The largest single construction project in the University’s history will get under way immediately following Commencement on May 16. When the dust settles 22 months later, the result will be a state-of-the-art, $32 million complex for the study of science, engineering, and technology.

Called the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology (ISET) complex, the project includes the complete renovation of Dana Hall, built in 1968, and the construction of a new building adjoining it. Additional plans call for minor improvements to United Technologies (UT) Hall and East Hall.

The ISET complex will foster increased collaboration between students and faculty within a given program and across different areas of study. The new facilities will also send a powerful message about the University’s commitment to science, engineering, and technology education.

"Once ISET has been completed," says President Walter Harrison, "we will have an opportunity to take our individual strengths in those fields and forge them into a broad area of institutional strength that could rival the distinction we already have in the arts."

A sleek, modern structure with an exterior of gray metal and frosted and transparent glass, the new building will be located to the north of Dana Hall. Chris Martin, one of the project architects, describes it as a “glassy beacon” that will be a focal point for the campus.

The ISET complex was designed by William Wilson Associated Architects Inc., a Boston firm that specializes in science and technology buildings. The firm has designed new and renovated facilities at many top colleges and universities, including Brown, Harvard, Tulane, and Vanderbilt. Shawmut Design and Construction will manage the construction of the project. Shawmut also has experience working on projects in higher education.

“We are talking about a first-class facility that will have a phenomenal impact on how we teach science, engineering, and technology on this campus,” says Provost Donna Randall. “Every student at the University will have an opportunity to take classes in the new complex and will benefit from the state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms.”

Two stories high, the new building will house primarily chemistry and biology laboratories and classrooms. A four-story, connecting tower will link it to Dana Hall. Ward School of Technology—which merged with the College of Engineering to form the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture—will move to Dana after renovations are completed.
Construction Schedule and Fund-raising Campaign

Preliminary work (Phase Zero) will begin this spring with the renovation of Greer Auditorium into two 120-seat facilities. Phase One, from the summer of 2004 through the spring of 2005, will include the renovation of the east wing of Dana Hall and construction of the new building. The second phase, scheduled for summer 2005 through spring 2006, will involve the renovation of the west wing of Dana Hall, where most of the existing laboratories are housed.

“Our facilities are aging,” says Harrison. “The existing buildings [Dana Hall and UT Hall] simply were not designed to support the tremendous amount of technology that is needed for 21st-century science and engineering education. Moreover, both buildings—Dana in particular, are in need of a wide range of repairs and infrastructure improvements. The new complex will feature bright, open workspaces that can accommodate groups of students working together. It will break down the barriers that traditionally have existed between the various science, engineering, and technology disciplines.”

Alumni regents Victoria Cerami ’81 and Paul A. Sittard ’85 are co-chairs of the building committee that will oversee construction of the ISET complex. Cerami is president of Cerami and Associates, an acoustical engineering firm; Sittard is northeast regional sales manager for Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Of the $32 million total cost of the ISET project, $25 million will be funded through the sale of bonds, and $7 million will be generated through fundraising. Vice President for External Relations Lawrence Gavrich says that the ISET fund-raising campaign will include numerous naming options within the renovated and new spaces (see accompanying box).

University regent and philanthropist Harry Jack Gray (Hon. ’78), retired chairman and CEO of United Technologies Corp. (UTC), and Lord Swraj Paul (Hon. ’02), an international industrialist, are serving as co-chairs of the leadership committee charged with overseeing the ISET fund-raising campaign.

Others on the committee are Dean Kamen (Hon. ’02), the inventor of the Segway™ Human Transporter; Karl Krapek, former president of UTC; Anthony Kurtz, founder and CEO of Kulite Semiconductors; Bruce Marcus, founder and CTO of Marcus Communications; and Bart Shuldman ’79, chairman, president, and CEO of TransAct Technologies.

Debbie Baker, major gifts officer for the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, is coordinating fund-raising activities for the ISET project. Anyone wishing to receive additional information on the project may contact her at 860.768.5147 or dbaker@hartford.edu.

### ISET NAMING OPTIONS

**New building:** $5 million  
**An entire floor:** $1 million each  
**Acoustical engineering suite:** $500,000  
**Student lounges:** $250,000 each  
**Faculty research labs:** $250,000 each  
**Labs/classrooms:** $150,000 each  
**General-purpose classrooms:** $50,000 each
A $2 Million Commitment for the Athletics Campaign

Longtime University of Hartford supporters Suzy and Tom Reich are making a $2 million gift to plan and construct athletic fields on the University campus. This gift is one of the largest individual commitments in the University’s history and the largest in the history of the Department of Athletics. To date, it also is the largest gift by an individual to the University’s $175 million Campaign of Commitment.

