Alumni Connections

By Kandyce Aust
Director of Alumni Relations

Alumni Connections

Reconnect with HCW classmates, faculty, and staff.
Celebrate the accomplishments of women.
Share your experiences with other beneficiaries of women’s education today.

A Home Coming for Women
March 4–6, 2010

Hartford College for Women classmates and friends are organizing a special opportunity for alumnae and friends of HCW.

Events Include

Thursday, March 4
Rogow lecture by Kelly Corrigan, bestselling author of The Middle Place

Friday, March 5
Breakfast talk (focus on women’s health), afternoon tea, and an evening show at Hartford Stage

Saturday, March 6
Brunch for HCW alumnae, faculty, and staff at the Town and County Club

For more information, please contact Kandyce Aust, director of alumni relations, at 860.768.2409.

1953
Gilbert Perlroth (HARTT) of St. Petersburg, Fla., produced his 23rd musical, Ain’t Retirement Grand? The play features two men and two women of retirement age and focuses on the humor to be found inside a retirement community.

1960
Chester W. Reneson (C, HAS) of Lyme, Conn., had a solo exhibition of his watercolors at Stephen O’Brien Jr. Fine Arts in Boston, Mass.

1965
Margaret B. Morse (ENHP) of Guilford, Conn., has a new book out, Laugh a Lot Cry a Lot: A Journey through Stroke/s and Healing. For more information, visit her website at www.margaretsbergermorse.com.

1966
Janet M. Laraia (A’63, BARNEY; ENHP) of Ellington, Conn., was featured in Cambridge Who’s Who for her years of tireless work as an educator.

1967
Thomas F. Horan (A&S) of Simsbury, Conn., was featured in an article by the Hartford Advocate and the New Britain Herald regarding his love of photography and how he uses his photographic skills to give back to high school students. He has taken pictures throughout the years at various high school events and sports competitions and printed the photographs free of charge for the coaches, students, and their parents.

1969
Carl L. Trombley (M, ENHP) of Middlebury, Conn., has published his first book, The School, based on his experiences as a teacher and administrator.

1970
Paul G. Salina (HARTT, C’96 ENHP) of Kensington, Conn., was featured in an article by the New Britain Herald regarding his love of photography and how he uses his photographic skills to give back to high school students. He has taken pictures throughout the years at various high school events and sports competitions and printed the photographs free of charge for the coaches, students, and their parents.

1971
Linda T. Babic (M, A&S) of Barre, Vt., was the recipient of the Community Service Recognition Award given jointly by the town’s service clubs—Altrusa, Kiwanis, Lions’ Club, and Rotary.

1972
George B. Katsimbris (M, BARNEY) of Trumbull, Conn., is a professor of economics in the Department of Banking and Financial Management at the University of Piraeus in Piraeus, Greece.

Jackson L. Williams (HARTT) of Berwick, Maine, is a minister at Kensington Congregational Church in Kensington, N.H.
Behind the Microphone

Taking a break from their September renovation of the WWUH main studio are, from left, David Gardiner A‘82; Ryan Gilligan-Ramsey; Christopher Larsen ’04, M’09; Christopher Heerema ’06; and David Vieiros A‘82, ’84. Under the direction of John Ramsey, general manager of the alternative radio station, the volunteers put in 200 hours over a five-day period to get the project done with minimal disruption of the station’s 24/7 schedule. Funded by listener contributions, it was the first major renovation since the studio’s 1989 relocation to the Harry Jack Gray Center on campus.

JAMES B. BURGER (A&S) of West Hartford, Conn., hosted ArtWorks, an all-day festival featuring exhibits and performances by employees of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Burger, who created the annual event in 2006, also showed two visual pieces and performed on the electric autoharp and piano.

CAROLE PEARLMAN KUNSTADT (HAS) of New York, N.Y., is currently showing her work in the Department of Music and Design, 2 Columbus Circle, New York. The exhibit, which showcases 50 artists, explores the international phenomenon of cut paper in contemporary art. See www.carolekunstadt.com for more.

RICHARD S. MATTESON (HARTT) of South Hadley, Mass., is a choral director at the Community Music School of Springfield, Mass.

1974
MARSHALL B. EPSTEIN (BARNEY, M’79 BARNEY) of Simsbury, Conn., won three medals at the 2009 Wine Competition at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass.

DENNIS F. GAGNON (A&S) of Putnam, Conn., was named Day Kimball Hospital’s September employee of the month.

GONZALO G. PIQUE (M. BARNEY) of Pacific Grove, Calif., is the president and CEO of Energy Recovery, Inc., in San Leandro, Calif.

