A New Scene for Dance and Theatre

p. 18
Thanks to you, our numbers are great

In October, the University of Hartford celebrated the successful culmination of its Campaign of Commitment. The Campaign raised $175,852,600 over 10 years to help transform the University academically, physically, and financially.

Honorary Campaign Chair Harry Jack Gray (Hon. ‘78), Campaign Co-chairs Linda Silpe M’65 and Richard Cardin ’62, and President Walter Harrison sincerely thank the 34,156 alumni, parents, and friends who made gifts of support. This is truly an exciting time to be a part of the University of Hartford.

**University of Hartford’s Transformation by the Numbers**

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<th>10 Years Ago</th>
<th>Today</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Endowment</td>
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<td>Net Assets</td>
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<td>Giving to the University</td>
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<td>Undergraduate Enrollment (FT)</td>
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<td>4,842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degrees Awarded</td>
<td>1,546</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>+17</td>
</tr>
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Data as of Oct. 1, 2008
2 From the President
Despite the upheaval on Wall Street, the University is well positioned to weather the storm. Record fundraising and prudent financial management keep the University moving forward.

3 On Campus
The University commemorates President Walter Harrison’s 10-year anniversary; Barney School of Business experts talk about the economy; Professor Beth Richards teaches in Afghanistan; and more.

10 Interdisciplinary Learning
Highlights of how faculty and students in different schools and colleges are discovering ways to combine disciplines in new and interesting courses and projects that enrich students’ experiences.

16 Fall Weekend 2008
See who came to campus this fall for a weekend packed with food, fun, and entertainment.

18 With Your Support
The Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center opens; John (Jay) ’74 and Debi Shaw make a $1.5 million gift to Hillyer College; and more.

Dear Readers,
We have much to celebrate as we begin a brand-new year here at the University of Hartford. First is the opening of the long-awaited Mort and Irma Handel Center for the Performing Arts (see pp. 18–19). Truly another jewel in the University’s crown, the beautiful Handel Center had a busy first semester filled with classes and performances in the new black-box theaters. We are featuring it on the cover of this issue.

Another cause for celebration is Walter Harrison’s 10th anniversary as president and the many positive changes that have taken place since his arrival (see p. 4). Having joined the University a few months before President Harrison, I’ve had the pleasure of watching the transformation firsthand. If you haven’t been back to campus since 1998, you won’t believe your eyes.

Our special feature this time around highlights interdisciplinary learning at the University. Faculty in different departments and between schools are collaborating in the classroom and on projects that even include an international partnership.

Thanks to those of you who have sent e-mails to say how much you enjoy receiving the Observer. Keep sending me your story ideas and suggestions for alumni profiles. And let’s not forget the tree-hugging alumni out there. We want to hear from you too.

Here’s to a great 2009 and many Hawk victories!

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

Read the Observer online at www.hartford.edu/observer.
Making a University of Hartford Education Possible—Even in Uncertain Times

I am using my regular column in the Observer to report to all the members of the University’s extended community on the University’s financial situation in view of the worldwide recession and the financial uncertainty we face in 2009 and beyond. Although the key word here is uncertainty, I can assure you that the University of Hartford enters this period in a very solid financial condition.

The University finished its last fiscal year on June 30 in the strongest financial position in its history. We successfully concluded our $175 million Campaign of Commitment, our largest and most successful fundraising campaign, and we completed the year with a very healthy budget surplus, our 11th-straight year of such surpluses. In addition, this fall we enrolled the largest number of full-time undergraduate students in our history—4,842 students—and brought the total number of students registered at the University to 7,366, up 108 students from the year before.

Nevertheless, the University of Hartford is not immune to the current global economic turmoil. To choose one example, as the world financial markets have fallen as much as 40 percent, the University’s endowment has lost approximately 25 percent of its value. While the endowment contributes only 2 percent of the University’s general budget (a small fraction compared to most other private universities), a 25 percent reduction is significant.

These times call for financial restraint, and you can count on the leadership of the University to take that responsibility very seriously. We were able to achieve the strong financial position with which we began the academic year by following conservative budgeting and financial practices, and we intend to continue those practices this year and in the years ahead. We have already begun to tailor a series of business contingency plans and will work on these over the next several months as the world economic situation develops further.

At the same time, we are committed to community, a value that has been at the heart of the University since its founding. We will always do the best we can to put people first.

As we make choices in the months ahead, our most important commitment will be to make financial aid available to students who need it. We are increasing our financial-aid budget so that, consistent with our financial-aid policies, we can help students in need. This is especially important since more than 90 percent of the University’s undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

Our principal concern is to continue to make a University of Hartford education available to students regardless of economic background. This commitment to the widest possible access to quality education has been at our heart since our founding, and I hope it will continue to characterize the University far into the future.

Over the past decade we have experienced unprecedented success as a university, thanks in part to your generous support. Even in uncertain financial times, I believe we can maintain the momentum we have established by practicing financial restraint. Our emphasis must always be on maintaining the quality of a University of Hartford education, both in the classroom and beyond it.

Walter Harrison
President
When Karen Tejada was chosen as the University of Hartford’s first Jackie McLean Fellow, she couldn’t wait to seize the opportunity. “I think it is important to see how many ways you can challenge yourself,” Tejada says about her academic goals. She has been working toward her doctorate in sociology at the University of Albany and is now finishing her dissertation on political activism among Salvadoran immigrants in Washington, D.C. The Jackie McLean Fellowship is making it possible for her to complete her research.

When she is not conducting that research, Tejada is in the classroom. She taught a course in social problems for Hillyer College last fall. During the spring semester she is teaching a class about race and ethnic relations for the College of Arts and Sciences. Tejada says she enjoys teaching at the University because “the campus is big enough to have a diverse group of students, yet small enough to know the students’ names.”

This fellowship is named for the late Jackie McLean, a world-renowned alto saxophonist who was a faculty member at the University of Hartford for 36 years. McLean established the African American music department and later the Jazz Studies program, now called the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz, at The Hartt School.

Tejada sees the fellowship as a way to carry on McLean’s legacy. She says she hopes it becomes “a tradition of helping people and bringing out the best in them.”
On CAMPUS

10 Years of Growth, Momentum, and Pride

President Walter Harrison arrived at the University of Hartford in July 1998, making this past fall the start of his 11th year at its helm. During the first 10 years of his presidency, Harrison oversaw a true campus renaissance, involving new construction; increases in alumni giving, academic quality, and fundraising; and soaring school spirit. In addition, student applications climbed 150 percent from 1998 levels, and enrollment and degrees awarded rose significantly.

Increased fundraising, coupled with sound financial management, has created a strong foundation for building a successful future for the University. Since 1998, fundraising results have increased 100 percent. We successfully completed the Campaign of Commitment in 2008, raising $175,852,600 with gifts from 34,156 alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends. Campaign funds have fueled construction projects and growth in a variety of areas.

A self-professed fan of new construction on campus, Harrison has worn a hard hat at numerous groundbreaking ceremonies since 1998: the University of Hartford Magnet School; the University High School of Science and Engineering; the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology complex; the Renée Samuels Center at the Hartford Art School; the Hawk Hall first-year residence; and the new Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, as well as new baseball and softball diamonds and a refurbished soccer/lacrosse field. In spring 2009, he will add the Shaw Center at Hillyer College to the list.

But our rebirth hasn’t been just about bricks and mortar. Since 1998 the University has added several new degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels and three endowed professorships. In 2000 the University began offering what is now called the multimedia Web design and development bachelor’s, its first interdisciplinary University degree. Physical therapy grew from a bachelor’s program to a postbaccalaureate doctoral program in 2004, and since that time, its applicant pool and enrollment have more than doubled. In fall 2005 the first students in a new master’s in architecture program were enrolled. The master’s in deaf education and aural habilitation welcomed its first cohort in summer 2007. That fall, the math secondary education degree began offering classes to future high school math teachers. Plans are under way now for an undergraduate environmental studies major.

Other changes include the restructuring of the University. In 2003 the College of Engineering, the Ward College of Technology, and the Department of Architecture merged to become the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture. Hartford College for Women lives on through the work of the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund, which provides grants to faculty, staff, and students who propose new initiatives in support of women’s education and leadership.

Among the many things to celebrate in the last 10 years have been outstanding athletic achievements, including three trips to the NCAA Big Dance for Coach Jen Rizzotti and the women’s basketball team. Another high point was the 50th anniversary of the University of Hartford’s founding in 1957. The yearlong celebrations concluded with a concert in Lincoln Theater by Dionne Warwick (Hon. ‘86) at Fall Weekend 2007.

To paraphrase our president, it’s been a great decade to be a part of the University of Hartford.
Laura Johnson’s Legacy Lives On

The names of 15 women faculty and staff members have been announced by President Walter Harrison and Provost Lynn Pasquerella as participants in the 2008–09 Laura Johnson Initiative for Women Leaders. The initiative is a pilot program offered by the Women's Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund), one of the legacies of Hartford College for Women (HCW).

The program was named for Laura Johnson, third dean and first president of HCW, who opened doors for women through her professional activities and her advocacy for her students. Participants will attend monthly workshops throughout the academic year, with the goal of providing the knowledge, skills, and networking necessary to facilitate both career enhancement and advancement for women.

At the first meeting of the group in late September, a panel discussion, moderated by Pasquerella, consisted of women leaders in higher education from the Greater Hartford area. Panel members included HCW alumnae Valerie Lewis, former Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education, and Rosanne Druckman, executive director of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education. Other panelists were Betty Ivy, former provost of the University of Hartford and former president of the Association for Women in Science; Merle Harris, former president of Charter Oak State College; and Estela López, former vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Connecticut State University System.

The panel spoke of the need to take advantage of sudden opportunities, the importance of retaining one’s values throughout one’s career, and the critical role leaders must play in ensuring equal access to education.

“The panelists stressed relationships—partnerships—working collaboratively for the good of the whole,” said Pasquerella. “The community established in programs like the Laura Johnson Initiative is important for participants, but also important for our institution as a whole. I’m pleased to be a partner to WELFund in launching this vital program.”

Judge Sotomayor Gives Jon O. Newman Lecture

In late October, Federal Appeals Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor gave the Jon O. Newman Lecture on Law and Justice, established in 2005 as part of the University’s Pre-Law Advising program.

Sotomayor, who has been mentioned frequently as a possible nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, delivered a talk in Wilde Auditorium titled “No Lawyer, Bad Lawyer—What’s a Judge to Do?”


An adjunct professor at New York University School of Law from 1998 to 2007, she is currently a lecturer-in-law at Columbia Law School.

The annual lecture is made possible through the generosity of Jon O. Newman, a senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Newman is a past chair of the board of regents and a life regent of the University of Hartford.

Student Wins NCAA Division I Sportsmanship Award

Latasha Jarrett ’10 is a thoroughly modern student-athlete who firmly believes in old-fashioned values—particularly the idea that honesty is the best policy. Her belief was rewarded in September, when she was named NCAA Division I Sportswoman of the Year for a compelling act of integrity at a track meet in the spring.

The story unfolded at the America East Outdoor Track and Field Championship last May. Jarrett was competing in the high jump and heptathlon at the same time. She started the high jump competition on a positive note, clearing the bar at 5 feet. She then signed out to run the 800-meter race for the heptathlon.

