The Hotel Casablanca
New England premiere of Pasatieri opera
In the fall of 1997 two prospective white students, Jennifer Gratz and Barbara Grutter, challenged the use of affirmative action in the admission decisions of the University of Michigan Law School. At the time, I was vice president of university relations there, which plunged me into the most hectic eight months of my life, working as part of the leadership team that was defending the university.

The case meant a lot to me. Almost a decade before, I had written parts of the Michigan Mandate, the plan that had successfully helped provide access to thousands of students of color. I also had spent much of my life working for opportunities for all students, regardless of race or economic background, to attend and thrive at colleges and universities around the country.

These two cases ended up in the U.S. Supreme Court, where Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote a majority opinion that upheld the university’s admissions policy. It remains the law of the land, although the Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a major case involving race-conscious admissions at the University of Texas.

When I arrived at the University of Hartford in June 1998, I was pleasantly surprised to find that students of color made up 13 percent of the student body (almost twice the percentage of Michigan’s). I was happier still when Chuck Colarulli, associate provost and dean of undergraduate studies, and Rick Zeiser, dean of admission, told me that fall that they were working on plans to build our percentage of students of color. They were thinking not only about making the University a more lively educational institution but also about opening up potential markets in the fastest-growing segments of the college-age population.

Today, I am especially proud of what our team has accomplished without using any affirmative action: 25 percent of our student body are now American students of color. If you add to that the 4 percent of our students who are international, you see even more vividly what a diverse and interesting group of young people we have here. I don’t think it is an exaggeration to say that we are a model for how to become a diverse university.

In my view, this has been part of our mission since the University’s founding in 1957—providing access for students from all races and ethnic or religious groups, and providing an opportunity for a quality education regardless of students’ socioeconomic status. Dorothy Schiro, one of our founders, called the University of Hartford a “university of the people, by the people.”

Today, we face new challenges in improving our percentage of faculty of color. Only about 12 percent of our faculty are nonwhite, and many of those are internationally born. U.S.-born faculty of color are only about 5 percent of the total. We face significant hurdles in overcoming this obstacle: the numbers of students of color earning PhDs nationally are not keeping up with the demand, which means we encounter great
competition for newly minted PhDs. We are trying new methods to attack this problem, and I believe we are on the right track.

When I first arrived at the University, I spent many hours listening to the late Jackie McLean and his wife, Dollie, describe what life was like for them when Jackie was the only full-time black faculty member at the University in the early 1970s. We have come a long way since then, but we still have some way to go. Our aspiration is to have our faculty numbers more closely match our student numbers in the years to come.

And although we have a fairly good percentage of staff of color, we must work hard to increase the number in our senior ranks. In the last few years we have made significant progress in this area with new hires. Now, we are working hard to provide professional-development opportunities that will enable our staff of color—and all of our staff—to advance in their careers and further enrich the University of Hartford.

My fervent hope is that 20 years from now, none of this will matter—that we will have achieved our goals and that, furthermore, differences based on race will no longer exist. But I am enough of a student of American history to know that racism is, alas, as American as apple pie, and we have much bigotry and intolerance to overcome.

Our nation and this university have made progress, not without struggle, of course. But stories of that struggle, some of them described elsewhere in this issue of the Observer, inspire me to redouble my efforts—and all of our hopes—to make this a model university and, thereby, to fulfill our founders’ dreams.

I keep a picture of the University’s first board of regents in a frame across from my desk. I look at that picture every day, hoping those people who led the University at its founding would be proud of what we have accomplished and supportive of the roads we have yet to travel.

Looking back is the best preparation for moving forward. Enjoy this issue.

Walter Harrison
President
Dear Readers,

On February 21, 2012, the University celebrated the 55th anniversary of its founding with Mardi Gras-themed events, including a New Orleans–style menu in the cafeterias, a first-ever student float contest, and beads and T-shirt handouts. That night, at halftime of the men’s basketball game, audience members threw paper airplanes at a mid-court target. Grand Prize winner was Kevin O’Shea ’15, a member of the University’s lacrosse team.

The special section in this issue features faculty essays and articles related to black history both on campus and in the nation. Professor Warren Goldstein writes about Martin Luther King Jr. in Birmingham, Ala., and Associate Professor Robert Churchill talks about the Underground Railroad. We also dove into the University Archives to do some research on campus unrest during the late 1960s and early 1970s. If you were a student here then, you may recognize some of the names we found.

We have two alumni profiles this time. Christine Kornacki ’07 is the illustrator of six new books in the American Girl doll line. Her subjects, Cécile Rey and Marie-Grace Gardner, lived in New Orleans in 1853. Rocio “Roxy” Castro ’02 currently works in licensing at Cole Haan in New York City. Her first job after graduation was at Sean John Clothing, Inc. Find out how both women got the jobs they dreamed of.

The University will break with tradition at our 55th spring Commencement. For the first time in our history, Commencement will become a two-day event. Graduate degrees will be awarded on Sat., May 19, 2012, and undergraduates will receive their degrees on Sun., May 20, 2012. The decision to go to a two-day event was driven by the desire to make the event more enjoyable for our graduates and their guests. Parking congestion should be greatly alleviated, and a large tent will keep everyone dry if weather is an issue.

Go, Hawks!

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University Expands Graduate Degree Offerings

The University of Hartford has nearly 1,700 students enrolled in post-baccalaureate degree programs. It currently offers 38 graduate degree programs and is adding two more.

Accelerated Master of Business Administration

The Barney School of Business has introduced a one-year Accelerated Master of Business Administration (AMBA) program. Cohorts of students will begin taking classes in the fall 2012 semester on Thursday evenings and all day on Saturdays for 12 consecutive months, from August through July. Applicants who have already earned an undergraduate degree in a business-related field are eligible for direct admission into the one-year AMBA program. Applicants with a nonbusiness-related undergraduate degree must first complete six core courses, either on the University of Hartford campus or online, then will be eligible for admission into the one-year program. The time spent taking the core courses is not part of the one-year cohort time.

"MBA degrees are becoming increasingly important in the business world," says Barney Dean James Fairfield-Sonn. "Many companies view them as not simply a special distinction but rather as a requirement for hiring or job promotion." Fairfield-Sonn adds that according to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, people with MBAs earn 50 percent more by age 50 than individuals with a BA.

For more information on the new MBA program, visit hartford.edu/barney.

Master of Education with Montessori Concentration

In response to a growing number of public and private Montessori schools in the Greater Hartford area, the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP) has initiated a Master of Education in elementary education with a Montessori concentration. The degree program, which began enrolling students in the fall 2011 semester, is offered in partnership with the Association Montessori Internationale, the Montessori Training Center of New England, and the Montessori Magnet School at Annie Fisher in Hartford, Conn. ENHP already offers a Master of Education in early childhood education with a Montessori concentration. Both graduate degrees focus on Montessori philosophy and pedagogy as well as contemporary studies in programs designed for preschoolers or elementary-age students.

For more information, visit hartford.edu/enhp.
President Walter Harrison and Provost Sharon L. Vasquez announced that the Board of Regents Executive Committee, at its meeting on Jan. 19, 2012, voted to approve promotion and/or tenure for the following faculty members:

**Barney School of Business**
Deborah L. Kidder, tenure and promotion to full professor, Department of Management/Marketing

**College of Arts and Sciences**
Katherine A. Black, promotion to full professor, Department of Psychology
Olga Clark, tenure, Department of Psychology
Andrew Craft, promotion to full professor, Department of Chemistry
Maria E. Frank, promotion to full professor, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures
Leonard S. Milling, promotion to full professor, Department of Psychology
Avinoam Patt, tenure and promotion to associate professor, Department of Judaic Studies, Maurice Greenberg Center
Bryan Sinche, tenure and promotion to associate professor, Department of English

**College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture**
Christian Carloni, tenure and promotion to associate professor, Department of Architecture

**Hartford Art School**
Dennis Nolan, promotion to full professor, Department of Illustration
John Nordyke, promotion to full professor, Department of Visual Communication Design
Bill Thomson, promotion to full professor, Department of Illustration

**Hillyer College**
William Major, promotion to full professor, Department of English

This silver medal is presented to faculty who are promoted to full professor. A bronze medal is given to faculty who are awarded tenure. The medals were designed by former Hartford Art School faculty member Lloyd Glasson.

**New VP of Institutional Advancement Looks to Energize University’s Fundraising**

Christine M. Pina has been named vice president for institutional advancement at the University of Hartford. She was previously director of major gifts at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. Pina assumed her new position in November.

A graduate of Wesleyan, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in African American studies, Pina also has a master of education in higher education administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She joined the Office of University Relations at Wesleyan as a development officer in 2004 and helped to close Wesleyan’s $281 million capital campaign in 2005.

Promoted to director of major gifts in 2006, she oversaw development teams in the areas of major gifts, planned giving and prospect management, and development research, while managing a portfolio of 120 high-level donors. Notable recent fundraising achievements include an endowed chair for Wesleyan’s College of the Environment and several seven-figure endowment gifts in support of financial aid.

“I am delighted we have been able to attract a person of Christine’s experience, talent, and energy to the University,” President Walter Harrison said of her appointment. “Her vision and values are perfect for the University.”

As vice president for institutional advancement, Pina is responsible for energizing the University’s fundraising, development, and alumni relations efforts.

“I am truly delighted to lead the University of Hartford’s effort to further develop a culture of philanthropic support through greater engagement of alumni, students, parents, and friends.”
Nearly 150 graduates celebrated the completion of their degrees at the 15th annual Fall Commencement ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. Fall Commencement is held for undergraduate and graduate students who complete their degree requirements in September or January but cannot attend the University’s traditional Commencement ceremony in May. Among this year’s graduates was Elizabeth Horton Sheff, a well-known activist who filed the landmark Sheff v. O’Neill school desegregation lawsuit in Connecticut to address educational inequities. Sheff earned a Master of Education with a specialty in educational technology.

During the ceremony the University presented an honorary Doctor of Laws to Chase T. Rogers, chief justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. Rogers said she was “truly humbled” by the recognition and congratulated all the graduates on their accomplishments. She also encouraged them to “seriously consider staying in the state of Connecticut with your newfound skills.”

Rogers is the second woman and the 35th person to hold the state’s highest judicial office, having been appointed by then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell in 2007. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Rogers to the board of directors of the State Justice Institute, which is charged with working to improve the quality of justice in America’s state courts.

University President Walter Harrison assured the graduates that he is optimistic about their futures. “I sincerely believe that you have prepared yourself for a fulfilling career and a lifetime of service to humanity.”

