EMPOWERING CHANGE
University draws from the past to create dreams for the future
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**ALUMNI BENEFITS**

**Dust Off Your Thinking Caps!**

Remember those days on campus when you were learning about history, math, the arts, sciences, and languages? Your mind was always absorbing something new.

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The Presidents’ College is a noncredit program taught by visiting lecturers and members of the University of Hartford faculty. Fall class topics included the Biology of Aging, the Challenge of Nuclear Waste, and the Changing Landscape of Diabetes.

All courses offered in January 2015 and many of the spring courses are offered at a discount to alumni. Spring offerings include Dabbling in Discrete Mathematics, Words of the Gods: A History of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Why Water Matters, and West Hartford’s Hidden Mystery, among many others. To find out more, go to www.hartford.edu/pres-coll-newsletter.

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DEAR READERS,

Since its chartering in 1957, the University of Hartford has had a long history of supporting civil rights, including a speaking invitation to the young Martin Luther King Jr. in 1959, four years before he gave his “I Have a Dream” speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. His topic in 1959 was “The Future of Integration.”

Over the years, the University has awarded honorary degrees to more than two dozen outstanding African Americans—most recently to Misty Copeland, the first African American soloist in the American Ballet Theatre in two decades.

In September the University held a weeklong observance of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, called “Empowering Change.” The events, including students and faculty giving presentations and workshops, brought to campus nationally known speakers, among them civil rights leaders Ruby Sales, Robert Moses, and Eva Jefferson Paterson. It was a proud week on campus.

Students are benefiting from a variety of opportunities to interact one-on-one with our distinctive faculty. Four students who received Dorothy Goodwin Summer Scholars scholarships worked on individual projects they had proposed with a faculty member, Professor Bob Celmer ’78, who leads CETA’s undergraduate acoustical engineering and music program, offers hands-on project classes in which students apply what they learn in class to, for example, the acoustics in restaurants and reducing noise in hospitals.

Associate Professor Joyce Ashuntantang studies the arts of her native Cameroon and brings her research and experiences back to her classes in Hillyer College.

You’ll find photos from Hawktober Weekend, held Oct. 17–19, and photos of the many amazing campus renovations made over this past summer. You can also meet the singing Gutierrez triplets now studying at Hartt.

With basketball season here, we hope to see you at men’s and women’s games in the Chase Family Arena at the Sports Center. Listen to the men’s games on WWUH 91.3 and to the men’s on WDRC 1360. For video, check the pregame story on hartfordhawks.com for the men’s games on WWUH 91.3 and to watch the women’s games on mtvU.

Go, Hawks!

Trish Charles
Editor-in-Chief

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ON THE COVER: Jeremiah Patterson, associate professor of painting in the University’s Hartford Art School, creates a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. in chalk on the sidewalk in front of Gengras Student Union. The event, “Draw Your Dreams Sidewalk Art,” encouraged students, faculty, and staff to chalk about civil rights as part of the “Empowering Change” event.

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Just a few years after graduation, bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green ’08 has the chops to become an opera superstar.
I may be the first University president to write a column about his or her grounds crew. If so, I am proud to be the first, because our grounds crew, under the general supervision of John Michalewicz, assistant director of facilities, has led to a dramatic turnaround in the appearance of our campus. And they have done this through their own creativity, their hard work, and (mostly) through their immense care for our campus. Simply put: they get it.

The most frequent compliment I receive these days—from students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus—is: “The campus looks beautiful.” Just today, a first-year student told me, “I love it here. It’s such a beautiful campus.” I told him, “Please thank the grounds crew.”

Of course, this did not happen overnight, but the results this spring, summer, and fall have been outstanding. Several years ago we began to invest in a sprinkler system all over the campus south of the Hog River. Driven by our own well, this system is designed to be environmentally sustainable. So our campus—is: a beautiful campus.” I told him, “Please thank the grounds crew.”

But it is the initiatives of the grounds crew that really stand out. Four years ago, when our biology faculty decided that they no longer needed the entire greenhouse on the rooftops of Dana Hall, the grounds staff came up with a proposal: they would grow plants from seed in the greenhouse and, in doing so, provide more plants for campus at less cost. Then they volunteered to hang baskets of flowers from our light poles on the roads on campus, which they have tended expertly. The result is a beautiful array of colors from May to October.

They have also made decisions and executed a number of changes in the flower beds around the campus. Most striking are the beds around Bates House, the anchor, and the flagpole near Bloomfield Avenue. It is now a beautiful, inviting hello for visitors to campus, especially to prospective students and their families who come to the Admission Office in Bates House. And the crew has created and carefully tended beds that now surround the spot just north of Hillyer Hall where our sidewalks cross.