When she returned to the high jump competition, the judge had mistakenly already given her credit for clearing the bar at 5 feet, 2 inches, which she hadn’t done. She corrected the judge, faulted on the jump, and narrowly missed out on a chance to go to the NCAA Regionals, a lifelong goal.

“Naturally, I was disappointed that I didn’t make the regionals,” Jarrett admits, “but I knew I could never live with myself if I cheated. It’s great to win medals in competition, but medals only mean something if you actually earn them.”

Currently majoring in physical therapy, Jarrett plans to complete her Doctor of Physical Therapy but is still undecided about what career path she will select. Whatever she chooses, Jarrett is convinced that her traditional values will make her an outstanding clinician.

“I genuinely care about my patients and work very hard to understand their problems and find a solution that’s right for them,” she says. “I’ve always been an honest, caring person, and I truly believe these values will continue to serve me well when I go into practice.”

Based on her track record so far, it would be hard to disagree.
What caused the economic crisis?
For Susan Coleman, professor of finance at the Barney School of Business, the trigger was “a period of dramatically relaxed mortgage-lending standards” in the United States from 2005 to 2007. Coleman says the Federal Reserve’s lowering of interest rates after 9/11 kicked off a chain reaction. Lower rates prompted banks to give initially low-interest housing loans to people who found they couldn’t afford the higher interest rates that hit later.

“Until the beginning of this year, everything was rolling along as planned,” Coleman explains. “Easy credit allowed lots of people to get easy mortgages and buy lots of houses. Low interest rates fueled the housing bubble that helped Wall Street make lots of money.” Many of those subprime mortgages were packaged into new, supposedly safe types of securities and sold off to buyers both inside and outside the United States.

As variable interest rates rose, many homebuyers began to default; foreclosures and house auctions drove down housing prices. Coleman says that as mortgages went bad, so too did the suddenly risky new-investment instruments that had been sold all over the world, creating a global crisis of confidence.

Who was at fault?
Professor of Economics Demetrios Giannaros, who is also deputy speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives and a Democrat, believes the ultimate responsibility lies with what he calls the “irresponsible and ridiculous fiscal and monetary policies” of Congress and the White House at the very start of the 21st century.

Giannaros says major tax cuts at the same time the nation was fighting two costly wars led to massive federal debt and sent a signal that it was okay for individuals to borrow beyond their means.

“You had a doubling of outstanding federal debt. You had more than a doubling of mortgage credit,” he says. Giannaros believes the situation was made more dangerous by the reluctance of Alan Greenspan, then Federal Reserve chairman, and President George W. Bush’s administration to regulate risky instruments linked to mortgage debt.

“In all honesty, the only way we can learn from mistakes is by penalizing those that caused them,” Giannaros says.

But Barney’s executive-in-residence, Gerald V. Vitkauskas, draws a different conclusion from his experience as a former president and CEO of AIG Credit Corp., a financing subsidiary of AIG, Inc., one of the corporate giants caught in the meltdown.

Vitkauskas says problems began before the start of the 21st century and the Bush administration, when “the government started to put pressure on banks” and institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to lower their mortgage-lending standards.

What can be done to fix things?
Like lots of taxpayers, Coleman isn’t thrilled with the big $700 billion Wall Street bailout plan passed by Congress.

“But I would like the collapse of the global financial system even less,” she says. “The bailout really was essential to stem the tide of losses.”

Giannaros and Coleman agree that “global solutions” are needed as this has become a global economic crisis. These solutions might include greater transparency and greater uniformity, and enforcement of regulations and reporting. Once again, Vitkauskas disagrees, saying that economies around the world are too different.

As he wrote in mid-December 2008, Vitkauskas is looking for a solution closer to home, saying he believes that “the government is going to have to provide funds [for the Big Three automakers], but only after the unions and the automakers have agreed to a major restructuring of the industry.”

Now what?
All three of our experts agree that the current situation is the worst recession the U.S. economy has experienced since the Great Depression. But they do offer reassurance.

“We know how to prevent things from getting worse,” says Giannaros.

Coleman agrees. “We have tools of monetary and fiscal policy that we didn’t have in the 1930s.”

Vitkauskas adds, “What’s driving all this is a lack of confidence.” He believes that restoring confidence in the economy could bring about a fairly rapid recovery.
President’s College Showcase a ‘Smashing Success’

In early September, the President’s College, a noncredit continuing-education program at the University of Hartford, held its first Showcase, a full day of lectures and discussions featuring many University faculty members.

Held on campus in Dana Hall, the event was followed by a reception at Russell House, the home of President Walter Harrison and his wife, Dianne Harrison, one of the day’s presenters.

Fourteen 50-minute sessions ran concurrently in two adjacent rooms all day. The approximately 100 attendees were faced with a difficult task: deciding which of the sessions, with a wide-ranging list of topics, to attend.

Describing the day as a “smashing success,” University President Emeritus Humphrey Tonkin, director of the President’s College, announced he is already thinking about doing it again on the first Sunday after Labor Day in 2009.

Election Night 2008

Students gather to watch returns during historic race

Hawk Hall’s first-floor lounge filled with well over 100 students who attended an Election Night party sponsored by a variety of campus organizations, including the Campus Activities Team, Brothers and Sisters United, Student Centers and Activities, the Office of Residential Life, and the Freshman Success Center.

In a Regents Park residence hall lounge, the University of Hartford chapter of the Roosevelt institution, a non partisan student think tank, sponsored another event that drew dozens more students to watch the returns.

Daron Bishop ’10, who attended the Hawk Hall party, said, “[Obama’s election to the presidency] makes me proud to be an African American. I feel that we took a big step tonight, and we may finally get past the race issue in this country and all be one people.”

Fall Commencement 2008

Former Wesleyan president honored

Douglas Bennet, a former president of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., was the speaker at Fall Commencement on Dec. 7 and also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Bennet, who previously held posts as assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs in the Clinton administration and as chief executive officer and president of National Public Radio, encouraged graduates not to fear the current bleak economic situation but to see it as a catalyst for change.

“I urge you to seize the moment. You will change the world,” Bennett said. Both he and President Walter Harrison reassured the graduates, saying that their University of Hartford education will serve them well.

Approximately 175 graduates and their families and friends attended the annual Fall Commencement held in Lincoln Theater. The ceremony celebrates the achievements of students who complete their degree requirements in September or January.

Rogow Lecture Draws Sell-Out Crowd

Lincoln Theater was the site of a passionate lecture delivered to a full house by Azar Nafisi, author of the national bestseller Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books.

Nafisi, whose talk was the September Rogow Distinguished Visiting Lecture, discussed her book, a poignant account of her time in Iran and her efforts to introduce Western literature to her female students—a practice forbidden by religious fundamentalists there.

When introducing Nafisi to the audience, President Walter Harrison called Reading Lolita in Tehran “one of the most moving descriptions of teaching and learning I have ever read.”

(L–R) Jessica Richard; Justin Richard ’08; Lucy Richard ’05, a clinical coordinator in the radiologic technology department at the University; and Paul Richard. Children of alumni of the University wear a special medal (shown above on Justin at Fall Commencement 2008) to recognize their legacy status.

In short...

Here are just a few notable achievements by members of the University’s faculty and administration.

**Susan Coleman**, professor of finance at Barney, has been named vice president of research for the U.S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship for 2009. The USASBE is the leading nonprofit national organization dedicated to training the next generation of entrepreneurs and supporting the vital entrepreneur sector of the nation’s economy.

**Ann Courtney**, associate professor in ENHP, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and do research in Limerick, Ireland, during the 2008-09 academic year. Courtney will compare and contrast the ways that educators shape literacy practice in Ireland and the United States.

**Andrew Craft**, associate professor of chemistry, A&S, has received a grant from the Petroleum Research Fund. The grant provides $65,000 in funds and supports Craft’s continuing research on the use of hydrogen as an alternative to fossil fuels and the storage of hydrogen in metals. Like Craft’s previous support from the Petroleum Research Fund, the current grant includes funds to support student involvement in the research.

**Mari Firkatian**, associate professor of history, Hillyer, has published *Diplomats and Dreamers: The Stancioff Family in Bulgarian History*. Firkatian, who received a Women’s Education and Leadership Fund grant from the University to extend her research on Bulgarian diplomat Nadeja Stancioff, is designing a course that will use the life experiences of the book’s principals to expand student learning about European and world history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Mark George**, director of Hartt’s Community Division, has been appointed to the governing board of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. George is serving a three-year term that began in August. The Suzuki Association of the Americas is a nonprofit organization that guides and supports Suzuki education in North, Central, and South America.

**Michael Robinson**’s book, *The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture*, which was published in 2006 by the University of Chicago, has won the 2008 Book Prize from the Forum for the History of Science in America. In *The Coldest Crucible*, Robinson, assistant professor of history at Hillyer, presents the dramatic story of the rise and fall of Arctic exploration.

**Ingrid Russell**, A&S professor of computer science, and her students in a spring semester ’08 class developed prototype software for Literacy Volunteers of Connecticut. The software, called App-Trac, helps to monitor literacy application usage in order to evaluate student needs. The App-Trac software is being made available at http://sourceforge.net/projects/apptrac.


**Faculty in CETA** have received a $492,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to evaluate the potential economic benefits to electric utilities of distributed photovoltaic systems operated by third-party owners who provide additional power during times of peak demand. The project is to be based on conditions specific to Connecticut to determine these value streams and what is termed the effective load-carrying capacity of an installed and operating photovoltaic system. Barry Lubin, director of cooperative engineering education in CETA, is leading the grant project.

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*Trio Wins $18,000 in Cash Prizes*

van Rooy competition recognizes three Hartt students

The van Rooy Competition for Musical Excellence, now in its ninth year, was held at the University in mid-November. The three prizewinners are all seniors in Hartt’s instrumental performance program.

Erberk Eryelimaz, winner of the Grand Prize of $10,000, is from Samsun, Turkey. He studies piano with Oxana Yablonskaya and composition with Stephen Gryc. The $5,000 Second Prize went to Corbin Beisner, who studies piano with Luiz de Moura Castro. He is from Las Vegas, Nev. Nick Statzer, who is a saxophone performance and acoustical engineering and music major, won the $3,000 Third Prize. He studies with Carrie Koffman and hails from Zelienople, Pa.

