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Our new online community is a special benefit for all alumni of the University of Hartford. We want to help you stay in touch with friends and classmates and with your alma mater.

Check out the Anchor Online—the official community for University of Hartford alumni. To find out more, visit www.hartford.edu/alumni and click on the Online Community button.
Welcome to the winter 2008 issue of the Observer. Our coverage includes the final event in the University's 50th anniversary celebrations—a sold-out concert by Dionne Warwick (Hon. ’86) in Lincoln Theater that was part of a jam-packed Fall Weekend. You'll find photos of alumni and parents who attended on pages 16–19.

Technology has moved out of industry and into most aspects of our lives. No surprise, then, that it has changed the college experience as well. Professors now download their lectures onto Blackboard for easy student access. The academic side of campus and the library provide wireless access to the Internet. Even senior projects have changed, as you’ll see in our special section on technology on pages 8–11.

Last September, I had the honor of flying to Washington, D.C., with a wonderful group on the Connecticut Honor Flight (see p. 22). Organized by Christopher Coutu M’03, it took 100 World War II veterans to see the World War II Memorial dedicated in 2004. We created a special Observer website about the trip. Visit it at www.hartford.edu/observer.

I’m always glad to hear from any of our readers, so drop me a line if you have comments or ideas for articles. And stay tuned for our spring issue on the greening of the University of Hartford.

Go, Hawks!

Trish Charles
Editor-in-Chief
pcharles@hartford.edu

Read the Observer online at www.hartford.edu/observer.
I am still not used to it.

As I walk in front of ISET, our still-new science, engineering, and technology complex, I am aware of a solitary student walking behind me. Suddenly I hear a warm “Hello!” I turn around quickly, open my mouth to return the greeting, and then I notice that the student is talking on her cell phone.

I go into Mortensen Library on the first day of finals for the fall term. Not unexpectedly, the library is full of students—at least 30 within my sight as I stand in the middle of the first-floor lobby. But none of them has an open book.

Every student, every one, is hard at work on a computer. Many sit in front of desktop computers at the well-equipped computer center there. Others slouch on comfortable chairs and couches, working on wireless laptops. Still others are grouped—three or four each—around the collaborative computing pods on the edge of the library’s central area, intently poring over some text on the flat screen that is linked to the laptops they are using together.

On a snowy December night I stop by an end-of-semester party held by the honors wing of Hawk Hall, our newest residence hall. There, in one of the first-floor classrooms, I find a couple dozen students dressed in suits, formal dresses, and tuxedos dancing to some wonderful music being pumped out of small-but-powerful speakers and a subwoofer, all powered by a laptop. I marvel over the speakers’ quality. “They’re my roommate’s,” a student tells me. “He got them at Target for $30.”

Also in December, I attend the Student Government Association’s Christmas tree-lighting ceremony in front of the Auerbach Administration and Computer Center. The students are huddled together on the sidewalk, sipping hot chocolate and eating cookies. In the middle of it all is an elaborate audio hookup provided by WSAM, the student-run radio station. It features very large speakers that are playing Chanukah songs and Christmas carols, all powered by an iPod.

While I could talk about the strategic decisions the University of Hartford has made to keep ahead of the information technology curve, the most striking evidence of this phenomenon for me is the use that our students make of the technology. It is they who are leading us, not vice versa.

It is all new and a bit challenging for me (and I am neither a technophobe nor the most technologically advanced university president in the United States). In embracing technology, I believe our students are returning to practices followed by medieval students in founding the first universities. In those times, students fascinated by learning gathered together and hired teachers who could lead them in discovering new knowledge. Now students come together, empowered by technology, and say to us in the administration and faculty: find ways to use the technology we are comfortable with to teach us about our world.

I see evidence of technology all around the University. The University of Hartford Magnet School has whiteboards and computers in every classroom, so our prekindergarten through fifth-grade students are learning via this technology from the get-go. The University High School of Science and Engineering building, currently under construction, will be organized around a central computer study area in a wireless building. Most of our classrooms are now “smart,” and the entire academic side of campus is wireless. Our most popular majors reflect the impact of technology in society—multimedia Web design, audio engineering technology, acoustics and music, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, media arts, and music and production technology. And virtually every field—from art history to physical therapy to music composition—has been changed by technology.

Our faculty also demand more and better technology resources, both for teaching and for research. At a recent dinner in which we brought together some faculty members and members of the board of regents to discuss the strategic needs of faculty, the most
intense discussion at my table centered on providing more databases for faculty research.

This is both exciting and challenging, especially for those of us charged with planning for the University’s future. Let me give you an example. Ten years ago, when I first arrived on campus, our administrators were especially pleased that they had invested $1.5 million in “wiring” our residence halls. “A port at every pillow,” was the expression I heard. Now our students are complaining that the residence halls (except for our newest one, Hawk Hall) are not wireless. “We don’t want to be tied to our dorm rooms,” one student told me when I tried the “port at every pillow” line on her.

A strategic planning subcommittee charged with looking at the campus’s future just forwarded me a draft of its recommendations for the next five years. Near the top of the list is “Make the residence halls wireless.” The cost, according to this draft: $800,000. Is it worth it? Will the technology change again within the next few years, making wireless a thing of the past?

These are wonderful challenges to face. Technology is driving learning, driving curiosity about the world, driving a deeper understanding of ourselves as people. Sometimes, in the language of John Perry Barlow, the former lyricist for the Grateful Dead and now a leader in the Electronic Frontier Foundation, I feel like a lost tourist on a strange new continent.

At least I know that I can always find a University of Hartford student to help me explore these strange new surroundings.
The campus, 50 years later

The top third of the photograph contains the Sports Center (A) with new soccer/lacrosse, baseball and softball fields visible as well as the residence halls, including the new Hawk Hall (B). The U-shaped Harry Jack Gray Center faces the Gengras Lawn in the central campus, where a refurbished Dana Hall and ISET complex (C), and the Renée Samuels Center (D) addition to the Hartford Art School, sit. Along the right side of the photo are the Fuller building (E), Gengras Student Union (F) and, at bottom right, Hillyer and Auerbach halls.
In a Weary, Restless World

SPEAKER URGES GRADUATES TO USE THEIR IMAGINATION

“What may seem impossible to us is not... if only we will engage the power of imagination,” said Michael Wilson, who received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts at Fall Commencement on Dec. 2.

Wilson, who is in his 10th season as artistic director of Hartford Stage, told the graduates that they should be very proud of the University of Hartford for its active role in the community, and he encouraged them to work to make a difference in “a world that is weary, restless, and in need of rejuvenation.”

The annual Fall Commencement ceremony celebrated the achievements of more than 150 students who completed their degree requirements in September or January.

Under Wilson’s leadership, Hartford Stage has pursued an ambitious community outreach and education program, supported the development of emerging playwrights, and become one of the country’s most acclaimed resident, not-for-profit, professional theaters. Wilson has received numerous awards at the regional and national levels, including a recent National Governors Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts.

The citation that accompanied Wilson’s honorary degree described his productions as being ones that “unfailingly surprise the eye and ear while remaining honest and insightful explorations of human behavior at its best and worst.”

War Stories

LOCAL JEWISH WAR VETERANS HONORED

Jewish war veterans of the Greater Hartford area are the subject of an exhibit currently showing in the George J. and Lottie K. Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization at the University through Feb. 24, 2008.

Portraits of 22 local Jewish war veterans taken by students at the Hartford Art School and an assemblage of memorabilia, many items of which were donated by the veterans themselves, make up Our Greatest Generations: The Untold Stories of Jewish War Veterans. The students were enrolled in a documentary photography course taught by Christine Dalenta, staff member at HAS.

The veterans served in World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War era, and the Persian Gulf and Iraq wars. Display cases contain photos, a Japanese phrasebook from the Philippines, food-rationing coupons, and medals. President Walter Harrison, who served from 1969 to 1972, donated his military commission and Air Force uniform jacket.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the generosity of the family of U.S. Naval Officer Jack Rosenblit. For more information, call 860.768.4964.

Alumnus Leads University Finances

Arosha Jayawickrema M’91 (right) was appointed vice president for finance and administration of the University in July. Jayawickrema, who joined the University in 1991 as a staff accountant, has held a series of increasingly responsible positions within the financial side of the University, becoming associate vice president for finance in 2004.

“Arosha has been an important part of the University’s finance team for many years,” said President Harrison. “His deep understanding of higher education and of this University make him an outstanding choice. His great work here has earned him the trust of the board of regents and high regard by people throughout the University.”

Jayawickrema earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas and a master’s in business administration from the University of Hartford. He succeeds Beverly Maksin, who retired last summer.
On Jan. 21, 2008, the University of Hartford held a national day of remembrance for fallen civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by hosting a campus- and community-wide program. The guest speaker was the Hon. Robert N. Davis, a 1975 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences. Davis, himself a veteran, sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The Connecticut Department of Higher Education selected Manzione as chair of its Nanotechnology Curriculum Initiative, which will develop the curriculum for nanoscience and nanotechnology education at the postsecondary level as well as ensure appropriate workforce development in these areas. All nine Connecticut colleges and universities that teach engineering and science, including the state’s community colleges, are represented on the curriculum committee.

CETA Dean Heads State Initiatives

The University of Hartford and Lou Manzione, dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, have been gaining recognition for leadership in Connecticut in the fields of science and technology.

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A third appointment comes from the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, which has named Manzione chair of its CETA Dean Heads State Initiatives

Susan Brooker, chair of the Department of Dance in The Hartt School Community Division, has joined a team of artistic advisors for the renowned American Ballet Theatre’s new National Training Curriculum.

The new curriculum consists of a comprehensive set of age-appropriate, outcome-based guidelines consistent with the best practices in the fields of sports psychology, child/adolescent development, nutrition and training. Brooker says she was honored to be named one of seven members of the Artistic Board of Examiners and Instructors who will teach the curriculum throughout the country and evaluate students trained in the method.

“One of the exciting things about this curriculum is that it can be used both by teachers already working within a syllabus and those working independently to provide the tools to train versatile dancers for the companies of today,” Brooker says. “At the same time, the sound technical and artistic development provides appropriate training for the recreational student.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Chicago Housing Reform

FILMMAKER FOCUSES ON KING’S COLLABORATION WITH THE CHICAGO FREEDOM MOVEMENT

BY BEVERLY KENNEDY

Seth McClellan ’00— independent filmmaker, media producer, educator and Hartt School alumnus—went back to the turbulent 1960s, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. joined forces with the Chicago Freedom Movement, for the subject of his latest work.

The New Battle is McClellan’s resulting half-hour documentary. It aired on a PBS station in the Chicago area last fall and won in the Best Short Documentary category at the 2007 Iowa Independent Film Festival. The film, which has no narrator, focuses on the faces of people who worked with King to confront unfair housing practices—Jesse Jackson, C. T. Vivien, Willie Barrow and others—while weaving in John Tweedle’s exclusive period photographs accompanied by civil rights songs sung a cappella by Rutha Harris. McClellan has since expanded the film into his first feature-length work, titled King in Chicago.

