 14. Speaking to a full house in Lincoln Theater, Reno delivered a lively and often humorous lecture that touched on everything from her appearance on “Saturday Night Live,” to her childhood in Florida to some of the biggest controversies of her reign as attorney general, including the siege of the Branch Davidian compound and the debate over Elián González.

Reno urged students in the audience to get involved in public service, and praised the University for its work in the Greater Hartford community. “There is nothing more rewarding than to reach out and help someone and know that you are making a difference in his or her life,” she said.

She also talked about the discrimination she faced as a woman in the legal profession and told students they should never give up on their dreams. After graduating from law school, Reno was refused a job at a Miami law firm because of her gender, she said. Fourteen years later, that same firm made her a partner.

“Losing is not the end of the world,” Reno said. “You can go on to other victories. But in the process, do the right thing.”