The Reiches’ donation is the lead gift in the University’s Home Field Advantage Campaign, which will support the construction of an on-campus baseball field, a new softball field, a new, all-purpose track and field—and renovations to the existing Al-Marzook Field. When completed, these new facilities will serve student-athletes, students, faculty, staff, and the Greater Hartford community. The total cost of planning and constructing the fields is expected to be $10 million.

In announcing the gift, President Walter Harrison praised the Reiches for their commitment to the University and its students. “The one constant in Tom and Suzy’s history of giving is their desire to make a difference for young people. This very generous gift to the Home Field Advantage Campaign puts an exclamation point on that commitment.”

“We are fortunate to be in a position to help and invest in young people,” says Tom Reich. “Our gift to the campaign, like our continued commitment to scholarships and programs, is really a gift to the future of the University and its Department of Athletics. Both Pat [Meiser-McKnett, director of athletics] and Walt [Harrison] have provided great leadership, and we hope our gift will help them prompt others to follow.”

The Reich Family’s record of giving has included money for scholarships, challenge grants, and annual support to various programs in the Department of Athletics. They have been the single largest donors to the department each year for the past decade.

The Reich Family Athletics Development Fund, established in memory of Tom’s late wife, Barbara, provides student-athletes from the University’s less highly profiled teams with scholarships. This past year, five student-athletes benefited from the Reiches’ generosity.

“We’re very excited about the quality of the student-athletes at the University of Hartford,” Tom Reich says. “It’s gratifying to know that we can make a difference and help young people who need it the most. We want to help them win in life.” He continues, “So much good has come out of the University—for us and the community. The people are special, and we get a warm feeling when we’re there.”

Meiser-McKnett says, “Tom and Suzy also give in ways that can’t be measured financially—through their time, leadership, personal energy and support. They are our biggest fans.”

Tom Reich, who was named an honorary alumnus of the University in 1994, has been a member of the Board of Regents since 1995. He retired in 1998 from Underwriter’s Service Agency (USA) after 33 years with the company, including serving as president of USA from 1988 until his retirement. After earning a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Charleston (West Virginia) and a master’s degree in business administration from Marshall University, he joined Pension Associates, Inc., in Hartford. Reich rose through the ranks of the company and, following its merger with USA, was named president.

A board member of the University of Charleston, Reich was inducted in 1992 as a charter member into Charleston’s Alumni Gallery of Achievement.
The University of Hartford Performing Arts Center, the new facility for The Hartt School, has received a $1 million pledge from Irma and Mort Handel, together with a friend who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Performing Arts Education Center will be constructed on the 7.2-acre site of the former Thomas Cadillac distributorship at the corner of Albany Avenue and Westbourne Parkway in Hartford.

The Handel gift is the first $1 million gift from individuals in support of the Performing Arts Education Center, and it marks the latest chapter in the couple’s long history of involvement and support of the University of Hartford. “My hope is that our gift will spur others, particularly Hartt alumni, to join us in supporting this project,” Handel said. “The continuity of the performing arts in our society is critical, and the only way our cultural life can be sustained and nurtured is through the participation of all of us.”

In announcing the gift, Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison said, “In the constellation of people who lend their support to the University, Irma and Mort Handel are bright stars, indeed. Through their leadership and dedication, they have touched the lives of thousands of students and helped give the University the strength of purpose it has today.”

University President Walter Harrison echoed Morrison’s sentiments. “The Handels’ dedication and service to the University are well known,” he said. “Their latest gift will have a significant and lasting impact on students for many years into the future.”

Morton Handel has served as a member of the University’s Board of Regents since 1991, was its vice chairman from 1995 to 2000, and has chaired a variety of board committees. He was a member of the search committees that recommended the hiring of several key individuals, including President Walter Harrison and Provost Donna Randall. He is the vice chair of the Julius Hartt Musical Foundation.

“I love music, and I trace that love back to college,” said Handel. “My wife brought to our relationship a devotion to dance. So our decision to support the Performing Arts Education Center—and continue the great tradition of The Hartt School—made sense.”

The chairman of Marvel Enterprises, the entertainment, publishing, and toy company, Handel was given an honorary Doctor of Humanities by the University in 2002. Irma and Mort Handel have been sponsors of Say Yes to Education (SYTE), a program to help Hartford youngsters achieve their dream of a college education. Through SYTE, a group of fifth-grade students from Annie Fisher Elementary School was promised in 1990 that if they stayed in school and received their high school diplomas, their college tuition would be paid for them. Of those 76 youngsters, 35 graduated from college and other programs last year, and 20 are still attending. The SYTE program has been administered by the University of Hartford.