But most dramatically, they planned and created a beautiful waterfall and rock garden in the space between the Fuller Music Center and the Harry Jack Gray Center. This has been a troublesome spot for a long time—poor drainage and short periods of exposure to the sun have done their damage. The crew proposed turning it into a rock garden (which answers the sun exposure problem) and a waterfall (which solves the drainage problem). What an example of creative problem solving. To this, the crew added some benches and new plantings on the downslope side. It is a wonderful spot for studying, for reflection, and for renewal, according to at least three dozen students who have spoken to me about it.

All this beautifying of our campus complements the extensive building program of the past 10 years and the renewal of so many of our older buildings. Collectively, we now have a better educational environment for students and faculty as well as an important strategic function for the University. The thousands of prospective students and parents are greeted with a more appealing first look at campus. In an era of increasing competition for students due to a declining traditional-age student population in the Northeast, a great first impression is a big plus.

I write this column as winter approaches, which means this talented crew will soon be plowing and shoveling snow at all hours of the day and night. Without their dedication, we could not provide the great education we do.

Walter Harrison
President
The three most common home states of the Class of 2018 are Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts.

The class is made up of 1,437 students from 33 states (plus District of Columbia), and 21 other countries.

The Class of 2018

Distinctive Students

Most Popular Anticipated Four-Year Degrees

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THREE'S A CHARM
“WHEN WE CAME HERE, WE WERE JUST ENAMORED OF EVERYTHING. IT JUST FELT LIKE HOME. WE JUST LOVE IT HERE.”

— Zachary Gutierrez ’16

Amazingly, they first began harmonizing when they were only 3 years old. “We would be in the car and my dad would hear a song on the radio,” Zachary explains. “He would just hum a note and tell us to sing a third above the note, that note, and another third and we’d be making a chord. That way, we would figure out the harmony. It was kind of weird that we figured it out that way at 3 years old, but we did.”

It helped that their parents were musical. Their mother, Tammy Crook, was a professional country singer in a band when she was younger. Their father, Roland Gutierrez, a substance abuse case manager, played guitar and saxophone. The triplets all studied with the same voice teacher and began performing professionally at 14, singing in nursing homes and holding concerts around the region.

Now the three baritones call The Hartt School their home away from home. They say they knew immediately when they first toured the University that they had found their college.

“When we came here, we were just enamored of everything. It just felt like home. We just love it here,” says Zachary, the most talkative of the triplets.

One of their professors, Edward Bolkovac, the Primrose Fuller Professor of Choral Music, took them to breakfast at a local diner when they first visited the University. They ate and talked music.

“I never thought from that day we’d have such a strong relationship with him. He’s just very supportive and caring, very much like a father figure in a way,” Zachary says. “I think it’s that way with all the faculty here. They all definitely are very supportive and caring about students,” he adds.

Despite the occasional disagreement, they enjoy being in college together.

“For the most part, it’s very nice to have your brothers attending college with you because there’s that sibling support that, if you were an only child, you wouldn’t have,” Zachary explains.

At Hartt, they have learned about various types of music and possible careers. Evan and Chase are majoring in vocal performance, while Zachary is studying choral conducting. They’ve also been able to develop their voices individually. Each is working with his own voice teacher to create his own sound. Evan says his voice professor, Robert Barefield, chair of the classical voice department, knew exactly what he needed to work on right away.

“He has helped me so much in terms of opening up my voice. He really cares a lot about his students, and he really wants us to succeed. I’m very lucky,” Evan says.

The triplets share the same circle of friends at college. “We’re kind of a three-for-one deal,” Evan laughs.

They also admit to having a kind of telepathy that multiples seem to share. “We’ll just look at each other and know what the other one’s thinking,” he adds.

“We also have this thing a lot of our friends have witnessed when we have to sing together. Most people call it the creative process, but we call it the ‘de-creative’ process. It’s basically just us bantering back and forth and being silly together,” Evan says.

“If we are at lunch, or even hanging out with our friends, and we just get into a silly fight, the one who is being most annoying has to leave. Our friends will just scream out ’Triplet Rule,’ and one of us has to leave. We don’t really leave, so it’s kind of a joke,” Zachary says.

After graduating, they all plan to carve out careers in music. Evan hopes to perform eventually, while Zachary is considering music education, and Chase is exploring becoming a cantor. And wherever they end up, they all plan to make singing, as soloists and as a trio, an integral part of the future.

To hear the Gutierrez triplets sing, go to www.hartford.edu/triplets.
Summer Research Projects Give Students EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

BRINGING A HISTORIC ORGAN COMPOSITION TO LIFE

After spending the summer in preparation, Mary Pan ’15 performed a historic, 21-movement organ Mass, in alternatim with a women’s liturgical choir, or “schola,” this fall.