1975
JOEL S. GELPE (HARTT) of Ithaca, N.Y., is teaching musical theatre history and musical theatre repertoire at Ithaca College. He has also been a vocal coach and musical director for the school’s musical theatre department.

SUZANNE M. GROSS (M. BARNEY) of Meriden, Conn., received the Excellence Achievement Award for Public Service from the Connecticut Coalition to Improve End-of-Life Care. The award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions in the field of home care and hospice care and to the coalition. Gross is the administrator of Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care in Cheshire, Conn.

NICHOLAS R. MARTIN (M. A&S) of Southlake, Texas, headlined a conference at St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, N.Y. Martin is the founder and president of the Center for Accord, a nonprofit educational organization serving school personnel and parents.

JAMES R. METZLER (M. HARTT) of Grand Rapids, Mich., directed the Canterbury Singers USA in seven choral services at Norwich Cathedral in England. The auditioned ensemble includes many musicians who hold bachelor’s through doctoral degrees in music.

MICHAEL T. CICCHETTI (HARTT) of Farmington, Conn., has accepted the position of superintendent with the Easton, Redding, and Region 9 Boards of Education in Easton, Conn.

RICHARD E. NEAL (M. BARNEY) of Springfield, Mass., was awarded the 2009 Excellence in Public Service Award by the Rental Housing Association in Boston, Mass.

HOWARD B. WEINBERG (BARNEY) of Wayne, N.J., was named one of Real Estate Weekly’s top commercial deal makers, an honor that recognizes leaders in commercial real estate finance, law, property management, sales, leasing, construction, and design.

1976
ARTHUR HOSFORD (HARTT) of Augusta, Maine, performed a concert at First Congregational Church of Wiscasset in Wiscasset, Maine. He is the church’s organist and choir director.

MARK Jablonskowski (A&S, M’85 BARNEY) of Tariffville, Conn., has published his third book, Managing High-Stakes Risk: Toward a New Economics for Survival. Jablonskowski is the director of naturalrisk.org and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Economics at the University of Hartford.

1977
SUSAN BANKS BRADLEY (HAS, M’84 ENHP) of Collinsville, Conn., showed her work in Common Ground, a Master of Fine Arts thesis exhibit held in the Silpe Gallery at the University. Bradley’s work focuses on the mysterious lives and behaviors of bees.

GERALDINE A. ROBERTS (M. BARNEY) of Wethersfield, Conn., was selected to reflect the Wethersfield Town Council. She was also elected secretary of The Hundred Club of Connecticut.

1981
DAVID DYSON (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., received a Community Hero award from Bank of America for his leadership of the annual giant tag sale/auction to benefit Tabor House, local residences for people living with HIV/AIDS.

GBENGA A. KAYODE-SMITH (HARTT) of Lagos, Nigeria, has opened Oaks Music Studio, a teaching studio in Lagos.

ROMUALDO A. POLCE (BARNEY, M’95 BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., is assistant treasurer and financial analyst at Simsbury Bank in Simsbury, Conn.

1982
SCOTT D. KING (HARTT) of New Fairfield, Conn., teaches music at New Fairfield High School.

DALE R. SIEGEL (BARNEY, ’83 BARNEY) of White Plains, N.Y., is the author of The New Rules for Mortgages. Siegel was asked to write the book after the implosion of the mortgage industry two years ago. Drawing on the most current data from lenders, credit-reporting agencies, and home valuation/appraisal companies, the book helps homeowners and real estate professionals navigate the new environment.

AMY M. STEKLOF (ENHP) of Penfield, N.Y., is town clerk for the Town of Penfield.

1983
KATHLEEN J. MCNERNEY (HARTT) of Kennebunkport, Maine, performed on the oboe in “VentiCordi,” a musical collaboration with violinist Dean Stein at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Kennebunk, Maine.

1985
RICHARD J. FERGUSON (M. BARNEY) of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is vice president and manager of corporate banking at Saratoga National Bank and Trust Company.

ALEXANDER S. NAKHIMOVSKY (HARTT, M’88 HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., toured with Benny Golson, a legendary saxophonist/composer in Ashdod, Israel, and with Bill Evans, a noted tenor and soprano saxophonist, in Russia.

KEITH M. WALSH (HAS) of Los Angeles, Calif., had his artwork featured in the Baker’s Dozen exhibition at the Torrance Art Museum in Torrance, Calif. Baker’s Dozen is an annual survey of 13 artists who made an impression during the previous year at various galleries and exhibition spaces throughout Los Angeles.