The University will begin a new tradition in May 2012, when Commencement will become a two-day event. The ceremony awarding graduate degrees will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony awarding undergraduate degrees will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. Both ceremonies will take place on the Gengras lawn, where, for the first time, a tent large enough to cover the stage as well as faculty, student, and guest seats—approximately 3,000 in all—will be erected. The tent will provide shade from the sun and cover from inclement weather.

“This new, two-day Commencement format allows for consistency in scheduling the two main ceremonies regardless of weather and reduces the number of cars and people on campus each day,” said Provost Sharon L. Vasquez when she announced the change to the campus community.

For additional information about Commencement, visit hartford.edu/commencement.
For a few days in February, the stage in Millard Auditorium was transformed into the Double-T Ranch and the Hotel Casablanca in Texas. The New England premiere of Thomas Pasatieri’s comic opera, *The Hotel Casablanca*, brought the composer to campus for a week to conduct master classes and coach the cast prior to performances. *The Hotel Casablanca* is a comic tale of love, guns, and mistaken identity deep in the heart of 1940s Texas.

Patrons shared rounds of laughter during the four days of performances on campus, and Pasatieri shared a wealth of experience and knowledge with students and faculty. His notable career has straddled the worlds of opera and Hollywood for decades. Known as one of America’s most respected and performed vocal and opera composers, he is one of the movie industry’s most successful film orchestrators.

An accomplished, performing pianist by the age of 10, Pasatieri began his work as a composer at 15, studying with the renowned French teacher Nadia Boulanger. At age 16 he entered The Juilliard School in New York City, where he would become the school’s first recipient of a doctoral degree.

Pasatieri’s first staged opera was *The Women*, a one-act work based on an original story. It premiered when he was 20 at the 1965 Aspen Festival and won the composition contest for that year. In all, he has composed some 20 operas, including *Signor Deluso* (1974), *The Trial of Mary Lincoln* (1972), and his best-known work, *The Seagull* (1972).

In 1984, Pasatieri left the New York opera scene and moved to Los Angeles, Calif., to form a film music production company, Topaz Productions. During a question-and-answer session with Hartt faculty and students, he described arriving on the set of *Pretty Woman* (1990), expecting to find Madonna in the female lead. Instead, he saw a young actress he did not recognize by the name of Julia Roberts. “I didn’t think she was beautiful and I could hardly hear her lines. But when I looked into the camera, suddenly she was transformed. That’s when I learned that things aren’t always as they seem in that industry.” Other film orchestrations by Pasatieri include *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Angels in America*, *Road to Perdition*, and *The Little Mermaid*.

In 2007, Pasatieri returned to opera with the premieres of two new works, *Frau Margot* and *The Hotel Casablanca*. Hartt’s production of *The Hotel Casablanca* was double-cast, with undergraduate vocal students Matthew Cramer ’12 and Alex Hunt ’14 as Burton, Daniel Fortine ’13 and George Mason ’13 as Charles, Sydney Anderson ’12 and Maria Cook ’12 as Tallulah, Erica Jeski ’12 and Sara Lobdell ’12 as Lucy, Gregory Flower ’12 and Miguel Vasquez ’12 as Tom, Joseph Baker ’14 and Michael Spaziani ’12 as Raul, Marlon McWilliams ’13 and Dean Murphy ’14 as Tobias, Emily Dlessio ’13 and Dana Kephart ’12 as Bluebell Pooder, and Angela Joy Lamb ’12 and Erica Maas ’12 as Veronique. The production was conducted by Hartt vocal professor Doris Lang Kosloff and directed by opera stage director Ron Luchsinger.
Beauty Is a Rare Thing

Exhibit of contemporary handmade books

The sampling of handmade books that was chosen for Rare Beauty: Contemporary Visions in Book Arts, an exhibit at the Joseloff Gallery in February, required the viewer to suspend expectations. These books were not the traditional narrative text, perhaps with photographs, between two covers.

The exhibition displayed the incredible scope of the craft of bookmaking when placed in the hands of artists. From traditional, recognizable book forms to interactive boxes, text-wrapped jawbones, embroidered scrolls, and installations, the books in this exhibition stretched all familiar boundaries of what defines a “book.”

Rare Beauty showcased the work of six distinguished printmakers and book artists. Steven Daiber, Pati Scobey, and Barb Tetenbaum are the 2011–12 Georgette and Richard Koopman Distinguished Chairs in the printmaking department at the University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School. Three invited artists—Julie Chen, Kathy Kuehn, and Wilber H. Schilling—also contributed work.

The title of the exhibition was inspired by Schilling, who said, “In this increasingly digital age, a carefully handmade, inspiring designed, and richly tactile book is a rare beauty.”

Rare Beauty was organized by Lisa Gaumond, managing director of the Joseloff Gallery, with the help of the faculty of the Hartford Art School printmaking department; James Lee, associate professor of printmaking, and Jenni Freidman, visiting assistant professor; as well as John Willis, foundation department coordinator.

The University of Hartford’s 55th Founders Day, Feb. 21, 2012, fell on the start of Mardi Gras this year, and planners for the celebration decided to adopt it as the event theme. The festivities began at noon, with New Orleans–style menus in both cafeterias, and ended with a paper airplane contest at halftime at the men’s basketball game against Stony Brook.

Counterclockwise from top right:
President Walter Harrison (left of banner) poses with the Grand Prize winner, the float from the music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Participants, who sang the University's fight song, “Fly High, Hawks, Fly High,” will receive a pizza party for each of the next three months.
A battered Stony Brook Seawolf and kazoo band float from Hawk Hall’s Spirit Residential Learning Community won as the wackiest entry.
Both cafeterias served New Orleans–style food, including gumbo and jambalaya, and student volunteers from the Student Government Association and University staff handed out Mardi Gras beads. Here, students sing along with the pep band playing at lunchtime in Gengras Cafeteria.
Judges for the float contest were (l–r) Hartford Art School Professor Power Boothe, President Walter Harrison, and graduate communication student Caitlin Terry ’10, M’12.
Members of the pep band wear Founders Day “Just Bead It” T-shirts.
The Center for Community Service float won for Best Variety of Themes and Costumes.
Calling All Hawks Cheerleader Alumni!

Don’t miss the chance to get together with other former cheerleaders to reminisce about your times cheering on the Hawks. For information on a reunion planned for next fall, e-mail uofhcheer@hartford.edu.

Go, Hawks!

Hawks Women to Face UConn in Chase Family Arena

Next December, the UConn women’s basketball team will make its first appearance on the Hawks’ home court since 1990. The game, scheduled for Dec. 22, 2012, will be the first of a new, three-game women’s basketball series between the two teams. The series will continue through the 2014–15 season, with the other two games played either at Gampel Pavilion on the UConn campus or at the XL Center in downtown Hartford.

Historically, the Hawks women’s basketball team began playing the Huskies in 1985 after joining Division I play. The Huskies’ last meeting at the University was in December 1990, shortly after the Sports Center opened. Since head coach Jennifer Rizzotti’s arrival at the University of Hartford, the Hawks have played a six-game series against Connecticut, with all six games being played at the XL Center.

Tickets for the game will become available this summer. Contact the Malcolm and Brenda Berman Athletics Ticket Office at 860.768.4295 or tickets@hartford.edu to be included on a waiting list of those who will be notified as soon as tickets are available.

Hawks Basketball Making Late-Season Noise

As the Observer headed to press, the men’s and women’s basketball teams were both wrapping up their regular seasons, readying for the America East Men’s and Women’s Championship, presented by Newman’s Own and hosted for the third consecutive year by the University of Hartford.

With six freshmen averaging double digits in minutes played, men’s head coach John Gallagher has preached patience. The youthful Hawks responded from a winless November in mid-January. Hartford then reeled off its first four-game winning streak in five years in mid-January.

The Hawks’ newfound confidence was on display on Feb. 18 at St. Peter’s College, as a gathering of New Jersey alumni and friends were on hand to watch the Hawks soar to a 67-51 victory in a Sears ESPN BracketBusters matchup.

“I’m ecstatic about my young players,” Gallagher says. “To be in the position we are in [battling for fourth place in America East with a 7-7 league record at press time] is a huge feat, looking back two months ago.”

The women’s team was riding a seven-game winning streak following a 66-54 victory over UMBC (University of Maryland–Baltimore County) in a Feb. 19 game that was nationally televised on CBS Sports Network.

Hartford was in first-class company early in the season, joining Notre Dame, Baylor, and UCLA in reaching the final four of the preseason WNIT. A loss at Notre Dame was the only setback for the Hawks over the first five games of the season.

The team headed into conference play with a 9-5 record, but then dropped its first three league games, and five of eight, before beginning its string of consecutive victories with a convincing 63-44 win over Stony Brook on Jan. 25.

“We’re definitely moving in the direction of the type of team that has won championships in the past,” says Hartford head coach Jennifer Rizzotti, who again has her team playing best when it matters the most.

With February’s success, both the men’s and women’s teams had individuals honored by America East. On Feb. 13, freshman Nate Sikma was named conference Rookie of the Week, averaging 14.5 points and eight rebounds in wins over UMBC and Binghamton. The following week, freshman teammate Mark Nwakamma earned the same honor, averaging 16 points and shooting a sizzling 82 percent from the floor.

Junior Ruthanne Doherty was named America East Women’s Basketball Player of the Week for the period ending Feb. 19. She followed up a 19-point performance at Maine with a 16-point, 11-rebound gem in the win over UMBC.

Cheering on the Hawks—Past and Present

Former Hawks cheerleaders from the late 1990s attended a men’s basketball game on Feb. 12, 2012. In addition to meeting the current cheerleading squad at the University, the group placed flowers at a tree planted previously on campus in memory of Amy Beth Callaghan, a freshman cheerleader who died in an automobile accident in 1995.

“Diversity of every sort is integral to our academic mission, along with connections to local, national, and global communities.” So reads the last sentence of the University of Hartford’s academic mission statement.

In its formative years in the 1960s and early 1970s, the University experienced some campus unrest, as both white and black students protested for change. For black students, the concerns were about recruitment efforts, financial aid, and curriculum. Eventually negotiations broke down, and there was a four-day takeover of the chancellor’s office in 1971. Some of the resultant gains, won more than 40 years ago, remain evident on campus today.

The University’s commitment to holding a celebratory event to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy was enhanced this year with an exhibition of portraits titled Lest We Forget in Mortenson Library. The portraits of leaders of the civil rights movement were painted by Robert Templeton of Woodbury, Conn.

Several faculty members’ research and courses focus on racial diversity and other current and historical issues in African American studies. We invited Warren Goldstein, professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences, to share some of his research and insight on Martin Luther King Jr. Robert Churchill, associate professor of history in Hillyer College, offers some lesser-known facts about the Underground Railroad.
In the spring of 1963 the civil rights movement needed a victory badly. Perhaps even more than the movement, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. needed a big win.