After graduating from Hartt’s actor training program, McClellan pursued a career in acting for several years before going behind the camera. It was the “strength and vision of the faculty,” he says, that drew him to Hartt, particularly Professor Henry Fonte, whose “teachings continue to influence me in everything I do.” Faculty members in Hillyer College and the College of Arts and Sciences are planning to show The New Battle in their classes.

An adjunct professor at Governors State University, McClellan makes his home in Crete, Ill., 30 miles south of Chicago. He and Hartt classmate Brittnay Morgan ’00 were married in December.

Editor’s note: On Jan. 21, 2008, the University of Hartford held a national day of remembrance for fallen civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by hosting a campus- and community-wide program. The guest speaker was the Hon. Robert N. Davis, a 1975 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences. Davis, himself a veteran, sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

View film trailers and updates on McClellan’s production company at www.thorn creek productions.com.

In the SPOTLIGHT

Hartt Dance Chair to Advise ABT

Susan Brooker, chair of the Department of Dance in The Hartt School Community Division, has joined a team of artistic advisors for the renowned American Ballet Theatre’s new National Training Curriculum.

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Seth McClellan ’00 displays the title frame of The New Battle. “In the South,” he explains, “it was obvious what people were fighting for. In Chicago it was much more complicated. People were fighting institutional racism to open the Chicago housing market.”

BY BEVERLY KENNEDY
Student Wins *Good Morning America* Intern Challenge

ABC Television’s *Good Morning America* (GMA) selected Kristen Kucks ’08, a communication major in the College of Arts and Sciences, for one of its highly competitive internships last summer. Assigned to GMA Weekend Edition, the Jersey City, N.J., native and her team of fellow interns went on to win first place in the inaugural Good Morning America Intern Challenge, in which GMA asked students to produce videos about their internship experiences. Kucks and her teammates were interviewed live on the show and honored with a national broadcast of their winning video.

WELFund Grants Back Women’s Projects

Both Hartt School faculty member Carrie Koffman (left), and acoustics and music major Alexandra Symmonds ’10, received funding from the 2007 Women’s Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund), which supports projects that help shape the future of women and girls. Koffman will record the first CD of music composed by women for the saxophone. Symmonds and faculty member Clara Fang developed SWEET (Society of Women Engineers Educating for Tomorrow) Day, a program that brings high school girls and their parents onto campus and introduces them to engineering and its career opportunities. The WELFund is a legacy of Hartford College for Women.

Making History

The Hartt School was well represented in Goodspeed Musicals’ fall production of 1776 at the historic Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn. Joining Theatre Division Director Alan Rust, who played John Hancock, were Ralph Perkins, Theatre Division director of dance, who choreographed the production, and Christopher Kauffman ’07 in the role of The Courier. Goodspeed director for the musical was Rob Ruggiero, a former member of the Hartt theatre faculty.

School Days

Daniel Davis, AIA, professor of architecture in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, has been spending a lot of time as a working architect. He created the design for the Sterling Community School in Sterling, Conn., which opened this fall (above top). The 80,000-square-foot, $26 million facility serves 540 students in this eastern Connecticut community that dates back to colonial times. In November, Davis attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Clark Lane Middle School in Waterford, Conn., where he designed a 20,000-square-foot addition with six new classrooms, new administrative offices, a new cafeteria/auditorium, an addition to the library, and a new entrance (above bottom). Extensive renovations were also made to the existing 1952 building. Davis is director of design for the firm of Fletcher-Thompson Architects and Engineers.

(*l–r*) Edward Watts, Peter A. Carey, Alan Rust, and Ronn Carroll made history come to life in Goodspeed Musicals’ 1776.
The University, with the building of the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology complex, has made a commitment to achieving regional prominence and national visibility in science, engineering and technology education.

What you see in this special section are just a few examples of how technology impacts our lives, in and out of the classroom, in ways that would have been inconceivable a generation ago. There was a time when an engineer had to do pages of manual calculations and then build several iterations of prototypes to test a mechanical design. The mechanical analysis that the Engineering Applications Center is doing with HABCO, Inc. (see p. 9), or the suspension simulations performed by the formula racecar team (see p. 10), for example, demonstrate how designs can be perfected quickly through sophisticated computer simulations that, 30 years ago, would have been done on slide rules. This incredible advance in engineering productivity has produced many of the technological wonders we take for granted, such as the cell phone, the MRI machine, and the Internet. The rate of technological advance is now at an almost dizzying pace. In addition, the growing power and pervasiveness of the Internet will utterly change our lives. Not only will we have instant access to essentially all of the world’s collective knowledge, but more importantly, we will also be able to collaborate across continents and political boundaries. Artificial divisions between peoples will fall away, and technology will unlock the true potential of the human race.

— Lou Manzione
Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture

Every Move You Make
NEW HUMAN PERFORMANCE LAB PROVIDES 3-D DATA

For those who study human movement, it helps to be able to see a person, well, move.

Now, students enrolled in the physical therapy doctoral program are better equipped to do just that in the new Human Performance Therapy Research Laboratory. A sophisticated new camera system made up of three cameras and a computer can capture and record three-dimensional motion. The system surrounds a human subject from all angles, so that no movement, even one too small to be caught by the clinical eye, escapes detection. Symmetrical differences—differences in movement between the right and left sides of the body—are instantly noted and analyzed by students.

Located in an oversized room in the basement of Dana Hall, the human performance lab is a rarity in physical therapy doctoral programs. This type of technology, which also involves applying sensors to various parts of the subject’s body, typically is used to study the movements of elite athletes. Kevin Ball, assistant professor of physical therapy, and his associates have developed the software required for this application.

“In physical therapy it is important for students to understand how the body functions and how to measure those functions objectively,” says Ball, who serves as director of the lab. “In the human performance lab, we have different complex technologies to measure aspects of human performance as they relate to biomechanical principles, including the study of forces and motion.”

In addition to the camera system, those technologies include force plates that are imbedded in the lab’s floor, as well as motion and gait analysis equipment, and software analysis systems that support the analysis and interpretation of data.

“The major impetus behind this lab was first to enhance teaching and then to aid in research,” explains Ball. “And it really does inform the teaching.”

Graduate students Nuno Oliveira (foreground) and Jenny Spleen work with Assistant Professor Kevin Ball, director of the new Human Performance Therapy Research Lab.
On a Powerful Trajectory
ALUMNA’S COMPANY PARTNERS WITH NASA

Even as a child, Kristin Muschett ’85 spent a lot of time at HABCO, Inc., the business her father, Henry A. Backmann, founded in 1970. Although she had originally planned to become a news analyst or journalist, Muschett found herself joining her father at HABCO following her graduation from the University of Hartford in 1985. By working in various departments throughout the company, she learned the ins and outs of the business that she would eventually take over.

“I spent several years learning the business from my father, and he was a great mentor,” recalls Muschett. “But he was an engineer, and he didn’t really have the mindset to take what the company could do and let the outside world know about it. I did.”

Indeed, since taking over as CEO in 1998, Muschett has used her keen marketing skills and her deep understanding of HABCO’s core competencies—now a manufacturer of testing equipment for the aerospace, fuel cell and commercial industries—to double sales and diversify the business. Along the way, she has developed 22 different product lines that have catapulted HABCO from a statewide to an international level.

This past fall, United Space Alliance, NASA’s primary industry partner in human space operations, named HABCO as the recipient of its Space Flight Awareness Supplier Award. Cited for its exceptional work in building and integrating a new control system to test flight hardware for the space shuttle, HABCO is only the 11th company out of 2,000 active suppliers nationwide, and the first in Connecticut, to be so honored.

Former NASA astronaut Loren Shriver arrived to present the award at a special reception held at the company’s Glastonbury, Conn., headquarters.

Today, Muschett continues to look ahead. Having increased business by 100 percent between 2000 and 2005, her goal is to double it once again by 2010—and every five years thereafter. Diversification is a key component of her strategy.

“There’s still a lot of diversification that can happen for us in aerospace,” notes Muschett. “But right now, one of my goals is to gain more ground in the commercial industries—particularly in medical device testing.” HABCO already has a foot in the door, thanks to the development of a catheter tester for Boston Scientific.

Muschett’s plans also include her alma mater. In addition to making a $15,000 donation to the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture’s Engineering Applications Center (EAC), HABCO recently sponsored a senior project for mechanical engineering student Eric Brenson ’08. Brenson created conceptual designs for a proposed large crane used for jet maintenance that HABCO plans to submit to Lockheed-Martin. Muschett is also working with Professor Devdas Shetty, director of the EAC, and Ray Kimmelblatt, senior development officer, to establish permanent engineering, business and marketing internships.

“In a large company, interns often get lost and receive little direction. In our small company, they have the opportunity to get hands-on experience working directly with me and other managers,” says Muschett.

Muschett studied communication at the University of Hartford—valuable training, she says, that has served her well.

“I had some really good professors who helped me hone my verbal and writing skills,” Muschett notes. “Good communication skills are key for a CEO. You really have to be able to get your message across effectively.”

Group Study

With the help of David Kelley, Information Technology Services director of technical and network services, Randi Ashton-Pritting, director of University libraries, was able to take her mental sketch of a group computer workspace in the library and see it come to fruition. Thanks to Kelley’s expertise with all things computer related, the Collaborative Pod—or “cPod” as it’s known familiarly—was born (see p. 33).

Unveiled this past fall, Mortensen Library’s two cPods—self-contained group work areas, each with a 42” computer screen, three keyboards, three mice and sound-absorbent wall panels—have caught on among students like flip-flops and iPods.

Kelley, who designed and built the cPods, says that the idea for a multiuser station had been kicking around for some time. “It’s always bugged me to see several students crowded around a laptop in the library, trying to work on a project together under pretty awkward conditions. Our goal was to come up with something comfortable and cool-looking that would do the job.” Mission accomplished.
The Miracle Workers

New technology helps deaf children hear

Michelle Comporesi (left) is a member of the inaugural class of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions’ new groundbreaking master’s in deaf education program. It is the only program in Connecticut, and one of only two in New England, that specializes in listening and spoken-language development in children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The graduate students in the program are taught to educate hearing-impaired children using the latest in sound amplification and cochlear implant technology. The cochlear implant is a small, complex, electronic device that, when surgically implanted behind the ear, can give a sense of sound through the direct stimulation of the auditory nerve.

The program is designed for already certified teachers who wish to prepare for certification as teachers of the deaf in Connecticut. ENHP is collaborating with Soundbridge Early Learning Center in Wethersfield, Conn., a nationally recognized, regional, auditory oral/verbal program for hearing-impaired children.

On the Fast Track

STUDENT- BUILT RACECAR WILL HEAD TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

When summer arrives, Steve Osuch ’08 will shelve his books and head for California. He will be towing a fully enclosed, 24-foot racing trailer containing an open-wheeled, formula-style, ready-to-be-revved-up racecar.

For Osuch, the 2,900-mile trek from Hartford, Conn., to Fontana, Calif., really began last summer. That’s when the electrical engineering major designed the car that he and his team of University of Hartford undergrads began building this past fall, in space donated to the project by United Tool and Die. In June 2008 the car will be the school’s entry in the Formula SAE competition—an international competition in which approximately 120 teams of students from around the world conceive, design and fabricate small, formula-style racecars. Initiated and coached by Frank Leahy, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, a Formula SAE project has been in place at the University since 1991.