“It is rare for any organist to have played this entire work, and the fact that I am only an undergraduate and that I was able to play it in alternatim with an excellent women’s schola makes it even more unique,” Pan says. “It was an extraordinary experience.”

Pan, a 2014 Dorothy Goodwin Summer Scholar, is pursuing a double major in organ performance (The Hartt School) and health science (College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions).

During the summer, she studied Mass for the Convents (Messe propre pour les convents de religieux et religieuses), a 21-movement work for solo organ by the French Baroque composer François Couperin (written c. 1689), from both performance and historic research perspectives. Each week during the summer and early fall, Pan had a lesson and advising session with her faculty mentor, Renée Anne Louprette, adjunct professor of organ at Hartt; some of the lessons took place in historic churches in New York City and Boston, Mass.

As the culmination of her project, Pan performed the entire 21-movement work in October, together with the women’s choir, at St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford, Conn., and at All Soul’s Unitarian Church in New York City. She also wrote a 4,000-word essay on her research.

ASSESSING CONNECTICUT’S RECORD ON GREENHOUSE GASES

Another Dorothy Goodwin Summer Scholar, Colleen McLoughlin ’15, spent her summer interviewing state legislators, a congressman, environmental workers, utility representatives, and others to assess Connecticut’s actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

One utility executive was so impressed by McLoughlin’s questions and her knowledge of the power sector that he offered her a job in the utility’s corporate governance office after she graduates.

McLoughlin, a passionate environmentalist who is pursuing a double major in rhetoric and professional writing, and politics and government, worked during the summer with her faculty mentor, Katharine Owens, associate professor of politics and government, to assess Connecticut’s actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

McLoughlin conducted extensive interviews with many of the major stakeholders on the issue. While there was consensus that climate change is a pressing problem, McLoughlin says that her “research findings suggest that climate policies in Connecticut up to this point have not been very strong because of gridlock between different actors in the policymaking process.”

Although McLoughlin has not yet accepted the job offer from the utility company executive, she says, “I am definitely grateful to have this opportunity to fall back on, and it’s all thanks to the Dorothy Goodwin Summer program.”

McLoughlin is working on her final paper, which she plans to submit to an environmental policy journal for publication, and she is working with Owens on her senior honors thesis, which addresses congressional rhetoric about climate change on a national level.

Pan and McLoughlin are two of four female undergraduates who were selected as 2014 Dorothy Goodwin Summer Scholars. The Summer Scholars program, which is run by the University’s Women’s Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund), provides undergraduate women with the opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor on a scholarly research or creative project.

This fall, WELFund launched a Dorothy Goodwin Academic Year Scholars program.

In addition to Pan and McLoughlin, this year’s Dorothy Goodwin Summer Scholars included Nicole Coumes ’16, who has been working to renew interest in traditional crafts through a symposium that she is organizing for early 2015, and Erin Sniffen ’16, who has been researching the role of women in a 1916 uprising by Irish citizens against British rule.
“Immigration is not just a border issue,” says Lisa Wisniewski, a 28-year-old student in the educational leadership doctoral program in the University of Hartford’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions. She is very familiar with the issue because she spent much of the last school year as a member of a White House working group that is developing recommendations for changes in immigration policies to help the Polish community in America. Wisniewski visited the White House in February for a full day of meetings with senior members of the Obama administration, and her working group has continued its efforts since then.

While she didn’t meet with the president personally, Wisniewski has worked with other political leaders, including U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy; Ryszard Schnepf, Polish ambassador to the United States; and members of the Polish Parliament, all of whom participated in a walking tour of Broad Street in New Britain, Conn., which is affectionately known as “Little Poland.” The officials came to New Britain to take part in a symposium that Wisniewski organized.

The major problem that the Polish American community has with the U.S. immigration system, Wisniewski says, is the difficulty in obtaining visas so that family members in Poland can visit relatives in America. “This country is missing out on a significant amount of tourism dollars because many Polish people are unable to get visas to visit their American relatives to celebrate birthdays, graduations, weddings, and a whole host of other events,” she says.

Wisniewski’s interest in immigration issues carries over to her work in the educational leadership program, where she has been working with Assistant Professor Kenny Nienhusser and Assistant Professor Diana LaRocco, as well as H. Frederick Sweitzer, associate provost and dean of graduate studies. Wisniewski praised her UHart faculty, saying, “They are so helpful and understanding, and have lots of ideas of how to move me forward in my path.