Even though today we celebrate his birthday as a federal holiday and the nation recently dedicated a massive monument to him between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials in Washington, D.C., it is worth looking at just how tenuous King's grasp on history was back in 1963.

After being thrust into local and national prominence by the yearlong Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955–56, King and his organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), struggled to find traction over the next half-dozen years. Key movement landmarks more or less passed King by.

The 1960 sit-in movements owed more to the energy of students in Greensboro, N.C., and the Gandhi-inspired teaching of the Rev. James Lawson in Nashville, Tenn., than to King or the ministers of the SCLC. (The sit-ins may be the closest historical parallel to the nearly leaderless Occupy movement of 2011, which seemed to spring up independently all over the country and the world.) The young people's organization born out of the sit-ins, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), had, at best, an uneasy relationship with the SCLC.

When the May 1961 Freedom Rides excited violent white resistance to integration in Alabama and Mississippi, and focused national attention on the courageous young black and white riders, King resisted pressure to ride the buses, saying, "I should choose the time and place of my Golgotha [biblical name of the site of Jesus's crucifixion]." SNCC members took to mocking King as "de Lawd." Then, in 1962, King and the SCLC took part in a disorganized, SNCC-led attempt to desegregate Albany, Ga.—which flopped.

After a brilliant beginning, in other words, Martin Luther King Jr. experienced years of drift and failure. But when the SCLC targeted Birmingham, Ala., one of the most segregated cities in the entire South, King and his staff worked closely with local civil rights leaders to carefully plan their campaign, known as Project C, for confrontation.

Designed to disrupt the Easter shopping season, the demonstrations began in April. For several weeks, police chief Theophilus "Bull" Connor, who had a well-deserved reputation for segregationist brutality, maintained relative restraint and calmly filled the jails with protesters while ignoring their demands. Just as frustrating, King faced criticism from middle-class African Americans for rocking the local boat, as well as from white moderates who thought they were already making significant racial progress.

By Good Friday, the movement had stalled. It had run out of bail money and was running out of foot soldiers. To neutralize a march planned that day, Bull Connor had obtained a broad injunction against any kind of demonstrations. King's advisors argued heatedly about whether he should march and surely go to jail—thereby locking up the movement's chief fundraiser—or knuckle under to Connor and preserve King's freedom.

The religious timing—the holiest week in the Christian calendar—must have brought almost unbearable emotional intensity to an already grave and confounding moment. King retired to his room to pray, and when he emerged, he was wearing jeans and a chambray work shirt—ready for a march and jail.

"I don't know what will happen," he remembered saying. "I don't know where the money will come from. But I have to..."
make a faith act.” As King aide Andrew Young told an interviewer later, this moment was “the beginning of his true leadership.”

Arrested within blocks, King ended up in solitary, tomblike confinement and passed what he described as “the longest, most frustrating and bewildering hours I have lived,” since not even lawyers were allowed to see him until the next day. As Christians the world over celebrated Jesus’s Resurrection on Easter, King remained in jail. Monday brought good news: singer, actor, and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte had raised $50,000 for bail money; and bad: local white clergy had written an open letter in Sunday’s papers criticizing King and his demonstrations as “unwise and untimely.”

Stung, King began to compose his reply in the margins of the newspaper, eventually completing a 7,000-word response during the next five days in jail that became known as the “Letter from Birmingham City Jail.” It contains King’s single most concentrated and eloquent explanation of the theory and practice of nonviolent direct action.

As to the question of timing, he replied, “Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was ‘well timed’ in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation.” To those who accused him of refusing to negotiate, King argued, “The purpose of our direct-action program is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation.” Eventually, the “Letter” would circulate around the world, becoming the great classic statement of nonviolent direct action. But global fame lay very much in the future when King left that Birmingham jail on April 20.

Instead, as the media began to leave and it looked as though Birmingham’s leaders had stonewalled the movement successfully, King approved a daring move, first suggested by his brilliant aide, James Bevel, to have schoolchildren join the protests en masse. When Bull Connor turned vicious police dogs and high-pressure fire hoses on the children, the shocking images shamed many Birmingham whites, solidified the African-American community behind the protests, and garnered worldwide attention for King and the Birmingham struggle. Eight days later, the city’s business and political leaders had agreed to desegregate public spaces and hire black workers.

The civil rights movement had its most visible victory to date, and Martin Luther King’s reputation as a daring, brave, successful leader was secured. Three months later at the Lincoln Memorial, as the concluding speaker of the March on Washington, he joined the ages with his “I Have a Dream” speech.

Warren Goldstein is a professor and chair of the history department in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University. In November a C-SPAN crew visited campus to film his seminar, Beyond the Dreamer: The Life and Work of Martin Luther King Jr. The segment, which ran on the network’s Lectures in History series in December, features students discussing King’s protest efforts in Birmingham and the overall status of the civil rights movement in 1963. Watch the lecture at www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Jrin.
After welcoming words by President Walter Harrison, fifth-graders from the University of Hartford Magnet School, led by teacher Laura Deutsch, performed “MLK Speak-chorus,” a combination of songs and spoken words about King and his legacy.

Three students from the University High School of Science and Engineering drew a standing ovation with their powerful recitations of original poetry.

Hartt School faculty, alumni, and students added moving musical elements to the program. Aja Wilson ’10 sang “Study War No More.” Hartt faculty member Shawn Monteiro sang “Left Alone” by Mal Waldron. She was accompanied by faculty member Nat Reeves on acoustic bass, Mark Templeton on piano, and a quartet of Hartt students on French horn—Adam Grover ’12, Liam Hannah ’14, Cathryn Cummings M’13, and Joshua Thompson M’12. Erica Bryan ’15 closed the program with a stirring rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Winners of the 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest were Melonie Jackson, a fifth-grader at University of Hartford Magnet School; Bo-Edward Lawrence, a senior at University High School of Science and Engineering; and Karina Ma, a University of Hartford senior who graduated in December.

Young people express their admiration for Martin Luther King Jr.

Lincoln Theater was nearly at capacity for the University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. The audience of faculty, staff, and members of the community was treated to an inspirational program filled with music, poetry, and personal reflections on growing up during the civil rights era by Maestro Willie Anthony Waters (Hon. ’05), former general and artistic director of the now defunct Connecticut Opera.

“Dr. King’s dream is always with me, as I hope it is with all of you,” Waters told the audience. “Not only was his goal racial and social equality... but he also wanted us to believe in ourselves, empower ourselves, believe in what we do, and do it to the best of our ability.”

The theme of the program was “Lest We Forget,” which was also the title of an exhibit of portraits from the civil rights era that was on display at Mortensen Library through February (see “Portraits of Courage,” above).
1960s and 1970s:

CAMPUS UNREST

PROTEST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

Not unlike other colleges and universities across the country in the 1960s and early 1970s, the University of Hartford experienced the political, social, and lifestyle turmoil of the time. On campus, the fledging University was reaching out to prospective students even as enrolled students were protesting against higher tuition rates, the Vietnam War, and other issues.

At the same time, the University administration was being criticized, primarily by black students, that recruitment of black students, faculty, and staff was not a high enough priority. Although African American students had been accepted from the University’s inception, they remained a small portion of the student body in 1971—3.2 percent of a total student population of approximately 3,800, according to then University President Archibald Woodruff.

THE 1969 LIST OF PROPOSALS

In the spring of 1969 black students sent a list of 19 proposals to improve race relations to Woodruff and the administration. These proposals were also published in UH News, the student newspaper. The first, and possibly primary, proposal requested the establishment of a black studies department and major. Other issues raised included increasing the number of black students, black faculty, black staff, and black regents; naming one of the new dormitory complexes after black leaders (see “Hartford Dormitories,” p. 15); inviting more black artists to campus; and providing funding for a black newspaper and library.

The University’s response was initially cautious, but Woodruff was open to negotiations. Responding in UH News, he said the black students’ “suggestions . . . represent an interesting approach to problems which have been of deep concern to the regents . . . and to my faculty colleagues and to me.” At the request of the board of regents, a task force was set up to look into the students’ proposals.

BY NOVEMBER 1971, BLACK STUDENT LEADERS WERE DISILLUSIONED AND DISSATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY SAW AS A LACK OF PROGRESS.

In a memo dated April 28, 1969, to members of the Administrative Council, Hector C. Prud’homme, senior vice president at the University, suggested steps to improve black students’ experiences without waiting for the task force’s findings. “We can take some steps . . . so as to make their studies and campus life more meaningful.” He said there could be “immediate action” in three areas: History 537: After Slavery, Black America since Emancipation, would accommodate all black students who wished to enroll; the University housing policy would include the provision of appropriate accommodations for groups of students desiring to live in adjacent rooms; and Paul Britto ’72, president of the Afro-American Organization (AAO), and the group’s members would be asked to suggest books for a black studies section in the library.

Two years later, in 1971, the University began offering a major in black studies leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree. Some of the courses were taught at Trinity College, the Hartford Seminary, and Saint Joseph College in West Hartford through the Intercollegiate Registration Program. By the 1972–73 academic year, the University Bulletin listed an interdepartmental major in
black studies with three emphases: African studies, Afro-American studies, and Afro-Caribbean studies. Today, the University offers a minor in African American studies with the same three areas of emphasis set up in the original program.

THE 1971 SIT-IN AT NORTH HOUSE
Negotiations between black student organizations and the University's administration continued on various issues, but by November 1971, black student leaders were disillusioned and dissatisfied with what they saw as a lack of progress in some areas. In his autobiography, Never Say Never, David Garry ’74, a founder of the University’s chapter of Omega Phi Epsilon fraternity and a member of the Black People’s Union (BPU), reports that there was a long and heated debate between the two student organizations about what steps to take next. They decided to convene a meeting with Woodruff and other University officials to submit a proposal of 12 items.

According to Garry, 13 members of the BPU were selected to attend the meeting on Nov. 10, 1971, at 3 p.m. in the Regents Room in North House (now Bates House). An article in the Hartford Courant at the time identified the central issue as a request for $50,000 in scholarship money earmarked for recruiting blacks. Black students did not want the money to come out of the general financial aid fund because that would cause white students to lose their aid. Carl Clay ’76, spokesman for the BPU and chief negotiator for the black students, said that would turn things into a “black versus white issue,” something the BPU wanted to avoid.

When Woodruff reviewed the proposal and replied in the negative, some 60 members of the BPU entered North House and the Regents Room. A four-day sit-in had begun. By all reports the occupation was peaceful. Woodruff told the press that the students were there at his invitation.