The van Rooy Competition for Musical Excellence was established in 2000 by Jean-Pierre and Marie-Claire van Rooy. Marie-Claire serves on Hartt’s board of trustees. Jean-Pierre, a former president of Carrier Corporation’s international division and a former president and chairman of Otis Elevator Company, is a regent of the University. In 2008 the van Rooyos presented the University with a $2 million gift to found the van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis.
“I’m a teacher and I truly believe education is the beginning of freedom.”
That philosophy sent Beth Richards, director of rhetoric and professional writing in the College of Arts and Sciences, to Afghanistan for a month this past summer to teach English to engineering students at Herat University. The students use English-language texts in science, math, and engineering courses.
Several faculty members from Herat University are currently studying at the University of Hartford for master’s degrees in engineering. Grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Bank have funded the alliance between the two universities and made the exchange of faculty possible. M. Saleh Keshawarz, associate professor of civil engineering in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), and his colleagues Hisham Alnajjar and Ivana Milanovic at CETA are the recipients of the grants.
“If there’s anything Afghanistan needs, it’s civil engineers who can rebuild infrastructure,” says Richards.
Richards started by creating a new textbook to replace the old ones, which she found inadequate. She also hopes to bring more advanced technology to Herat University when she returns in May 2009. Currently, access to the Internet is very limited, and there are no computers in the classrooms.
Those are only two of the many differences between Herat University and American universities. In Afghanistan, men and women sit on opposite sides of the classroom and do not mingle. Women, particularly those studying engineering, stick very close together. But they told Richards they felt free to go anywhere they wanted and that men did not try to stand in the way of their education.
Richards says many of the Afghan men she met “clearly believe women have a place in education, academia, and engineering.” But she also knows that a few of her male students were not happy to have a woman teaching their class. Female students, however, “were thrilled to have a female professor.”
“Certainly at the university there is progress, and opportunities [exist] for women,” Richards points out. “But there need to be more.”
Being a woman and an American, Richards says she was the subject of intense curiosity. She often caught people staring at her fair skin and gray hair. Because the life expectancy is less than 45 years in Afghanistan, gray hair is very unusual. In fact, one child even asked her if she came from outer space!
Most people asked her another question: “Why would you ever want to come to Afghanistan?” For Richards, the answer was simple.
“It seems to me I’ve lived a life of intense privilege as a person and as a female,” she says. “I couldn’t live with myself if I didn’t do something to pass that on. I feel that I’ve gained so much [by coming to Afghanistan]. I worked hard, but I learned so much, met so many wonderful people. It’s a whole new dimension of life I never anticipated five years ago.”

Editor’s note: While at Herat University, Richards wrote about her daily experiences in Afghanistan, both as a professor and as an American woman. To read “Letters from Herat,” visit the online journal ePluribusMedia at www.epluribusmedia.org and type “Beth Richards” into the search box.
Collegial Collaborations

On today’s college campuses, students are spending less time sitting in auditoriums passively listening to lectures and more time putting theories to the test in projects, interning in their fields of interest, studying abroad, and learning to think, speak, and write critically. In many cases, the courses being taught are interdisciplinary, giving students a broader approach to the subject matter by exploring how different disciplines interrelate. This is not your father’s liberal arts education.

At the University of Hartford, this trend is anything but new. For more than 30 years, interdisciplinary learning has been a presence on campus, beginning with the very successful acoustical engineering and music program in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (see pp. 12-13). Since the 1970s, students in this major have combined the skills of a musician and an engineer.

But that’s not all. Since 1987, students have been taking courses in the All-University Curriculum (see below), a groundbreaking program designed to introduce them to multiple disciplines and to present multiple perspectives on a given topic.

As the University becomes even more interdisciplinary in focus, faculty in different schools and colleges are collaborating more. Sometimes the collaboration takes the form of a one-time project, but in other cases, it results in a new course, a new program, or even a new degree.

Not to be outdone, some students at the University have incorporated the idea of interdisciplinary study into their college experience by becoming dual majors. The University’s trademark offering of a small liberal arts college with the creativity and intellectual vitality of a university helps students accomplish this goal.

Daniel Hultgren ’09, for example, will graduate in May with two degrees—a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy—as well as a minor in mathematics. Hultgren, who says he plans to study the philosophy of science in graduate school, explains the advantages of his choice.

“I enjoy synthesizing disparate disciplines. I see [the dual-degree approach] as the best way of creating novel ideas and finding unexplored intellectual territory. Secondly, it provides a wider range of options . . . when it comes to choosing a career. No one should let the extra work intimidate them.”

Following are some highlights of how interdisciplinary learning is growing at the University of Hartford.
Some of the students in Natacha Poggio’s spring 2008 Issues in Design classes initially grumbled about their assignment. Poggio, assistant professor of visual communication design at the Hartford Art School, presented her third-year students with quite a challenge: design an educational campaign for people in a village in India, using images but minimal text to overcome literacy limitations.

“It was definitely a huge challenge,” says Constanza Gowan-Segovia ’09. “It was really strange to not be able to use text and not [to know the culture].”

The idea for the campaign came to Poggio when she read about a project in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture. Engineering students had formed a student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and, under the direction of Associate Professor David Pines, had designed and installed a solar-powered ground-water pump system as a sustainable source of drinking water at a girls’ school in Abheypur, a village near Delhi in India.

Poggio recognized an opportunity to educate the villagers on the benefits of the new technology installed by the engineers. She contacted Pines, suggesting an interdisciplinary collaboration with her class, and he enthusiastically agreed.

The students began by designing a logo or character and then using the character to create three poster designs (to help instill values of cleanliness, sharing, and respect) and an outdoor mural for the school. From there, the students could come up with additional ideas for getting the messages across, including T-shirts and activity books for the young girls.

But before they could design anything, Poggio’s students had to try to educate themselves about India and its cultures.

“We had to do a lot of research first and not just start sketching, like we normally would. And we had to think more practically and really shift our approach,” says Gowan-Segovia. “For most of our assignments, we play with text and make things look pretty, but it doesn’t have anything to do with the real world. This does.”

The two sections of Issues in Design formed teams and set to work coming up with several concepts for the engineering students to show to the villagers on their return trip to Abheypur in August 2008. The plan was for these students to bring feedback from the villagers on their preferences so that the campaign could be refined and finalized during the fall semester.

“We didn’t know which one they would pick,” says Jessica (Parker) Hu ’09, a media arts major. “It was good to hear what they didn’t get. We really needed the feedback. No matter how much research you do, you still don’t know the culture.”

Seven students from the original Issues in Design classes volunteered to see the various ideas through to the final campaign. In addition to Gowan-Segovia and Hu were Ashley Gummelt, Kim Herrmannsdoerfer, Tomasz Kazmierczak, Jackie Minkler, and Alex Sangeorge.

“My students are using the power of design to make a positive impact on society: helping real people, solving real problems,” says Poggio. “This project is a vivid example of the potential art and design have for transcending geographic boundaries and disciplines, to be involved in humanitarian causes traditionally served by the worlds of medicine and engineering (like EWB and Doctors Without Borders).”

As the Observer went to press in early January 2009, Poggio and five students from the Water for India campaign left for India to deliver the materials they created and take part in painting the mural at the girls’ school. Funding for the trip came from the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund, the University of Hartford Student Government Association, and the Hartford Art School.
The Marriage of Music and Engineering

Developed by the late Professor Emeritus Conrad Hemond Jr. of the former School of Engineering and Professor Emeritus William Willett of The Hartt School, the cross-discipline acoustical engineering and music program, introduced in 1976, is the only undergraduate program of its kind in the United States. Participating students are a rare breed who spend eight challenging semesters immersed in both engineering (53 credits) and music (46 credits) to prepare themselves for careers in architectural acoustics; outdoor/environmental acoustics; noise control; and the design and manufacture of musical instruments, hearing protection, and audio equipment.

Carlos Rivera ’99, who grew up in Puerto Rico, first visited the University of Hartford in 1994. Like many high school students, he hadn’t decided on a career yet, but he was leaning toward engineering.

The acoustical engineering and music program he discovered in what is now the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture seemed perfect, but he wasn’t sure he could qualify. With respectable SAT scores and excellent grades in high school advanced-placement mathematics courses, he felt comfortable about the engineering. It was the required audition at The Hartt School that made him nervous. “I was worried about my skills as a guitarist,” he recalls.

He needn’t have worried. With years of private lessons and training at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico behind him, Rivera recorded four classical guitar compositions that handily met Hartt’s rigorous standards.

With demand for acoustical engineers growing, the program’s graduates have enjoyed a 100 percent placement rate for several years. “We are typically contacted by more employers with job openings than we have graduates to fill,” says Robert Celmer, director of the acoustics lab and program.

Rivera is a good example. After graduation, he was courted by three different companies. He chose JaffeHolden, an acclaimed acoustical design firm based in Norwalk, Conn. “It’s an international company,” he says. “I knew that if I worked for them I’d have opportunities to travel and work on very high-profile performance center projects all over the world.”

And, indeed, Rivera has spent the past nine years consulting on acoustics for prominent facilities throughout the United States and abroad. You can hear his influence at such venues as Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall in New York; Chicago’s Harris Theater for Music and Dance; and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston.

“Carlos is a rising star with our company,” says Russell Cooper ’81, principal of JaffeHolden’s architectural acoustics division and himself an early alumnus of the acoustical engineering and music program. “He’s one of a number of University of Hartford graduates we’ve hired. The program prepares students very well.”

Its strength lies in its combination of theoretical courses and applied projects, according to Celmer. “Industries and communities all across the nation contact our acoustics lab for assistance,” he says. “The result is a win-win situation. Our students get hands-on experience, and the clients get their acoustics problems solved.”

Rivera, now a senior consultant with JaffeHolden, provided such an opportunity last year, when the firm designed acoustics for the new Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, a creative transformation of the former Thomas Cadillac property near the main campus.

Although the University made the decision to retain the outer brick shell of the Thomas building because it had been designed by noted industrial architect Albert Kahn, the interior was thoroughly reconfigured to encompass two black-box theaters, five movement studios for dance, and a number of smaller teaching and rehearsal rooms and faculty offices, each acoustically discrete. The project posed interesting architectural challenges.

Rivera recruited two engineering seniors, Craig Dolder ’08 and Chris Thompson ’08, to serve as on-site monitors. “They visited the site weekly, evaluated progress, and wrote reports for me,” he says. “I helped them learn the role of consultant, and they were immensely helpful to me.”

Dolder, now a graduate student at the University of Texas in Austin, is quick to acknowledge the value of the experience. “Working with Carlos was terrific,” he says. “It was the kind of real-world learning opportunity that makes the program so successful.”

Of his time on campus, Rivera says, “It was great to get back to the acoustics lab, too.” Completely renovated as part of the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology project, it now includes a much larger anechoic chamber and a reverberation room, a facility that didn’t even exist when Rivera was a student. “I was very impressed with the new facilities,” he adds.
Once The Hartt School’s Music, Theatre, Dance, and Community Divisions moved into the new Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, space opened up within the usually crowded Alfred C. Fuller Music Center. Out of the ensuing hurly-burly came a newly remodeled music recital hall. Due to space constraints, Berkman Hall had been a dance and multipurpose room rather than a music performance venue for 15 years. With the Dance Division’s relocation, Hartt decided it was time to return Berkman to its original function.

Last spring semester, two students, Mike Lunoe ’09 and Nate Pape ’08 in the acoustical engineering and music program at the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, created the acoustical design for the hall, which now holds 60 permanent seats tiered in stadium-style seating.

The students tackled the redesign of Berkman as their final senior project, working under the supervision of Robert Celmer, professor of mechanical engineering and director of the acoustics program and laboratory.

“The whole renovation project was a huge and exciting success,” says Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison. “Our faculty and students all agree that the acoustics are excellent and that this state-of-the-art recital hall is a very welcome addition to Hartt’s performing spaces.”

The renovations were made over this past summer by Smith-Edwards Architects.