As if building a car from scratch weren’t difficult enough, the competition’s strict standards make it even more complex. Cars are subjected to inch-by-inch technical inspections and a series of tests for acceleration, endurance, fuel economy, and the like. Student teams are grilled by top engineers from car manufacturers like Ford and Chrysler and must submit written analyses of their vehicles. The race itself—and, yes, there is a race—is secondary.

“The program doesn’t teach engineers to build racecars; it teaches engineering students to be engineers. It teaches them that just because something works on paper doesn’t mean it will work in the real world,” says Osuch, this year’s team captain. He has worked to attract students from other disciplines, including the Barney School of Business, to the team.

“There’s no reason it needs to be just an engineering program,” he says. “It’s an amazing educational experience for everyone.”

The estimated $30,000 cost of building the racecar and competing in the Formula SAE competition must be offset by team fundraising. In past years the actor, philanthropist and racecar enthusiast Paul Newman has made generous donations to the project, including a $10,000 grant in 2007 through the Newman’s Own Foundation.
Creating a Buzz
NEW RENÉE SAMUELS CENTER PROVIDES ENERGY BOOST

Digital technology has had a huge impact in the art world. Video installations, digital photography and computerized illustrations are now commonplace. The decision to build the Renée Samuels Center at the Hartford Art School (HAS) reflects the importance of technology in art, especially for students of media arts and photography.

“The new renovations to the art school have so far been extremely beneficial to the students here,” says Brooke Duffy ’09. “As a result, every student has more space to work in, and the media arts and photography students in particular have been given the facilities necessary to create their best work.”

Opened for classes in September, the 15,000-square-foot complex provides the two programs with dedicated space designed for video production and photography, rather than being retrofitted from something else. For aspiring photographers, that means traditional wet labs as well as digital studios and shooting spaces; for budding media arts professionals, it means state-of-the-art equipment for digital collage, Web-based and streaming webcam work, installation video projection, and more. “I would say that the new center is the best thing to happen to the new media department,” says Steve Rand ’08. “[It] has definitely expanded my artistic horizons.”

To the Moon and Beyond
NASA and Hartford team up

With plans to return to the moon in 2014 and subsequently explore Mars, NASA is turning to University of Hartford faculty and students in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture for help.

Thanks to a NASA-funded program called Connecticut Space Grant College Consortium, Hartford undergraduate students are working on projects for NASA and Connecticut-based aerospace companies, such as Pratt and Whitney, Sikorsky and Hamilton Sundstrand.

Pratt and Whitney developed space propulsion systems for the space shuttle and for the International Space Station. Sikorsky works with the U.S. military on helicopters. Hamilton Sundstrand holds the prime contract for developing spacesuit technology and manufacturing different pieces of aerospace systems technology.

NASA, which maintains consortium programs in every state, approached the University 15 years ago about overseeing Connecticut’s program, and it wasn’t long before students at the University were busy conducting research on projects for NASA and interning at local companies and at NASA as well. Among the many opportunities for students currently offered on the consortium’s website is a paid summer internship at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

Tom Filburn, director of the consortium program and associate professor of biomedical engineering, recently worked for nearly two years with a group of engineering students on a project for NASA involving a regenerable CO₂ scrubber, used to remove carbon dioxide from the air inside a spaceship. In another project, students are developing ways to measure shoulder clearances within a spacesuit during a variety of activities.

This past summer, Filburn planned to present the results from a third project at a national conference but had a schedule conflict. Instead, he sent his two student co-authors to present the research to an audience of NASA and industry engineers.

“These students got to function like ‘real’ engineers on the project. And they had a chance to network with those engineers and also received valuable practical experience in the important task of communicating technical information to peers.”

Gene Gort, associate professor of media arts, and students work in the control room of the video production area in the new Renée Samuels Center.
George Michael Evica

George Michael Evica, associate professor emeritus of English, died on Nov. 10 following a long battle with cancer. He was 79.

Evica, who taught at the University of Hartford from 1964 to 1992, received national and international recognition for his research into the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 1975 he began broadcasting *Assassination Journal* on WWUH (91.3 FM) each Tuesday until his illness forced him to stop this past July.

Evica’s effect on his students was legendary. “I took three English courses with this man, and he had the highest intellect of any professor in the department. He was . . . the most riveting lecturer known to mankind,” recalls Nick Galluccio ’72.

“George Michael Evica was an amazing man with an amazing mind. [He] touched the spirit and essence of everyone he came into contact with,” says Terry S. Johnson ’75.

“Professor Evica was my favorite teacher at the University of Hartford [1975–79]. He taught me how to write. I know that he touched so many lives,” says Jane Dowling ’79.


Irving S. Starr

Irving S. Starr, dean of the University of Hartford’s College of Education (now the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions) from 1957 to his retirement in 1982, died on Nov. 16. He was 88.

While dean, he played a significant role in the growth and development of the University, according to President Walter Harrison. “Irving Starr’s inspirational and entrepreneurial leadership helped make the University what it is today. He helped define his college’s, and the University’s, commitment to the Hartford community by serving the professional needs of the area’s teachers and developing new teachers to serve our future.”

Among his many contributions, Starr is remembered for securing numerous grants to support programs in the College of Education and for creating strong ties between the college and the Hartford public schools. It was under his leadership that the college added a human services program to its offerings.

Steven Joel Trachtenberg, president of the University from 1977 to 1988, described Starr’s special contribution to the University: “He was one of the founding members of the administration who helped to create a University from a random collection of small, independent colleges.

“We will not see his like again. He cared about teaching and learning. About young people and schools.”

Alan Tompkins

Alan Tompkins, painter and former director of Hartford Art School (HAS), died on Nov. 22. He was 100.

Tompkins was director of HAS in 1957, when it merged with the Hartt College of Music and Hillyer College to form the University of Hartford. He continued as director until 1969, retiring from teaching in 1974. It was Tompkins who designed the new university’s official seal.

“Alan Tompkins was a giant—as an educator, as an artist, and as an administrator. He designed the seal of the University, which is still a powerful symbol in style and form,” says President Walter Harrison. “As has every other president of the University, I wear the presidential medal he designed at every Commencement. In that sense, he and his art will always be with us.”

In late July, Tompkins returned to campus to exhibit 45 of his paintings in the Hartford Art School’s Silpe Gallery in celebration of his 100th birthday, HAS’s 130th anniversary, and the University’s 50th anniversary.

“I was pleased that we were able to show [his paintings] on the campus last summer,” says HAS Dean Power Boothe. “It was a wonderful show, and Alan seemed to be a force that would not end. He was always planning his next painting and working on his next exhibition, and, in the words of Emily Dickinson, ‘could not stop for death.’”
Herat/Hartford Exchange

WORLD BANK GRANT BRINGS AFGHAN FACULTY TO HARTFORD

The Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan and the University of Hartford are working together to help Herat University improve curriculum, upgrade libraries and labs, and help engineering faculty acquire graduate degrees.

The University is receiving $1.3 million from a larger grant given to the ministry by the World Bank to help rebuild higher education in Afghanistan after years of warfare under the Soviets and neglect under the Taliban. M. Saleh Keshawarz, associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), and his colleagues Hisham Alnajjar and Ivana Milanovic at CETA, are the recipients of this grant. In addition, Keshawarz received a $215,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development last February. As a result, two professors from Herat have already begun their studies at the University of Hartford (see photo).

The new funding allows 16 members from Herat’s engineering faculty, including two women, to come to the University of Hartford and pursue master’s degrees in civil and mechanical engineering. The group began work in the spring 2008 semester and will spend 15 to 24 months completing their degrees. Next summer Hartford engineering faculty will travel to Herat to teach for a month.

Keshawarz, a native of Kabul, has visited Afghanistan many times since the fall of the Taliban in 2001 and witnessed firsthand the widespread devastation of roads, bridges, schools and housing in his homeland.

“Improving higher education in Afghanistan, especially engineering education, is an effective way of contributing to the long-term development of Afghanistan,” says Keshawarz. “It is a historic opportunity for the University to be part of and an honor for me to be able to contribute in a small way to the well-being of a people who have suffered so much during the past three decades. I am grateful for the support of my colleagues who have taken part in this project.”

NIMH Grant Targets Stigma of Mental Illness

Otto Wahl, professor of clinical psychology and director of the Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded a $185,970 grant by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to examine the effectiveness of the “Breaking the Silence” instructional program, designed to teach young people about a wide range of mental illnesses and to reduce the stigma still associated with them. The two-year project is a joint effort between Wahl and Amy Lax of the Queens/Nassau chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The partnership was developed in response to an NIMH initiative supporting collaborative work between researchers and consumer, advocacy and other community groups on the topic.
The Legacy of John Hunt
CAREFUL PLANNING ENSURES FUTURE COLLEGE EDUCATIONS

Shortly before John Hunt retired as a vice president at the Travelers Insurance Group in 1997, he became involved through a church group with the newly built Maria Sanchez Elementary School. Located in Hartford’s Frog Hollow neighborhood, the Sanchez School serves children who are among some of the most vulnerable to the poverty cycle. Having broken that cycle himself as a child growing up in Iowa during the Depression, Hunt was a strong believer in the importance of education, mentoring and personal accountability.

Hunt began by tutoring Sanchez students after school. First, he devoted a day each week to teaching reading and math. Soon he was spending four days a week at Sanchez. The more he learned about his students’ personal circumstances, the more he worried about their futures without mentorship and a sound education. He noticed that some of the students couldn’t see properly, so he paid for their vision tests and prescription glasses. He tried to impress upon his students the importance of a college education, and he took them to local colleges for campus visits. Hunt followed their progress after they moved on to high school, helping them stay focused on their goals.

To make those goals more achievable, Hunt and his wife, Carol, along with a silent partner, established full-tuition scholarships at the University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut, and Saint Joseph College, guaranteeing that students from the Maria Sanchez Elementary School would be provided for if they could meet admission criteria.

Hunt wrote a letter to each of his 6th-grade students encouraging them to make it their personal goal to get a college education. “I urge you to dedicate yourself to achieving the highest grades possible in your middle/high school studies. Your high school graduation may seem a long way off. It isn’t. So please keep this letter where you can find it. Inform your middle/high school guidance counselors and teachers that because you attended Maria Sanchez Elementary School, you are eligible for a Hunt Scholarship.”

Tragically, in the spring of 2007, just as the first group of Sanchez students was about to reach college eligibility for the fall of 2008, Hunt died unexpectedly. Although he will never see any of his students reach their goals, thanks to his and Carol’s careful planning, Hunt’s legacy of selfless service to others will live on at the University of Hartford.

If you would like to learn more about the John and Carol Hunt Scholarships at the University of Hartford, or if you are interested in how you can provide scholarships for deserving students, please contact Peter Congleton, director of planned giving, at 860.768.2415; or visit the University’s planned giving website at www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving/.

Artificial Intelligence: A Real Thing
$250,000 NSF GRANT TO FUND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN AI

What if an “intelligent” browser could zero in on your particular preferences so that a few key search words from you yielded entries tailored to your interests, instead of an avalanche of useless Web pages? Sound too good to be true? Then you haven’t heard about “machine learning.”