According to an article in the Hartford Courant (Nov. 11, 1971), how the $50,000 in scholarship funds for recruiting black students would be made available was the first issue settled. The administration agreed that the money would not come out of the regular scholarship fund unless the University’s income fell below the previous year’s income. Although Woodruff announced to the media “that agreement had been reached on 80 percent of the issues,” students began bringing in blankets and food in preparation for spending another night. While negotiations continued, the Student Senate voted to support the black students’ demands.

Late Friday afternoon, Nov. 13, the strike was peacefully concluded, with both sides pleased with the agreement. Other issues resolved included the establishment of a board of black and white students as well as members of the faculty, administration, security force, and community to investigate alleged harassment of black students by white public safety officers; giving black students priority for housing in Du Bois and Malcolm X Houses; establishing a committee to consider whether black students could be given their own meeting place; funds to send black students to black educational conferences; and trying to find a van or bus for use by the BPU to carry on its community affairs programs.

A University press release dated Nov. 13 stated, “The students and the administration expressed their feelings that this is just the beginning of negotiations and not the end, to see that the University of Hartford continues to take an active part in promoting equality in the university community and within the United States.”

Hartford Dormitories Honor Black Leaders—Thanks to Student Activism

First-year residence halls on campus (Complexes A–D) are divided into buildings with their own names and entrances. Three of these residence halls have names that embody black leadership and the civil rights struggle—King, Malcolm X, and Du Bois. If not for student activism, those names might not be there.

When University officials put together a list of names for the new dormitories that were being built on campus in the late 1960s, they recorded names like Harriett Beecher Stowe, Eli Whitney, and Wallace Stevens, all of whom hold a revered place in history and all of whom do have a residence hall named after them. When black students at that time asked why no black leaders’ names were included, archival documents show that they were told it was the University’s practice to “name dormitories after leading historical figures from Connecticut.” This policy eliminated people like Martin Luther King Jr. and W. E. B. Du Bois from consideration.

The Afro-American Organization (AAO), a student group on campus, submitted a list of 19 requests to the University in March 1969 (see “Campus Unrest,” p. 14). The fifth request asked “that a dormitory complex be named after black heroes, with the understanding that black students have priority in choosing their living accommodations in these dormitories.”

The AAO also submitted a list of names, and negotiations began with University officials. In a Sept. 30, 1970, newsletter issued by the president’s office, the final list of campus residence hall names included the W. E. B. Du Bois House, Malcolm X House, and Martin Luther King House.
Most of us learned something about the Underground Railroad in elementary school. Perhaps you know the story of Harriet Tubman, a fugitive slave who returned to the South several times to lead friends, neighbors, and family members to freedom. Perhaps you have heard of a house near you that reputedly features a tunnel used to smuggle fugitive slaves to and fro. But most of the real story of the Underground Railroad is buried in dusty archives or obscured by layers of popular misunderstanding.

For example, many New Englanders believe that their region was a center of Underground Railroad activity. To be sure, New England was one of the heartlands of abolitionism in the antebellum era, and many prominent Underground Railroad activists were of New England descent. Fugitive slaves were smuggled through Central Connecticut towns, especially Farmington, in the very early days of abolition. Nevertheless, New England was peripheral to the history of organized efforts to smuggle fugitive slaves to safety in Canada.

In order to understand why this is true, we have to look at the geography of the Underground Railroad on the broadest scale. Most fugitives seeking to escape slavery began their journeys in the upper South. They left on their own initiative, and most had no knowledge of any organized movement to render them assistance once they reached the North. The most perilous part of their journey lay in the borderland between the free and slave states, marked by the Mason-Dixon line and the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. In most communities within 25–50 miles of this border, both north and south, slave catching was a part-time occupation for many underemployed whites. Hence, the chances of recapture were greatest in this region.

The most important function of the Underground Railroad was to make contact with fugitives as they crossed into the North and to move them quickly and covertly through the borderland. Underground networks in the borderland were generally tightly organized and interracial. The involvement of free black activists was critical in quickly gaining the cooperation of fugitives distrustful of white assistance. Free black communities in the borderland served as

This map offers an overview of escape routes taken by fugitive slaves. The routes from southeast Pennsylvania to Rochester, N.Y., and those across Ohio were operated by well-organized networks of Underground Railroad activists who assisted thousands of slaves between 1830 and 1861. Map courtesy of the National Park Service.
important temporary refuges. In the three decades before 1861, at least 10,000 fugitives received the assistance of Underground Railroad activists. Organized networks guided ("conducted") fugitives between the homes ("stations") of activists that lay a night's journey apart. Activists who operated the frontline stations—like John Rankin of Ripley, Ohio; George DeBaptiste of Madison, Ind.; and Richard Eels of Quincy, Ill.—operated in a constant state of legal harassment and violent intimidation.

Once outside the borderland, the chances of recapture decreased, but they did not vanish. Farther north, in a middle band running across the central regions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, Underground Railroad networks grew less organized. Sometimes fugitives traveled on their own, without guides, having received directions to the homes of activists farther north who would provide additional assistance. As steam railways spread across the North in the 1850s, activists often put fugitives on trains bound for the Great Lakes.

Underground Railroad activities in this middling region were especially important because they introduced fugitive slaves into northern communities that had little direct contact with slavery. The inhabitants of this region often faced up to the dilemmas of slavery and abolition for the first time when confronted with slave catchers chasing after fugitives who had settled among them. Residents then faced a choice: surrender the fugitives or defend them by force.

The arrogance and violence of southern slave catchers often alienated residents, and this middle region was the site of several important fugitive slave rescues in the 1850s. In 1857, for example, fugitive slave Addison White was rescued by residents of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, from the custody of a U.S. marshal who had arrested him at the residence of a local Underground Railroad activist. When the marshal and his posse of slave catchers returned a week later, they were chased by the residents of three Central Ohio counties and taken into state custody.

The conversion of this middle region to antislavery gave the Republican Party its electoral majority in 1860.

**NEW ENGLAND WAS PERIPHERAL TO THE HISTORY OF ORGANIZED EFFORTS TO SMUGGLE FUGITIVE SLAVES TO SAFETY IN CANADA.**

Though distant from all of this activity, New England joined other parts of the upper North, including the Burned-Over District of upstate New York, the Western Reserve of Northeast Ohio, and Michigan and Wisconsin in a distinct abolitionist venture. Abolitionists sought to establish these regions as refuges for fugitive slaves. Indeed, some abolitionists denounced the smuggling of slaves to Canada, arguing that if the upper North were truly free soil, it should be safe for fugitives to settle. When some fugitives who had settled in the upper North fled for Canada after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, New England abolitionists were mortified and sought to demonstrate that they could defend the fugitives living among them.

A series of very public rescues ensued as abolitionists sought to nullify the law across the upper North. In one 1854 incident, Boston abolitionists attempted to rescue fugitive Anthony Burns in Boston. When they failed and Burns was ordered back to slavery, the authorities needed a militia of 3,000 men to escort him to a waiting ship. As the city bells tolled in mourning, 50,000 residents of New England dressed the city in black and cried shame upon the soldiers who guarded Burns through the streets. It was clear to all observers, North and South, that the Fugitive Slave Act would never again be enforced in New England. In some sense, the relative lack of Underground Railroad activity in New England might well be considered a badge of honor, as New Englanders were engaged in a much more ambitious enterprise: the transfiguration of the United States into free soil.

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Below: The Underground Railroad, painted in 1891 by Charles T. Webber, offers a somewhat romanticized vision of the operations of Underground Railroad agent Levi Coffin of Newport, Ind. Most fugitive slaves traveled alone or in groups of two or three. Large family groups, such as the one depicted here, were rare. Credit: The Underground Railroad, 1893 (oil on canvas) by Charles T. Webber (1825–1911), Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio, USA/Subscription Fund Purchases/The Bridgman Art Library. Nationality/copyright status: American/out of copyright.
Life Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes
For first-year students and senior citizens

Facing the strange. Few people are comfortable with change; some cannot tolerate a different menu at a favorite restaurant or a detour on the way to work. But change happens to everyone, like it or not, and at certain times in your life, you have to face the strange and make a new way.

Teresa Stores is a writer and collector of stories as well as an associate professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences. How she came to teach a course on life transitions called Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes (with apologies to David Bowie) makes an interesting story itself.

"I had gone to an event where President Walter Harrison and former President Humphrey Tonkin were announcing a new relationship between Duncaster [a retirement village in Bloomfield, Conn.] and the University of Hartford. As I was listening, I began thinking about a class where first-year students would interview some of the residents about life transitions and create oral histories. I later contacted Humphrey, and he set up a lunch with Janet Lamenzo, Duncaster’s director of resident services.

“During lunch Janet said, ‘I have often thought that moving to Duncaster must be a lot like what freshmen go through when they leave home and start a new life at college.’ Suddenly I thought, ‘What an interesting idea.’"

First-year students in Stores’s fall-semester class examined two life stages: going off to college and moving into a retirement facility. The students collected oral histories by interviewing Duncaster residents who had recently moved in. They also compared the residents’ experiences with their own journals, in which they documented their adjustments as newly enrolled college students.

It proved to be a powerful analogy. Both groups were experiencing major life transitions involving similar changes—relocating from a home often lived in for many years; disconnecting from family, friends, pets, and possessions; learning to live in a collective environment with new rules and new routines; and making new friends.

Dana Eckstein ’13, preceptor for the course, added another dimension. Preceptors are advanced and academically gifted upperclass students who serve as mentors and role models, and aid beginning students in making the transition to the expectations of college-level academics. Eckstein, a cinema major, suggested borrowing video cameras from the cinema department to document the interviews.

For the first five weeks, Stores’s students wrote in their journals, read literature and theory about life phases, and learned how to be sensitive interviewers and how to operate the video equipment. In the second half of the course, they also spent one class period per week at Duncaster, where they were matched with six newly arrived Duncaster residents.

“This class wasn’t at all what I expected,” says Amanda Azzopardi ’15. “I had no idea we were going to meet amazing people, hear great stories, and learn so many lessons that a textbook could never teach. It truly helped me with my transition to college and taught me that in life we will go through many more transitions, but it’s all about what you take from [them]. I definitely would recommend this class to any dedicated freshman.”

Stores and Eckstein will present a paper and short film on the project at the 2012 International Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Conference in Barcelona, Spain, in June.
Mothman Didn’t Do It
Professor and student set out to solve a mystery
by Caitlin Terry ’10, M’12

With her curiosity piqued, Gromek began researching the bridge collapse. She says she was shocked to see that there were so many theories to explain what happened—this despite findings from the Institute of Science and Technology that a defective eyeball in the suspension chain of the bridge had shattered, causing it to collapse.