1986
JOYCE R. STEEL (HAS) of Waldoboro, Maine, was October’s artist of the month at the Waldoboro Public Library, along with her father, Albert Eames.
1987
MICHAEL B. CEFOLE (BARNEY) of West Granby, Conn., is chief financial officer for retirement solutions at Guardian Life Insurance Company of America in New York, N.Y.

ADAM T. HUGHES (HAS) of West Simsbury, Conn., exhibited his artwork at The Shalom Company in Bloomfield, Conn. Hughes’s abstract paintings allude to more traditional aspects of landscape and still life.


1988
JOSEPH E. CHOI (M, HARTT) of Newburgh, Ind., was promoted to associate conductor of the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra in Owensboro, Ky.

SCOTT R. HUMMEL (CETA) of Easton, Pa., is an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Lafayette College in Easton. He also was appointed to his second term as chair of the department.

GARY A. JACOBS (HAS) of Hartford, Conn., exhibited his work at the Barnes-Franklin Art Gallery at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Conn.

GEORGIANA W. THOMAS (HAS) of Corvallis, Ore., in collaboration with her mother, presented a program titled “From Wimp to She-Bear: A Mother’s Triumph” to the Southbury-Middlebury Special Education Parent Teacher Association in Southbury, Conn. The program is the true story of a child’s triumph over autism.

1989
STEPHEN H. COLLINS (HARTT) of Trumbull, Conn., is executive director of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra.

KEVIN G. MCGIVERN (A, WARD; ’89 WARD) of Lakeville, Conn., is director of research and development at Bicron Electronics in Canaan, Conn.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN (A&S) of Danbury, Conn., returned to campus to speak to students on the start-up company Youth Sports Live Broadcasting, Inc., for which he is vice president of sales and league relations. The company delivers live streaming broadcasts of Little League and other organized youth games.

Off the Court with Obama
Flanking President Barack Obama are (left to right) Kathy Behrens ’85, NBA executive vice president; WNBA President Donna Orender; Renée Brown, WNBA chief of basketball operations; and Jennifer Azzi, Olympic gold medalist, WNBA All-Star, and WNBA Cares spokesperson and ambassador. The group was invited to the White House in July to celebrate the Detroit Shock, winners of the 2008 WNBA Championship.

Alison Deyette ’89 Does It with Style
BY MEAGAN FAZIO

Alison Deyette ’89 did not expect to become a style expert. “I have my bad photos,” she admits, describing one outfit that included a T-shirt, jeans, and red suspenders. But 20 years and many trends later, Deyette is a veteran stylist and television correspondent.

You may recognize Deyette from one of her countless TV appearances. She is currently a stylist on TLC’s 10 Years Younger. Deyette and the rest of the show’s “Glam Squad” help people figure out why they look older than their age, then give them noninvasive surgical procedures, wardrobe updates, and other style improvements.

“That was really rewarding,” says Deyette. “The people we made over had forgotten who they were.”

When Deyette was growing up in New Jersey, she planned to go into a career in writing or dance. But after arriving at the University of Hartford, she decided to focus on her writing. As a communication major in the College of Arts and Sciences, she joined the staff of The Informer, the weekly student newspaper, and eventually became the editor.

“I was lucky that I knew what I wanted to do and took full advantage of everything I could,” says Deyette. “As the editor of the school paper, I went to every show, every art exhibit . . . . I took advantage of the town.”

She scored a paying job for WFSB-TV, the Hartford affiliate of CBS. That experience, along with her time at the University and The Informer, allowed her to graduate with a portfolio of published material. Deyette’s portfolio was so impressive that the editor-in-chief of Your Family magazine hired her after only a 10-minute interview.

Deyette became interested in fashion when she moved to New York City. She started wearing vintage clothes, and a fashion editor noticed her distinctive style. The editor didn’t have an assistant, so Deyette took on that role.

Soon, she was styling and producing photo shoots around the world. At one shoot, a television booking producer suggested she make the jump to TV. After making several appearances giving style tips on local television, Deyette was contacted by recruiters from The View, an Emmy Award–winning daytime talk show. From there, her career took off. She now works regularly as a contributor on several shows, including the Today Show, the CBS Early Show, Good Morning America, Ellen, and the Tyra Show. She recently shot a pilot for a new show called Stop, Drop, and Shop, which she will host if it gets picked up by the network.

Deyette has met countless celebrities during her career, including Oprah. She first spoke to Oprah when she called WFSB-TV to speak to her friend Gayle King, a former news anchor for the station. Deyette answered the phone. Two decades later, Deyette has appeared on Oprah three times.

