Activities began on Friday afternoon with the dedication of the University’s new freshman residence, Hawk Hall. As part of the ceremony, President Walter Harrison and Paul Sittard ’85, University regent and president of the Alumni Association, unveiled a large brass H, a gift from Harrison and his wife, Dianne, in the center of the new Alumni Plaza. University Alumni also generously donated to this project and will be recognized with a plaque. A time capsule, filled with items intended to give a sense of what 2007 was like on campus, was buried near the H. It will be opened on the University’s 100th anniversary in 2057. Those in attendance were invited to take tours of Hawk Hall and also sample the menu at the newly renovated Hawk’s Nest, which now has five flat-screen TVs contributed by Chuck Pagano ’84, senior vice president, technology, engineering and operations, at ESPN.

So many things to see and do, so little time
As the University of Hartford’s closing event in the celebration of its 50th anniversary, Fall Weekend 2007 was an experience that many alumni and parents will never forget. The following are highlights from the combined Homecoming and Parents Weekend.
On Friday night, The 1877 Club was magically transformed into the Sands Hotel, formerly in Las Vegas and a favorite 1950s haunt of the Rat Pack—entertainers Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Joey Bishop, Sammy Davis Jr., and Peter Lawford. The enthusiastic crowd tested their luck on real gaming tables run by professional dealers. Winners received Hawk Dollars, which they used to buy prizes at the end of the night.

A. A friendly game of blackjack.
B. Charles ’98 and Kathleen O’Hara show off the Hawk Dollars they won.
C. Card-carrying members of the Alumni Association.
D. All eyes are on the money wheel.
E. Monika Pfeiffer M’88 and Robert Donais.
Saturday was packed with events from noon until late into the evening, beginning with a lunchtime barbecue and activities on the Harry Jack Gray Center lawn that included an alumni artisans marketplace, an alumni musical spotlight, and a caricaturist, among others. There were alumni and Hawk men’s soccer games (above), various reunions, and a faculty and alumni panel discussion on the 2008 election (below).

ANCHOR AWARDS

As Saturday afternoon turned into Saturday evening, alumni gathered in the Joseloff Gallery for a preconcert cocktail reception, hosted by Michele ’92 and Brian ’91 Swanson. Anchor Award winners and their families could be found at The 1877 Club enjoying cocktails, dinner and the award presentations. The annual Anchor Awards recognized 11 exceptional alumni this year.

Above from left: Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63; Richard Pryputniewicz ’72; Patricia Rissmeyer ’78; Lauren Zaccaro Larson ’06; Domenic Pompile ’99; Sarah Ficca ’06; Robert Thomas M’04; and Jarrod Moses A’89, ’91. Not pictured are award winners Lon Seidman A’96, ’98; Joseph Mulready M’71; and Jeffrey Roseman A’80, ’82.

Right: (l–r) Jane Pryputniewicz; Frank Lahey, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering; and Richard Pryputniewics ’72.

Far right: Lon Seidman A’96, ’98.
The culminating event of the evening was a special, sold-out 50th anniversary concert in Lincoln Theater by the legendary Dionne Warwick (Hon. ‘86). Opening for Warwick, who attended The Hartt School, was the Jackie McLean Legacy Band, featuring faculty and students from Hartt’s Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz. Warwick invited the audience to sing and clap along on her many popular hits. She closed with a sampling of music from Brazil, where she currently makes her home.

**Sunday’s events** included a parents’ breakfast and a women’s soccer game versus New Hampshire. Then it was time to pack up the car and head home with memories of a great weekend and plans to return next year already forming. ■

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Far right: Dionne Warwick encouraged the audience to clap along with her as she sang familiar hits from the past.

Right, top: Members of Warwick’s band.

Right, below: The Jackie McLean Legacy Band, featuring (l-r) Jovan Alexandre ’11, Nat Reeves, Josh Bruneau ’10, Steve Davis ’89, Tess Collins ’09, and Eric McPherson, opened for Warwick.

Bottom, left to right: Dick Cardin ’62 and his wife, Lucy, enjoy the concert with Joe Lizzi, Karen Lizzi and Irene Smith.