Gromek decided she wanted to go to Point Pleasant and create a video about the tragedy. “When I told Professor Bullard I didn’t have the money to go down to West Virginia, he encouraged me to try to get a grant, and I did, from Hillyer College,” says Gromek.

Gromek went to Point Pleasant and began shooting a documentary to show how the community is still very much affected by the tragedy. As soon as she arrived in the small town, she says, she was immediately welcomed.

“Everyone was so nice and willing to talk. It was like the disaster was still very new and real in their minds.”

After Gromek collected all the data and interviewed survivors and townspeople, she reported back to Bullard, who then also visited Point Pleasant and the museum. It was at that point that student and professor decided to collaborate on a book, using the resources of the museum and the townspeople to tell the story of the devastating 1967 event.

“A lot of people don’t know about Silver Bridge, and this book will serve as a tribute to the victims. We also hope to explain what really happened the day the bridge collapsed,” says Bullard.

Bullard and Gromek hope the book, being released by Arcadia Publishing, will be available for the 45th anniversary of the bridge collapse in December 2012.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Witnesses in the Point Pleasant area reported sighting a large, winged creature with red eyes in 1966 and 1967. These accounts became the basis for a 1975 book, Mothman Prophesies, by John Keel, and a 2002 movie of the same title. A West Virginia University wildlife biologist has said that Mothman was probably a sandhill crane—a large, American bird almost as tall as a man with a seven-foot wingspan and reddish coloring around its eyes—that had veered off its usual migration route.
For Mihai Tetel, associate professor of cello at The Hartt School, teaching music and starting ARIA, an international summer music academy, were practically in his DNA. Tetel grew up in Romania, where his father was a professor of music and a professional double bass player. The elder Tetel insisted that his son begin playing the cello at the age of 8.

“He started me with the cello with the threat that if I didn’t practice and get good, I’d have to switch to double bass,” Tetel says. “When I saw the size of the double bass—and I was, of course, just 8—I thought, ‘I better practice. I don’t want to carry that thing around.’ It was a great incentive.”

Tetel soon discovered he had inherited his father’s musical ability, and by the time he reached high school, he knew he wanted to play the cello as a career. Classical music was very popular in Romania at the time, which meant there was a real opportunity for him to become a professional musician.

Those plans took a slight detour. Romania was a communist country then, and many were trying to escape, including Tetel’s father. He defected to Canada in 1977 while on tour. It took two years, but eventually he brought his wife and two sons to Edmonton.

“For him to defect when he was in his 40s and start all over again from zero and rebuild his life in Canada, it was a big decision and a difficult one,” says Tetel. “It took many years for us to go from really poor to comfortable middle class and for him to get a professional situation that would allow us to live decently.”

Tetel completed high school in Canada, went on to graduate from the University of Toronto, and received his master’s degree from The Juilliard School in New York City. His career path eventually led to The Hartt School, where he works with promising young cellists every day.

Twenty-one years ago he started the ARIA International Summer Academy, which he directs and runs on the Mount Holyoke College campus in South Hadley, Mass. The program offers an intensive
curriculum for serious, gifted musicians ages 16–28 from around the world. “Many summer programs offer students a varied but general experience that includes orchestra, chamber music, and private lessons,” says Tetel. “ARIA’s focus is providing an in-depth, concentrated study of one’s instrument through numerous master classes, workshops, lectures, and private lessons.”

Tetel has been able to recruit students in ARIA to The Hartt School by inviting them to visit the University of Hartford campus and play for Hartt professors. Some Hartt faculty teach at ARIA during the summer, giving students a taste of the teaching talent at Hartt.

Tetel has seen many of his thousands of summer students join major orchestras, like the Cleveland and Minnesota orchestras and the Toronto and Montreal symphonies. Some ARIA alumni have become teachers themselves and are now helping to shape another generation of musicians. Tetel is happy with that legacy. Decades into his career as a musician, he says teaching is now his true passion.

“As I got older and older, it awakened in me,” he explains. “Mentoring a young musician is the greatest professional pleasure I can enjoy. I get more satisfaction when I see the results of years of teaching a particular person how he or she gets better, than if I play another successful concert.”

To learn more about ARIA, visit www.ariaacademy.com.
Like millions of young women, Christine Kornacki ’07 grew up with American Girl dolls and books. But it was a book illustration class at the Hartford Art School (HAS) that made her dream of becoming an American Girl illustrator. “I told everyone,” Kornacki says, “my professors and my agent, that American Girl was my goal.” After graduating, she even painted one of her favorite pieces, Pioneer Girl, with American Girl in mind. Then opportunity knocked. “The timing was just right,” says Kornacki. “My agent happened to be in contact with American Girl when they were looking for an illustrator for a new project. I was given the opportunity to do a test painting. When I got the call that they had picked me, I couldn’t believe it. They told me Pioneer Girl was one of the reasons they chose me. I thought it would happen one day, but I figured it would be down the line.” Kornacki, who was hired to do the project a year after she graduated, may well be the youngest artist to illustrate an American Girl book.

The accomplishment so early in her career doesn’t surprise HAS faculty members who saw Kornacki’s obvious raw talent flourish at the University of Hartford. “Christine’s ability to draw and paint incredibly beautiful pictures reflects her considerable talent and love of art,” says Bill Thomson, associate professor of illustration at HAS and himself a prize-winning children’s book illustrator and author. “But her drive, work ethic, and business skills are also impressive and equally vital to her success in the highly competitive professional illustration market.”

Originally from Simsbury, Conn., Kornacki is the first artist in a family that, she says, “is all business.” She is now based in New Haven, Conn., and has decorated her brightly painted space in one of the city’s trendy neighborhoods with prize-winning paintings she produced while attending the University. By day, Kornacki is a graphic designer with Product Ventures, a packaging and product-design agency. Evenings and weekends, she often works until 2 a.m. on freelance pieces. “I can spend up to 80 hours a week working on a contract illustration,” she says.

In 1986, Pleasant Company (now American Girl) introduced Samantha, Kirsten, and Molly, three historically costumed, 18-inch dolls from different periods in American history. Young girls and their parents were instantly charmed, and over the years the company added more dolls, some historical and others contemporary, and an array of products that revolve around the dolls. Each doll comes with a book that introduces its story.

Kornacki essentially brought to life American Girl’s two newest, prize-winning historical dolls, Marie-Grace Gardner and...
Cécile Rey, who debuted in August 2011. Their story takes place in New Orleans, La., in the 1850s.

“American Girl gave me the descriptions of the characters, but, yes, you can say I created their image,” Kornacki says. “Marie-Grace is modeled after my sister. A friend’s niece was the model for Cécile.” Kornacki’s friend, Aaron Joshua ’07, also an HAS graduate, was the model for Cécile’s brother.

It took Kornacki two years to produce the 25 paintings and 20 smaller portraits that appear in the series. Cécile and Marie-Grace are the first American Girl dolls introduced simultaneously as “best friends.” The six books written by two authors, Denise Lewis Patrick and Sarah Masters Buckey, were published as a boxed set, also a first that presented Kornacki with some challenges.

“Illustrating for American Girl is a highly structured, involved process,” Kornacki says. “I worked on two books at a time. I would read the stories first, which was exciting to me as an American Girl fan. Then I was given instructions on what to illustrate and a packet of historical information to interpret. The hardest part was working on multiple projects at the same time, learning how to manage my time. As I went along, I became more efficient. It’s difficult for realistic illustrators who work in oils. Publishing companies want quick and fast. But it takes a lot of time to do what I do.”

A considerable source of her inspiration is the illustration faculty at HAS. As Kornacki explains, “It was in my senior year that I took the book illustration class [taught by Dennis Nolan, associate professor of illustration] and went through the process of creating a children’s book. That’s how I ended up here. He was such a great inspiration. He would give you direction but let you do what you wanted to do.”

Nolan says he is gratified to see how far his former student has taken her talents and how quickly. “Christine always put in the extra time to make each piece as strong as possible—researching, securing models, building props, sewing costumes, preparing initial sketches and color studies, and experimenting with new materials and techniques with intelligence, fearlessness, and dedication.”

Thomson, Nolan, and Doug Andersen, assistant professor of illustration, all agree that the admiration is mutual. “Christine is a great ambassador for the school,” Andersen says. “She gave a presentation to our undergraduates during the fall semester. She helped them see that things can happen if you make them happen.”

So now that she’s taken care of her American Girl goal, what’s next for Kornacki? “I’m very excited about my current project. It’s a 32-page picture book that is coming out at the end of the year. I also would like to do an American Girl gallery showing and sell some of my paintings. And, of course, I plan to illustrate and write my own children’s book some day.”

You never know where an American girl’s dreams will take her.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Pleasant T. Rowland, founder of Pleasant Company (now American Girl), received an honorary degree from the University of Hartford in 2000.
Greetings from your alma mater!

There’s never been a more exciting time to be a part of the University of Hartford community. As a member of the Alumni Board, I have the privilege of returning to campus on a regular basis to see firsthand all the positive changes taking place, in both the physical campus and the innovative programming for students.

We all have busy lives, but I urge you to take the time to reconnect with the University. I guarantee you will find it both engaging and rewarding. Volunteer to serve on the Alumni Board and its many committees, mentor a student through the Express to Success program, or simply “like” us on Facebook and contribute to the many conversations with fellow alumni. I invite you to campus for an athletic event, a Hartt performance, an art exhibit, a special lecture, or a guided tour of campus.

Another important way to be involved with the University is through support of the Anchor Fund. The Anchor Fund plays a vital role in student education by providing much-needed scholarships, supporting challenging academic programs, and creating state-of-the-art resources and facilities. Anchor Fund gifts—of any size—have a significant impact on the University’s mission of academic excellence. You can give online at hartford.edu/giving or use the envelope at the back of this issue of the Observer.

To learn more about any of these programs or if you have any questions, please contact Kandyce Aust, senior director of alumni relations, at aust@hartford.edu.

Sincerely,

Da’Rel J. Eastling ’99, M’11
President, Alumni Association

Calling the Class of ’62!
March as Golden Hawks at May Commencement.
Contact alumni@hartford.edu or 860.768.2409.

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The Groovy 1960s

The Decade of Peace and Love
Ladies, don your mini skirts and go-go boots.
Men, dust off your mood rings and Nehru jackets.
As we step into the Psychedelic 60s.
Hawktober Weekend, October 12–14, 2012.

