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.

New WELFund Director Sees Boundless Opportunities Ahead

Amy Jaffe Barzach has been named director of the Women’s Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund) at the University of Hartford. WELFund provides grants, programs, and scholarships that honor the legacy of Hartford College for Women and benefit the University of Hartford. Barzach assumed her new duties in November. She was previously founder/director emeritus of Boundless Playgrounds, which works with communities to develop playgrounds accessible by all children, with or without disabilities.

During Barzach’s tenure at Boundless Playgrounds, the organization defined a new standard for children’s playgrounds in the United States and beyond, and partnered with 135 communities in 25 states to develop inclusive playgrounds for schools, parks, and hospitals. She also raised millions of dollars for this cause, including $10 million in challenge grants that directly helped more than 50 communities develop their own inclusive playgrounds.

Before founding Boundless Playgrounds, Barzach served as vice president of marketing for The Hutensky Group in Hartford, Conn., and did training for the National Main Street Center in Washington, D.C. She holds a Bachelor of Science in economics from the University at Albany and a Master of Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Hartford Graduate Center.

“As a resident of West Hartford, I have been inspired by the University of Hartford and WELFund’s programs and events,” Barzach says. “Serving as the director of WELFund is the opportunity of a lifetime.”
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.”

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
  - Ivana Milanovic, promotion to full professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
- **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