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Six exceptional alumni who have made their marks in a variety of fields were honored on at the 2010 Anchor Awards ceremony, part of Hawktober Weekend. The Anchor Award, the most prestigious award presented by the University of Hartford Alumni Association, recognizes alumni who have reached the highest level of professional accomplishment and possess absolute standards of integrity and character that positively reflect and enhance the prestige of the University of Hartford.

A Humanitarian Service Award was presented, along with awards honoring outstanding alumni from five of the University’s schools and colleges.

To read about the accomplishments of the award recipients, go to www.hartford.edu/anchorawards.

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HAS Students Honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Visual communication design majors in a Design Global Change class taught by Assistant Professor Natacha Poggio created public art honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the fall semester.

The students discussed their proposal with local clergy, educators, business owners, Hartford police, and certified Kingian Nonviolence trainers as well as Victoria Christgau, executive director of the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence, Pastor James Lane from the North End Church of Christ, and other community organizations.

The students designed and painted a mural on an outer wall of the North End Church of Christ on Albany Avenue in Hartford, Conn. (see above). The mural promotes King’s Principles of Nonviolence, with a special focus on Principle 2: “The Beloved Community Is the Framework for the Future.”

The University’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, observed on Jan. 17, 2010, also carried the Principle 2 theme. Attendees were asked to bring men’s clothing and toiletry donations to be given to participants in the Church Street Eats program at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. The program is run by Rose Fichera-Eagen ’63, M’85.

2010 Anchor Awards Honor Six Alumni

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Elizabeth "Libby" Warner-Paranov, dean emerita of the Hartt School of Music (now The Hartt School) and widow of legendary Hartt cofounder Moshe Paranov, died on Jan. 5, 2011. She was 91. Well known in Greater Hartford and beloved by those in the music community, Warner-Paranov devoted many years of passion, energy, and service to Hartt. With bachelor's degrees from both the Institute of Musical Art of the Juilliard Foundation and Hartt, she was a widely acclaimed piano soloist, accompanist, chamber music performer, and teacher. She joined the Hartt School of Music piano faculty in 1942.

During her years at Hartt, Warner-Paranov played a key role in the merging of the Hartt School of Music, Hartford Art School, and Hillyer College to form the University of Hartford in 1957. Assistant dean of Hartt in 1960, she was promoted to dean in 1966. Under her leadership, Hartt initiated its Doctor of Musical Arts program.

Twice named Outstanding Alumna of the Year by the Hartt Alumni Association (1962, 1984), Warner-Paranov received Hartt's Distinguished Service Award in 1998. Among other professional affiliations, she was a trustee of The Hartt School.

A memorial service for Warner-Paranov will be held at a later date at The Hartt School. Memorial contributions may be made to the Moshe and Pauline Paranov Scholarship Fund at The Hartt School.

Top: Michael Mongillo ’90 hosted a screening on campus of Being Michael Madsen, his “mockumentary” on celebrity. Bottom: All the Kings Men, a gender-bending performance troupe that includes Maria Kogan ’98, performs its version of Michael Jackson’s Thriller video.

Elizabeth Warner-Paranov (seated) attended Hartt’s 90th Anniversary Gala (October 2010). She is shown with (l-r) Christina Stanscu-Flagg, Hartt Dean Aaron Flagg, Franklin and Jane Hurwitz, and Nina Paranov Fagan. Photo by Robert Thiesfield.