“I love doing research,” she says, adding that she wants to pursue research as a career, hopefully in a university setting. “I have many research interests that I still want to explore,” Wisniewski says. She adds with a chuckle, “I came into the program with a Polish activist life, and they’ve been very supportive of that. It means the world to me.”
The University of Hartford has a long and rich history of supporting civil rights and equal opportunity for all. In 1959 the newly formed University invited a young Martin Luther King Jr. to speak in Hartford, Conn. on “The Future of Integration.” Over the years, the University has presented honorary degrees to more than two dozen African American leaders and trailblazers, including opera star Marian Anderson; tennis champion Arthur Ashe; NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks; playwright August Wilson; Bayard Rustin, organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (where King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech); and, during the 2014 Commencement, Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund. The Martin Luther King Scholars program in the 1960s and the University’s current Hartford Scholars program have helped make the dream of college a reality for hundreds of Hartford residents. Today, 34 percent of the University’s undergraduate and graduate population are students of color, creating a rich and diverse campus community.

In September the University continued its tradition of promoting dialogue and action on civil rights and social change when it held a landmark, weeklong observance of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Titled “Empowering Change,” the observance was designed to involve all University schools and colleges, students, and faculty in events that drew inspiration and insight from the past, and encouraged use of the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement to bring about change for today and the future.

“Empowering Change” brought to campus nationally known speakers, including civil rights leaders Ruby Sales, Robert Moses, and Eva Jefferson Paterson. Also in attendance were those who broke barriers—Guion Bluford, the first African American astronaut in space, and Elizabeth Horton Sheff M’12, Hon’13, the named plaintiff in Sheff v. O’Neill, the landmark civil rights lawsuit that resulted in a mandate to provide equal access to quality, integrated public education in Connecticut. Students gave stirring performances of words and music from the civil rights era, expressions of their thoughts through colorful sidewalk art, and speeches about ways that they can make a difference for the future. Faculty members joined with journalists, authors, and activists to examine civil rights and social change through the lenses of many different disciplines, including education and healthcare, business, and technical innovation.

The weeklong program coincided with a previously planned reunion of African American alumni, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the student organization known at various times as Black People’s Union (BPU), African American Students Association (AASA), and Brothers and Sisters United (BSU). During the reunion, African American alumni joined current members of BSU for panel discussions, networking receptions, and a tour of campus. The tour ended with a ceremony recognizing past student activism that had resulted in the naming of several residence halls in honor of prominent civil rights leaders.

DeLois Traynum Lindsey, assistant vice president for student development and director of multicultural programs, said, “This was a chance for current students and alumni across five decades to come together and touch the living history of an organization that has given much to the University of Hartford.”

“Empowering Change,” which was supported by Newman’s Own Foundation, was spearheaded by Robert Forrester, president and CEO of Newman’s Own and a University of Hartford alumnus and regent. The University event was held a week after the opening of a landmark exhibition at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., titled The Civil Rights Act of 1964: The Long Road to Freedom, which is also supported by Newman’s Own Foundation. The University awarded an honorary degree to James Billington, librarian of Congress, at the culminating event. See more at hartford.edu/change.
LEARNING TO LISTEN

Adam Paul '14, left, works in one of the acoustics rooms with Professor Robert Celmer '78, at right. Paul is now employed by Shen, Milsom & Wilke, an acoustical consulting firm in New York City.
When it comes to sound, nothing gets past Lindsey, an acoustical consulting firm. Celmer, left, works with Jessica Andersen '14 in the anechoic chamber in the CETA acoustics lab. Andersen now works for Longman

Above:

Detect noises that most of us never notice. He calls his ability a blessing and a curse. Still, it’s what makes him uniquely qualified to lead CETA’s undergraduate acoustical engineering and music program, which is the only one of its kind in the country.

“[Sound] is invisible, but there are things you can do with it and control it. That was really fascinating to me,” says Celmer, whose interest in sound started when he learned how to play the piano as a child. “The more I learned, the more I realized this was a field I could get into.”

With that in mind, Celmer enrolled in the University’s mechanical engineering program. His mentor was Professor Conrad Hemond, whom Celmer calls “the godfather” of acoustical engineering. Celmer went on to earn his master’s and PhD in acoustics from Pennsylvania State University. By the time he was finished, Hemond was looking toward retirement and recruited Celmer to return to the University of Hartford to teach and eventually take over the new acoustical engineering and music program in 1982.

Over the next few years, Celmer and Hemond not only taught but also worked together on various acoustical projects, such as designing windows in a hotel at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn., so that air traffic noise would not disturb guests. This type of outside-the-classroom project and his relationship with Hemond serve as examples of how Celmer mentors his own students.