“Oprah is wonderful, very much a businesswoman,” says Deyette. “You are going on [the show] to do a job. But I always had fun.”
The University of Hartford Alumni Association comprises 30 board members, with representation from all schools and colleges as well as each decade of the University. Beginning in this issue of the Observer, alumni leadership is profiled so that you may come to know the members who serve on your behalf in the areas of finance, governance, institutional advancement, alumni chapters, and the executive committee.

Mike Darby '79
BARNEY
Mike Darby graduated summa cum laude from the Barney School of Business in 1979. While at the University of Hartford, he was a resident assistant for two years and the head of the Orientation program in 1978. He graduated from Duke University’s School of Law with honors in 1982.

Darby has practiced law with the firm of Phelon, FitzGerald and Wood in his hometown of Manchester, Conn., for 27 years. His primary areas of practice are real estate and estate planning and administration. He served as town attorney for the Town of Manchester for 16 years. Darby resides in Manchester with his wife, Nancy, and their two children.

Da'Rel J. Eastling ‘99
BARNEY
Da'Rel Eastling is vice president for distribution for the Secure Retirement Solutions group at Prudential Retirement. Eastling is responsible for executing a regional distribution strategy for the Retirement Income group, focusing primarily on third-party defined contribution plans with under $1 billion in assets in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast regions.

Eastling received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Barney School of Business in 1999 and is currently a graduate student there pursuing his MBA. He also is involved in a number of organizations and volunteer efforts, both in and outside of Prudential, including the Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation and the Urban League of Greater Hartford. He resides in Hartford, Conn.

Heather L. Fraser ‘99
CETA
After graduating from the Ward College of Technology (now part of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture) in 1999, Heather Fraser went on to receive a master’s degree in architecture from Syracuse University.

She currently lives and works in New York City, practicing architecture at J.C.J Architecture, a firm based in Hartford, Conn. Fraser recently completed a comprehensive interior renovation to the former New York State Theater (now David H. Koch Theater) at Lincoln Center. In November she ran her second ING New York City Marathon.

GET INVOLVED
The Alumni Association of the University of Hartford is an outstanding organization made up of dynamic undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral alumni. Alumni participate in a variety of association activities: Homecoming, reunions, regional events, community outreach, career-development and enhancement workshops, cultural events, and recreational activities. The Alumni Association has been very successful in its efforts, and we want you to be a part of its continued success.

If you would like more information about alumni programs, please contact Kandyce Aust, director of alumni relations, at 860.768.2409, 888.UH.ALUMS (toll free), or aust@hartford.edu.
Celia R. Duke Lofink ’79
ENHP

A graduate of the University in 1979 with a dual major in special education and early childhood education, Lofink has worked for more than 20 years as a corporate executive at both IBM and the Hartford Insurance Group. Her career, she says, has been a uniquely rewarding combination of academic research accomplishments and business experience.

Lofink’s ties to the University of Hartford span many years and are very special to her. Her father, Herbert J. Duke, served under President Steven Trachtenberg in the 1970s. Although Herbert Duke died in 1979, his spirit lives on at the University of Hartford via an established scholarship that, 30 years later, continues to give to a deserving undergraduate student each year. Lofink considers it an honor to renew her ties to the University through her appointment to the Alumni Board.

Matthew T. Murello ’93
CETA

Matthew Murello graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1994. He has more than 15 years’ experience as an acoustical engineer, providing both consulting services and expert testimony, when needed, on behalf of clients in the areas of architecture, industrial noise control, transportation, and the environment, as well as heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning acoustics.

Murello became president of Lewis S. Goodfriend & Associates, an acoustical engineering firm in New Jersey, in 2002 at the age of 30, after holding positions in the firm as vice president, senior engineer, project manager, and staff engineer. He currently sits on the board of visitors for the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture and serves as vice president of the Alumni Association board. Murello is a 2006 Anchor Award recipient and is married to Kristine Nelson Murello, a 1993 graduate of The Hartt School.

Paul A. Sittard ’85
CETA

Paul Sittard was a student leader during his undergraduate years at the University, including serving two terms as student government president. He graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology. Sittard now works in sales and marketing management for Microbridge Technologies, a Montreal, Quebec–based developer of high-performance sensors and calibration solutions used in the semiconductor, electronics-component, and high-tech industries.

Sittard is currently a University regent, president of the Alumni Association and of the Alumni Board, and chair of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture Board of Visitors. He has given extensive service to the University, both as a student and an alumnus, and is married to Joan Sittard, a graduate of Hillyer College (1981) and the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (1983). Paul Sittard has endowed the Allan E. Sittard Scholarship for Music/Acoustical Engineering to honor his father, a 1959 and 1968 graduate of The Hartt School.