CETA acoustics students help renovate Berkman Hall

MWD²: It’s Anything but Square

With the fall 2000 semester, the University began offering courses in a new, interdisciplinary major, now called multimedia Web design and development (MWD²) but originally introduced as interactive information technology. Approximately 60 students are currently majoring in MWD², which is associated with the University Studies division, rather than a single school or college, due to its cross-disciplinary nature. The program differs from the more theory-based computer science major and the more business-oriented management information systems minor. While incorporating aspects of both, the Web-oriented MWD² major focuses on the technological, social, economic, artistic, interactive, and global aspects of the Web.

In addition to core courses in Web development and Internet programming, students take courses in design, business, technical writing, communication, and psychology in the Hartford Art School, the Barney School of Business, and the College of Arts and Sciences. Graduates are more than programmers and are able to pursue careers in areas such as Internet marketing, usability testing, multimedia development, and more.

An important feature of MWD² is the specialization requirement designed to supplement the technical courses with classes in an area of interest. Students choose from media arts, network management or administration, marketing and advertising on the Web, and multimedia production; or they can design their own specialization in video production or the human/computer interface, for example.

“Hands down, I would recommend this major,” says MaryLynne Schaefer, a senior in the MWD² program with a specialization in technical writing. “I really think it gives individuals an opportunity to use their imagination. The program is up to date on the latest technology, and the professors really know what they are teaching.”

Above are two samples of video games developed by students in the MWD² program.
Collaboration is most often a means to an end, but at the University's visual and performing arts schools, interdisciplinary collaboration itself is the art.

Gene Gort, associate professor of media arts at the Hartford Art School, and Ken Steen, associate professor of composition and theory at The Hartt School, have taken their students out of the comfort zone of traditional studios and solitary work. Instead, the students collaborate in a cyber studio, where they use sound and images contributed anonymously to produce inspired, if not surprising, results.

“Working with interdisciplinary groups was confusing at first,” admits Jessica Hu, a senior majoring in media arts at the art school. “I didn’t fully understand [before] how collaboration involves a relinquishing of control and complete openness to change and improvisation.”

The seed for Gort and Steen’s collaborative approach to teaching was planted while they were fellows at The MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, N.H., in 2006. Working on a “parallel media” piece (*Reliquary of Labor*) commissioned to celebrate the expansion of the New Britain (Conn.) Museum of American Art, they built a website (*reliquaryoflabor.net*) that contained all of their work—bits that had been worked and reworked, sketches, arrangements, ideas, successes and failures—with the intent of making the creative process transparent to anyone interested.

“That became our teaching model,” Gort says. Steen and Gort introduced the process to their students in the 2007 spring semester, establishing a website, the New Media Collaborative, that allowed their classes to share found and created sound, video, and still images.

Kaeza Fearn, a master’s student in composition at Hartt who took Steen’s Music Technology II class in the spring of 2008, appreciated the sense of community the first projects built—anonymous or not.

“It was interesting to see and use what students from another class created,” Fearn says. “The fact that the pieces belonged to art school students connected us all together across the campus lawn—a truly hip concept. What is more, the website connecting us all . . . is fascinating in its own right.”

Certainly, Gort and Steen are pleased with the reception their approach to collaborative art has received. As Gort says, “What I find most interesting about the collaboration effort is that students respond to each other’s work and not to personalities. . . . Part of what we wanted to do was jump over the ego and really look at the artistic and creative sensibilities.”

Steen assigns two New Media Collaborative projects a semester to students in his Music Technology II and Intro to Computer Music classes. Their works and those of students in Gort’s Sound, Image, Text class are available for anyone to see, hear, and participate in at uhavax.hartford.edu/nmc.

“We use the website more casually now in terms of classes. We don’t do the collaborations in a strict, in-class curriculum form,” Gort says.

Both professors agree that there are obstacles to collaborative teaching inherent at any university. “We are trying to find a way to bring the schools together despite the hurdles of everyday life at the University,” Steen says. “There are many [considerations]—meeting times, grading, class space—just in the way a university is set up. Those are the boundaries we are trying to break through. What the Web has allowed us to do is find a meeting place.”

Steen and Gort are interested in connecting other disciplines to the New Media Collaborative—writing, engineering, and biology, for instance.

“My job, like all teaching,” Gort says, “is to open our students to the possibilities. They take it from there.”
The Center for Integrated Design

Its mission is to provide Hartford and surrounding communities with resources and solutions that address engineering, architectural, business, and visual communication design (VCD) issues. Faculty combine their professional expertise and experience with the enthusiasm and creativity of their best students to provide a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to community planning, design, and education. Its name? The Center for Integrated Design (CID) at the University of Hartford.

Created during the spring semester of 2003, CID’s first project addressed the future development of the Bloomfield, Conn., town center. Faculty-student teams gathered data on existing conditions, such as architectural styles, lighting, and traffic patterns. A focus group provided information on what town officials and residents thought of the center and what they thought would increase its vitality. In the classroom, students worked on design studies (architecture), signage (VCD) and lighting, utilities, and traffic patterns (engineering), for example. In spring 2004 a final report was submitted to the town with detailed recommendations to create a town center that was more of a destination than a drive-through.

“Our value is in the early phases of the process,” says James Fuller, associate professor of architecture in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA). “We are a resource for research done by a collaboration of faculty and talented students. But the projects have to meet our curriculum goals.”

Other involved faculty members include David Pines, associate professor of civil, environmental, and biomechanical engineering, and Jeffrey Cohen, associate professor of economics in the Barney School of Business. Also part of the CID team are Terri-Ann Hahn, an adjunct professor of architecture and a practicing landscape architect, and Nancy Wynn, a former assistant professor in the Hartford Art School and professional graphic designer.

In a project with the Capitol Region Council of Governments, CID is working with the towns of Bloomfield, Manchester, South Windsor, and Tolland; the Partnership for Strong Communities; and the American Farmland Trust. This team received one of three grants awarded nationally in 2008 from the Environmental Protection Agency. The grant will fund a three-day workshop in early 2009 to develop regulations and guidelines for towns for incorporating affordable housing in urban, suburban, and rural contexts.

In this project, for example, engineering students will be looking at traffic patterns, storm-drain runoff, utilities, and transportation, while Barney students will be analyzing the economics of affordable housing in a mixed-use environment. Architecture students will create visuals of design and planning guidelines for the housing.

Future projects include a community center in the Upper Albany neighborhood in Hartford and an energy and green-design study for a major residential community in Farmington, Conn.

A Cross-University Collaboration

Students will have a chance to make a difference in Kenya

In a project spearheaded by Provost Lynn Pasquerella and Associate Professor David Pines of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, the University of Hartford has embarked on a new, multischool endeavor to help improve the quality of life in western Kenya, near Lake Victoria.

The Africa Center for Engineering Social Solutions, or ACCESS, was founded by Clarice Odhiambo as a way to help the people of her homeland. This nongovernmental organization works to give Africans the resources they need to help themselves. The University will be joining Brown University, Dartmouth College, the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island School of Design, Hampshire College, and others on the project.

“In my field, engineering, college students work on senior projects to earn their degrees,” says Odhiambo, a former chemical engineering who designed products for Unilever and Coca-Cola for Africa. “At the end of the year, these projects are discarded. Why not instead bring students to Africa to create and implement projects that would help solve Africa’s problems?”

Pines—who has been working with engineering students to bring a reliable source of drinking water to villagers in Abheypur, India—will bring his engineering expertise to Kenya during a two-week visit in summer 2009. ACCESS is recruiting students, regardless of their majors, to address issues from literacy to health to economics and others.

In July 2008 the first group of students and faculty research teams went to Kenya on a fact-finding trip. Pasquerella was accompanied by Teagan Rosendahl, now a first-year student at the University.

“THe Kenya project offers an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate the University’s commitment to serving as a private university with a public purpose,” says Pasquerella. “By engaging in interinstitutional, international service learning using teams of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, we are achieving multiple educational objectives.”
The University welcomed alumni and parents to campus on a beautiful autumn weekend in October for reunions, performances, shopping, outstanding alumni awards, and the very popular Casino Night.
Fall Weekend Photos
1. Christopher Coutu M’03 (center) received the Humanitarian Service Award for his work with World War II veterans. He is flanked by Wayne Webster ’96 (left) and President Harrison.
2. (L–r) Wayne Webster ’96; Stephen Dalyai ’61, Anchor Award recipient; and Dean Louis Manzione, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture.
3. 2008 Anchor Award honorees—front row, l–r: Shane Shanahan M’98 (Hartt); Jason Damianos ’90 (Barney); Aaron Gold ’03, M’08 (CETA); Christopher Coutu M’03 (Barney), winner of the Humanitarian Service Award; Simon Liu ’81 (HAS); and Josephine Di Pietro Smith ’89 (ENHP). Back row, l–r: Stephen Dalyai ’61 (CETA), Charles Seeman ’76 (Barney), Jim Purnell A’69 (Hillyer), Matthew Plenk ’04 (Hartt), President Walter Harrison, Kent McCarthy ’96 (A&S), Leonard Boyle ’80 (A&S), and Paul Sittard ’85, president of the Alumni Association.
4. There were temporary tattoos, cotton candy, snow cones, and popcorn.
5. Umbrella drinks and leis set the scene at Casino Night.
6. Alumni musicians serenaded guests.
7. The lines were long at the barbecue lunch on Saturday.
8. The Alumni Artisans Marketplace offered handmade wares for sale.
9, 10, & 13. Alumni and parents crowded around the gaming tables at Casino Night.
A Rebirth for Hartt, for the University, for the City
MORT AND IRMA HANDEL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER OPENS

There was no drum roll to announce the opening of the much-anticipated Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, but there were plenty of other sounds at the dedication ceremony. Hartt musical theatre students sang a tribute to the new center. Hartt dance students tapped. Hartt musicians played, and dignitaries spoke about the stunning new arts facility at the corner of Albany Avenue and Westbourne Parkway in Hartford.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell; Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez; and Dollie McLean (Hon. ’07), founder of The Artists Collective and widow of world-renowned jazz musician and Hartt faculty member Jackie McLean (Hon. ’07), joined President Walter Harrison, Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison, University life regent Mort Handel (Hon. ’02) and Irma Handel, and Thomas J. Groark Jr., chair of the University’s board of regents, on stage for the celebration. Also present was Trish Robinson, a senior vice president at MassMutual Financial Group, which made a major gift to the project.

“Today is one of the most meaningful days in the entire history of the University of Hartford,” said Harrison. “The dedication of the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center marks a rejuvenation and rebirth for The Hartt School and the University, as well as an important moment in the rebirth of the city of Hartford.”

Approximately 450 guests attended the ceremony, then toured the 55,000-square-foot facility for dance and theatre instruction and performance of both Hartt’s collegiate and Community Division students.
Raising the Barre in Handel Center

BY STEVIE ZIMMERMAN

Twelve-year-old, Cuban-born Miguel Campaneria was at a piano lesson when members of the National Ballet of Cuba came to examine his feet. He displayed such a beautiful arch that he was encouraged to audition for the National Ballet of Cuba.

Campaneria, the recently appointed chair of the dance department of The Hartt School Community Division, is passionate about his desire to teach ballet to young dancers. Whether they have professional ambitions or not, all the students in his classes receive the kind of tough love he credits with motivating his own career.