Each fall, Celmer, who was recently named a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, teaches acoustic and engineering fundamentals. Students have the chance to practice in the University’s acoustics laboratory, which includes the Paul S. Veneklasen Research Foundation Anechoic Chamber, a room designed to prevent reflections of sound waves that is insulated from exterior sources of noise. In the spring, Celmer helps sophomores, juniors, and seniors put their new skills to the test in real-world settings. His students have taken measurements to improve the acoustics of restaurants, studied the effects of different flooring on the noise level in hospitals, and helped design a proposed music arts center.

“I’ve continued Conrad’s tradition,” Celmer explains. “The beautiful thing about these project classes is the intangibles for the students, such as having to show up on time, dress professionally, and translate layman’s language into scientific language.”

The students gain valuable experience for their résumés, which helps them land jobs upon graduation. In fact, Celmer says companies call him with more job opportunities than he has students to fill them. He believes his students are so successful because they already have a love of sound and the dedication required of the rigorous admission process. Applicants must play an instrument and pass an audition to be accepted into The Hartt School, the University’s performing arts conservatory. They must also meet CETA’s entrance requirements.

“They are already motivated when they get here, as opposed to having a guidance counselor tell them they will make a lot of money if they study engineering,” he explains. “That’s not motivating when you are working your way through calculus and physics. The passion for what you’re doing is what motivates you: trying to make concert halls sound terrific from every seat, or quieter machines, or better hearing aids.”

Julie Mundy '16 is one of the many students benefiting from the hands-on, experiential learning approach found in CETA’s acoustical engineering and music program. Since very early in high school, she has dreamed of a career building pipe organs.

“My love music but I have an engineering brain,” she says. “I wanted to find a way to mesh the two together. When I was looking at colleges, I realized the University of Hartford was the only place where I could do that.”

Although she just started her junior year, Mundy already has an impressive résumé. She has worked with an organ builder in Knoxville, Tenn. While helping to refurbish an organ, she was allowed to “voice the pipes,” which means she altered them to ensure that they made the perfect sound. It’s a job usually reserved for senior members of the business, but Mundy was ready, thanks to her ear-training classes at the University’s Hartt School. She says she also gained valuable skills through her sophomore project, during which she and her classmates worked to improve a restaurant’s acoustics under the guidance of Professor Robert Celmer and Assistant Professor Eoin King.

“I’ve been doing music since I was a baby,” she explains. “Both of my parents were in band and choir when they were younger. Now they are both engineers, and they miss the music. I didn’t want to give that up, and I found something so I didn’t have to.”

Above: Julie Mundy '16 works in an organ-building workshop in Knoxville, Tenn.
One by one, University of Hartford students stepped up to the microphone to deliver stirring recitations of words from African American history—a powerful performance of a Maya Angelou poem, a moving excerpt from Martin Luther King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” a rousing speech by Malcolm X.

The inspiring program of words and music, which left many in the audience visibly moved, was part of “Empowering Change,” the University’s groundbreaking celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

The force of nature responsible for the program was Joyce Ashuntantang, who choreographed the performances, guided students through their readings, and helped them get in touch with voices from the past. Ashuntantang is an associate professor of English in the University’s Hillyer College and a passionate believer in the power of words. She is a published poet and actress with a growing, international reputation for her stunning poetry and colorful, dramatic readings. In recent years she has read at international poetry festivals in Nicaragua, Colombia, and Greece, while also bringing her distinctive voice to a number of events in the Hartford area.

Among the themes that run throughout Ashuntantang’s teaching, poetry, and scholarly work is her connection to her native Cameroon in western Africa. This past summer, she traveled to Cameroon as part of her work on a book that will use poetry and photography to document the disappearing folk art of the Manyu region of Cameroon, her childhood home.

Ashuntantang has written many poems about Manyu crafts that tell vivid stories about the crafts and their role in the lives of Manyu women, in particular. One poem, “Asoreh,” tells a story centered on an asoreh, a richly decorated dish that Manyu women created for their husbands. When a husband died, the asoreh was broken in a public ceremony, indicating that the woman was now free to remarry.

The heartbreaking poem is told from the perspective of a woman who has just witnessed the breaking of the asoreh after her husband’s death. In the poem the woman talks about her deep love for her husband and wonders whether she will ever be ready to love someone else.

Ashuntantang is hoping that her work will help preserve disappearing Manyu crafts like the asoreh. She also wants to use her poetry to help preserve Kenyang, one of the disappearing ethnic languages of Cameroon. While the official languages of Cameroon are English and French, the country has more than 200 ethnic languages, many of which are dying as those who know them pass away.

During the “Hartford Loves Poetry” festival in April, Ashuntantang read two poems that she wrote in Kenyang.

