An annual fall gathering brings people to campus who all share a common stake in the future of the University of Hartford. This group of professors, physicians, lawyers, musicians, bankers, entrepreneurs, artists, teachers, and retirees is the Founders’ Planned Giving society.

On Sept. 26, the University hosted a luncheon at The 1877 Club in honor of these farsighted individuals. After President Walter Harrison spoke to the assemblage, Deans Joseph Voelker (A&S) and Louis Manzione (CE/TA), and Associate Dean Frederick Sweitzer (ENHP) gave a presentation on the University’s venture into the field of digital health, in which several schools and colleges at Hartford will help solve the problems of providing health care to a growing population of elderly. They also introduced a new mentoring program for undergraduates.

Members of the Founders’ Planned Giving Society have provided for, or planned a gift through, their estates that fits their own sets of personal circumstances and charitable objectives. The dollar amounts of these gift plans may vary widely, but the gratitude with which the University acknowledges each member of the Founders’ Society is constant and absolute.

In its characteristic style, the society encourages and celebrates the “planning” just as much as the “giving.” Occasionally, the University receives bequests and other estate gifts that had not been previously anticipated. For those gift plans that are known in advance, however, the Founders’ Society will often suggest life income arrangements, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, as well as testamentary gifts, such as bequests, beneficiary designations from retirement plans, and life insurance policies. Charitable lead trusts and donor-advised funds are also represented among the thoughtful and valuable gift plans devised by Founders’ Society members.

If you have made plans for a gift to the University through your estate, the Founders’ Planned Giving Society would be delighted to welcome you as a member. If you would like to learn more about your own gift-planning potential, please contact Director of Planned Giving Peter H. Congleton, in confidence, at 860.768.2415, or visit www.hartford.edu/giving/plannedgiving.

Margery Gardow, pictured here at the Founders’ Planned Giving Society fall luncheon, is a former part-time instructor in the University’s English Language Institute. She is also the wife of Ernie Gardow, professor emeritus and former chair of mechanical engineering. The Gardows have provided generously for the University in their estate plans.

It’s Never Too Early to Plan
UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES FOUNDERS’ PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY
BY PETER H. CONGLETON

Professor Emeritus Completes Largest Faculty Gift Ever

Barney School Professor Emeritus Paul Mali (left) and his wife, Mary (center), visited campus in mid-September to present a check to President Walter Harrison (right) before a group of students and staff and Barney Associate Dean Peter LaPlaca. This was the third and final payment on the Malis’ 2004 pledge of $500,000, believed to be the largest faculty gift in University history. The funds were used to construct state-of-the-art lecture halls (Mali 1 and Mali 2) in Dana Hall that are equipped with the latest audiovisual and environmental technology, including wireless computer connection and overhead projectors that display images from computers, CDs, and DVDs. Mali taught at the University from 1967 to 1994 and is a certified management consultant working with some of the largest corporations in the United States.
Judy Kallet had a good feeling about the University of Hartford from the very first time she had a conversation with a Hillyer College admission counselor. Now, four years later, Kallet’s initial feeling has deepened into a profound sense of admiration and respect for the school. And with her son, Jared, set to graduate from the Barney School of Business this spring, Judy Kallet and her husband, Mitch, were motivated to give back to the school that has given so much to their family.

“From day one we understood just how much the faculty and staff at Hillyer care about the students,” says Judy Kallet, who has held positions as vice president of technology and production at The Hartford Courant and senior vice president at the Los Angeles Times. “It was striking how quickly Jared bonded with his advisor, as well as with Hillyer Dean [David] Goldenberg, who continues to mentor him at Barney.”

Most of all, the Kallets are convinced that it was Hillyer’s highly acclaimed honors program that gave their son focus and inspired him to continue his studies at Barney after graduating from Hillyer. He is leaning toward a career in the financial services industry.

“Unlike most schools, the honors program at Hillyer is about more than grades. It fosters learning, friendships. It’s a tremendous carrot for the kids,” says Mitch Kallet, a Hartford attorney.

No wonder, then, that the Kallets were hardly surprised when their graduating senior received two tempting job offers to choose between.

“Hillyer gets you on the right path if you’re not sure what you want to do. It gave Jared a lot of direction and confidence. He saw that he could do it and be successful,” notes Judy Kallet.

Today, the Kallets continue to feel a connection to their son’s alma mater. They say they want to help the school that gave such a bright future to Jared do the same for others. Judy Kallet sits on the Hillyer board of visitors, and they have made contributions to both the Hillyer College and University annual funds as well as the Hillyer College Fund for the 21st Century.

“We love being part of an institution with such a strong sense of community that helps so many students. We feel that we are giving something meaningful back,” says Judy Kallet.

Good Vibrations
PARENTS KNEW THEIR SON WOULD DO WELL HERE

Jared Kallet ’07 (left) stands with his parents, Judy and Mitch Kallet, outside Hillyer Hall.

Status Report
A mid-December photograph shows construction of The Renée Samuels Center at the Hartford Art School. Contractors were finishing up the exterior of the 15,000-square-foot, $5 million building as the Observer went to press. The center was named in honor of longtime art school supporter and University regent Renée Samuels who, with her husband, Bob, and their children, pledged the lead gift of $1.2 million for the project. The facility will provide space and enhanced digital facilities for the photography and media arts departments, and will include renovated space for both the painting and drawing and the printmaking departments.
Hartford Teens to Train for Careers in IT

UNIVERSITY’S CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES $895,953 GRANT

Beginning in February 2007, 150 predominantly minority and economically disadvantaged students in grades 7–12 in Hartford Public Schools will participate in a new computer-training program designed to prepare them for careers in information technology.

Run by the University’s Center for Professional Development (CPD) in collaboration with Hartford Public Schools and Computers for Communities, Inc., the program will be funded by a three-year, $895,953 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The program, called IT Community Support Project, will screen students and select those with innate talent who have not had much exposure to computers, according to Colleen Kruger, director of continuing education at the CPD, and principal investigator and grant manager for the project. The students will start with basic IT training.

“Giving youth real-world tools that make sense for future workforce development is central to the mission of this project,” says Kruger. “Hartford students are starving for programs that will give them tangible skills.”

Students will advance from the basics to paid internships at local companies. By the program’s third and final year, they will create and run “Our IT,” a tech support center where they will refurbish an estimated 400 computers and supply them to their families and community members.

Other members of the collaborating team are Chandima Cumaranatunge, assistant professor of educational technology and interactive information technology at the University; Alicja Komar, executive director of Computers for Communities, Inc.; and Bob Caruso, career coach at University High School of Science and Engineering and a Hartford Public Schools liaison.

University Faculty and Staff Recognized for Close to $5 Million in Funding

In October faculty and staff members from across the University gathered at the home of Dianne and President Walter Harrison for the annual External Funding Reception, which recognizes those who received outside funding through grants and contracts in the previous academic year.

The reception—sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of Institutional Partnerships and Sponsored Research—celebrated the 29 recipients of 67 grants totaling nearly $5 million. Support for the event was also provided by University regent Morton Handel and Irma Handel.

Individuals within all seven of the University’s schools and colleges received funding as well as the Center for Professional Development (formerly called The Career Counseling Center), University Libraries, Health Services, and Upper Albany Main Street, an initiative of neighborhood business owners and the Barney School of Business.

Provost Donna Randall hopes others at the University will be encouraged to seek funding.

“We’re here to celebrate the wonderful efforts of the people who received funding last year. We also hope to make people aware that there is money out there and that their peers have been successful in obtaining it.”