“Push them hard,” Campaneria says. But it is clear, watching him at work with a group of 12- and 13-year-old dancers, that they enjoy being pushed and are inspired by him. He has taken his first teacher, Alicia Alonso, as his model—a teacher who helped him develop, in just two years, to the level of a soloist touring internationally with the National Ballet of Cuba. He was also inspired by the dancing of Rudolph Nureyev, whose masculine, muscular style appealed to him. “Not just the boy behind the ballerina,” as Campaneria puts it.

A picture of Campaneria with Nureyev is one of the few things the newcomer has had a chance to unpack at the new Handel Performing Arts Center. He is delighted with many aspects of the new facilities; the studios in particular earn his special praise for their space and lighting. Campaneria hopes that, as faculty members, students, parents, and their young families get used to the new surroundings, there will be opportunities for collaboration with the music and drama programs. His students performed excerpts from The Nutcracker in an evening of dance at the Handel Center in December.

Campaneria, who was appointed to the National Council on the Arts by President George W. Bush in 2007, says his favorite part of the job is seeing the dancers in his classes develop and improve. He has a very simple goal for the dance program of the Hartt Community Division: to make it “the best in the country—as good as the music school, even perhaps better.”
With Your SUPPORT

An Investment in Success

Stacy McCann ’96, ’00, a former Hartford Scholar and current principal of Dwight Elementary School in Hartford, was the master of ceremonies for the 2008 Hartford Scholars Dinner, which raised approximately $100,000 for the scholarship program.

The Hartford Scholars program provides half-tuition scholarships to qualified Hartford high school graduates who attend the University. President Walter Harrison thanked the guests for their generous support of the program, which has helped hundreds of young people earn University of Hartford degrees since its creation in 1990.

Top photo: Four current students received academic awards at the dinner: (l–r) Irmarie Rios ’10, Marva Williams ’10, Aja Wilson ’10, and Philip Jackson ’09. Bottom photo: Three University of Hartford graduates shared their success stories, thanks to the Hartford Scholars program: (l–r) Wayne Webster ’96, a vice president at Liberty Bank; Tara Washington ’95, M’08, director of finance for The First Cathedral; McCann; and Arturo Arroyo ’03, M’08, a junior designer for JCJ Architecture.

Success!

(From left) Alissa Rauch ’09 and Elsa Chin ’09, both student regents; President Walter Harrison; and Campaign of Commitment co-chairs Linda Fisher Silpe M’65, regent, and Richard Cardin ’62, board of regents vice chair, lead a celebratory toast. The University marked the successful completion of its 10-year, $175 million Campaign of Commitment with a gala dinner in October, attended by approximately 200 invited guests. The campaign, which closed on June 30, 2008, raised $175,852,600, surpassing its fundraising goal. The campus has been transformed by the campaign over the course of the past decade by a series of construction projects as well as increased endowment monies that support teaching, research, and financial aid, and allow the University to attract and retain impressive students, faculty, and staff.

$1.5 Million Gift for New Shaw Center

Thanks to a $1.5 million gift from lead donors John (Jay) ’74 and Debi Shaw, Hillyer College will be breaking ground in the spring for the new Shaw Center. The two-story, 7,500-square-foot addition to Hillyer Hall will provide 23 faculty offices, a conference room, a reception area, and a lounge.

Shaw, who is chair of the Hillyer College board of visitors and a University regent, is managing director of Resource Holdings, Ltd., a New York–based company that he co-founded.

“The generosity and leadership of the Shaw family make possible our dreams of a home for Hillyer College that is in keeping with our goals of reaching the untapped potential in all of our students,” said Hillyer Dean David Goldenberg at the unveiling of a sign announcing the new center on Oct. 19.

When Shaw attended Hillyer in the 1970s, there were 50 students and 12 faculty members. Today there are 700 students and 45 faculty, numbers that have lead to the crowded conditions soon to be alleviated by the Shaw Center. Besides the new addition, the area currently being used for faculty offices will be converted into two high-tech SMART classrooms, and a third classroom will be upgraded to an honors classroom.
Charitable Giving during Tough Economic Times

BY PETER H. CONGLETON

As we navigate our way through these difficult economic times, the University of Hartford remains confident in the generosity and resilience of its many supporters. Through all of the major economic downturns of the past century, charitable giving by the American people on the whole has persisted. In fact, a number of educational institutions actually raised more funds during the 1930s than they did during the boom years of the Roaring Twenties. Much of that charitable giving came from bequests and through other, more sophisticated planning tools.

Individuals who might be concerned about supporting their family members, outliving their money, or not having enough left over to pay for health care may be surprised to learn that some of their concerns can be alleviated by carefully planned and constructed charitable gifts to the University of Hartford.

Charitable gift annuities can provide financial support for retirees and elderly dependents by generating predictable sources of income and a current income-tax deduction, often by using low-yielding, appreciated assets such as stocks or other readily marketable securities.

Another option, charitable remainder trusts, can be designed to liquidate less readily marketable assets such as real property (a second home, for instance) or tangible personal property (e.g., artwork, patents, collections); diversify the investment of the principal; avoid capital gains taxes; and generate an income stream from an asset that had not previously produced any income. This extra income can come in handy for seniors faced with increasing medical costs.

Although many Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) have been hit hard by the recent volatility in the stock market, retirees may still realize an advantage from the reinstated Charitable IRA Rollover provision that was extended by the “Bailout” legislation. For nonitemizers, qualified charitable distributions from IRAs eliminate the need for donors to claim an income-tax charitable deduction. Consequently, nonitemizers can enjoy the equivalent of a charitable deduction. In fact, some donors who were itemizing for the sole purpose of claiming deductions for their charitable gifts may no longer need to do so if they fund their gifts from their IRAs.

And best of all, the net result of these widely used, straightforward, and nongimmicky gift-planning tools is the charitable benefit that will be received by the University of Hartford in the future, perhaps just in time to help us weather the next economic downturn.

If you or your financial advisor would like to take advantage of the planning opportunities discussed above, please contact Peter H. Congleton, director of planned giving, at 860.768.2415. Information is also available on our website at www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving.

It’s All in a Name

FORRESTERS’ GIFT HONORS UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS, ALUMNI, AND STUDENTS

Students, alumni, and special guests gathered at Al-Marzook Field for the rededication of the refurbished soccer/lacrosse field and the naming of Alumni Stadium.

University regent Bob Forrester ’66 and his wife, Linda, who together made a major gift to the Home Field Advantage portion of the Campaign of Commitment, elected to name the stands at the field Alumni Stadium.

“We chose the name Alumni Stadium in honor of the founders of the University, its alumni, and the current students, who will soon become alumni. It’s up to the alumni to support this University, now and even more so in the future,” said Forrester.

Mohammed Hamad Al-Ghanim, nephew of Faisal Al-Marzook ’67, represented the family at the ceremony. He gave a very moving speech about what the University of Hartford has meant to Faisal Al-Marzook and his family over the years.

“When my uncle came here to the University, he was probably one of the first students from the Middle East to come here. He believes that he was given opportunities here that he could never have received anywhere else. For 40 years the University of Hartford has been part of our family,” Al-Ghanim said.

Coaches and members of the men’s lacrosse, and men’s and women’s soccer teams presented gifts of autographed soccer balls, a Hartford Hawks scarf, flowers, and a lacrosse stick to the Forresters and Al-Ghanim in appreciation of their support of athletics at the University. Kacy Busque ’09, a member of the women’s soccer team, read a statement expressing her appreciation for what the athletics program and the University have meant to her.

At the end of the ceremony, President Walter Harrison pronounced the stadium dedicated but added that it wouldn’t be truly dedicated without a victory for men’s soccer in that evening’s game. The Hawks went on to beat Canisius 3-0 before a record crowd.

(Winter 2009 21)
Watermark Press Etches a Greener Imprint

Don’t let its traditional name fool you. Watermark Press is Martha Jeffrey Galuszka’s newly founded, green inroad into the centuries-old art of printmaking.

Driven as much by her own medical history of asthma as by her environmental conscience, the 2004 Hartford Art School alumna opened Watermark in the spring of 2007 in Hartford, Conn. Galuszka gives artists—professionals and novices alike—the chance to explore the world of printmaking and the creative book arts in a bright, inviting studio offering nontoxic, solvent-free, water-based inks and cleaning supplies.

“The movement away from the use of hazardous chemicals is important to many artists,” Galuszka says. “They have historically been at the forefront in encouraging the use of safe materials, representing concern for both the individual and the planet.” She emphasizes that traditional solvents used to clean iron printing presses after every print run contribute greatly to the environmental problem. At Watermark, “Rubbing alcohol is the strongest chemical in there,” she says.

In a difficult economy, Galuszka is also concerned about the prohibitive cost of printmaking materials. A single 12-by-18-inch sheet of copper plating, for example, can cost $50. The inveterate printmaker, painter, and bookmaker is constantly researching substitutes for traditional printing materials and techniques. Along with rainbow jars of water-soluble pigments, her studio shelves and flat drawers are stocked with sheets of cellophane, Mylar, and old dental tools, which have effectively replaced costlier materials.

Artists of all abilities are welcome to rent Watermark studio time to try out the new inks and materials. For the first time this winter, Galuszka is also working with an after-school, art-focused class of West Hartford fifth-graders. The students are designing and etching their plates in their own classroom, then inking and printing them in the Watermark studio on one of two professional presses.

As Watermark grows, Galuszka plans to expand her workshop offerings. For now, she says, “I’m trying to leave no carbon footprint.”

‘Bracelets with a Conscience’

“Recycling made beautiful,” declares the advertising tag line for Bracelets with a Conscience, the environmental brainchild of Ann Skydell Harmon ’78, Hartford Art School graduate and owner of Ann-Made, LLC, based in Point Pleasant, N.J. Harmon’s company creates wearable art in the form of bracelets for women and men made from recycled soda-can tabs, with bead and stone embellishments.

What started out as a lesson plan for Harmon’s alternative art class for ADHD and emotionally disturbed children has mushroomed into the sale of 3,500 bracelets in little more than a year. One gallery alone sold 250 of the beauties.

Harmon is proud that “every part of the business is looked at to be as socially and environmentally responsible as possible.” We use only “top-of-the-line tabs,” she says. The company buys hundreds of thousands of postconsumer tabs from a local nonprofit organization. The tabs must be hand-combed for the undamaged, flawless pieces that are then polished to a sterling finish. It takes 22 tabs to make a single bracelet. That translates into 77,000 tabs incorporated into this year’s sales. Harmon’s supportive husband, Bob, rolls up his own sleeves to sort and polish tabs alongside the company’s four other employees. Both he and Ann continue to have day jobs that demand their attention as well.

Depending on the retail location, Bracelets with a Conscience sell for $20 to $24 each. Current outlets include upwards of 20 stores, boutiques, and galleries around the country, including stores like Whole Foods Market. The copyrighted and trademarked bracelets are also in demand by college friends of the Harmon’s daughters, Lindsay and Jessica.

As impressive as sales have been, Harmon is even prouder of the fact that Ann-Made donates a portion of sales to an environmental project. This year, the business was able to donate $1,000 to the Alliance for Climate Protection and The Climate Project, both organizations founded by former vice president, author, Nobel laureate, and Oscar winner Al Gore.