“I want to give back to the language. I want people to soak in the language, enjoy the words, enjoy the rhythm, feel it,” Ashuntantang said. “Language is a repository of the culture. If we lose that, we lose the culture as well.”
This year’s list of the top 25 university professors in the country, as ranked by RateMyProfessors.com, includes at number 20 Laura Pence, professor of chemistry in the University of Hartford’s College of Arts and Sciences. The popular website, which is owned and operated by MTV’s college network, mtvU, releases an annual list that ranks the nation’s top professors and universities based entirely on students’ input.

Pence is the only professor in New England on the list. With student comments like these about her on the website, it becomes clear why:

“She is always willing to help you in any way possible and manages to make pretty hard source material extremely easy to comprehend. She also managed to keep classes entertaining with her sense of humor. I would highly recommend taking her class if you get the chance as you definitely would not regret it.”

“Best teacher I have ever had in any class in any subject in my entire life. Professor Pence is so nice and willing to help, and has the most effective teaching style. Take this professor if you can, you will learn so much.”

“IN PENCE WE TRUST. This woman is a godsend. Such clarity and makes what you’re learning actually interesting. If you have the option to take this professor in any class, DO IT.”

“She has a keen interest in her students. Not only in their success in class but also in life. Highly recommend for all!”

Pence, who won the University’s Roy E. Larsen Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2006, teaches courses ranging from introductory chemistry to advanced environmental chemistry and chemical synthesis. She says, “The reason I love teaching is the bond that forms with my students when my excitement about their learning and about chemistry is transferred to them. It’s a thrill to read the students’ comments because I can see how they value that bond and that energy as well. “I’m really just one of many dedicated faculty members at the University, but being singled out by my students on Rate My Professors is quite an honor,” she said.

Pence spent the 2012–13 academic year on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Science Policy Fellow in the office of U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado. Her portfolio included energy, environment, natural resources, and cybersecurity. Pence’s research publications have featured traditional laboratory research as well as projects incorporating technology—wikis, RSS, and a Google Jockey—into her chemistry courses. She also chairs the American Chemical Society National Committee on Environmental Improvement, which writes the organization’s policy statements on a wide range of issues, from fracking to sustainability.

The full list by RateMyProfessors.com can be viewed at Toplists.ratemyprofessors.com. RateMyProfessors.com is built for college students by college students and is the highest-trafficked U.S. college professor rating site.
A dramatic makeover has transformed University Commons from a 1970s-era cafeteria into a modern dining hall with sleek, stainless-steel food stations, modern lighting, and a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows.

In fact, the transformation is so wide-ranging that many current students didn’t recognize the 44-year-old dining hall, which now features a brick pizza oven, a sushi robot, and a state-of-the-art bakery.

Perhaps the most dramatic change is the front wall of the building, which has been pushed out with an accordion-like window wall. Smaller tables and chairs set up in the new light-filled space give the feel of a restaurant. Light fixtures shaped like fishbowls hang in rows over new food stations, and the walls are bathed in soothing greys.

At the Asian station, employees use custom gas-powered woks to make stir-fry while a sushi robot cranks out 250 sushi rolls an hour, says Bridgett Stapleton, resident district manager for University Dining Services. At another station, a huge hearth oven toasts pizza, calzones, and flatbread. And at the greatly expanded bakery, students can see cupcakes and cookies coming fresh out of the oven.

There is also a Kosher food station and an allergen-free pantry that students with peanut, shellfish, or gluten allergies can gain access to with a swipe of their student ID cards.

On the lower level of the Commons, the Hawk’s Nest also sports a fresh look with new carpeting and seating, new paint on the walls, and a modern gas fireplace tucked into the corner.

The Commons renovation was one of several capital-improvement projects on campus this summer. The Campus Store, formerly known as the University Bookstore, has been renovated into a new, modern space with grey walls and red accents reflecting the University’s brand.

The store is now on one floor rather than two. It has an exposed ceiling, new lighting and flooring, and new display cases. New LED lighting fixtures and HVAC controls also improve the store’s energy efficiency.

The University has also expanded the Department of Architecture into what used to be the lower level of the bookstore. The newly constructed space brings graduate architecture programs, previously housed off campus in Bloomfield, Conn., onto campus and includes studio space and a larger, more modern wood shop and fabrication lab.

Prospective students and their parents are being welcomed into a newly remodeled first floor of Bates House, the home of the Office of Admission. The space has undergone an eye-catching renovation, including a working fireplace and new furnishings, all reflecting the University’s brand.

Also receiving a facelift over the summer was the Esphyr Slobodkina Urquhart Children’s Reading Room on the first floor of Hillyer Hall. Originally completed in 1994, thanks to a
A generous gift to the University by the abstract artist and book author and illustrator who died in 2002, the renovation was funded by the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions’ Institute of Translational Research.