Recently referred to by Computerworld magazine as one of “twelve IT skills that employers can’t say no to,” machine learning involves the development of computer systems or programs that improve their own performance based on experience. That’s right: software that learns.

Now, a $250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) is giving students in an artificial intelligence (AI) course at the University the opportunity to explore 26 hands-on laboratory projects that use machine learning to tie together various AI concepts.

“Students come to class with the notion that AI is all about programming robots, but they need to understand the foundational material. We’re developing innovative curriculum material to help students see the core concepts and how they link together,” says Professor Ingrid Russell, lead principal investigator of the project, who, along with co–principal investigator Professor Zdravko Markov of Central Connecticut State University, will direct 20 scholars from several universities who will be working on the project.
Engineering a New Future

ANOTHER HARTFORD SCHOLARS SUCCESS STORY

Jorin Grori spent his first 17 years in Albania, which lies across the Adriatic Sea from Italy. He remembers the red-brick apartment building where he lived in Tirana, Albania’s capital city, and its balcony, where he hung out with his friends. Sometimes they talked about their futures.

Grori already knew what he wanted to do with his future. From the time that he was much younger, he had dreamed of becoming an engineer. But he had little hope of ever reaching that goal in his home country.

When he turned 18, his parents decided to leave Albania and move to the United States—“the land of opportunities,” according to Grori—so that their son would have a chance to go to school and become an engineer.

Once in Hartford, Grori enrolled at Bulkeley High School in the south end of the city. He decided to stay an extra year at Bulkeley to improve his ability to speak English. It was while he was there that he heard about the Hartford Scholars Program. This program pays half tuition for each student who graduates from a Hartford high school and meets the admission criteria at the University of Hartford.

“Hartford Scholars motivated me to pursue my studies at the University of Hartford,” says Grori. “The financial opportunity that the Hartford Scholars Program provides helps students like me achieve our goals by enabling us to attend a private school that, otherwise, we would not be able to afford.”

This year’s Hartford Scholars benefit dinner was sponsored by Landmark Partners and University regent Francisco Borges, chairman of Landmark Partners. Also in attendance at the dinner, which raised more than $110,000 for the Hartford Scholars Program, was President Walter Harrison; keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele; Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez; and Peter Stevens, president of JCJ Architecture, which provides many internships for Hartford Scholars.

At the September dinner, Grori received the Mayor’s Scholar Award, a $1,000 prize that recognizes students’ academic achievement and the role they play at the University and in Greater Hartford. The award, funded by JCJ Architecture, was created as part of the mayor’s initiative to increase the number of Hartford students attending college.

Since completing his junior year, Grori has worked as a student technician at Northeast Utilities to help pay for his education and help support his family.

On Dec. 2, 2007, Grori received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the University’s Fall Commencement ceremony, and joined the more than 400 individuals who have taken part in the Hartford Scholars Program since its inception in 1990.

After much hard work and family sacrifice, he had become an engineer.

For more information regarding the Hartford Scholars Program, contact Louann D’Angelo, assistant director, corporate/foundation relations, at the University of Hartford, 860.768.2413, dangelo@hartford.edu.

Faculty and Staff Raise More Than $12 Million

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS SUPPORT RESEARCH, BUILDING PROJECTS, NEW PROGRAMS

During the 2006–07 academic year, faculty and staff at the University of Hartford received more than $12 million in grants and contracts from various outside funding organizations. The amount is nearly three times the total for the previous year.

Individuals within all seven of the University’s schools and colleges received funding, as well as a number of departments and programs. Major funding agencies included NASA, the National Science Foundation, the State of Connecticut, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the World Bank.

Two of the University’s building projects appeared on the list of recipients. The Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center was awarded almost $7 million, while the Home Field Advantage project received just short of $500,000.

The College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture was the top recipient of outside funding among the schools and colleges, receiving approximately $2.6 million in total, with approximately $959,000 allotted to Thomas Filburn, professor of mechanical engineering, and a total of more than $1.4 million going to Saleh Keshawarz, associate professor of civil, environmental and biomedical engineering (see p. 13).

The Center for Professional Development was granted $1.3 million in funding to principals Gail Champlin, senior director, and Colleen Kruger, director of continuing and professional education youth services.

Faculty and staff who received outside funding were recognized at a reception in October at the home of Dianne and President Walter Harrison. The Office of the President, Office of the Provost, and Office of Institutional Partnerships and Sponsored Research sponsored the reception. Support for the event was also provided by University regent Morton Handel (Hon. ’02) and Irma Handel.
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.
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.
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.
On the Scoreboard

Women’s basketball coach Jennifer Rizzotti (second row, far left) and the Hawks returned to West Hartford the victors after competing in the 29th Jack in the Box Rainbow Wahine Classic at the University of Hawaii, Nov. 23–25. The Hawks captured the championship with a 70-53 win over Virginia. Below: The Chase Arena at the Reich Family Pavilion was filled with fans as Hawk basketball kicked off its 2007-08 season on Oct. 12 at the annual Midnight Mania celebration.

Midnight Mania

Fan Fest

Men’s basketball coach Dan Leibovitz with his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Kaiya, at the first-ever Hartford Hawks Fan Fest. It was a day of face painting, balloon animals, rafties and a chance to ask a favorite player for an autograph. Both men’s and women’s basketball teams, as well as women’s coach Jennifer Rizzotti, were on hand to talk with fans. At right, Hawks forward Danielle Hood with a young fan.
35 Years Later: A Long Way, Baby
TITLE IX SYMPOSIUM LOOKS AT GENDER EQUITY IN SPORTS

On a remarkable October day when both the space shuttle and the International Space Station were under the command of women, more than 100 collegiate officials, coaches, high school students and others gathered for a symposium on the impact of Title IX on women’s sports.

June 2007 marked the 35th anniversary of the passing of Title IX, the landmark legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender at educational institutions that receive federal funding. University of Hartford President Walter Harrison and Cheryl Norton, president of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), opened the program. Norton discussed historical milestones in women’s athletics since the 1970s; Harrison urged the audience to be vigilant, particularly about what he perceives as a loss of interest in women’s sports among the media.

“College and university sports, especially at the Division I level, are driven by revenue from media contracts,” said Harrison. “If the revenue begins to fall, the non-revenue-producing sports will suffer first.”

Sponsored by the Women in Education and Leadership Fund and L’ORÉAL Paris, the symposium was organized by Jane Barstow, professor of English and vice president of the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame. The featured speaker was historian Susan Ware, Charles Warren Center Fellow at Harvard University, who cautioned those in attendance that the “celebration of how much has been achieved must be balanced with what is still left to be done.”

Scott Gray of WTIC-AM 1080 was the moderator of the symposium. Other participants included Hartford Director of Athletics Patricia Meiser; Hawks women’s basketball coach Jennifer Rizzotti; Pat Nicol, SCSU athletics director; and Meghan Burke-Brown, SCSU women’s basketball coach.

Hawks Basketball at Mid-season

As we went to press in early January, both the men’s and women’s basketball teams had just wrapped up their nonconference schedules in preparation for the 16-game America East slate.

The men’s team earned a 73-70 victory over visiting Yale on Jan. 5 to enter America East play with a record of 6-9. The team’s early season schedule was ambitious, as second-year head coach Dan Leibovitz took his Hawks to face the likes of Louisville, Villanova, Brigham Young and Virginia.

Head coach Jennifer Rizzotti’s women’s squad won 10 of 13 nonconference games, including winning the prestigious, eight-team Rainbow Wahine Classic (see p. 20). The Hawks also earned victories over two Big East teams (Providence and St. John’s), ended Marist’s 26-game home winning streak on Dec. 12, and earned their third-ever win over a Top 25 team, defeating then 23rd-ranked Michigan State in a thriller, 54-51, at home on Dec. 22.
A Sense of Duty

ONE ALUMNUS HONORS WWII VETERANS

Last spring Barney alumnus Christopher Coutu M’03 began spending hundreds of hours raising funds to take World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the World War II Memorial in a project called Connecticut Honor Flight. In addition to finding sponsors to cover each veteran’s expenses, Coutu lined up “guardians” to assist the veterans during the daylong trip. The average World War II veteran is more than 85 years old.

On Sept. 15, 2007, Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele, 100 World War II veterans, 49 guardians, and a few members of the press took a chartered US Air flight from Hartford to the District of Columbia. On board was 82-year-old Barney alumnus Tony Pignone A’49, ’56, whose trip was sponsored by the University. Kandyce Aust, director of alumni relations at the University, also went along.

Pignone offers this description of his experience:

I was surprised when Kandyce Aust asked me to be the guest of the University on the Connecticut Honor Flight. My thoughts quickly reverted to close friends of long ago who served in the war and lost their lives. It would be my small gesture to personally offer prayers and thanks in their memory.

Our instructions were to arrive for a precise 7 a.m. roll call at Bradley Airport. For the 100 WWII veterans this must have brought to mind memories of early reveille in the military. But this assembly would not require a bugle call, rifles or combat gear.

When we arrived at Bradley, Lt. Gov. Fedele, who would go with us on the trip, was there greeting everyone. His strong support helped this worthwhile program succeed. As we boarded the US Airways 737, the captain and crew thanked us for our service. It was a phrase that we would hear repeated several times during the trip.

From my aisle seat, I could sense that my fellow passengers were lost in reverie, thinking of times long ago. When we pulled away from the gate, we received a special tribute. Firetrucks shot cascades of water, forming an arch that the plane taxied through.

As the plane started to ascend after takeoff, the sun began to get brighter, as if to put a blessing on the day’s proceedings.

At Reagan Airport in D.C., a cheering crowd surprised us. They waved flags, clapped and shook our hands. We then boarded tour buses at the airport for our travels around D.C.

The World War II Memorial was a grand sight. Tall columns surrounding a pool of water with fountains shooting skyward. Nearby, the familiar Washington Monument commanded the sky.

One highlight of the trip for me was meeting several U.S. Navy officers in their gleaming white uniforms. One of them, USN LTjg Richard Owen Morgan, is a graduate of the University (2002). As we shook hands, I asked if they were assigned to a ship. One of them replied proudly, “We’re assigned to Navy Intelligence.”

Nicole Bocra, a Hartford graduate (1995) and president of the Washington, D.C., alumni chapter, handed me a bouquet of flowers to place at the base of the monument. She said she had started her own business, a licensed private investigation firm. My lesson from these conversations: never underestimate the younger generation.

Great credit goes to those who made this program happen. It would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Christopher Coutu. I wish to extend my personal thanks to all the participants who made this inaugural flight a success and to the University of Hartford.

Best wishes to my fellow veterans who shared the experience. I was really very proud to be in your company.

For more photos from the Connecticut Honor Flight, go to www.hartford.edu/observer.
For information on future Connecticut Honor Flights and to download an application, go to americanwarrior.us.
Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter

Aisha Y. Salem (left) is the University’s representative to the Capital Alumni Network (CAN), which brings together reps from 220 Washington-area alumni chapters and fosters activities and networking between local alumni clubs. CAN provides a sports league in which alumni groups can compete against each other, support for community service events, and assistance with planning and publicizing chapter events.