The University of Hartford Performing Arts Education Center not only will provide much-needed space for Hartt’s Dance, Theatre, Vocal, and Community divisions, but it will also expand the performing arts education opportunities in North Hartford. The project will involve renovating approximately 71,000 square feet of space in the three buildings on the site at an estimated cost of $25 million. Built in 1929, the buildings were designed by the renowned architect Albert Kahn. The University has been working with Michael Howard of Howard-Montgomery-Steger Performance Architecture, a nationally recognized, New Orleans firm specializing in the design of performing arts projects for higher education institutions and municipalities, as well as with the local architecture firm of Smith Edwards.

In 2002 the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving announced that it would support the Performing Arts Education Center project with a grant of $1.3 million, one of the largest grants in the foundation's history.
When You Wish Upon Alumni...

It makes no difference where you are these days. You can still feel connected to the University by helping us make faculty and student dreams come true. We surveyed our schools and colleges recently to find out what was on their wish lists this year. Here are some specific ways in which you can contribute to the education of those who are following in your footsteps. (We'll hear from our other schools and colleges in a later issue.)

CAN YOU HEAR US NOW? Music theatre students in The Hartt School need body microphones. Many modern musicals are written with the expectation that the artist is “miked.” $1,000

NECESSITY, THE MOTHER OF INVENTIONS. Students in Advanced Technical Communications in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture participate in a group project in which they develop a patentable device. Students need your help to build working prototypes of their inventions. $2,000

PAINT IT BLACK. Buy a black-and-white laser printer to help students in the illustration department at the Hartford Art School reproduce their work for mock-ups. $2,000

WHAT DO YOU SEE? Provide testing materials (IQ, Rorschach, personality, and neuro-cognitive tests) that psychology majors in the College of Arts and Sciences must be trained to use. $500–$1,000 per test

DON'T LEAVE US STANDING HERE. Purchase padded piano artist benches for Hartt School students. $500 each

LEARNING FROM THE MASTERS. The Hillyer College Honors program has invited four Pulitzer Prize-winning authors to campus. The fifteen students in the class will benefit from a special scholarship to purchase books written by these prizewinners. $1,000

DUELING ROBOTS. Support Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) students in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture who want to compete in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Student Design Contest. Help students build smart robots and travel to regional competitions. $3,000

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Purchase books about career planning, résumé writing, and interviewing for the Career Resources Library at the Hartford College for Women Career Counseling Center. Help men and women from across Connecticut find their true careers. $500

MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND. A copy of Standard Rate and Data Service's Lifestyle Marketing Analyst would enhance education for advertising and public relations students in the College of Arts and Sciences. It’s the industry standard for determining how Americans spend their money. Students enter an advertising competition each year, and the data in the publication would help them win. $440

OUR BIG FAT GREEK WINTER-TERM. Hillyer's honors students will be going next year to study in Greece. A number of highly talented students simply cannot afford to participate due to family finances as well as national financial-aid policies that do not recognize the Winterterm courses. You could provide scholarships for two students. $5,000

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE. Provide special cello chairs for students in The Hartt School. These chairs can be adjusted to the correct height and tilt for individual players. $500 each

EXTEND A HAND. Sponsor five adults who are unemployed or in financial difficulty and need career counseling and job-search assistance from professional counselors at The Career Counseling Center at Hartford College for Women. $1,000

FIRE THINGS UP! Purchase a new kiln for student potters in the ceramics department at the Hartford Art School. $5,000

A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS. More and more faculty use online course-management software to give students easy access to a wide range of course materials. Provide faculty in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture with high-quality flat-bed scanners so they can insert more graphic images (articles, circuit boards, schematic diagrams) into course modules for students. $200

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT. Provide video cameras for students and faculty doing research projects, performing mock therapy, and learning to do intelligence and personality testing in the psychology department of the College of Arts and Sciences. $250–500 each

THROW LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT. Students in drawing classes need to see clearly the highlights and shadows of the human figure or a still life. Purchase a tripod periscope spotlight for the painting/drawing department at the Hartford Art School. $100

Checks for the above gifts should be made payable to the University of Hartford and mailed to Andrew Bernstein, Assistant Director, Annual Fund, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. For more information, contact Bernstein at 860.768.4606. He will be happy to help you select an alternative gift if the item you choose is no longer available.