The redesigned room will be used by University students and faculty from elementary, special education, and early childhood programs in the Department of Education as they work with students from the University of Hartford Magnet School, Annie Fisher Montessori Magnet School, and other area schools.
A record 1,500 alumni, parents, and friends gathered on campus for Hawktober Weekend, Oct. 17–19, the University's annual Homecoming and Parents Weekend celebration.

A busy athletics weekend began Friday night as Midnight Mania featured everything from burrito eating to cheerleading and dance performances. Area youth had the chance to interact with the basketball teams and enjoy activities like face painting during Fanfest on Saturday. On Sunday morning, runners and walkers took to the campus roads for the second annual Hawktober 5K.

University President Walter Harrison was up, down, and all around campus throughout the weekend, enjoying the chance to speak to alumni, students, and families.

See the full Hawktober photo gallery at hartford.edu/hawktober.
The campus green was packed on Saturday. Dining Services showed off the winning parent recipes submitted during a Taste of Home competition, and guests purchased the Empty Bowls created by UHart’s Ceramics Club to support the local food bank. A barbecue picnic lunch refueled all for the busy afternoon ahead.

The Dean’s Showcase (left) allowed parents and alumni to catch up with all the exciting things happening within each of UHart’s schools and colleges, while Career Services (above) invited students and alumni to drop in to learn about available services.

Alumni were amazed at the changes to campus that they discovered during a special campus tour and later had the chance to reconnect at Reunion Row. Naciones Hispanas Unidas was one of several campus organizations hosting special luncheons and dinners for students, parents, and alumni.
DISTINCTIVE ALUMNI

2014 ANCHOR AWARDS

Four distinguished alumni were presented with Anchor Awards at a special dinner held on Friday, Oct. 17, as part of Hawktober Weekend.

The Anchor Awards, the most prestigious awards presented by the University of Hartford’s Alumni Association, recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves by achieving the highest level of professional and community accomplishments, and who possess absolute standards of integrity and character, to positively reflect and enhance the prestige of the University of Hartford.

HONOREE PROFILES

Alisa B. Coleman ’83
ABKCO Music & Records, Inc., of which Alisa B. Coleman ’83 is senior executive vice president, is home to a diverse catalog of iconic assets that include compositions and master recordings by The Rolling Stones, Sam Cooke, Bobby Womack, and Eric Burdon, as well as original artists’ recordings by The Animals, Herman’s Hermits, and Chubby Checker.

An innovative-thought leader and acknowledged expert in the field of music publishing, intellectual property management, legacy content development, new-media innovation, and transformative digital strategy, Coleman has a degree in music business management from the University’s Hartt School. She is an accomplished art director and in 2006 was named one of the 20 people to watch by Graphic Design USA magazine. Her work has been recognized by the Clio Awards, New York Art Directors Club, and AGA, the professional association for design. She has won the Graphic Design USA Award of Excellence for many packages, including Martin Scorsese’s Boardwalk Empire, Volume 2, soundtrack and remixes by various artists (including The Rolling Stones) of the Stones song “Sympathy for the Devil,” with a 3-D cover.

Judith McElhone ’88, M’94
Five Points Gallery, of which Judith McElhone ’88, M’94, is executive director, actively collaborates with the area’s commercial, political, and cultural entities to promote downtown Torrington, Conn., as an arts destination.

Under McElhone’s leadership, FPG has grown from a small storefront gallery to a 3,800-square-foot facility with three exhibition spaces that have exhibited 80 outstanding professional artists and a database of scores of other qualified artists.

Passionate about education and community outreach, McElhone established a consortium agreement with the University of Hartford’s Hartt Art School, the University of Connecticut Torrington Regional Campus, and Northwestern Connecticut Community College to connect the colleges with the communities they serve, provide the gallery with invaluable educational resources, and serve as a gateway for college students pursuing professional art careers. College interns learn gallery management and function as docents, interacting with visitors and fostering an appreciation of contemporary visual art.

McElhone received an AS degree from Northwestern Connecticut Community College and a BFA and MFA from the University’s Hartt Art School. Recognized with a Connecticut Visual Arts Fellowship, she has exhibited her work in many venues.

Edward F. Peltier ’68
The American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, Conn., where Edward F. Peltier ’68 served as executive director until July 2014, was the first permanent school for the deaf in the United States. Founded in 1817, it is nationally renowned for comprehensive educational programs and services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Peltier has more than 40 years of experience in deaf education and has held positions as teacher, coach, athletic director, and administrator. He has been a board member of the Council of Educators and Administrators Serving the Deaf (CEASD) for two terms and chair of its Residential Life Committee for eight years.