Salem graduated from The Hartt School in 2002 with a BA in performing arts management. She returned to her home state of Florida, earning her JD from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Then it was on to Washington, D.C., to attend George Washington University Law School, where she earned her LLM in intellectual property law. She now works as a trademark-examining attorney for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

If you are interested in getting involved with CAN or the Washington, D.C., Alumni Chapter, contact Salem at aishasalema@gmail.com.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VIP EVENT

February 9, 2008
Enjoy VIP seating, a delicious buffet and beverages. Cheer on the Hawks against Boston University’s Terriers. To sign up, visit www.hartford.edu/alumni.

LONDON & PARIS

March 6–13, 2008
Experience two of Europe’s most exciting cities on one fabulous tour. Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace, London’s theatre district and the Crown Jewels, French cuisine and the Eiffel Tower—how can you resist? The Alumni Association is partnering with Collette Vacations to bring you this wonderful opportunity. Spaces are going fast. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 860.768.2426.

LA DOLCE VITA

April 18, 2008
Travel to scenic Hyde Park, N.Y., for a day at the world’s premier culinary college, The Culinary Institute of America. Enjoy a three-course Italian lunch at the renowned Ristorante Caterina de’ Medici, followed by a guided tour of the campus led by current culinary students. For more information, visit www.hartford.edu/alumni.

COSTA RICA—NATURE’S MUSEUM

November 3–11, 2008
Join the Alumni Association as we journey to Costa Rica, Central America, a land of rich natural wonders. Explore the outstanding variety of flora and fauna in three important nature reserves. Enjoy the many pristine wonders of Costa Rica through exclusive excursions and special presentations, as well as unscheduled time for personal discovery.

Alumnae Council for Women

The Executive Committee
Kandyce Aust, Director of Alumni Relations
Kerry L. Beckford A’85 (HCW), ’88, M’98
Michele Gorman ’69
Angela Henke ’97, M’99
Grace Mitchell A’95, ’98 (HCW)
Margaret Nareff A’67 (HCW)
Loretta Symons M’87

The Alumnae Council for Women, made possible through a generous grant from the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund, a legacy of Hartford College for Women (HCW), will bring together women from HCW and the University of Hartford who are of diverse ethnic, cultural, professional and educational backgrounds, with the common mission of promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences, providing networking opportunities, offering educational and cultural programs, and enhancing the growth of women as leaders and decision makers.

In addition, programmatic offerings will be extended to women students as well as women in the Greater Hartford community. The council will have a significant positive impact on the University by increasing the leadership, engagement and involvement of women. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Alumnae Council for Women, contact Kandyce Aust at aust@hartford.edu.
**DEGREE KEY**
Alumni Connections entries are distinguished by types of degrees and certification:

- **A** associate’s degree
- **AD** artist diploma
- **C** sixth-year certificate
- **D** doctorate
- **GPD** graduate professional diploma
- **M** master’s degree

No letter designation before a degree year indicates a bachelor’s degree.

### 1949

**HOWARD T. O’CONNELL SR.** (HARTT, M’57 HARTT) of Glastonbury, Conn., was among the honorees at the University of Hartford’s 50th anniversary Commencement exercises in May. Over the past 50 years he has promoted the University through numerous ventures, including being a founding member of the Alfred C. Fuller Committee, a participant in laying the cornerstone of the Alfred C. Fuller Music Center, and co-founder and president of the University Alumni Association. O’Connell was also honored by the University and The Hartt School in 1964 as Alumnus of the Year. He says it has been “wonderful to be a part of one of the great universities in the nation.”

### 1960

**ELIZABETH B. COSTA** (HARTT) of East Hartford, Conn., has joined Gus’s Drum Pad, a complete music studio in East Hartford, Conn., as a piano and voice instructor.

### 1966

**HILDA C. LEUENBURG** (M, ENHP) of Apopka, Fla., was recognized with the 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Maine at Fort Kent for her work as an educator over the last 40 years. She received the 2002 Teacher of the Year award (Rock Springs Elementary School, Apopka, Fla.) and has twice received Disney’s Teacherific Award.

### 1968

**JOHN A. MUETER** (HARTT) of Kansas City, Mo., had one of his compositions, “The Everlasting Universe,” debuted at Civic Opera. Mueter is currently a coach, accompanist and instructor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory.

### 1969

**RICHARD E. HENNESSEY** (A&S) of Winchester, Mass., has accepted a new position at Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., as the founding director of the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies program. Hennessy had been the college’s director of academic support services at Merrimack since 1991.

**LESLIE G. OBER** (A&S, M’74 ENHP) directed Tennessee Williams’s A Streetcar Named Desire at the Warner Studio Theatre in Torrington, Conn.

**SHARRAN SELIG** (A, HCW) of Windsor, Conn., was named the recipient of the Jerry Hallas Memorial Award, given in recognition of Selig’s dedication and service to the Chamber of Commerce and Town of Windsor.

### 1970

**KARL G. BUDE** (M, BARNEY) of Vineyard Haven, Mass., has been ordained as a permanent deacon for service in the Fall River Diocese.

**ROBERT F. MANNING** (HAS) of East Ryegate, Vt., was a speaker at the Council on Humanities program at the Milton Historical Society in Milton, Vt. Manning is an art historian and painter.

**GWYNETH WALKER** (M, HARTT) of Braintree, Vt., was honored on her 60th birthday with a two-day festival of her music at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, Vt. Numerous shelves in various rooms were lined with her musical scores, and 12 area choruses performed her aptly titled “Every Life Shall Be a Song.”

### 1971

**CHARLES J. MARGOLIS** (HAS, M’76 HAS) of South Windsor, Conn., has published a book of poetry titled Class Dismissed: A Teacher Says Goodbye. Margolis retired from the Newington public school system in June 2006 after 35 years as an art teacher. His book is a journey through a teacher’s final year, as he deals with the thoughts, feelings, fears and achievements associated with the conclusion of a long career.

**ELINOR S. ROSS** (A, HAS) of Chestnut Hill, Mass., is the all-school special-event coordinator at Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge, Mass. Ross previously was employed at Simmons College as head tennis coach. She says, “After eight years, one conference championship, and two Coach of the Year awards, I decided that it would be fun to make a change. I enjoy working in the Development Office at BB&N running special events (and using my artistic/creative juices).” She would love to hear from anyone from the HAS Class of 1971.

### 1972

**DENNIS P. CHARYSYN** (BARNEY) of Tucson, Ariz., who retired from a career in contracts management, is pursuing his passion for playing the clarinet. He also volunteers for several nonprofit organizations. He is a member of the International Clarinet Association and performs with the Foothills Philharmonic, the Tucson Civic Orchestra and the Sonoran Winds Ensemble. Friends will find him at wtai9@yahoo.com.

**CHARLES D. OSBORNE** (HARTT) of Newton Center, Mass., was selected to be the new spiritual leader of the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms in Lords Valley, Pa.

### 1973

**RICHARD S. MATTESON** (HARTT) of South Hadley, Mass., retired after 39 years of playing the organ and directing choirs at various churches in the Greater Hartford area. A tribute concert, “39 Years of Organizing in Greater Hartford: Dick Matteson’s Farewell to Hartford Concert,” was held in his honor. Matteson is not fully retired, however, continuing in his role as chorale accompanist for Western New England College in Springfield, Mass. He is also a part-time organist at Old First Church in Springfield.

**PETER B. WAITE** (HAS) of Glastonbury, Conn., was featured in the New Britain Museum of Art’s NEW/ NOW series of contemporary art exhibitions. Waite omits people from his work and draws the viewer in as a witness to the moment. His paintings deal with places that exude public sentiment or ideological concerns. The Observer highlighted Waite’s work in its spring 2007 issue.

### 1975

**JACQUELINE D. KIMPEL** (HARTT) of Sarasota, Fla., currently leads the choir and music department at Christ Church of Longboat Key—Presbyterian. She is pianist and organist for the church.

**JAMES R. METZLER** (M, HARTT) of Grand Rapids, Mich., performed organ recitals in England last May at King’s College Chapel of Cambridge University and Westminster Cathedral (RC) in London. He is organist and director of music at Park Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**JANE E. RAINWATER** (HARTT) of Andover, Conn., has completed her Master of Fine Arts in visual arts from the Art Institute in Boston, Mass. She currently teaches at Manchester Community College and Great Path Academy Magnet School. Rainwater has worked as a designer and fine artist in the area for more than 20 years. She has also taught at the University of Connecticut, Quinnipiac Community College and the Hartford Art School.

### 1976

**FRED W. DRIFMEYER** (M, HARTT) of Centerville, Mass., joined Pilgrim Congregational Church in Harwich Port, Mass., as its new music director. He is also director of his own choral group, the MasterSingers of Cape Cod, Mass.

### 1977

**PETER M. DUDIS** (BARNEY) of Rocky Hill, Conn., was appointed director of grocery sales at Big Y Foods, Inc.
Wayne L. Webster ’96 gives time, talent and money to the University of Hartford because, he says, it has given him so many opportunities.

After moving from Jamaica to Hartford in the ninth grade, Webster attended Weaver High School. The year he enrolled at the University, 1991, was just the second year of the Hartford Scholars Program, which enables high school graduates who live in Hartford and meet the University’s admission criteria to attend for half tuition. While on campus, Webster was an RA, a senator of the SGA, student affairs vice president, student regent, and president of the African American students’ association (now BSU). He graduated with a degree in English literature.

“I’m so grateful to people who contribute to the scholarship program,” Webster says. “The financial support was critical to my receiving a quality liberal arts education while participating in the full campus experience.”

Today, Webster is vice president of commercial lending at Liberty Bank in Middletown, Conn. He began his banking career directly out of college in a management training program in Springfield, Mass. He has also worked in the Boston area. No matter where he lived, he remained involved. Currently he serves as vice president of the Alumni Board.

“Supporting the University is important to me because of the wonderful experiences I’ve had. While the scholarship program made that initially possible, I’m proud to be a part of the giving tradition that is responsible for the incredible transformation taking shape on campus today.”

Give to the Annual Fund

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Mail: Use the convenient postage-paid envelope on page 24 to mail your check, payable to the University of Hartford, to University of Hartford, Office of Development, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.
Knowing the Enemy
Leonard Boyle ‘80 heads FBI’s Terrorists Screening Center

His voice may be warm and jovial, but the daily responsibilities of alumnus Leonard Boyle are anything but light. Since March 2007, he’s served as the head of the FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), which maintains a secure database of terrorist names and related information. Boyle has enjoyed an illustrious career in public service since majoring in criminal justice at the University of Hartford. After graduating in 1980, then obtaining a law degree from the University of Connecticut in 1983, Boyle became a successful and well-respected assistant U.S. attorney. In August 2004 he was sworn in as commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Public Safety. From there he made the move to the TSC, which was established in the aftermath of Sept. 11 to coordinate information collected by various federal agencies.

In his current position as TSC director, Boyle’s busy schedule continues. A typical day includes the routine—meetings to review the budget and personnel projections/resources and efforts under way to improve the quality and integrity of the data—and the stuff of spy novels—briefings on terrorist screenings and watchlists, which contain the names of individuals possibly involved in terrorist activities.