Mission of the Alumni Association

The mission of the University of Hartford Alumni Association is to promote lifelong relationships between current and future alumni and the University of Hartford, to support and sustain the objectives of the University, and to serve as an advocate for the University and its alumni.
1995

PHILLIP L. BOYKIN (HARTT) of Montclair, N.J., joined the cast of Show Boat as Joe at The Media Theatre for Performing Arts in Media, Pa. Boykin is director of the New York Harlem Singers. In the photo he gives a hug to Linda Twine, music director of The Color Purple on Broadway.

WILLIAM J. FENNELLY (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., is assistant artistic director for Cirque du Soleil's new vaudeville project, Banana Shpeel.

LORRAINE MORHARTD (BARNEY, M'07 BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., was featured in the Drogheda Independent in a follow-up article since having been named the Irish newspaper’s first recipient of its Sportstar of the Year award.

TRAVIS PLOEGER (HARTT) of New York, N.Y., directed and accompanied Washington Improv Theatre’s iMusical and is assistant artistic director for Cirque du Soleil’s new vaudeville project, Banana Shpeel.

1996

SANDRA R. JENKAVIOR (HAS) of Norwich, Conn., is chairman of the humanities department at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich.

NICOLE I. JUVAN (HARTT) of Bridport, Vt., an accomplished singer and actor, performed at the “Tea, Music & Art in the Barn and Garden” program at Fisk Farm in Isle La Motte, Vt.

ERIC S. PROTLUS (A&S, M’99 A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., is chairman of the humanities department at Rham Middle School and High School in Hebron, Conn.

1997

JULIUS TOLENTINO (HARTT) of Norwalk, Conn., performed alto and tenor saxophone solos during the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz in Bushnell Park in Hartford, Conn.

1998

KRISTOPHER D. ALLEN (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., performed on the alto saxophone in the tribute concert “Charlie Parker with Strings” at Hartford’s Riverfront Stage in Hartford, Conn.

ROBERT A. ARCIERO (A&S) of Cheshire, Conn., has been named principal at Mary Rowlandson Elementary School in Lancaster, Mass.

1999

AMANDA S. KIEL (HARTT) of Ardsley, N.Y., cofounded the musical group Musica Nuova, which performed at a SoHIP event at Emmanuel Church in Boston, Mass. SoHIP, or Society for Historically Informed Performance, is a nonprofit organization that provides performance opportunities for high-quality musical ensembles in the New England region.

DAN E. ROMAN (M, HARTT; D’06 HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., is an assistant professor of music at Trinity College in Hartford.

2000

JOSHUA S. DEUTCH (A&S) of Brooklyn, N.Y., has been named client services manager at DocAuto for the whimsical exhibit in the year ahead.

2001

DENISE P. BARD (M, BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., is the new director of human resources for both the town and the board of education in Berlin, Conn.

MEREDYTH COLEMAN (M, HARTT) of Overland Park, Kan., performed with the City Winds Piano Trio at the Mahwah Public Library in Mahwah, N.J. Coleman, an oboist, and the trio performed music from Dring, Ibert, Krommer, Still, and Rossini.

MARY ROSE DYMOND (M, HARTT) of Woodbourne, N.Y., is principal at Huckleberry Hill Elementary School in Brookfield, Conn.

2002

JEANNETTE LAZO (A&S). See LAUREN B. FIRTEL-GARFINKEL ‘03.

LAKSHMI L. THORNE (HARTT) of Scarsdale, N.Y., is a faculty member at the Riverside School of Music in Cos Cob, Conn.

2003

DANIELLE M. BACHTLEDER (BARNEY, M’06 BARNEY) of Uniosville, Conn., has been named director of business services for the Torrington Board of Education in Torrington, Conn.

ADAM CORCORAN (HARTT) of Weymouth, Mass., starred as Gideon in 7 Brides for 7 Brothers and was the assistant director of Smoke on the Mountain at the Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre. He also starred in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s A Grand Night for Singing and Agatha Christie’s The Unexpected Guest. At the Bristol Valley Theatre in Naples, N.Y., he choreographed and performed in Evita and Private Lives. Corcoran also performed this year in the national tour of A Christmas Carol with the Nebraska Theatre Caravan.

2004

HELEN H. WALDRON (HARTT) of Roselle Park, N.J., performed alto saxophone in the recent tribute concert “Charlie Parker with Strings” at Hartford’s Riverfront Stage in Hartford, Conn.

