Our Campus, Our Planet Continued

This past August, we welcomed first-year students with an Orientation program on sustainability called Our Campus, Our Planet. Sustainability and environmental issues on campus and in the Greater Hartford community continue to be an important University focus. Below are highlights from some of the many initiatives under way. Stay tuned for future plans.

Collaborative Composting and Clean Energy Plans
In addition to serving as a forum for faculty, staff, and students to learn and share issues and ideas relating to campus sustainability goals, the University’s Faculty Senate Environmental and Sustainability Committee is developing links with the University of Hartford Magnet School and the University High School of Science and Engineering on our campus as well as neighboring Watkinson School. Two initiatives under exploration are collaborative composting and clean energy.

Residence Hall Power Struggle
First-year students in four residence halls competed in the fall 2010 semester in the University’s first Residence Hall Power Struggle. Students competed to use the smallest amount of electricity during a four-week period. The residents of A Complex emerged triumphant and received sweatshirts bearing the competition logo. Plans are under way to make this an annual competition.

Enhanced Recycling
In January the University began an enhanced recycling program that now includes bottles and cans as well as office paper and cardboard. One of the key sustainability efforts for this academic year, the first stage of the project encompasses the academic side of campus and the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center on Westbourne Parkway in Hartford. Introducing enhanced recycling on the residential side of campus is the focus for this spring.

Annual RecycleMania Competition
A fun competition for students, RecycleMania compares our recycling efforts with those at campuses across the state and the country. Sponsored by Aramark, our dining services provider, the 10-week competition that began in February pits teams of students against each other to fill the most trash bags with recyclables from on campus. The winning team gets its choice of a pizza or sub sandwich party for 50 people.

Further information and links to environmental and sustainability activities are at www.hartford.edu/sustainability.

Barney Announces Enrollment Pact and Reaccreditation

Officials of the University of Hartford and the Barney School of Business signed an agreement with representatives from Manchester Community College (MCC) in November that guarantees qualified graduates of the two-year community college admission to the Barney School.

Under the terms of the agreement, MCC students who have received an associate’s degree in accounting and business administration will be able to transfer automatically as juniors into programs at Barney in pursuit of their bachelor’s in business administration. To be eligible to transfer, MCC students must have applied for admission to Barney upon entering MCC, completed their associate’s degree in accounting and business administration including specific courses, and maintained a 2.25 or higher cumulative grade point average.

The agreement comes at a time when community colleges across Connecticut and the nation have had to cope with the demands of educating more students. MCC has seen a 10.3 percent enrollment increase from a year ago.

In other Barney news, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) announced in January that the Barney School of Business was one of 47 schools that had earned reaccreditation in business. Accreditation by AACSB is the hallmark of excellence in business education and has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world’s business schools.

“We are thrilled to once again receive AACSB International accreditation,” says James Fairfield-Sonn, dean of Barney. “The review committee was impressed with all we have done to pursue our mission to prepare individuals to be leaders and decision makers who are globally aware and socially responsible. We have built processes and systems to support our mission, and it shows.”

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Faculty & Staff Garner Nearly $5 Million in Grants

University faculty and staff brought in close to $5 million in grants and contracts in 2009–10, according to the Office of Institutional Partnerships and Sponsored Research. The largest grant, from Advanced Technology International, was for $2.1 million for a research project in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA) related to the unmanned aerial vehicle project they are developing for the US Army. Also in CETA were several grants from NASA, the US Department of Energy, and the US Department of Homeland Security, adding up to more than $800,000. CETA’s total funding was almost $3.3 million. Other notable grants include $306,506 for The Hartt School’s Fund for Access and the Blue Hills Suzuki program, more than $275,000 for the Upper Albany Main Street program in the Barney School of Business, and almost $250,000 for programs administered by ENHP’s Educational Main Street program. Within the College of Arts and Sciences, grants totaling more than $150,000 went to the study of the Arabic language and culture, breast cancer research, and evaluating the University’s program in Kenya.

$82,000+ Raised for Rell Center for Public Service

In December a dinner honoring outgoing Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell raised more than $82,000 to help establish the Governor M. Jodi Rell Center for Public Service at the University of Hartford. The center will encourage integrity and responsible participation in government and public service through lectures, panel discussions, symposia, and forums on important local and regional issues. Teaching and learning opportunities will include internships and service learning in government and public service as well as research and scholarly inquiry into the nature of integrity in government and public life.

In his remarks at the dinner, President Walter Harrison noted that when Governor Rell suggested to him the idea of the center, “I was—and am—deeply flattered that she would want to maintain that legacy through the University of Hartford. Through our mission as a private university with a public purpose, we have long been interested in establishing a program that will encourage our students to consider careers in public service.”

WELFund to Continue Club Mission in Hartford

The Women’s Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund) has received more than $55,000 from the Business and Professional Women’s Club of Hartford. The club dissolved its local chapter and was seeking an organization that would continue its mission—empowering women to achieve their full potential—using its remaining funds. It had previously provided scholarships to nontraditional-age women students at Hartford College for Women (HCW) and decided that WELFund, a legacy of HCW, would be a good fit.

“We are in the planning stages of creating a leadership experience for women students,” says Jennifer Sanborn, director of WELFund. “This gift comes at an exciting time and will go a long way toward making our plans a reality.”