The TSC ensures that government screeners are working from the same unified set of antiterrorist information, called the Terrorist Screening Database. It allows federal, state and local officials to make better-informed decisions to protect the United States from terrorist attacks.

“After 9/11, the American people understandably asked how the terrorists so easily entered the United States and why law enforcement did not detect the planning and execution of the attack," explains Boyle. "The 9/11 Commission concluded that the government’s failure to maintain a unified watchlist of suspected terrorists for border screening agencies and airlines contributed to that failure.

“In response, the government created the Terrorist Screening Center,” he continues. “The TSC now consolidates information from all intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and creates a unified database of all known and appropriately suspected terrorists. The TSC distributes the names and biographical information of those persons to border screening agencies and the Transportation Safety Administration so that screeners can make informed decisions as to who should be allowed to enter the country and to board commercial airlines.”

In some cases, people may have been placed on the terrorist list by error. Boyle notes that in addition to constantly improving its database, the TSC has a redress process to help resolve such mistaken placements.

“Anyone who has been inconvenienced in any way and believes it’s related to watchlisting,” says Boyle, “can file an application with the agency that encountered him or her; if the person is in fact watchlisted, that application will be forwarded to the TSC. We then review all underlying information about him or her, independent of any other review, to determine if the person should stay on the list or not.”
1983
MARK L. BOXER (CETA) of Glastonbury, Conn., received the 2007 Tony Coelho Award at WellPoint, Inc., where he is president and CEO of operations, technology and government services.

1985
EDWARD A. CHESKY (A&S) of Wethersfield, Conn., has retired from the United States military after 24 years of active and reserve service. He served in the Cold War, Operation Desert Shield术Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in various positions. Currently, Chesky serves as an intelligence and security specialist with the Wackenhut Corporation. He is also completing his master’s degree in social work with a focus in the area of understanding the causes of violence.

RICHARD J. FERGUSON (M, BARNEY) of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., was promoted to vice president and team leader for the Saratoga-region commercial loans at the Adirondack Trust Co.

CHRISTINA E. MOORE (D, A&S) of Chaplin, Conn., was selected for an APA Congressional Fellowship. Moore is only the second Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology alumna to have been selected for this prestigious award. In addition to maintaining an independent clinical practice, Moore has served the international community as a mental health consultant in humanitarian organizations, including Doctors without Borders, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the International Organization for Migration. She is in her third consecutive term on the Connecticut Regional District 11 Board of Education, in which capacity she chairs committees both on the central office and on education and board policies.

MITCHELL C. SKLAR (A&S) of Voorhees, N.J., has been appointed by the attorney general of New Jersey as co-chair of the attorney general’s Advisory Committee of Less-Lethal Force. Sklar is the executive director of the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police.

BRIDGET B. MACDONALD (HARTT) of Somerset, N.J., was hired to teach general music, direct instrumental groups, and coordinate after-school music lessons at the Chapin School in Princeton, N.J.

In Memoriam

The University joins the state of Connecticut in mourning the passing of former Governor William A. O’Neill on Nov. 24, 2007. O’Neill attended Hillyer College and received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University in 1987.

Richard H. Blackstone A’47
Gustav R. Golink A’48
Myron T. Cushman C’49
Nicholas A. LaPenta ‘49
Peter E. Naktens ‘49
Frank C. Frago ‘50
Hope Ida Markham A’50
Nina F. Hossfeld A’51
Walter A. Jenkins A’50, ‘51
Joseph F. McKinnon Jr. A’51
James J. Florino Jr. C’52
David Leader ‘52
Eleanor E. Ford A’54
Peter A. Lehotskie C’54
Margaret D. Cenci M’56
Anthony A. Facasso A’56
Stanley W. Shepard A’53, ‘57
Joseph A. Aliano ‘58
Russell E. Andrews ‘58
Frank S. Wilson A’54
Robert M. Schlesinger ’59
Joseph C. Barber M’60
Marie L. Johnson A’60
Edward F. Nowak A’60
James F. Shay M’60
Bruce P. Smith ‘60
Irvig R. Bogue ‘61
Harold R. Kinney ‘61
Daniel J. O’Connell ‘61
Robert S. Orr ‘62
Raymond J. Meder C’63

Joseph E. O’Flaherty ’63
Charles R. Skuba M’63
Max Denehnoltz A’61, ‘65
Edward E. Ellsworth Jr. ‘62, M’66
Frederick G. Farley M’65
Kenneth M. Lappen ’65
Richard A. Stevens ’66
Richard R. Fanska C’67
John F. Morkan ’67
James W. Pearson Jr. ’67
John R. Howie ’68
James J. Moran Jr. ’69
Beverly W. Taylor M’69
Henrietta R. Farmer ’70, M’72
John L. Meinke ’70
Milton F. Beal M’71
Suzanne A. LeBlanc M’71
Lee F. Dadalt ’72
Robert H. Barley M’74
Scott Griffith ’74
Margaret R. Andrews ’75
Kathleen B. Reichler M’75
Natalie A. Bosco A’77
Wendy L. Pender-Cudlip ’78
Steven A. Steininger A’81, ’82
Charles J. Beauchamp ’83
Robert F. Cunningham M’83
William F. Gorillo ’84
Rufus J. Pannell M’86
Yolanda C. Soto-Vivican M’90
Tali Zeevi-Trager ’99

Hillyer College notes with sadness the passing of two former members of its faculty, William W. Kimbrel Jr., assistant professor of English, who died on Nov. 9, 2007; and Martin C. Bush, adjunct instructor of English, who died on Nov. 20, 2007.

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Any Volunteers Out There?!

Betsy Udal ’01 (Barney) of Avon, Conn., was selected as the 2008 tournament chairman of the Travelers Championship, an annual PGA Tour event, to be held in June in Cromwell, Conn. She is responsible for recruiting and training the 3,000 volunteers needed to hold a successful golf tournament. Here, she shows off the winner’s trophy, which lists every champion’s name since 1952, when the event began as the Insurance City Open. Udal is a partner at Udal & Associates, a financial planning firm in Farmington, Conn.

1987
JEANNE C. CROUSE (M, BARNEY) of Alton, N.H., was named the sole premier Aussie specialist in New Hampshire. She is president and co-owner of Great Escape Travel Services, LLC, in Alton.

MARIE A. HARRINGTON (HAS) of Killingworth, VT., had her watercolors featured at the Tea Garden and Fisk Farm in Isle La Motte, VT., last July.

PAUL E. TANPIENGO (A&S, M’91 A&S) of Killingworth, Conn., was appointed director of marketing at PhotoMedex, Inc.

JOHN A. TROTTER (HARTT) of Pawtucket, R.I., led an awareness and fundraising weekend for musicians in post-Katrina New Orleans. “Keep the Music Alive! The New Orleans Jazz Weekend” featured the traditional-style, Dixieland brass band, The Storyville Stompers. The weekend featured a master class at Wheaton College, a meet-and-greet session, and two worship services. Trotter is currently director of music at Emmanuel Church in Newport, R.I.

1988
BRYAN D. BARR (M, BARNEY) of Le Pecq, France, was appointed vice president of finance for Nissan Europe. In this senior role, he oversees all areas of finance.

1989
GREG J. FLORIO (M, BARNEY) of Newington, Conn., superintendent of schools in Cheshire, Conn., has earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Southern Connecticut State University.

JUDITH D. GRIGGS (HAS) of Dublin, N.H., was named the first town planner of Warren, Mass. She was previously the conservation and planning administrator in Maynard, Mass.

TERRI A. TURLEY (ENHP) of West Simsbury, Conn., teaches mathematics at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, Conn.
University of Hartford, Here We Come!
The Alumni Association has adopted the kindergarten class of Jackie Kraztz ’87
(back row, left) and her assistant, Mary Baranowski (right), at the Gray M. Samborn
School in Palatine, Ill. The school is part of the No Excuses University program, which strives
to create an environment at the elementary level that highlights the importance of pursuing
a college education. Schoolteachers ask a university to adopt their classes, who then
adopt the theme, color, motto and mascot of that university.

In the Mouth of the Dragon
Russell Leigh Moses ’81 studies Chinese politics up close

It’s a long way from the University of Hartford’s campus to Beijing, China. But that’s exactly
where Russell Leigh Moses ’81 has found his niche. As dean of The Beijing Center for Chinese
Studies, he is in charge of the academic curriculum and the hiring of faculty. He also
oversees the education of undergraduates, faculty and administrators from foreign countries
who wish to learn about China. The program includes intensive study of Mandarin Chinese,
extensive course work on China, and trips that expose students to the complexities of
contemporary China. Moses also teaches courses in Chinese politics and economic reform.

Moses graduated from the University of Hartford with a bachelor’s degree in political science,
then received his MA and his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. He first went to China in 1992 as
a professor at Johns Hopkins University’s Nitze School to teach political science at its graduate center
at Nanjing University. After three years of studying the country and its politics, he returned to the
United States. But China was not through with Moses. In 2000 he returned to the Nanjing Center to
accept an endowed chair in political science, eventually moving on to The Beijing Center.

“China captured me,” says Moses. “It is an enormously complex place, given the language, the
culture, and the different path of development being pursued. Every day brings new fascinations and
frustrations.”

For some, establishing a life on the opposite side of the globe might be intimidating, but for Moses,
it makes sense. “I stay here because there is no better place to study this dragon than from inside its
mouth. Political scholarship demands a daily presence in a society as complicated and contradictory
as China’s. Knowing China is knowing what you do not yet know.”

Moses says his experiences at Hartford greatly influenced him. “The University of Hartford
was where I met my heroes. Professors pursued their craft of teaching with passion and intellectual
commitment, with a pronounced devotion to students.” He has stayed in touch with his mentor,
Peter Breit, professor emeritus of politics and government, and Harald Sandström, associate
professor of politics and government, as well as with Guy C. Colarulli, now associate provost and
dean of undergraduate studies.

“He was bright, well read and articulate, well beyond any student I had known,” says Colarulli,
who was a first-year faculty member when they met. Fifteen years after giving Moses some books
on international relations, Colarulli received a signed copy of Moses’s 1996 book, Freeing the Hostages,
on U.S.-Iranian negotiations.

Moses isn’t one to rest on his laurels. To his duties at the Beijing Center, he has added writing
a book on political power in China, and being a commentator for CNN, CBC, The New York Times,
The Washington Post and Time magazine, among others.

PATRICIA M. WITKIN (A, A&S; ’93 A&S; M’96
ENHP) of Simsbury, Conn., was appointed as athletic
director for the Glastonbury, Conn., school system.

1990
THOMAS ANACKER (M, BARNEY) of Centerville,
Ohio, is director of business analytics at WorkflowOne
in Dayton, Ohio.

GEORGE S. LOPEZ (HARTT) of Goffstown, N.H.,
performed Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with the
Granite State Symphony Orchestra during
“Beethoven and Chopin,” the first concert of the
GSSO’s 2007-08 season.

1991
SCOTT D. MUMMA (A&S) of Union, N.J., has been
director of national sales at Benchmark
Hospitality in New Brunswick, N.J.

JOSEPH A. SYLVESTRO (ENHP) of Palm City,
Fla., is director of operations for Pratt & Whitney
Rocketdyne, Inc. His division manufactures engines
used to propel vehicles into space.