2005

RONALD A. VONNOCH (M, BARNEY) of South Windsor, Conn., received the Connecticut Light & Power Company Award for Outstanding Contributions to Main Street Revitalization. The award recognizes individuals and organizations who dedicate themselves to promoting awareness of the necessity of a comprehensive management approach to the revitalization of Connecticut’s historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.
In Memoriam

Stephen P. Brown, professor of painting at the Hartford Art School, died on Oct. 21, 2009. He was 59. Known for the powerful realism of his portraits, Brown, who began teaching at the University in 1987, was one of HAS's most highly respected faculty members, whose classes were always in high demand from students.

Calvin W. Lane, professor emeritus of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, died on Nov. 5, 2009, at the age of 86. A dedicated professor of literature and creative writing in the 1960s and 1970s, Lane often met one-on-one with students to help them with their writing. He also served on many University committees.

Michael J. Piette, former associate professor in the Department of Economics, Finance, and Insurance in the Barney School of Business, died on Nov. 4, 2009. Serving as associate dean of Barney during the early 1980s, Piette was a nationally recognized economist who was called to testify throughout the country on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants alike.

Malcolm Stevens, professor emeritus of chemistry for 30 years in the College of Arts and Sciences, died on Sept. 12, 2009. He was 75. A recipient of the University's Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stevens had just published his first work of fiction, Evan's War (Xlibris, 2009). He had four previous books to his credit, two cowritten with his wife, Marcia Reed Stevens.

Andrew J. Smith (D, HARTT) of Trumbull, Conn., performed a classical concert at Pomperaug Woods in Southbury, Conn.

2004

Gregory J. Levasseur (CETA) of Windsor Locks, Conn., has received his Connecticut State Professional Engineering License. He is employed by the H2M Group as a project engineer in the Wastewater Engineering division.

Jamie S. Nystrom (BARNEY) of Townsend, VT, and his wife, Dani, have purchased and reopened a Townsend landmark, the Harmonyville Store.

2005

Erin K. Bailey (ENHP, M'07 ENHP) of Morristown, N.J., announces her engagement to Jonathan H. Roina '05. The couple plans a Sept. 25, 2010, wedding.

Mark R. Donaldson (HARTT) of East Rochester, NY, received his equity card for performing in Funny Girl at Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford, N.Y.

Christopher J. Dubey (A&S) of Middletown, Conn., was the sole winner of the Middlesex Community College Annual Award for Academic Excellence in Biotechnology.

Emily M. Kalish (HARTT) of North Adams, Mass., is chair of the Helen Harrison Foundation for the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colo.

Christopher J. O'Neill (CETA, M'08 CETA). See Caitlin O. Bailey '06.

Kevin A. Van Aelst (M, HAS) of New Haven, Conn., was featured in the Hartford Advocate about his use of unusual elements—gum, Gummy Bears, and Krispy Kreme doughnuts—to create his artwork.

2006

Rosemary J. Aiello (D, A&S) of New Britain, Conn., is director of fund development at Hands On Hartford in Hartford, Conn. She was chosen as one of the Hartford Business Journal's Top 40 under 40.

Caitlin O. Bailey (A&S) of Newington, Conn., announces her engagement to Christopher J. O'Neill '05, M'08. The couple plans an April 24, 2010, wedding.

Ryan P. Bauer-Walsch (HAS) of New York, NY, performed in the pre-Broadway reading of Empire as the character Ethan.

Elizabeth M. Czajka (HAS) of New Milford, Conn., started a jewelry company called EMCzajka Designs and has shown her pieces at various vendor shows and through the website, www.etsy.com.

Collin L. Howard (HARTT) of Astoria, NY, played the character John in Miss Saigon at the Gateway Playhouse in Bellport, NY.

Sharon M. Kenny (HARTT) of Brooklyn, NY, has released a new album titled Pianocentric.


Liza C. Mekhlin (ENHP) of Boston, Mass., announces her engagement to Adam H. Goldman A'06, '09.
ALUMNI

ANTONIO PERONACE (A&S) of Kensington, Conn., is director of multimedia communications and technology for the Democratic Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

CECILIA PHILLIPS-RITCHEY (HAS) of East Hampton, Conn., received the 2009 American Graphic Design Award by Graphic Design USA for her work on the Work It! Measure It! Mark It! invitation for the Hartford Art School alumni exhibition.

JOAN PREECE (ENHP, M'09 ENHP) of Meriden, Conn., is the clinical educator of surgical services at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn. She is also a clinical faculty member of the nursing program for Gateway Community College in New Haven, Conn.