If you would like to help plan 2012 Hawktober Weekend, please contact Kandyce Aust, senior director of alumni relations at aust@hartford.edu.
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**Alumni Connections**

**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
- GDP: graduate professional diploma
- M: master's degree

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

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**1950**

**URSULA G. KORZENIK** (A, HAS) of Bloomfield, Conn., showed her collages and paintings in an exhibit at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Conn.

**1951**

**THOMAS J. WALSH** (HILLYER) of Narragansett, R.I., has published his latest book, *Sex and the Single Senior*. From the perspective of a single senior, Walsh discusses subjects like how and where to meet friends and potential romantic partners, dating, communication, intimacy, and sex.

**1953**

**JERRY A. D’APICE** (A’51 HILLYER, HILLYER) of West Hartford, Conn., aced the 150-yard 16th hole at the Rockledge Country Club in West Hartford. D’Apice was just two months shy of his 80th birthday at the time. The feat was his third career hole-in-one.

**1964**

**ROBERT C. PINGPANK** (M, ENHP) of Pompano Beach, Fla., and his husband, Dick, celebrated their 56th anniversary together and their third anniversary of legal marriage in the state of Connecticut. They continue to expand their family-friendly website, www.pompano-pingpank.com, which provides a look at their relationship and the continuing cultural evolution of our nation’s understanding of human diversity.

**1970**

**PETER W. SPARRE** (A&S) of Hartford, Conn., a full-time artist and steamship enthusiast, completed the manuscript for his book, *British Steamers on 64 Plates*. The book is a collection of historically accurate line drawings of British steamships, based on builders’ plans and Sparre’s own knowledge of ships.

**1972**

**ALLAN M. HOFFMAN** (ENHP) of Santa Barbara, Calif., retired as the president of the Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, a graduate-level professional school dedicated to the behavioral sciences and the health professions. Hoffman is currently working on several other projects, including AIDS- and violence-prevention programs in Tanzania.

**1973**

**CAROLE P. KUNSTADT** (HAS) of New York, N.Y., was featured in a PBS interview segment of its arts series, *Off Book*, for her innovative work with book arts. Kunstadt, whose work was highlighted in the fall 2011 issue of the *Observer* (p. 29), finds artistic inspiration in reinterpreting antique religious texts by sewing, weaving, layering, and restructuring their pages. Her PBS interview, shown in December 2011, may be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=er4fK-e-Xeel.

**1974**

**RONALD F. BARISANO** (A&S) of Dover, Del., retired after 36 years as a professional with the Boy Scouts of America. Recently recertified as a fundraising executive, Barisano founded Eagle Consulting for Non-Profits, LLC, which serves small- and medium-sized nonprofits in southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pa.; Delaware; and Maryland.

**1975**

**MARLOW SHAMI** (HAS) of Woodbury, Conn., showed her work of digital photographic composites in *Restoration—picking up the pieces*, an exhibition at the Good News Café and Gallery in Woodbury. In addition to her work as an award-winning visual artist, Shami also writes and teaches nature-based healing and creativity.

**1976**

**RICHARD J. CHIARAMPA** (HARTT, M’78 HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., had his work “Romp for Symphony Orchestra” and “Celebrity Triangulista” performed by the Richmond Symphony Orchestra.

**1978**

**PATRICIA RISSMEYER** (ENHP), See TIMOTHY J. FALLOON ‘11.

**1979**

**BERNARD L. KAVALER** (A&S, M’88 BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., was appointed by Secretary of State Denise Merrill to the Connecticut Citizenship Fund. The fund works to advocate and promote a well-informed citizenry and to encourage young people to embark on a lifelong commitment to democratic participation and community involvement.

**1981**

**PETER J. GRANDY** (CETA) of Farmington, Conn., joined Pennoni Associates as a senior bridge engineer in the firm’s East Berlin office. Pennoni is an Engineering News-Record top 100 engineering, design, and consulting firm headquartered in Philadelphia, Pa.

**1982**

**PATRICIA COLLIN** (ENHP, C’99) of Stafford, Conn., is the new superintendent of schools in Stafford.

**1983**

**MARK L. BOXER** (CETA) of Glastonbury, Conn., was awarded a doctorate in global public health from Arizona’s College of Health Sciences. Executive vice president and global chief information officer for Cigna, Boxer is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut.

**1984**

**GINA T. BROADBENT** (M, BARNEY) of Avon, Conn., is director of the Hartford Jewish Coalition for Literacy, a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford in Hartford, Conn. She works closely with Greater Hartford public schools, student and adult volunteers, and local businesses to pair volunteers with early-elementary students to ensure that students are reading at or above grade level.

**1985**

**STEFANIE A. TORROSS** (BARNEY, M’92 BARNEY) of Simsbury, Conn., has joined Whitley & Hadley, P.C., as a partner in the independent accounting firm’s tax department in Hartford, Conn.
Clockwise from top left:
Sophia Peroulakis and Kyle A. Dulude ’99 pause before scooting off to a 
Residents of Russell, Mass., the bride is an associate director at Babson Capital 
Management in Springfield, Mass., and the groom is a teacher and athletics 
coach at Westfield Vocational Technical High School in Westfield, Mass. 
Lianne Archer and Andrew M. Grascia A’90, ’91, left their Yonkers, N.Y., 
honeymoon to be married on Aug. 14, 2011, in Disney’s Wedding Pavilion at Walt 
Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. Giving the happy couple a little privacy 
were special guests Minnie (left) and Mickey (right) Mouse. 
Reflecting the elegance and joy of their wedding day on Nov. 27, 2010, are 
Joanne B. Gentry ’93 and Stanley Szelag Jr. The newlyweds make their home 
in North Haven, Conn. 
William F. McManus ’77 (right) and David P. Nelson (left) celebrate after taking 
their vows on March 18, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Residents of Rehoboth 
Beach, Del., McManus is musical director and conductor of the CAMP 
Rehoboth Chorus, and Nelson is vice president and major transactions 
counsel for Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company in Washington. 
Not pictured: 
Dina E. Romeo A’93, ’94, & David Hoeske (6.26.11) 
Courtney M. Cricco ’07 & Sean P. Reynolds ’07 (8.7.10)

1985
BARTON H. HALPERN (CETA) of Oceanport, N.J., 
was appointed the U.S. delegate to NATO for the Land 
Capability Group 1, representing the dismounted soldier 
in the subject areas of weapons and sensors. 
MARIANNE VANECH (A&S) of West Simsbury, Conn., 
was elected president of the Connecticut chapter of Char- 
tered Property Casualty Underwriters for 2011–12. Begun 
in 1948, the organization has a long, proud tradition of 
promoting excellence in education, ethics, and leadership. 

1986
GWENDOLYN L. WINKEL (HARTT, C’91 HARTT). 
See DANIEL G. GREEN ’83, M’90. 

1987
KAREN P. GILLIS (A&S) of Glastonbury, Conn., 
was promoted to director of technical sales and services 
for the hospital division of Abbott Diabetes Care, a division 
of Abbott Laboratories in Abbott Park, Ill. 
JANICE K. LOOMIS (HAS) of 
Wiliamantic, Conn., was the founding 
president and incorporator of the 
Society of Connecticut Sculptors, 
a nonprofit organization that helps Connecticut 
representational sculptors.

1988
JAY J. RASMUS (M, BARNEY) of 
Southington, Conn., was named a 
partner at Mahoney Sabol & Company, 
LLP, a certified public accounting firm in Glastonbury, Conn. 
WARREN P. BEST (CETA) of Glastonbury, Conn., 
was named a project engineer at Parsons Brinckerhoff, 
a global-infrastructure, strategic consulting, planning, 
engineering, and program/Construction management 
organization in Glastonbury. 
SANDRA W. PIEROG (M, BARNEY) 
of Bolton, Conn., was appointed to the 
advisory council of the Connecticut Society of 
Certified Public Accountants for the 
2011–12 activity year and also chairs 
its federal income taxation committee. 
Pierog is a senior tax manager at Whittlesey & Hadley, 
P.C., in Hartford.

1989
EILEEN C. BREDICE (ENHP, M’91 ENHP) of Simsbury, 
Conn., was named Newington Public Schools Teacher of 
the Year. She is a third-grade teacher at Ruth L. Chaffee 
Elementary School in Newington, Conn., and a member 
of the University of Hartford Alumni Board. 

1990
ROBERT A. MCGARRY (M, HARTT) of Long Branch, N.J., 
completed his doctorate in educational leadership and 
organizational theory at the University of Pennsylvania. 
He is director of education for the Gay, Lesbian & Straight 
Education Network.

1991
VANESSA R. MILIO (HAS) of Baltimore, Md., became 
the first female CEO of the Hartford County’s Chamber 
of Commerce in Maryland. Previously, she was director 
of the county’s public library foundation for seven years.

1992
JOHN D. BEHAN (M, BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., 
is national portfolio manager and chief credit officer at 
U.S. Bank Asset Based Finance in Hartford, Conn. 
GREGORY A. WHITE (M, BARNEY) of 
South Windsor, Conn., was named the 2011 CFO of the Year for Public Businesses 
by the Hartford Business Journal. He is 
Farmington Bank’s executive vice president, 
chief financial officer, and treasurer.
Tony A. Ormond ‘92 (HARTT) of Brooklyn, N.Y., was tapped by concert organizers to be the guitarist for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Dedication Concert last October in Washington, D.C. Ormond shared the stage with headliners Stevie Wonder, Sheryl Crow, and James Taylor.

1993

PETER BOYER (M, HARTT; D’95 HARTT) of Altadena, Calif., was the 2010–11 composer-in-residence with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, during which tenure the symphony presented 10 performances of Boyer’s works. The Pasadena Symphony has commissioned Boyer’s Symphony No. 1 to be premiered in November 2012.

1994

JANET M. CASTRICUM (M, BARNEY) of Hartford, Conn., joined Decision Strategies International as principal, leading the global consulting firm’s financial services practice.

PATRICIA M. HANNON (M, BARNEY) of Burlington, Conn., was named vice president, commercial loan officer in TD Bank’s commercial banking operation in New Britain, Conn. She manages a portfolio of middle-market commercial and industrial loans, serving clients throughout central Connecticut.

KIMBERLY A. RUSSELL (HAS) of Sunapee, N.H., was one of four featured artists to have their work exhibited at the New London Hospital Art Show in New London, N.H.

1995

VINCENT “ENZO” FAIENZA (BARNEY) of Cromwell, Conn., was elected to the board of selectmen for the town of Cromwell. He is the chair of Cromwell’s Planning and Zoning Commission, Charter Revision Commission, and Republican Town Committee.