Ann Skydell Harmon ’78

Tree-Hugger Alumni Respond

BY BEVERLY KENNEDY
A broad smile crossed David McKelvin’s face as Associate Professor Ivana Milanovic unlocked a door in United Technologies Hall and flipped a light switch. The dominant feature in the fluids laboratory is a subsonic wind tunnel, a 20-foot-long metal tube with a Plexiglas window. For McKelvin, who last experimented with the tunnel in 2003, it was like bumping into an old pal.

A captain in the Army Corps of Engineers, currently stationed in Buffalo, N.Y., McKelvin came back to the University on a warm afternoon last May for a trip down memory lane. It was in the fluids lab that he and Milanovic first met. She was a new mechanical engineering professor with a PhD from Polytechnic University, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and he was a second-year mechanical engineering student on an ROTC scholarship.

Milanovic and McKelvin quickly discovered they had something very special in common—an interest in the aerodynamics of the delta wing, a triangle-shaped airplane wing used in many military aircraft. At Polytechnic, Milanovic had worked extensively with one of the nation’s few collegiate supersonic wind tunnels. She was in the process of adapting her research for Hartford’s subsonic wind tunnel when McKelvin showed up.

“He would stay after class and ask a lot of questions,” she recalls. “He was always looking for opportunities to get into the labs, always willing to tackle additional projects.”

That extra work paid off. By the time he graduated in 2003, McKelvin had completed not only a significant study of delta wings but also a senior design project on hovercraft. “David was a special student,” says Milanovic.

After graduation, McKelvin began his military service with half a year of engineering officer training before being sent to Schweinfurt, Germany, where the Army’s 9th Engineer Battalion is stationed. From that base he was twice deployed—for 10 months in 2004–05 and again for 13 months in 2006–07—to Iraq.

While there, McKelvin trained Iraqi soldiers and led a 25-member assault-and-obstacle platoon. Their job was to build—in brutal climatic conditions and often under fire—everything from massive landforms to temporary shelters to concrete bunkers and beyond. He also worked with a very remarkable robot, the M1 Panther, a hulking, 43-ton, remote-controlled vehicle designed to help clear minefields.

It was important work, largely about protecting military personnel and equipment from enemy fire. “I was able to bring a technical perspective to the work we did, and I also learned a lot from the soldiers who served under me,” he says. “My education really paid off, helping me to solve problems and quickly determine the safest and most efficient ways to complete projects.” His platoon became accustomed to taking enemy fire, but, he says matter-of-factly, “I brought all of my guys back alive.”

While McKelvin was serving abroad, the University was undergoing dramatic changes. Ward College of Technology merged with the College of Engineering in 2005 to become the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA). By the time McKelvin returned to catch up with Milanovic, she was chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and CETA had expanded both its course offerings and the scope of technology available to students, while significantly increasing student enrollment in the bargain.

“When I was here,” says McKelvin, “we had very limited space. Now there are more labs, many more computers. It’s very exciting.”

But some things have not changed. Ivana Milanovic is still fascinated by the special properties of delta wings. And a whole new generation of students has built upon the research David McKelvin conducted in the wind tunnel just six years—and another lifetime—ago.
Alumni Connections

BY KANDYCE AUST
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Alumnae Council for Women
by Kerry L. Beckford A’85 (HCW), ’88, M’98

Imagine a résumé that includes positions at Bergdorf Goodman, Barneys New York, Gucci, Bloomingdale’s, and Coach. This dream career for today’s fashionistas was the real-life career of fashion consultant Kate Buggeln. Buggeln gave a talk on campus titled “The Purpose of Leadership” on October 9. Her lecture was sponsored by the University’s Alumnae Council for Women (ACW).

“I had the sexiest dream job in the fashion industry,” said Buggeln. But after the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001, she wanted to do something to make her feel more purposeful.

Buggeln’s transformation began with the Business Council for Peace, also known as Bpeace. This nonprofit organization helps women who live in postconflict areas of the world find entrepreneurial ways to sustain their families and communities. More than 300 professionals volunteer their time and talents for Bpeace. Buggeln’s work as a member of the Bpeace board of directors is what she calls her “true passion.”

“Entrepreneurship,” said Buggeln, “is the way to restabilize conflict-torn areas and restore hope.” Bpeace identifies those entrepreneurs and business ideas that have the most chance of success in two countries that have witnessed extraordinary upheaval: Afghanistan and Rwanda.

Bpeace volunteers, including Buggeln, have made multiple trips to Afghanistan and Rwanda. In fact, Buggeln had just returned from Rwanda prior to her visit to the University, and she was making plans to return there.

As a volunteer for Bpeace, Buggeln says one of the greatest lessons she has learned about the power of resilience, even in a place like Rwanda, where the 1994 genocide killed a million men, women, and children. She urged the audience to think of service as a new kind of leadership. To learn more about Bpeace, visit their website at www.bpeace.com.

Buggeln’s speech was one of the major events of the first year of the Alumnae Council for Women. Leonor Snow ’87, M’89, attended the inaugural ACW event on May 1 (a reception at the home of Joan Hurwit A’52) and says she was “impressed with all the women I met that night. Since then, other ACW events have energized me and helped me make new connections.” Snow adds, “Kate Buggeln’s and Bpeace’s work empowering women in Rwanda and Afghanistan—countries ravaged by war—has inspired me to help other women and girls.”

To register for any of the above events, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 888.UH.ALUMS or alumni@hartford.edu, or register online at www.hartford.edu/alumni.
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.

1950
JANET N. WARD (A. BARNEY) and FREDERICK F. WARD ’52, M’63, of Wethersfield, Conn., have celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

1952
FREDERICK F. WARD (BARNEY, M’63 BARNEY). See JANET N. WARD A’50.

1959
See “FLY HIGH, HAWKS” (p. 24) to be honored as a Golden Hawk at the 2009 Commencement festivities.

ESTELLE LASCHEVER (M, ENHP, M’78 ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., exhibited a group of monotypes and oil paintings at the Greater Hartford Arts Council exhibition space in Hartford.

1963
DONALD ECCLESTON (HAS) of Montville, Conn., won first prize for his watercolor Home Grown Habitat in the Artistic Wanderings exhibition held at the Norwich Arts Council Co-op Gallery.

1964
LEONARD S. GROSSMAN (ENHP) of Vernon, Conn., presented his fourth book, Beating the Odds: A Gambler’s Story, at the Connecticut Counsel of Problem Gamblers Conference in Haddam, Conn. The novel is a fictional characterization of real events in the life of a compulsive gambler.

1965
ROBERT A. PATTERSON (M, ENHP) of Franconia, N.H., has accepted the position of interim superintendent at School Administrative Unit 35 in Littleton, N.H.

1968
WALTER A. BAILEY (HAS) of Detroit, Mich., received the Fine Arts and History Award 2009 from the Charles Wright Museum of African American History. The award was based on Bailey’s lifetime masterwork, The Anthology of African and African American History Mural, and its revised educational version, The Whole Story.

1972
DENNIS P. CHARYSYN (BARNEY) of Tucson, Ariz., was the featured solo clarinetist in performances of “Schererazade” and “Capriccio Espagnol,” compositions by Rimsky Korsakov. The selections were performed by Tucson’s Foothills Philharmonic. As a member of the International Clarinet Association, Charysyn attended the 2007 Clarfest, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, and performed with the Festival Clarinet Choir. He volunteers his time to an oncology center, provides group clarinet lessons gratis to financially disadvantaged children, and brings the sound of clarinet music to seniors at skilled-care and assisted-living facilities.

RONALD C. LUCHSINGER (M, HARTT). See PETER FURLONG M’95.

1973
DANIEL B. LIEBERMAN (HARTT) of Coconut Creek, Fla., is vice president of fine arts at the North Broward Preparatory Schools in Coconut Creek, Fla.

1974
LEONARD R. ARNOW (A&S) of New Haven, Conn., is pleased to announce that his son, Jacob, will continue the family legacy by attending the University of Hartford as an incoming freshman this year. Jacob will be majoring in art at the Hartford Art School.

RONALD F. BARISANO (A&S) of Millville, N.J., was named a certified fundraising executive by CFRE International. He is currently development director for the Boy Scouts of America, Southern New Jersey Council, and joins more than 5,300 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

ARTHUR J. KELLY (BARNEY, M’75 BARNEY) of West Haven, Conn., spoke to school administration and safety officials in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District regarding the Safe School Initiative, a comprehensive study of school shootings and other school-based attacks in the United States from 1974 to 2000. Kelly is currently a consultant for the National Threat Assessment Center of the United States Secret Service.

DOUGLAS E. WORTHEN (HARTT, D’07 HARTT) of Durham, N.H., is a faculty member in the School of Music at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

1975
MINDY L. OSTROW (A&S) of Oswego, N.Y., celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the opening of her bookstore, the river’s end, in Oswego.

JANE E. RAINWATER (HAS) of Andover, Conn., was selected as a radius artist at the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art. Each year, the museum chooses six to eight emerging artists from Connecticut and Southeastern New York.

1977
PATRICIA C. BOUFFARD (A&S) of Waterbury, Conn., was appointed chair of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing.

1980
MARC N. ANDRUKIEWICZ (CEA) of Durham, Conn., was promoted to the position of vice president of operation for Yankee Gas. He is responsible for Yankee Gas operations and maintenance.

GWENDOLYN I. CAHILL (A&S) of Yonkers, N.Y., wrote the song “Push Cart King” for the recently released CD, Color Me Country, by Cody Lyons. She is also the author of Sequins in the Sky, a book of poetry.

Linda Ritz Webber M’67 (ENHP), Balloon Series II (acrylic, 18” x 24”), 2006. The Hartford Courant chose this painting for the cover of its Aug. 17 “iTowns” weekly section. The work was also a prizewinner at the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts Show. Webber, art curator for the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington and an interior designer, was captivated by the aerial perspective from a hot-air balloon ride over the Farmington River. A resident of Bloomfield, Conn., she has taught art from elementary through college levels in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

A Round of Applause, Please

Wearing his new presidential medallion, Edward D. Klosniski M’78 (A&S) of Torrington, Conn., steps up to the podium to address the audience for the first time at his inauguration as the new president of Charter Oak State College, on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn. Charter Oak, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, is a nontraditional, online center that allows adults to build on past college or work experience to complete their bachelor’s degrees.

WINTER 2009 25
NANCY G. KAPCHAN (BARNEY) of Cheshire, Conn., is director of programming and membership at Temple Shalom in Greenwich, Conn.

1981

JAMES J. DUNLAP (CETA) of Rochester, N.Y., was named statewide Engineer of the Year by the New York State Association of Transportation Engineers.

JONATHAN C. GOLDFIELD (A&S) of Haverhill, Mass., is school business manager for Marblehead Public Schools in Marblehead, Mass.

1982

ROBERT M. SORENSEN (A&S) of Lakewood, Colo., has published Age of 23, a book of poetry. He is in the process of completing a full-length fantasy novel titled *Quantex Genesis*, the first book of his *Quantex Trilogy*.