1992
DIANE WEAVER DUNNE (M, A&S) of Enfield,
Conn., has been appointed as the Connecticut State
Treasury’s director of communications by State
Treasurer Denise Nappier. Dunne was the former
deputy editor of the Hartford Business Journal,
where she has worked since 2001.

STEPHEN J. MCDONALD (A&S) of West Hartford,
Conn., has joined Global 360 as its director of
product marketing.

DAVID S. OLECHNA (ENHP) of Simsbury, Conn.,
is the new assistant principal of Seymour Middle
School in Seymour, Conn.

ROBERT W. PERRY (M, BARNEY) of Fort Edward,
N.Y., has been named Common Council president
by the City of Hudson, N.Y., in this year’s elections.

STEVEN C. PISCH (CETA) of Amston, Conn., was
appointed planning and development coordinator
for the town of Marlborough, Conn.

PATRICK SHEEHAN (ENHP) of Oviedo, Fla., was
featured in a Washington Post article about his
experience on the Nationwide Tour this year as
opposed to the PGA Tour last year. He is currently
ranked 11th on the Nationwide money list, with
tree top-10 finishes.

BEAU THURNAUER (M, BARNEY) of Coventry,
Conn., has been appointed assistant to the chief of
police in East Hartford, Conn. Thurnauer leads the
internal affairs division and works on special proj-
ects, including pursuit of department accreditation.

1993
GLENN H. PEASE (M, BARNEY) of Glastonbury,
Conn., was named chief financial officer at Wood
Creek Capital Management in New Haven, Conn.

ASIM ZAHIR (M, BARNEY) of West Newbury, Mass.,
is vice president of marketing at Sepaton, Inc., in
Marlborough, Mass.

1994
LINDA GABOARDI (M, HARTT) of Danbury, Conn.,
teaches music at East, South and West schools in
New Canaan, Conn.
Weddings

Kelley Hymes & Frank Chinigo ’77
Linda Roderick & Ronald Rioux ’88
Michele Kirschbaum & Daniel Williams ’89
Cecily Gans & Richard Stein ’90
Mary Wheeler & William Moorehouse ’97
Beth Ann Strong ’97 & Todd Strong
Jennifer Lothridge & John Davis ’98
Michelle Endriss & Ryan Santero ’98
Meghann Catlin ’00 & Todd Bodeau
Danielle Stanio & Matthew Silywka ’00
Joanne Galenski M’01 & Seth Girardin
Alissa Benvenisty & Zachary Epstein A’02, ’04
Joelle Meunier & Jonathan Maczko ’02
Amber Caron ’03 & Seth Archer
Nancy Croteau ’03 & David Sydow
Lacey Rees ’03 & Brian Paradee
Amanda Marcoccio ’04 & Keith Martin
Anna Pyskaty ’04 & Jeffrey Hladky
Jaclyn Brot & Evan Weinberg ’04
Melissa Stomski & Scott Wise ’05
Shoshana Miller ’06 & Joshua Jacob ’06
Amanda Smerak ’07 & Matthew Ominsky ’07

Births

Jacqueline Woog Chernow ’92 & Brad Chernow (Abigail Naomi)
Shawntell Zeiger Layaw ’95, M’97, & Jeff Patrick Layaw ’95, M’97
(Sarah Kate & Mason James, 12.11.06)
Susanne Tellerico Loubier ’96 & Andre Loubier (Christa Louise, 5.2.07)
Debbie Canter Goldstein ’01 & Scott Goldstein ’00 (Sari Rachel, 1.30.07)
Laurie Katz DePratti ’02 & Alexander DePratti ’03 (Ela Brooke, 9.5.07)

(Middle row, l–r)
Lisa Abbate-Tomaselli ’93 & Anthony Tomaselli (Rose Mary & Chloe Anne, 2.9.07)
Shari Enison Gottesman A’91, ’93 & Scott Gottesman (Noah Elton, 8.30.06)
Daniele Montagano Hughes A’97 & Christopher Hughes (Grace Isabella, 2.5.07)

(Bottom row, l–r)
Marylou Emlet & Jerry Emlet ’87
(Katherine Campbell Comisky, 11.7.06)
Kate Eskra Fioravanti ’96 & Tim Fioravanti (Sofia Jean, 4.28.07)
Jennifer Rosen Reidy ’92 & Kevin Reidy
(Alicia Fae, 9.12.07, with big brother Connor, 2½)
Jodie Glazer & Joshua Glazer ’98 (Madison Sage, 11.1.07)

Left: Heather MacRae ’05 and Ryan Clifford celebrated their nuptials in Brookfield, Conn., on April 14, 2007. The newlyweds reside in Danbury, Conn.

Right: Howie the Hawk toasts bride Amy Geetter and groom Adam Raider ’94 at the rehearsal dinner that preceded their Oct. 14, 2007, wedding in Monroe, Conn. A group of Hartford cheerleaders escorted Howie to the celebration. Best man was David Raider ’99, with groomsmen Matt Aliberti ’99, Aaron Drucker ’93, Brian Ferney ’94 and Eric Saranik ’95. Other alumni guests included Daisy Abreu ’94, Sue Aliberti ’93, Tim Blake ’95, Jenni Freidman Ferney ’94, Dan Filkins, Amy Freidman ’96, Barbara Costa Garnar ’94, Charles Garnar, Kevin Gilbert ’94, Sarah Stromwell Gilbert ’93, Jason Harding, Mark Melnick ’90 and Kevin Nevins ’91. Allan Geetter ’72 is the bride’s father.

JAMES M. WINKLER (M, BARNEY) of Monroe, Conn., was promoted to head of the health management consulting practice at Hewitt Associates, a global human resources services company, based in Norwalk, Conn.

1995

LAUREN OETTINGER KYLIE (A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., was named public relations account supervisor at Cronin and Company, a full-service marketing communications agency. Kylie’s responsibilities include conducting media relations campaigns for Insure Connecticut’s Future and Middlesex Hospital.


1997

MEEGAN SAMANTHA COLEMAN (HARTT) of Bellmore, N.Y., has had two additional choral arrangements selected to be published by Carl Fischer, LLC. “Eliahu Hanavi” and “TAPS” will be available through the JWPepper online catalog as well as the Carl Fischer catalog this spring.

DAVID D. DUNN (HARTT) and BRYONY STROUD-WATSON ’00 (HARTT), both of Yonkers, N.Y., co-founded TZMF, a weekend vocal arts and music festival. Dunn is currently on the faculty of The Sylvan Academy of Music of Englewood Cliffs and Closter, N.J., and teaches woodworking, design and filmmaking at the Rye Arts Center in Rye, N.Y. Stroud-Watson has pursued her love of chamber music and teaching.

WAYNE S. ESCOFFERY (HARTT) of New Haven, Conn., appeared this year’s JVC Jazz Festival in Newport, R.I. He performed with the Monk Legacy Septet and contributed significantly to a performance by The Charles Mingus Orchestra. Escoffery has also released his latest album, Veneration.

LATANYA R. FARRELL (M, ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., who has sung in numerous Connecticut and Massachusetts venues, wrote and performed the title track to the film She’s Got It.

PETER V. LONGO (M, BARNEY) of Terryville, Conn., was named president and executive director of Connecticut Innovations in Rocky Hill, Conn.
1, 2. The Boston Red Sox welcomed alumni to Fenway Park in a game against the LA Angels.


4. Alumni join Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63, as she guides them through the European painting galleries of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

5. Alumni and friends raise their glasses at the New York State winery of Lieb Family Cellars, owned by Mark Lieb ’78.

6. Enjoying themselves at an alumni gathering last November in San Diego, Calif., are (from left) John Meyer III ’75, Erica Sears-Baird ’00, Robert Baird ’99 and Susan Jones ’62.
BETH ANN GRAINGER STRONG (HAS) of Wethersfield, Conn., is happy to announce her marriage to Todd Strong on May 26, 2007, at Adams Mill in Manchester, Conn. AMY L. LYONS ’95 served as matron of honor. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia. Strong received her Master of Arts from Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, in 2002. She is a marketing coordinator at BL Companies.

DIANE M. WARD (ENHP) of Farmington, Conn., was one of only 14 Hartford Hospital nurses named winners of the fifth annual Nightingale Award for excellence in nursing.

1999
MATTHEW T. GAUGHRAN (BARNEY) of Stamford, Conn., was named a financial services representative at Barnum Financial Group in Wethersfield, Conn.

GUSTAV HOYER (HARTT) of Los Angeles, Calif., has had his first full-length CD released by ERM Media, containing his stunning “String Quartet in d minor” and his moving “Vignettes of an American Life.” Hoyer has also finished scoring his first feature film, Grey Focus, from Ace Point Entertainment. For more information, visit gustavhoyer.com.

REBECCA L. PEARSON (A&S) of Hamilton, N.J., is an instructor of reading and writing for Rider University and Georgian Court University. Her fiction and poetry were featured in Word Riot.

2000
DAVID A. AUTEN (A&S) of Taunton, Mass., is the new pastor of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Taunton. Auten relocated from Albuquerque, N.M., where he served as pastor at Ashbury Church.

JILL L. AXELROD (BARNEY) of Atlanta, Ga., is happy to announce her engagement to Josh Linder. She is currently a marketing executive with Alexander Babbage in Atlanta, Ga., and is pursuing her MBA.

HEATHER BROOKS (HARTT) of Ascot Vale, Australia, completed her advanced degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London and has relocated to Australia, where she is singing in the national tour of The Pirates of Penzance. Brooks is also working with Opera Australia and the Victorian Opera.

CHRISTOPHER J. GALLIGAN (M, ENHP) of Ellington, Conn., was named vice president of institutional advancement at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn.

JEFFREY P. MCGARRY (A’98, A&S) of Bronx, N.Y., is a researcher at Columbia University. He was a former assistant court analyst for the New York State Unified Court System.

DERRICK P. MILLER (GPD, HARTT) of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has debuted his CD Page One. It is a “popera” album, featuring cover tunes, Irish ballads and original songs by Canadian songwriters Jeff Straker, Adam Kozak and Harry Lewis. For more information, see www.derrickpaulmiller.com.

BRYONY STRoud-WATSON (HARTT), See DAVID D. DUNN ’97.

JASON C. TRAMM (M, HARTT) of Summit, N.J., directs Coro Lirico, a New Jersey-based concert opera chorus that performs in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. Tramm is also chorus master of the New Jersey State Opera, artistic director of the Summit Music Festival, and director of the Vocal Alliance Division of the International Concert Alliance. As choral director of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, he conducts the Auditorium Choir and is involved in the Choral Festival, an annual event featuring more than 1,000 singers.

2001
KARA L. ENNIS (ENHP) of Valatie, N.Y., is happy to announce her engagement to Brian Mobley. Ennis is a physical therapist at the Albany Center for Pain Management.

TRACEY G. GOVE (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., was promoted to lieutenant with the West Hartford (Conn.) Police Department.

JASON C. HERSOM (HARTT) of Kents Hill, Maine, was promoted to associate director of admissions at Kents Hill School. Hersom oversees the planning of all admissions special events on and off campus, in addition to overseeing the marketing and advertising programs. He is thrilled to be part of an excellent team finding the best students possible and hopes to send a few to the University of Hartford, especially to The Hartt School.