JULIE L. WOLFE (ENHP, M’98 ENHP) of Upper Saddle River, N.J., has published a children’s book, My Holly, a story about her 3-year-old daughter with special needs, told from the perspective of Wolfe’s 6-year-old son. The book is available through the author’s website (www.my-holly.com), Amazon.com, or Barnes and Noble.

1996

ANDREW J. KRAR (CETA) of Suffield, Conn., is a project manager with Design Professionals, Inc., in South Windsor, Conn. The firm offers services in the areas of civil and traffic engineering, land surveying, urban planning, landscape architecture, golf course design, and geographic information systems.

Ethan D. Boisvert ’02 (HAS), Spicy City (acrylic and latex on vinyl, 30’ x 12’), 2010. Vivid with color and kinetic with energy, Boisvert’s mural, which was installed in Hartford’s City Hall in October 2011, depicts a number of the city’s most prominent landmarks in an abstract collage. Commissioned by Hartford’s CONNetic Dance troupe for its contemporary adaptation of The Nutcracker ballet, the piece exemplifies Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra’s ’81 focus on “local talent combined with historic venues” for the capital city. Boisvert (standing in photo) works primarily in the areas of painting, drawing, and photography, and offers his full portfolio for viewing at www.ethanboisvert.com.

Mrs. “M”

Amelia Mogielnicki, or Mrs. “M,” as she was affectionately known during the years she worked in A Complex, had a loving presence and a joyful spirit. She served as counselor, advisor, surrogate mother, mentor, and friend to countless University of Hartford students before she retired in 1978.

Pat Rissmeyer ‘78, now vice president for student affairs at Emmanuel College, was one of those students and resident assistants (RAs) inspired by Mrs. M. Through Rissmeyer and her husband Jim’s initiative and generosity, the Mrs. “M” First-Generation Scholarship Fund was created in 2006 with the support of Mrs. M’s children—Peter, Jack M’77, and Janice—and two former RAs, Laura (Kelly) Mance ’77 and Doug Mance ’76.

If you remember Mrs. M, you can make a contribution to the Mrs. “M” Fund or support it with a provision in your will, revocable trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy. There are many ways to honor those who supported you at the University.

Visit www.hartford.edu/plannedgiving to learn more about how your planning today can strengthen the future for University of Hartford students.

FOUNDERS’ SOCIETY

To discuss a planned gift to the University of Hartford, contact

Peter H. Congleton
Director of Planned Giving
University of Hartford
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
congleton@hartford.edu
860.768.2415
PATRICK G. SMITH (M, HARTT) of Richmond, Va., is associate professor of horn and music history at Virginia Commonwealth University. President-elect of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, Smith is the Virginia representative for the International Horn Society.

1998

1999
KYLE A. DULUDE (ENHP) of Russell, Mass., is a teacher at Westfield Vocational Technical High School in Westfield, Mass. He is also a coach for the school’s varsity soccer, basketball, and softball teams.

ALEXANDRA ZACHARELLA (HARTT) of Fort Smith, Ark., presented a paper on wind band repertoire at the International College Music Society Conference in Seoul, South Korea. While in South Korea, Zacharella presented a trombone master class at the University of Ulsan. She is director of bands and assistant professor of low brass at the University of Arkansas–Fort Smith.

2001
TRACEY G. GOVE (M, BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., was promoted to chief of the West Hartford Police Department. A 16-year member of the force, Gove was previously a captain and was named Police Officer of the Year in 1999.

ROBIN L. GUISTI (M, ENHP; D’91 ENHP) of Middlebury, Conn., was named the director of nursing at Civista Medical Center, a 129-bed community hospital that recently merged with the University of Maryland Health System, in LaPlata, Md.

DAVID J. MADORE (HARTT) of Teaneck, N.J., was musical director for and conducted the sold-out Off-Broadway concert “Twilight: The Musical” at New World Stages in New York, N.Y.

2002
LEE A. GALUSKA (M, ENHP) of Southington, Conn., has rejoined Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center as director of the Center for Nursing Education and Practice Innovation. She had previously served as director of women’s and children’s services at Saint Francis from 2007 to June 2011.

MICHAEL J. GONZALEZ (ENHP) of Bristol, Conn., is in his eighth year of teaching high school mathematics at Maloney High School in Meriden, Conn., and coaching track and field at Lewis Mills High School in Burlington, Conn. He and his wife, Kara, have a daughter, born in 2008, and are expecting a second daughter in late April 2012.

KORRINE A. ROTH (M, ENHP) of Higganum, Conn., is director of professional development and quality at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain, Conn.

2003
MATTHEW R. HOCH (M, HARTT; C’04 A&S) of Rome, Ga., has accepted a full-time, tenure-track position as assistant professor of voice at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. Hoch is choirmaster and director of music at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church there and is the author of a forthcoming book, A Dictionary for the Modern Singer, slated for release by Scarecrow Press in 2013.

RACHEL Q. YACOUBY (HARTT) of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, has joined the staff at the Opera House at Boothbay Harbor.

2004
DAVID R. BOSSO (M, ENHP) of Berlin, Conn., was named the 2012 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. Bosso has been a social studies teacher at Berlin High School for the past 13 years.

AHMET A. CAMSOY (M, BARNEY) of Hilal Mah., Cankaya-Ankara, Turkey, founded Camsoy Construction Real Estate Global Trade, Ltd. He was also elected as a member of the board of the ruling AK Party in Ankara/ Cankaya County.

Bronze Radio Return
Cooly and confidently harkening back to the radio sounds they all grew up with, Bronze Radio Return has released SHAKE! SHAKE! SHAKE! The group’s second album is a “forward-thinking retrospective” that spans “multiple eras of time and various places, . . . creating a new sonic space.” Band members, most of whom are Hartt School alumni—(clockwise from top left) Christopher Henderson ’07, Robert Tanen ’08, Robert Griffith III ’07, Craig Struble, Matthew Warner ’06, and Patrick Fetkowitz—were invited to represent the Connecticut music scene by playing for President Barack Obama at a Bridgeport event in 2010. Find the group’s rigorous touring schedule, music samples, and more at www.bronzeradioreturn.com.

2005
MARI E. SKARP (HAS, C’06 A&S) of Bristol, Conn., was part of a two-person exhibition, Nature’s Influence, at the White Gallery in Great Barrington, Mass. Skarp is an adjunct professor at the Community College of Rhode Island, teaching Introduction to Visual Arts.

2006
CHRISTOPHER R. BOORMAN (M, BARNEY) of Simsbury, Conn., and his band, Red Embers, released their debut self-titled album, featuring 10 original songs, including “Road Trip,” written and sung by Boorman.

VIVIENNE E. FRIDAY (ENHP, M’07 ENHP) of Bellevue, Neb., earned her doctor of education from the College of Saint Mary in Nebraska, where she developed and taught a gerontological nursing course. Her dissertation concerning the impact that gerontological clinical practicum has on nursing students’ perceptions of older adults was published by the National League for Nursing.

MICHAEL J. HANLOM (M, BARNEY) of North Haven, Conn., was appointed to the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for the 2011–12 activity year. Hanlon is a principal in BlumShapiro’s accounting and auditing department in Shelton.

OBRENDEN M. HEALY (M, BARNEY) of Colchester, Conn., was named tax senior manager at the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Advisory Council.

How Far She Has Come
Jessica Ruggles ’10 (A&S) of Middletown, N.Y., is moving forward professionally, with a condensed version of her senior honors that has been accepted for publication by the National Communication Association. The article, “How Far Have We Come?,” cowritten with Associate Professor Mala Matacin, compares advertising in Vogue magazine before and after the feminist revolution. Ruggles, shown here at the lectern next to her title screen, was also invited to present her topic at the National Communication Association’s 97th Annual Conference last November in New Orleans, La.
IDA SCHAECHTER, a longtime Hillyer College adjunct faculty member, died on Nov. 1, 2011, in a house fire at her West Hartford home during the widespread power outage that struck Connecticut in the aftermath of an Oct. 29 snowstorm. She was 78. Schaechter had taught mathematics at Hillyer since 1994 and was an alumna of the University, having earned a Master of Education in 1967 and a Sixth-Year Certificate in 1975, both from the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

Eleanor C. Bostick A’44 9.7.11
Edwina Y. Call A’44 9.28.11
Charlotte M. Chapman A’44 11.4.11
Edward A. Skoruski A’48 12.20.11
Tamera A. Hildebrandt A’52 10.16.11
Tina C. Clarke A’52 10.18.11
Ted E. Morris A’52 10.21.11
David A. Malloy A’52 10.21.11
Richard A. Smith A’53 11.12.11
Jennifer M. Scott A’53 11.12.11
Barbara A. Saenger A’53 11.12.11
Margaret E. Skousen A’53 11.12.11
Lawrence M. Haggerty A’54 11.12.11
Karen Y. Price A’54 11.12.11
Annie E. McLaughlin A’54 11.12.11
Jane M. Halston A’55 11.12.11
Chester M. Sage A’55 11.14.11
Fred M. Holfelder ‘60 11.17.11
Dorothy M. Samoja M’60 11.17.11
Cesar B. Sutera ‘60 11.17.11
Morton I. Blum ‘61 12.29.11
Warren R. Borque C’61 11.6.11
Fred Powlishen M’61 12.31.11
George Sarksian Jr. ‘61 11.8.11
Joseph T. Rossi Jr. ‘62 10.17.11
Charlotte S. Ford ‘63, M’84 8.23.11
Philip F. Kearney M’63 10.21.11
Walter G. Rockwell M’63 10.16.11
Peter F. Holmes ‘64 11.22.11
R. Ward Wilson ‘64 11.26.11
Richard T. Biskupiak A’65 12.9.11
Carol O. Cassarino A’66 12.14.11
William E. Cockerman ’66 7.26.11
Frank E. Ramsay A’65, ’66 10.24.11
Eleanor T. Majinger M’67 9.18.11
Richard J. Federowicz A’68 12.5.11
James L. Warmolts A’66, ’68 8.18.11
George M. Kurutis ’70 11.25.11
Peter S. Derensieni M’71 10.17.11
Bernard L. Hastings A’71 9.18.11
Adile D. Gaster M’73 8.21.11
J. Stuart Standerwick ’73 3.5.11
Glen M. Ungarten A’71, ’73 5.19.11
Norman F. Thompson III M’74 9.9.11
Barbara C. Fleet ‘75, M’77 11.16.11
Bruce A. Koenig ’75 11.18.11
Regina K. Weiss M’76 10.8.11
Lauren E. Wipprecht M’78 10.11.11
Katherine L. Eusto ’79 11.28.11
Jill E. Riggs M’79 11.10.11
Marcelle G. Smith ’79 7.29.11
Donna M. Walters ’79 12.18.11
Monica B. Mercier A’80 10.24.11
Robert Iritano ‘82 9.11.11
Daniel L. King M’82 11.13.11
Steven H. Neumann M’82 11.15.11
Mary P. Ward M’82 8.13.11
Dena Donnelly ‘83 7.7.11
Michael A. Yanke M’85 11.4.11
Anna J. Fransiz M’89 8.17.11
Matthew P. Sapolina A’91 11.29.11
Timothy R. Imse M’95 8.11.11
Tara T. Gambardella ‘02 10.31.11
John R. Miller ‘05 9.15.11
Nancy A. Mcintyre M’06 8.4.11
Bryant T. Belin ‘08 10.25.11
Ashley A. Kozlesky ‘09 11.23.11

Michael J. Gaulluff (A&S).
See Brittany K. O’Keefe ’07.