MATTHEW J. WARNER (HARTT) of South Glastonbury, Conn., led his Matt Warner Trio in providing background music for “A Stylish Sunday,” an event at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club featuring celebrity author Candace Bushnell.

BRANDEE YOUNGER (HARTT) of Uniondale, N.Y., performed at the second concert of the Encore Music Forum at the Nabi Art Gallery in New York, N.Y.

2007

SEAN M. BIXBY (HAS) of Merrimac, Mass., appeared in “Meet the Illustrators,” a special program at the Merrimac Public Library, for his work as an illustrator.

CYNTHIA A. COOK (HARTT) of Philadelphia, Pa., sang alongside the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for selections from Bizet’s Carmen, as well as Gershwin’s Summertime and I’ve Got Rhythm, at the Performing Arts Center at Simsbury Meadows in Simsbury, Conn.

CHRISTOPHER R. HENDERSON (HARTT) of Northport, Maine, and his band have released their first full-length CD, Old Time Speaker.

RUTH L. JARVIS (A&S) of Lincoln, Mass., was promoted as head of the new Creative Services Practice for Davalen, LLC, in Sudbury, Mass.

MICHAEL A. LAPIERRE (ENHP) of Meriden, Conn., was the recipient of the Saint Mary’s Hospital Foundation’s Charlotte H. Desmaris Graduate Nursing Scholarship.

2008

DANIEL P. BRYE (M, HARTT) of Lancaster, Pa., performed with the IMAli Northward Bound Chamber Music Ensemble at St. Kieran Arts Center in Berlin, N.H.

PATRICK H. DUNN (HARTT) of Port Jervis, N.Y., was the subject of a feature story on CNN’s House of Representatives. Perry is the founder and technology for the Democratic Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MATTHEW R. FAUCHER (HARTT) of New Hartford, Conn., received his equity card for performing in Camelot at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn.

JONATHAN P. MORTICELLI (BARNEY) of Rochester, N.Y., is a police officer with the Manlius Police Department in Manlius, N.Y.

STEPHEN D. PERRY (D, ENHP) of Middletown, Conn., was the subject of a feature story on CNN’s Black in America 2 series. Perry is the founder and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, Conn.

KYLE A. PHILLIPS (HAS) of Tolland, Conn., had his first solo painting exhibit, titled Frames of Mine, at Brick Wall Fine Art in West Hartford, Conn. He was an artist in residence at Billings Forge Community Center in Hartford, where he worked to improve life in the Frog Hollow neighborhood. Phillips’s work may be viewed at www.kyleandrewphillips.com.

ADAM PODD (HARTT) of Brooklyn, N.Y., performed at the Haskell Opera House in Derby Line, Vt., for a special one-time performance.

JANINE A. ROMANO (HARTT) of Metro Manila, Philippines, was the lead singer in Cirque Dreams Illumination at the MGM Grand Theatre at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, Conn.

CHRISTOPHER M. TRECCE (HARTT, ’08 A&S) of Edina, Minn., performed in a Chorus Line as the character Mark at the Gateway Playhouse in Bellport, N.Y.

Weddings

Top row: (l–r):
Rosalind Minsky Bobrow ’70 and Howard B. Hahn celebrate their nuptials on Jan. 18, 2009. The happy couple calls West Hartford, Conn., home.

Michelle R. Fox ’03, M’05, and Jason M. Erickson ’02, M’04, chose the island paradise of Bermuda for their wedding on June 2, 2008. The bride is a physical therapist, and the groom is in residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Middle row: (l–r):
Jonathan Easterbrook ’87, M’90, and Lidia Kapalczynski (lower right inset) have eyes only for each other on their wedding day, May 23, 2009, in Hartford, Conn. In upper left photo, Easterbrook, director of marketing communication in the University’s Office of Communication—who is also known as “The Voice” for his many years as the WWUH play-by-play announcer for Hawks’ women’s basketball—stands surrounded by “the other women” in his life, past and present, who have been his colleagues at the University.

Jennifer Scharf ’02 and Michael D. Orlnksi ’04 make a sparkling bride and groom on June 27, 2009. Also joining them are (left to right) Anita Dunn A’03, ’06; Antonio Peronace ’05; Karen Botcheller ’03; and Kristin Scharf ’99.

Bottom row:
Amy S. Purnell A’02 and Patrick Hood take their solemn vows on July 25, 2009, before the bride’s father, O. James Purnell III A’69.