1983

MICHAEL J. TORCHIA (HARTT) of Langhorne, Pa., was named one of the 2008 Leaders in Law by the Philadelphia Business Journal. Torchia, a managing member of the firm Semonoff Ormsby Greenberg & Torchia, LLC, was recognized as a leader in employment law and commercial litigation.

1984

CORNELIUS G. WHITE (HARTT) of Tampa, Fla., was named talent coordinator for MJ’s Martini, Jazz & Tapas Lounge in St. Petersburg, Fla. White is the recipient of a grant from the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, based in Tampa, for recording his first jazz CD.

1985

DENNIS W. CAHILL (M, BARNEY) of Durham, N.H., is director of sales and service with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont.

1986

MARK R. DION (HAS, Hon. ’02) of Beach Lake, Pa., was the recipient of the 2008 Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Lucelia Artist Award. Dion was selected by an independent jury for his prolific creativity and impressively varied body of work. (See also Observer, Spring 2008, p. 6.)

DOMONICK L. SACK (M, HARTT) of Stamford, Conn., is the executive vice president and sound designer at Sound Associates in New York City. He was the systems engineer for this year’s Metropolitan Opera concert in Brooklyn, N.Y., and has set up systems for a number of outdoor events in the metropolitan New York area.

1987

ROBERT P. BEECKMAN (BARNEY) of Woodstock, Conn., was promoted to assistant vice president and commercial loan officer at Putnam Bank in Putnam, Conn.

KRISTINE K. JOHNSON (BARNEY) of Seekonk, Mass., is a new manager at A/Z Corporation in Franklin, Mass.

1988

KERRY L. BECKFORD (ABS HCW, A&S, M’98 A&S) of Bloomfield, Conn., was awarded the University of Hartford’s Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award for part-time faculty. (Read Beckford’s column on the latest activities of the Alumnae Council for Women, p. 24.)

JOSEPH F. MCCARTHY (HARTT) of Annapolis, Md., won the 2008 Latin Grammy Award for Latin Jazz Album of the Year with his band, Afro Bop Alliance. The recording was a collaboration with the Caribbean Jazz Project, released on Heads-Up International. Visit www.afrobop.com and www.joomcrum.com for more on McCarthy. (See article, p. 27)

ROHANA NGAH (BARNEY) of Johore, Malaysia, presented a paper at the New York Institute of Technology.

1989

JAIME B. GARFIELD (A, HILLYER; ’91 A&S) of Wellington, Fla., was chosen to attend the University of Florida’s Department of Education program for the infant/toddler development specialist degree. She is employed by the State of Florida in the area of early intervention, ages birth to 3 years.

JONATHAN J. GOUTHIER (HAS) of New York, N.Y., received the GD USA American Graphic Design Award 2008 for his Call for Entries design for the Hartford Art School Alumni Small Works Exhibition.

JEFFREY P. LITCH (M, BARNEY) of Suresnes, France, is the director of France Telecom’s Orange Business Services in Paris. He has worked on wholesale activities as part of Telecom Kenya’s Karibu Kenya program. Litch may be contacted at jeffrey.litch@orange-ftgroup.com.

GREGG THALLER (M, HARTT) of McPherson, Kan., is associate professor of music and orchestra director at Goshen College in Goshen, Ind.

1990

JODI S. AKER (HAS) of Clayton, N.J., received the North Carolina Art Education Association’s Special-Needs Art Teacher of the Year Award for her development of an art therapy program in an area high school and her continued work with special-needs students in the school environment.

THOMAS E. COSTA JR. (A, HILLYER; ’92 A&S) of Mansfield, Mass., is the campus chaplain at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, Mass.

ELIZABETH M. GREENE (M, HARTT) of Colchester, Vt., was awarded the 2008–09 VMEA Music Educator of the Year Award.

SAMEER N. SHAH (M, BARNEY) of Mumbai, India, recently visited his alma mater with his wife and son. He was very happy to return to campus and expressed a great interest in helping to recruit students for the University. Shah is the owner of an auto parts company in India with more than 200 employees.

Fit for Highest Honors

Dan Solomon ’95 (right) was honored with the International Federation of Bodybuilders’ Lifetime Achievement Medal following the 2008 Mr. Olympia contest held in Las Vegas, Nev. Lead commentator for many of the fitness industry’s highest-profile events, Solomon faces the camera here with actor and bodybuilder Sylvester Stallone following the 2007 competition. Solomon and his wife, Grace Ferraro Solomon ’96, live with their 2-year-old son in Palm Beach, Fla.
1991

REID N. CHIEFFO (A&S) of North Haven, Conn., was inducted into North Haven High School’s Sports Hall of Fame for his athleticism on the soccer field.

YVONNE R. DAVIS (A&S) of Windsor, Conn., was appointed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell to serve on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Davis is president and chief executive officer of Davis Communications.

MICHAEL C. ELDREDGE (M, BARNEY) of Cheshire, Conn., is the new vice president, investment management, with MassMutual Retirement Services.

PAULA B. MAXWELL (HAS) of Pembroke, Mass., was named housemaster at Silver Lake Regional High School in Kingston, Mass.

1992

DANIEL JOHNSON (M, BARNEY) of Manchester, Conn., was promoted to associate vice president for finance/controller at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

CHRISTOPHER J. LEGATES (A&S) of Springfield, Mass., was named the Great Northeast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year for the third time in his 12 seasons at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn.

1993

REBECCA L. LYNCH (A&S) of Thorndike, Mass., is vice president/virtual branch manager at Florence Savings Bank in Florence, Mass.

DANIEL G. PIKARSKI (A, HILLYER; ’94 A&S) of Chicago, Ill., spearheaded the local branch of Project Salute, a national campaign by the University of Detroit’s Mercy School of Law to assist veterans in gaining federal veterans’ benefits. The Project Salute-Chicago leg of the 65-city program aided more than 100 veterans over a three-day period to sign up for and receive benefits based on their time in the armed services.

SHALIMAR A. POULIN (HAS) of Augusta, Maine, was named the 2008 Outstanding Teacher, Grades 6–12, for Maine School Administrative District 11 in Gardiner, Maine.

CRAIG S. SHAPIRO (A&S) of Monroe, N.Y., is the owner of Middletown Dental Group in Middletown, N.Y. He took over the practice from his father in 2000 and now treats the third generation of some of their patients’ families.

1994

BRIAN D. BETTS (CETA) of Watertown, Conn., is a real estate agent with Century 21 Home Services, Scalzo Group, in New Milford, Conn.

1995

PETER FURLONG (M, HARTT) of Palazzolo sull’Oglio, Italy, sang the tenor role of BF Pinkerton in Commonwealth Opera’s production of Madama Butterfly in Northampton, Mass. The show was directed by RONALD C. LUCHSINGER M’72.

1996

MARK D. BENIGNI (M, ENHP; D’01 ENHP) of Meriden, Conn., is the principal of Cromwell High School in Cromwell, Conn. He was previously mayor of Meriden, Conn., for six years.

1997

JAMES A. DECESARE (HAS) of Collinsville, Conn., is a fine-arts teacher at The Master’s School in West Simsbury, Conn.

MICHELE L. JAQUIS (HAS) of Los Angeles, Calif., is an assistant professor and coordinator for the artists, community, and teaching program at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles.

ROBERT MONTEMURRO (M, ENHP) of Meriden, Conn., is the principal of Washington Middle School in Meriden, Conn.

1998

AZRI ABDULLA (BARNEY) of Johor Bahru, Malaysia, is an associate with Khazanah Nasional Berhad, the Malaysian government investment firm. Abdulla manages Khazanah’s financing needs and obligations, divestment strategies, and expansionary fiscal requirements.

TODD A. ELFAND (A, HILLYER; ’99 A&S) of Branchburg, N.J., was promoted by Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc., to the position of associate director of the company’s New Jersey markets group.

Marilyn E. Rossetti (A, HWC) of Hartford, Conn., was recognized in Hartford Magazine as one of Greater Hartford’s 50 Most Influential People.

Time Is on His Side

Joe McCarthy ’88 keeps the beat for his Grammy-winning group

When he gets in the groove, Joe McCarthy becomes more than just a drummer. Fellow musicians call him a human octopus, the kind of drummer who can sound like an entire percussion section. McCarthy, a 1988 graduate of The Hartt School, is proving just as skilled at juggling the divergent components of his music career as he is at playing the drums, timpani, bells, and tambourines that make up his signature drum set.

During the day, the 43-year-old, Meriden, Conn., native is the principal percussionist with the U.S. Naval Academy Band and an adjunct professor of drum and Afro-Cuban percussion at Georgetown University. In his spare time, when he is not touring the world with the U.S. military musicians, so it doesn’t tour much outside of the D.C. area, but its three albums have garnered glowing reviews.

McCarthy attributes much of his success to what he learned at Hartt. In the classroom, McCarthy studied classical music theory, a skill that made him a great music reader and a versatile musician. He also studied with orchestral timpanist and Big Band drummer Alexander Lepak, who founded Hartt’s percussion department in the late 1940s. Although Lepak retired in 1991, McCarthy stays in close contact.

“I would consider him a musical father. That’s the kind of influence he had on me,” McCarthy said. “He’s recorded with me a couple of times, even after I’d kind of made it, and he was still teaching me new things.”
Thank you to the following companies and individuals who so generously supported Homecoming Weekend 2008:

American Laser Centers
Apollo’s Pizza
Athletics
Bella Flora of Rocky Hill, LLC
Big Sky Fitness
Big Y Supermarket
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Pat DiCosmo
DotCom Wines
Dry Cleaning by McKleans
David Dyson ’81
1877 Club
Follett Bookstore
Georgina’s Restaurant
Christine Gillen
Golden Opportunities Jewelers
Green Tea Chinese Restaurant
J. Timothy’s Taverne
Jane & Michelle’s Hair Gallery
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Max-a-Mia
Moscarillo’s Garden Shoppe
Naomi’s Studio & Salon
Nationwide Insurance
Ninety-Nine Restaurant
Noella Spa & Nails
Janice Olsen
Outback Steakhouse
Shearz: A Salon for Kids
The Six O’Clock Solution
TD Banknorth
Two Pour Guys
The Well Restaurant

1999

PETER C. DUNBAR (HAS) of South Windsor, Conn., is the new creative director at Mediatavern, a full-service digital agency based in Norwalk, Conn.

SARAH M. LAFLEUR (HARTT) of Evanston, Ill., teaches at DePaul University in the Department of Community Music and gives private piano lessons.

2000


ALEX N. BUYNSKI (BARNEY) of Bristol, Conn., has earned the Chartered Casualty Underwriter designation. He holds the position of industry manager, product development for Travelers Insurance Company.

AMANDA CROCKETT (BARNEY) of Boston, Mass., is happy to announce her engagement to Colin Ryan. A summer 2008 wedding is planned.

VICTORIA SCHIRDUAN (D, ENHP) of Gales Ferry, Conn., is publishing Mindful Education for ADHD Students: Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction Using Multiple Intelligences with Teachers College Press, Columbia University. The book is based on her doctoral dissertation at the University of Hartford.
2001
ALLISON MACCA (ENHP, ’01 A&S) of Westerly, R.I., was named Coach of the Year at Wheeler High School in North Stonington, Conn. She is the head coach for the girls’ lacrosse team as well as head coach for the girls’ basketball team at Ledyard High School in Ledyard, Conn.