RONALD R. MAZEKELL (A&S) of Marion, Ind., has illustrated a new picture book titled Irena’s Jars of Secrets. Written by Marcia Vaughan, the book is a biography of Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who helped save nearly 2,500 Jewish children during the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War II.

YASHSWINI D. NARAIIDO (A, CETA) of Hartford, Conn., is a project engineer at Quest Global in East Hartford, Conn.

TIMOTHY J. FALLON (A&S) of Lowell, Mass., was invited by alumna Patricia Rissmeyer ’78, vice president of student affairs at Emmanuel College, to speak to the inaugural men’s lacrosse team at Emmanuel. Fallon, Hartford’s only multiple All-American lacrosse honoree, shared his ideas on what it takes to be successful on and off the field. He plays for Major League Lacrosse’s Rochester Rattlers.

CRYSTAL A. PIZZONI (M, A&S) of Enfield, Conn., was named operations manager at All Crate, Inc., in Windsor, Conn.

WINTER 2012 29
VIP Basketball
8. Deb Barberi ’84 (second from right) and her family (l–r: Dick Barrett, Silvia Barrett, and Jay Barrett A’86, ’86, ’92) cheer on the men’s basketball team at the alumni VIP event in January.

New England Jazz Festival
9. Hartt School students perform for the crowd at the New England Jazz Festival in October 2011 at the Farmington Polo Grounds in Farmington, Conn. The festival was founded by jazz drummer Ed Fast ’87.
10. L–r: Bobbi McNeil ’94, University regent and Alumni Board member, Kandyce Aust, Alumni Relations senior director; Nat Kennedy ’66; and Nat Reeves, Hartt assistant professor, mingle at the Alumni Association VIP tent at the jazz festival.

Alumni in Italy
5. Paul ’87 and Delcie Thibault take in the sights in Florence. 6. Lezli Bogart-Censullo ’79 and her husband, Jesse, visit the Vatican in Rome.
11. The Alumni Musicians Spotlight brings out the creativity in one alumna. 12. Cheryl-Ann Resha M’96, D’06, left, and Bonnie Edmondson D’06 celebrate the former’s accomplishments. 13. Marici Zuvic-Grajewski, right, accepts the Anchor Award for CETA, presented to her by Hisham Alnajjar, associate dean of CETA. 14. Alumni, parents, and students alike enjoy Hawktober Weekend cotton candy, popcorn, and other attractions. 15. Congratulations to our 2011 Anchor Award recipients: (l–r) Loretta Dyson M’71; David Dyson ’81; Girish Rishi M’92; Annette Lemieux ’81; Cheryl-Ann Resha M’96, D’06; Marici Zuvic-Grajewski ’86; President Walter Harrison; Nicolas Platt A’74; Daniel Hincks A’80, ’81; Da’Rel Eastling ’99, M’11; Alumni Association president; and Celia Lofink ’73, Alumni Association vice president. 16. Anchor Award winner Girish Rishi M’92 pauses for a family portrait with his wife, Himanji, and sons, Mohan and Arjan. 17. Daniel A’80, ’81, and Sarah Hincks ’81, who met while students at the University of Hartford, toast Dan’s achievement as an Anchor Award honoree for his work as the owner of Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk, Conn. 18. Loretta M’71, left, and son, David Dyson ’81, right, are congratulated by President Walter Harrison, center, as recipients of the Humanitarian Service Award for their tireless work on behalf of Tabor House, a Hartford agency providing housing and support services to men and women living with HIV/AIDS. 19. “Top Gun” and chair of the Hawktober Weekend committee, Nat Kennedy ’66 (second from right) stands tall amidst the Glamour Girls at the Hawk Officers Casino Night. 20. Alicia Farrell ’09 runs to the stage with the winning ticket for the $1,000 Southwest Airlines gift certificate. 21. Alumni and parents step back into the 1940s-themed Hawk Officers Club to try their luck at casino tables. 22. Members of the Hawktober Weekend committee raise their “guns” during the Hawk Officers Club Casino Night in Konover Campus Center.
Alumna Rocio “Roxy” Castro ’02 is living proof that persistence pays off. After falling in love with the fashion industry during a semester abroad in London her senior year, she decided she wanted to work for a celebrity clothing line. Castro set her sights on Sean “P. Diddy” Combs’s Sean John Clothing, Inc.

She didn’t have any connections in the fashion industry, but she made sure the hiring managers at Sean John got to know her. Castro submitted her résumé every single day for six months. An entry-level position finally opened up, and she got the job just a month after graduation.

Castro met Combs about a month after she started working for his company. She was soon working directly with the hip-hop mogul, who plays an extremely hands-on role in his business. A broadcast journalism major in the College of Arts and Sciences’ School of Communication who graduated cum laude, Castro was assigned to a marketing team, which forced her to acquire new skills on the job.

“It was boot camp, but it was the best boot camp I could have had,” says Castro. “I learned so much. I wouldn’t change the experience.”

Castro started out marketing the Sean John clothing line, as well as Combs’s other ventures, including his 2004 star turn in Raisin in the Sun on Broadway and his “Diddy Runs the City” campaign, during which he ran the 2003 New York City Marathon to raise $1 million for charity. Her job eventually grew to include licensing, on which she decided to focus once she left Sean John.

Castro has worked for several companies in the industry and is now the licensing director for Cole Hahn, a high-end retailer of leather goods that outsources its outerwear, hosiery, children’s shoes, and eyewear to various licensees. Castro is responsible for everything involving those licensees, from negotiating the contracts to overseeing the design and creative process.

Cole Hahn is currently trying to target a younger customer base by going through a brand revamp. The revamp will give Castro the opportunity to get back to the more youthful, fast-paced environment she misses from her days at Sean John and her tenure at Rocawear, a clothing line cofounded by another hip-hop star, Shawn Carter, aka Jay-Z.

During her decade in the fashion industry, Castro has met a number of celebrities—Beyoncé, Justin Timberlake, Eminem, Snoop Dogg, and Lionel and Nicole Ritchie, among them. She frequently attends fashion shows and other industry events. Castro says she loves being in New York City at this stage of her life, although she admits she sometimes misses Hartford, where she attended Hartford Public High School and then the University of Hartford as a Hartford Scholar.

Asked how current students might pursue a career in retail marketing, Castro emphasized the quality that helped her land that job with Sean John.

“I think persistence is key,” says Castro, “but you have to be smart and you have to be sharp. Learn your craft and perfect it.”
Here are just a few of the exciting exhibits and performances at the University of Hartford scheduled for the Spring of 2012. Plan now to treat yourself to one of these offerings.

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Mon., March 19–Wed., April 4**  
**Foundation Department Exhibition**  
Silpe Gallery  
Tues., March 20–Sun., April 15

**Alexander A. Goldfarb Student Exhibition**  
Joseloff Gallery  
Tues.–Fri., 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Sat.–Sun., 12–4 p.m.  
Thurs., March 29, 4–6 p.m.

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Sat.–Sun., 12–4 p.m.  
Thurs., March 29, 4–6 p.m.

**MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE**

**Tues., April 3**  
**Lions Gate Trio**  
Millard Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

The Lions Gate Trio performs Beethoven Trio Op. 70, No. 2; Dvorak Trio No. 1 in B-flat; and Gypsy Ramble, a new work by Elena Kats-Chernin.

Admission: Free

**Thurs., April 19**  
**Carter Brey, Cello, and Christopher O’Riley, Piano**  
Millard Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

Carter Brey, principal cellist of the New York Philharmonic, and Christopher O’Riley, one of classical music’s visionary performers, appear in a series made possible by a grant from the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Admission: $35, with discounts for seniors, students, and groups

**Fri., April 20**  
**Hartt Symphony Orchestra**  
Millard Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

This program features “Symphonic Dances” from West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein, An American in Paris by George Gershwin, and music from the Jack Elliott Collection. Elliott, a West Hartford native and alumnus of The Hartt School, was a prominent television and film composer, conductor, music arranger, and producer, whose television works include the theme songs to Night Court, Charlie’s Angels, and Barney Miller.

Admission: $20, with discounts for seniors, students, and groups

**Wed., Apr. 25–Sun., April 29**  
**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and Nine in Repertory**  
Kent McCray Theater  
Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center  
35 Westbourne Parkway, Hartford  
7:30 p.m.

Admission: $20, with discounts for seniors, students, and groups

**Sun., April 29**  
**Choral Spring Concert**  
Immanuel Congregational Church  
10 Woodland Street, Hartford  
4 p.m.

Hartt’s vocal studies students present a program of art songs, lute songs, madrigals, a cappella choruses, and some rousing Gilbert and Sullivan.

Admission: Suggested $15 donation

For complete and updated event information, see [www.hartford.edu/calendar](http://www.hartford.edu/calendar). Lincoln Theater, Millard Auditorium, Joseloff Gallery, and Silpe Gallery are on the University of Hartford main campus at 200 Bloomfield Avenue in West Hartford, Conn.
Peter Leman ’97 believes the University of Hartford and Barney School of Business were a perfect educational match for him. “I had a phenomenal experience at the University. The professors in the Barney School challenged me to push myself harder than I thought was possible. The University helped me unlock my potential. It was the perfect size—small enough that students could get individual attention.”

Leman credits Carl Smith, associate professor of accounting and taxation, with helping him land his first job in the Hartford office of KPMG, one of the largest professional-services networks in the world.

After three years at KPMG, Leman moved to The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., a leading provider of insurance and wealth-management services, where he is now an assistant vice president of sales tools and analytics. He recently learned that The Hartford has a matching gift program as an employee benefit.

“Alumni who work for matching gift companies should take advantage of the match benefit, which can double the amount of money that goes to the University of Hartford at no expense to you. I have continually upgraded my giving as I’ve become more successful, and the matching gift program helps my gift make an even greater difference.”

Give to the Anchor Fund.

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Peter Leman ’97

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