AARON D. OFSEYER (A&S) of Eugene, Ore., is currently the morning meteorologist at KEZI-9 the ABC affiliate in Eugene.

KATHRYN M. PLANOW (ENHP) of Farmville, Va., has accepted a position at Longwood University in Farmville as associate director for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Planow was formerly employed at the University of Hartford as associate director for student centers and activities.

LAURA G. ST. JOHN (M, ENHP) of Southbury, Conn., was promoted to vice president of Health Resources, Inc., at VNA Healthcare. She serves on the board of the St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation of Waterbury, Conn., and is a trustee of the Connecticut Community Foundation, also of Waterbury.

2002
RICHARD OWEN W. MORGAN (A&S, HARTT) of Arlington, Va., received a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School in May. He has begun a clerkship in the chambers of the Hon. James E. Baker, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.


TARA L. TROY (A&S) of North Haven, Conn., was appointed regional director of the Start! Fairfield County Heart Walk.

KAITLIN M. WALSH (A&S) of Oxford, United Kingdom, has been awarded the Thomas Jefferson Prize at St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University. The award recognizes the North American who has done the most to enrich the life of the college in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson. Walsh is currently pursuing a doctorate in Spanish literature at Oxford, focusing on Cervantes.

KATHLEEN A. WOODS (M, ENHP) of Morris, Conn., has joined St. Vincent’s Hospital as director of nursing for its emergency department and immediate health centers service line.
2003
KARI L. BANACH (A&S) of Barkhamsted, Conn., is a news reporter for the Republican-American newspaper in Waterbury, Conn. She writes daily on municipal government, education and local business in the Litchfield County towns of New Hartford and Harwinton, and has been on the job since 2005.
JENNIFER A. BANEY (CETA) of Hudson, N.H., is a member of the science faculty at Bedford High School in Bedford, N.H.
LAUREN C. BETANCOURT (A&S) of West Suffield, Conn., was crowned Miss Connecticut 2007 and will represent the state in the upcoming Miss America pageant. Betancourt is currently earning a master’s degree in exercise science from Springfield College and works at WizardVisions, her own Web hosting and design company.
RHONDA R. CARNEVALE (HILLER) of Trenton, N.J., is happy to announce her engagement to Matthew Lazar. She is currently employed by the Lawrence Township.
JAMES E. MARKHAM (A&S) of Middletown, Conn., teaches high school biology at Xavier High School in Middletown, Conn. He has previously taught a variety of science courses at Middletown Community College and Goodwin College as an adjunct faculty member.

2004
NOAH B. AXE (HARTT) of Stamford, Conn., teaches fourth-graders at Congregation Shir Ami. He also gives private drum and guitar lessons and plays percussion with several New York City-based bands.
JOSEPH V. ERARDI JR. (ENHP) of Watertown, Conn., is the new superintendent of schools in Southington, Conn. He previously was superintendent of schools in Waterford, Conn.
FLANNERY E. O’BRIEN (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., and NATHANIEL W. HOWE ’05 (A&S) of Providence, R.I., were married in September 2006. The bridal party consisted of KENZIE NICOTERA YORK ’05, MICHAEL D. FIORE ’06, CHRISTOPHER C. WOOD ’06, DANIEL C. POPOVIC ’05, NICOLE K. MACNEIL ’05, MEGAN H. MACDONALD ’05, REBECCA M. NEAL ’06 and CAROLYN J. PAINE ’04. Also in attendance were JENNIFER C. YU ’04, DENISE J. HADIKA ’04, CHRISTOPHER S. NELSON ’03 and MEGAN J. ALEXANDER ’06.

2005
MARISSA L. ACETO (ENHP) of East Haven, Conn., is happy to announce her engagement to Darek Dabkowski. She is an insurance agent at J.J. Fishbine, Inc., in Wallingford, Conn.
SCOTT BEAN (Hartt, M’07 Hartt) of Buffalo, N.Y., has been appointed apprentice conductor with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.
STACEY DYER (HAS) of Meriden, Conn., is co-owner and creative director of Triple Frog LLC, located in Meriden. The company offers branding, collateral and Web-design services. To learn more, visit www.triplefrog.com.
NATHANIEL W. HOWE (A&S).
See FLANNERY E. O’BRIEN ’04.
JULIO C. MORALES (BARNEY) of Hartford, Conn., was one of many local residents sworn in as United States citizens before the New Britain Rock Cats’ Fourth of July game this year. Morales was not only able to throw out the ceremonial first pitch, but he was also sworn in as an American citizen by U.S. Circuit Court Judge Warren W. Eginton.
NEIL S. PADE (M. BARNEY) of Newtonville, Conn., is the new director of planning and community development in Canton, Conn.
CAROLYN M. TRANTALIS (M, ENHP) of Colchester, Conn., was appointed vice president of patient care services at Windham Hospital in Willimantic, Conn.
GRANT P. WHEELER (HARTT) of Charlton, Mass., and MATTHEW A. YOUNG ’06 (HARTT, ENHP) of Tulsa, Okla., are members of the electronica/acoustic group, Landau Orchestra. The group has just released its new CD, Janus Plays Telephone, on the independent Milan Records label. Blending traditional and new experimental jazz composition with electronic production, the Landau Orchestra is creating something new, inventive and stimulating. Recording of the CD began during Wheeler’s and Young’s undergraduate days at Hartt, as an independent study project with Assistant Professor Scott Metcalf. Listen to tracks from the CD on www.netlandau.com.

2006
DIANE M. DAILY (M, ENHP) of Canton, Conn., is a kindergarten teacher at Batcheller Elementary School in Winsted, Conn.
SCOTT K. DAVIS (M. BARNEY) of Canton, Conn., wrote an article in the “Java” section of The Hartford Courant about young professionals in Hartford. He is currently an insurance broker for Hill Rogal & Hobbs and is chairman of the Metro Alliance Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (HYPE).

ANNIE K. KERINS (HARTT) of Sutton, Mass., appeared in a musical revue titled American Twistory at the Comcast Cabaret Theatre in Boston, Mass. She played the female “swing,” learning all the roles of the main female cast members in order to be able to step in at a moment’s notice.
MATTHEW A. YOUNG (HARTT, ENHP). See GRANT WHEELER ’05.

2007
TRACY R. AUGUSTINE (M, ENHP) of Avon, Conn., is a first-grade teacher at North Canaan Elementary School in North Canaan, Conn.
DANIELLE C. BRYANT (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., starred as Claire in the play Proof at the Warner Studio Theatre in Torrington, Conn.
RENÉE L. DUPUIS (HARTT) of Lyman, Maine, performed in the Annisquam Village Players’ production of Kiss Me Kate. Her roles included Lois Lane and Bianca.
ROBERT J. FRALEIGH JR. (M, A&S) of Hebron, Conn., has been named director of corporate communications at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Fraleigh’s duties include leading the public relations, communications and marketing programs of CCMC and its affiliates.
BRENNAN GLASGOW (M, ENHP) of Canton, Conn., has been named Regional School District No. 10’s Teacher of the Year for 2007. Glasgow is a math specialist who works with students in grades K-5 as well as a math coach who aids teachers with instruction.
JENNIFER A. PEÑA (A&S) of Boca Raton, Fla., was crowned Miss Dominican Republic U.S.A. 2008, representing Santiago. Peña will move on to other pageants in the Dominican Republic, which is a prequalifying pageant for Miss Universe. The pageant will take place next year in the Dominican Republic.

Pardon...
The fall 2007 issue mistakenly reported that Gallaccio Scholar Vanessa Golembewski ’09 has a 3.25 GPA. Her GPA is 3.8.
Lawrence Rachlin ’68 was the major organizer for Toronto’s 27th Annual Holocaust Education Week. The Observer inadvertently credited another alumnus for the project in the fall issue.

Christine Kornacki ’07 (HAS), Farmer Cow (fiberglass, life-sized). 2007. Commissioned by The Farmer’s Cow milk company, this representational bovine was designed and painted by the artist for the 2007 West Hartford CowParade. Kornacki’s landscape scenes appear on labels for the company’s Farmer’s Daughter lemonade as well as additional seasonal beverages scheduled to arrive in stores this spring. The artist is a native of Simsbury, Conn.
Randi Ashton-Pritting, director of University libraries, doesn’t take no for an answer. When a furniture manufacturer told her it would be impossible to translate her idea—a work space where several students could collaborate, using multiple keyboards hooked up to a single computer screen—into a viable design, she wasn’t deterred.

Unveiled this past fall, Mortensen Library’s two cPods (see photo, p. 9) are already very popular. But cPods are just one of several unusual brainchildren from Ashton-Pritting, a 27-year veteran of Mortensen Library whose enthusiasm and innovation seem to have redefined the term university library.

THE CPODS CAUGHT ON AWFULLY FAST, DIDN’T THEY?

Without any advertising on our part, the students started using them exactly as we had intended. A visiting librarian from another college stopped and asked one of the kids using the cPod what he would do to improve it, and the student said, ‘Buy more.’ I’m hoping to get funding for two more.

MARION THE LIBRARIAN FROM THE MUSIC MAN WAS NOTHING LIKE YOU.

Did you always dream of becoming a librarian?

Never. My undergraduate degree is in textile chemistry. But when I came to Connecticut, a friend of mine who worked at the University suggested I apply here. They plopped me down in the library, and I loved it. So I got my master’s in library science and ultimately a doctorate in education. I became director in 2002.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK AS A CHILD?

Believe it or not, it was Don Quixote.

One day when I was about 10 years old, I went up a spiral staircase at the library and found a gorgeous leather-bound book with the most beautiful illustrations. I still can recall the smell, the size…everything about it. I know it’s an odd book for a kid to love—but that’s me.

TELL US ABOUT ANOTHER INNOVATIVE LIBRARY PROGRAM—THE PRESIDENT’S COLLEGE.

We “adopted” the President’s College about a year ago, and it’s one of the best things that’s happened to the University library. The President’s College offers adult education classes here to the community on a broad range of subjects, from Shakespeare to the environment. They’re a great group, and all the profits go to the library!

AND NOW THERE WILL BE A CAFÉ IN THE LIBRARY?

It’s an idea I’ve been playing with for the better part of five or six years. There’s no place for a student studying in the library late at night to get a cup of coffee—and when you’re studying that late, you need something. Over winter break, we began to convert part of the library into a café.

WHAT’S SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I built my own house with my husband, Bill. I can hang windows, doors, run pipes, lay tile, paint. I have my own toolbox—with a pretty impressive set of tools, I might add. When I retire, I’m going to set up a “tool library” in an urban area to loan out tools to struggling homeowners. Cool or what?
*Empire Style*, 2003, mixed media, by Jean Lowe appeared in *PostDec* at the Joseloff Gallery from Nov. 7 to Dec. 23. The exhibit was based on the Pattern and Decoration movement of the 1970s and 1980s. Featured were pieces by internationally recognized artists that blurred the lines between high/low art, craft, industrial, textile and fashion design, and decorative arts. It was made possible through the Kohn/Joseloff Foundation and the Georgette and Richard Koopman Distinguished Chair in the Visual Arts.