Not pictured:
Melissa D. Smith M’87 & Douglas Hunt (4.18.09)
Katherine Deliso & Erryl S. Richter ’94 (8.29.09)
Jennifer M. East ’96 & John Amosa (7.11.09)
Julie L. Papp M’96 & David Haywood
Stacy B. Mitintsky ’97 & Michael Rooney (7.26.09)
Vanessa May–Corsi & Michael J. Mavroudis ’98 (8.30.09)
Sarah Medeiros & Jamison S. Cormier A’00, ’00 (4.4.09)
Rachel J. Ferns M’02 & Daniel Lefebvre (8.8.09)
Erin C Neilan ’02, M’04, & Nathan Harris (5.2.09)
Melinda B. Butynski ’03 & Scott Sipe (5.29.09)
Alison M. Kamenskets A’02, ’04, & Scott Korf (8.9.09)
Cheryl A. Barkow ’05 & Derek McDonald (9.26.09)
Karen A. Baldino M’06 & Neil Hickey (7.18.09)
Andrea M. D’Agrenica ’06 & Robert Feerst (8.8.09)
Cecelia L. Doyle M’08 & Steven Gerber (9.26.09)
2009

ANITA BALKUN (M, HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., exhibited a series of relief paintings at Hunt Hill Farm’s Hay Barn Gallery in New Milford, Conn. Balkun’s pieces are visual translations of tactile sensations.

ARDIS E. BARROW (HARTT) of Lenox, Mass., made her theatrical debut in the Off-Broadway production of Genesius at the TADA! Theater in New York City.

CORBIN J. BEISNER (HARTT) of Las Vegas, Nev., performed a concert of classical and improvisational music at Christ the King Church in Wilbraham, Mass.

JOHN C. BRINK (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., sang on the winter tour of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

ADAM H. GOLDMAN (A, HILLYER, ’09 BARNEY). See LIZA C. MEKHLIN ’06.

WILLIAM K. KHACHADOURIAN (CETA) of Duanesburg, N.Y., is assistant engineer I in the facilities and engineering group at Clough Harbour & Associates in Albany, N.Y.

DOUGLAS I. LYONS (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., performed on the Dreamgirls national tour, beginning at the Apollo Theater in New York City.

DAVID B. McWILLIAMS (HARTT) of Seymour, Conn., is a music teacher at Highcrest Elementary School in Wethersfield, Conn.

RYAN MIKITA (HARTT) of Pittsburgh, Pa., made his theatrical debut in the Off-Broadway production of Genesius at the TADA! Theater in New York City.

MICHAEL TURNER (A&S) of Novato, Calif., has signed a contract to play basketball with the Nordlingen Giants in Germany’s Pro A league.

ERIN M. WHITE (HARTT) of Dalton, Mass., is a faculty member at the Berkshire Music School in Pittsfield, Mass., where she teaches advanced clarinet.

HARALAMBOS ZAHARIS (CETA) of Enfield, Conn., is a development engineer at Texcel Medical in East Longmeadow, Mass.

Calling All Alumni!

We’re looking for alumni who have made mid- or even late-career changes.

Did you start out as an attorney and end up designing custom lampshades? Were you an artist who now bakes pies and cakes for a living? Did you leave social work to write novels or sell real estate? For an upcoming issue of the Observer, we’re looking for alumni who have traded in their first careers to follow their hearts in what the media calls “Plan B” careers.

If you have a story to tell, contact us at observer@hartford.edu. Thanks!

ALUMNI EVENTS

1. Samantha Cahill M’10, special events coordinator in the Office of Alumni Relations, competes in the 34th Marine Corps Marathon last October in Washington, D.C. 2. Alumni fans take a moment from their cheering at the July Yankees game. 3. It’s satisfied smiles all around the table for this family at September’s alumni soccer game and barbecue. 4. This alum leaves the soccer game with an unexpected prize for the next: a handsome University of Hartford spectator chair. 5. Gladys Ushchak M’07 and her nephew, Tyler, enjoy a Red Sox game. 6. An alum and her family make great Yankees fans at the game in July. 7. Buddies, burgers, and soccer—what could be better! 8. Alumni meet at Margaritaville in the Mohegan Sun Casino for our mid-summer party in July.
Every gift counts. Yes, I had heard that before, but my excuse for not giving to the Anchor Fund (formerly the Annual Fund) continued to be because I couldn’t afford a $5,000 gift. Then I learned what a difference $50 can make to help a student. In fact, the student telefund caller helped me understand that many gifts to the Anchor Fund are between $25 and $100.

Never underestimate the impact your gift will have on the education of a University of Hartford student. Any gift, large or small, makes a difference. No excuses.

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