AGATA K. MACH (A&S) of Newington, Conn., is pleased to announce her engagement to Avery Kahn. The ceremony is planned for 2010.

CAROLYN P. SANDSONE (HAS) and WALTER M. SANDSONE (HAS) of Branchville, N.J., celebrated five years of marriage as well as the first birthday of their son, Noah. The Sansones also celebrated the seven-year anniversary of their business, Gallery Works, in Branchville, N.J. Gallery Works specializes in custom sculpture, murals, and other wall finishes. A full range of their work is on view at www.galleryworksart.com.

BETSY A. UDAL (BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., was named one of Hartford’s 40 Under Forty by the Hartford Business Journal. 40 Under Forty is a list of the top 40 young professionals in the Greater Hartford area. Udal was selected for her work as the 2008 Tournament Chairwoman for the Travelers Championship golf tournament and for being the owner of Udal & Associates, a financial advisory firm in Farmington, Conn.

2002
JENNIFER SCHRIF (A&S) of Watertown, Mass., is pleased to announce her engagement to MICHAEL D. ORLINISKI ’04. The wedding is planned for June 27, 2009, in Islip, N.Y.

ERIC L. STEGMAIER (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., is senior conservation assistant at the Center for British Art at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

2003
CHRISTOPHER COUTO (M, BARNEY) of Taftville, Conn., won the 47th District Assembly House Seat, defeating incumbent Rep. Jack Malone.

ANNE P. DZUZLOWOLOWSKI (D, ENHP) of South Windsor, Conn., was named assistant superintendent for West Haven Public Schools in West Haven, Conn.

KEITH W. MIRANTE (ENHP) of Plainville, Conn., has received his Doctor of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He is also the founder and owner of Coastal Chiropractic & Wellness in Madison, Conn.

DINA M. SILVERMAN (ENHP) of Laurence Harbor, N.J., has been teaching elementary special education in Linden, N.J., for the past four years. She completed her master’s degree in special education with a concentration in developmental disabilities at Kean University in Union, N.J.

2004
JACOB CROSS (A&S) of Washington, D.C., completed work as a field producer on the high-definition documentary film Shipwreck! Captain Kidd, which aired on the National Geographic Channel. The hour-long program follows a team of underwater archaeologists as they explore the recently discovered remains of a ship belonging to the infamous pirate William Kidd.

JAMES A. FORD (HARTT) of West Boylston, Mass., played the stunt double for actor Edward Norton in the film Pride and Glory.

JAMIE L. GRAVES (HAS, M’06 A&S, C’07 A&S) of Fort Ann, N.Y., is the school psychologist at Granville Elementary School in Granville, N.Y.

MICHAEL D. ORLINISKI (A&S). See JENNIFER SCHRIF ’02.

KELLY S. TETRO (HAS) of East Windsor, Conn., announces her engagement to Stephen Boulay. A May 23, 2009, wedding is planned in Simsbury, Conn.

2005
CHERYL A. BARKOW (BARNEY) of Newington, Conn., announces her engagement to Derek McDonald. A Sept. 26, 2009, wedding is planned.

CHRISTOPHER J. DUBAY (A&S) of Middletown, Conn., has published his first book, a social science fiction novel titled Assignment Yggdrasil.

AVIGAL N. GREENBERG (HARTT) of Torrington, Conn., is a music teacher for Regional District 6’s three elementary schools: Goshen Center School, Warren School, and James Morris School.

2006
AMY L. BRAIS (M, BARNEY) of Colchester, Conn., was presented with the Committee Member of the Year award by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants.

DONALD P. CARTER (US) of Portland, Conn., has published Connecticut’s Seaside Ghosts, a book exploring the history, folklore, and supernatural legends of the Connecticut coast.

ANTONIO P. LYTELE (HARTT) of Temple Hills, Md., is the new assistant director of orientation and activities and coordinator of Greek affairs in the Office of Student Affairs at Alfred State University in Alfred, N.Y.

MEREDITH S. ROLL (A&S) of Hamden, Conn., played the role of Kate in the musical comedy Fly Me to the Moon, produced by Cornerstone Productions and staged at Cornerstone Playhouse in Mystic, Conn.

Births

Bonnie Kramer Shaw ’90 & Jonathan Shaw (Tessa Layne, 8.1.08)
Susanne Tellerico Loubier ’96 & Andre Loubier (Kara Marie, 9.19.08)
Rebecca Burnett ’98 & Victor Burnett (Nigel Gordon, 10.7.08)
JoAnn Gaughran & Matthew Gaughran ’99 (Shea Michelle, 10.3.08)
Jaclyn Higgins & Joseph Higgins ’00 (Hayley Marya, 11.10.07)

Left to right:
Laurie Marcello Buynisky ’00, M’03, & Alex Buynisky ’00 (Benjamin Jackson, 12.6.07)
Leteshia Webster and Wayne Webster ’96 (Kayla, 11.15.08)
Jeanette Haug Smith ’01 & Nicholas Smith ’00 (Colin Joseph, 7.9.08)
Anja Gilbert A’04, ’06, & Herman Lowndes A’04, ’06 (Aidan Lowndes, 12.20.07)
Jessica Lorit ’01 & Keith Lorit ’00 (Leah Peyton) Kate Pels & Andrew Hacker ’94 (Marley Kaya, 7.29.08)
Darcy Yates ’88 & Roy Yates (Claire Alexandra, 7.21.08, with Mom and big sister Lauren)
Attention, Alumni Artists!
The Observer welcomes your art. Your work in any medium is a great addition to our Alumni Connections section. We’re proud to publish the art you’ve worked so hard to create.
Let us give your art a wider audience. Send in digital photos of your artwork from a recent or upcoming exhibition. Photos should be high resolution, less than 2MB each, saved in jpg format, and e-mailed as attachments to bkneddy@hartford.edu. Larger files may be mailed on CD to Observer, Office of Communication, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.

Pardon...
Correcting our class note in the fall issue, Elizabeth M. Pelczar ’99 (AS) of Rocky Hill, Conn., a research associate at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, has earned her PhD in chemistry.

John Sembrakis ’83 (HAS), a featured alumni artist in the fall issue, let us know that although he is involved with the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, he has not exhibited his own work there.

In Memoriam

Ethel F. Bacon ’44, M’55, who served as the University archivist for 45 years, died Nov. 6, 2008, at the age of 86. She was ever a vibrant and spirited presence on campus. In 2001 the Alumni Association presented her with its Distinguished Service Award.

Madeleine Mauriac Grattan, a beloved professor of French at Hartford College for Women from 1961 until her retirement in 1985, died in Paris, France, on Nov. 14, 2008, at the age of 97. She was predeceased in 1968 by her husband, Peter Henry Grattan, who taught English at the University of Hartford in the 1960s. Grattan was the niece of the writer and Nobel laureate François Mauriac.

Arthur L. Herrmann M’66, professor emeritus, a popular and highly respected faculty member of the Barney School of Business, died on Nov. 23, 2008. He was 82. A full-time faculty member from 1977 to 1992, and chair of Barney’s Department of Finance, Herrmann was honored in 1990 with the University’s Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Joza Karas, a violinist who taught in The Hartt School Community Division for more than 50 years, died Nov. 28, 2008, at the age of 82. Karas spent decades tracking down, reviving, and performing musical compositions written by Jews in Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp. He was a member of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for more than 50 years and was named a Living Legend of Hartford Music.

John McGavren, director of the University’s library system for 34 years, died on Sept. 10, 2008, in Hanover, N.H., at the age of 82. McGavren started working at the University of Hartford in 1959 at the original Hillyer College library, eventually developing all of the other University libraries and overseeing their merger when the Harry Jack Gray Center was built in 1988. He retired from the University in 1993.

Lawrence E. Scanlon, a professor of English at Hartford College for Women for more than 30 years until his retirement in 1993, died on Nov. 22, 2008. He was 81. He was the author of First Came Commodore Perry, The Story He Left Behind Him, and A Memorial of Ebensee; a fourth book, Mark Twain at Play in the Fields of War, has been accepted for publication. Scanlon’s daughter, Heidi Scanlon, a 1978 alumna of HCW, is a member of the faculty of University High School of Science and Engineering on the University’s campus.
HAS Alumni Committee: (l–r back) James Cavanaugh ’68, M’80; Joseph Gorneault Jr. ’99; Martha Galuszka ’04; Jonathan Gouthier ’89; Aaron Masthay ’97; (l–r front) Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63; Ursula Korzenik ’50; Pat DiCosimo ’69

Kevin Thomas ’89 and his piece, Potters Fingers

HAS Alumni Committee Co-Chairs Aaron Masthay ’97 (left) and Jonathan Gouthier ’89

Kathleen Kelly ’00 and her piece, Woman in Surf

Hartford Art School Library Lamp by Gary Bachman ’79

Spooked #2/10 by Marilyn Coon ’69

Carla Lindsey ’02, ’04, and her piece, I Will Prevail

SIZE IS RELATIVE
ALUMNI ART SHOW OPENING

2. Joanne Marchese ’69, M’83, faces a challenge at the hanging bridges in La Fortuna.

3. Our intrepid alumni band finishes hiking through the rain forest in La Fortuna.


5. A sizable group of alumni arrives to find adventure in Central America’s fascinating Costa Rica.

6. (L–r) Kate Dower ’04, Danielle Freni ’03, and Meara Lebovitz ’03 are thrilled after raising more than $2,200 for the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America. The alumnae participated in a 1.7-mile walk around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., last June in honor of Lisa Fiore ’03, who was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease during her senior year at Hartford.

7. The Capitol building is a fitting backdrop for our group in Washington, D.C. in September.

8. Gladys Ushchak M’07 and Kelly Berkmoes

9. Elaena Roberson A’92 doesn’t mind having to make choices like these at our social networking event held in September at West Hartford’s Mariel the Shoe Bar (see Observer, Fall 2008).
We were so pleased to attend the Commitment Gala, where this photo was taken, in October to celebrate the success of the University’s fundraising campaign. Because we met each other at the University of Hartford and married as undergraduates, the University is near and dear to our hearts.

It was a small campus when we were students. Today, it’s amazing to see all the state-of-the-art buildings and the expansion of programs offered. We return to campus as often as time allows to attend Planned Giving and Giving Society functions, alumni and homecoming events, basketball and soccer games, music performances, and art and archaeology exhibits. Sometimes we just come for lunch at the 1877 Club and shopping at the bookstore.

While we were not scholarship recipients, we are well aware that college scholarships play a dramatically more important role in the education of today’s students. That’s why we support the University and its young people who are receiving a first-rate education today.

To foster excellence in education, which is a hallmark of the University family, please be generous in showing your support of students who are following in your, and our, footsteps.

Give to the Annual Fund

To make a gift
Visit: www.hartford.edu/giving  Call: 860.768.2412
Mail: Use the convenient postage-paid envelope to mail your check, payable to the University of Hartford, Office of Development, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117.
On a shivery cold morning in early December, a large crane swings a section of the new bridge over the Park River into place. Its predecessor, built in 1989, was removed in May, forcing pedestrians to find a new route between the academic and residential sides of campus.