Although Nicholas F. Galluccio went on to earn two graduate degrees from Columbia University, he never forgot his experiences at the University of Hartford. President Walter Harrison recently described Galluccio, who earned a bachelor's in English in 1972, as “one of the university’s most outstanding and visible graduates.” Galluccio has pledged $250,000 to endow a two-year scholarship for students in the humanities and politics and government programs of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“My decision to endow this scholarship was driven by a desire to give something back to the university and to support students intent on high achievement,” says Galluccio, who is also a member of the university’s board of regents.

Galluccio is currently group managing director and equity portfolio manager in the New York office of Trust Company of the West (TCW), which is part of the TCW Group of Companies. TCW and its affiliates have approximately $5 billion in assets under management. He held previous positions within the company as an equity analyst, senior vice president, and manager of a small-capitalization equity fund. Galluccio has been managing director since 1993.

Before joining TCW in 1982, he worked as a securities analyst specializing in the electronics industry at what is now Lehman Brothers, Inc. Galluccio started out as a news reporter at the Springfield Daily News, Springfield, Mass., and a staff writer for Forbes magazine before switching to a career in investments.

Joseph Voelker, dean of Arts and Sciences, in expressing his appreciation for the gift, says the scholarship not only will benefit its recipients but also will motivate their classmates. “Engagement tends to be infectious, and our future Galluccio Scholars will be models for others.”

Galluccio and his wife, Teresa, live in Greenwich, Conn., with their three sons. For his M.A. in English literature (1973) at Columbia, Galluccio wrote his thesis on Shakespeare’s The Winter’s Tale. He also holds an MBA from Columbia’s Graduate School of Business (1978).

In addition, the Barney School will select four promising sophomores who are also insurance and finance majors to receive a $5,000 scholarship in both their junior and senior years, provided that they do not change their majors and that they maintain a 3.0 grade point average. In the second year of the grant, a second $100,000 will be divided among seven additional Barney scholars.

“This grant is a significant gift to the Barney School of Business,” says Fairfield-Sonn. “It will not only enable the school to recruit many highly talented individuals who might not otherwise become part of the school, but it also provides the first opportunity for the school to identify and reward several of our most highly talented sophomores.”

The Starr Foundation was established in 1955 by Cornelius Vander Starr, an insurance entrepreneur who founded the American International family of insurance and financial services companies now known as American International Group, Inc. With assets of approximately $3.5 billion, the foundation is one of the largest private foundations in the United States. Education has traditionally been one of the largest areas of giving for the foundation because of Starr’s personal interest in providing scholarships to deserving students.

Judge Newman Endows Law and Justice Lecture

The Honorable Jon O. Newman, a past chairman of the board of regents and a life regent of the university, has made a generous gift in support of a lecture series for the university’s new Pre-Law Advising Program. Newman is a senior U.S. Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The annual Jon O. Newman Lecture on Law and Justice will be an integral part of the Pre-Law Advising Program. Under the new program, seven pre-law advisers from five of the university’s colleges work
in coordination with students’ academic advisers to help prepare undergraduates for law school and for careers in law.

The first Jon O. Newman Lecture on Law and Justice will be delivered by Yale Law School dean Harold Hongju Koh, on Tuesday, April 19, at 4:30 p.m. in Wilde Auditorium.

Koh, who will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws from the university at the ceremony, will discuss “The Supreme Court and Global Law.” A legal scholar and recognized leader in the protection of human rights, Koh served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor from 1998 to 2001. He is currently dean, and the Gerald C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law, at Yale Law School.

Tickets for the lecture are available from the box office at 860.768.4228 or 800.274.8587.

Timeout for a Random Act of Kindness

The Home Field Advantage campaign aims to provide student-athletes with facilities and fields appropriate for a Division I athletics program. Competition can have a very positive effect on the character of our student-athletes, as the following story, related by former Vice President of External Relations Larry Gavrich, shows.

Liz Stich probably will have played her last competitive basketball game by the time you read this. The University of Hartford graduating senior may not be the star of the Lady Hawks’ team, but she will forever be the hero of two 10-year-old girls and one fiftysomething dad who witnessed an extraordinary act of kindness.

It happened two years ago at one of the Hawks’ home games. During a timeout, I watched from my seat across the arena as my daughter, Jennie, and her friend, Kathleen, held out their arms in supplication to the cheerleaders, who were tossing Hawks T-shirts into the crowd. Cheerleaders, bless their souls, tend to favor kids when it comes to picking the recipients of T-shirts. With aim befitting a major-league control pitcher, one of them launched a red shirt directly at Kathleen. Just as the eager 10-year-old was about to snatch it away, a beefy adult arm reached in to snatch it away. The girls, disappointed, returned to their seats.

I uttered a silent oath about selfish, insensitive adults. But an hour later, at the end of an exciting game, all was forgotten. Jennie and Kathleen waited happily in line for player autographs. As we stood there, Liz Stich emerged from the locker room clutching a T-shirt. She walked right up to Kathleen and said, “I saw that guy take the T-shirt from you. I had this one in my locker, and I want you to have it.” Then she asked a tongue-in-cheek favor of the girls. “Please don’t tell my coach [Jen Rizzotti]. I’m supposed to be paying attention to her during the timeouts.”

Sorry Liz. Now coach and everyone else know what you did. And should.

Give a Gift to Remember

Looking for something different to honor the memory of a beloved family member or a fondly remembered professor? Do you have a graduation, marriage, or birth in your future but can’t come up with an original gift? Randi Ashton-Pritting, director of university libraries, has a suggestion.

“We maintain a wish list of titles that vary in cost from $50 per copy to $1,000 or more. People contact us when they’re looking for a way to commemorate special life events. After they purchase a book, we place a bookplate inside that gives the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored. In addition, the name of the donor appears on the screen whenever someone calls up the title on our computer system.”

Ashton-Pritting explains that there are a number of options for giving to the library. Besides the library’s wish list, a donor may choose to give a particular book that they feel the library should contain, replace a dog-eared copy of a title already in the collection, or allow the library to acquire a book or books of its choice.

“Purchasing a book for the university’s libraries is a twofold gift,” says Ashton-Pritting. “It’s a way to celebrate an individual for years to come while benefiting the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Hartford.”

And size does not matter. “The library welcomes gifts in any amount,” she says.