In June 2014, Peltier received the Robert Davilla Award, the highest honor conferred by the CEASD. With his involvement with the Connecticut Coalition for the Deaf, he has been an active proponent of the Child First initiative and the Deaf Child Bill of Rights.

He has served as cochair of the Private Schools for the Deaf Coalition for 10 years.

Peltier, who attended the University of Hartford on a sports scholarship for basketball and baseball, graduated with a degree in business administration.

He is active in the West Hartford Rotary and is an honorary Paul Harris Fellow. He coaches a deaf special-needs group of young adults in basketball and was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in the Scholar-Athlete category in 2013.

Erik G. Wexler A’83, ’85, M’87
Dallas-based Tenet, for which Erik G. Wexler A’83, ’85, M’87, is CEO of the northeast region, is the second-largest publicly traded healthcare organization in the United States, operating 80 hospitals and more than 180 outpatient centers in 10 states.

Wexler started his career at the University of Hartford in fundraising and community outreach, ultimately being promoted to director of development. He moved to the healthcare profession as vice president for development and community relations at Waterbury Hospital in Waterbury, Conn. Wexler subsequently held many healthcare management positions at MidState Medical Center in Meriden, Conn., and LifeBridge Health in Baltimore, Md., and was president and chief executive officer of investor-owned Vanguard Health’s Saint Vincent Hospital.

Wexler has a BA with a major in sociology and an MBA from the University of Hartford. In 2013 he received an Honorary Doctor of Sciences from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He is a trustee for Anna Maria College and the Massachusetts Hospital Association.
When the eight Hartt School dance students in Hilda Morales’s Level 3 Variations class look back on their college careers, Nov. 3, 2014, is certain to be among the highlights.

On that day, the students participated in a master class with high-profile ballet star Misty Copeland, an inspiration to countless young girls and others for overcoming numerous obstacles to become the first African American soloist in the American Ballet Theatre in two decades.

Copeland, who was brought to the University of Hartford’s Hartt School by Dance Division Director Stephen Pier, received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts in a brief ceremony after the master class. President Walter Harrison, Provost Sharon Vasquez, and regent Rosy Kapur presented Copeland with an honorary degree, eliciting giggles from her as Vasquez placed a doctoral hood and robe over her black workout clothes.

The accomplished honoree took her first ballet class at age 13—considered an advanced age to begin studying ballet—on a basketball court at her local Boys and Girls Club. Her meteoric rise since then defies the traditional background, image, and body type for a ballerina, and Copeland has become an outspoken advocate for opening ballet to others who may not fit the mold.

Several of the students who participated in the master class said that Copeland’s down-to-earth manner and warm personality immediately made them feel comfortable.

“As soon as she walked in, you could tell she was excited to work with us,” said master-class participant Elizabeth Angleson ’15. “It put me right at ease.”

But it wasn’t just the students in the master class who were thrilled by Copeland’s visit. Many other Hartt dance students asked questions during the Q&A session and lined up afterwards to talk to Copeland and have her sign copies of her book, Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina.

“See someone our own color on stage,” Hillsman said, “it’s just so amazing that she’s here.”
WOMEN’S SOCCER WINS REGULAR-SEASON TITLE

Sophomore Aaliyah Ingram tallied her second game-winning goal of the season four minutes into extra time to lift the University of Hartford Women’s Soccer team to a 2-1 victory over the Vermont Catamounts on the final day of the regular season, Oct. 26. Just minutes after the Hawks defeated Vermont, the Binghamton Bearcats scored a second overtime goal to knock off UMBC in Baltimore, giving UHart the outright America East regular-season championship, its first since 2006.

The Hawks finished the season 10-4-5, dropping a 2-1 decision to the University of New Hampshire in the America East tournament title game. It marked the fourth-straight year of double-digit wins for the program.

Senior Chanel Johnson was named the America East Striker of the Year for the second-straight season, one of five Hawks to be honored with conference accolades.

Johnson was the league’s top scorer with a career-high 25 points on 11 goals and three assists. She was one of three players named First Team All-Conference, joining junior forward Sidney Spremullo and junior defender Emma Donnelly, also named to the All-Academic Team for the second-straight season, is a biomedical engineering major with a 3.92 GPA in the University of Hartford’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture.

Junior Kristen McAdams was named to the All-Conference Second Team, while freshman Melina Spanos was an All-Rookie Team honoree. Head coach John Natale and his staff—Kelly Shimmin, Ciara Crinion, Matt Mones, and Kevin Bacher—were named the America East Coaching Staff of the Year.

MEN’S SOCCER UNDEFEATED AT HOME

The University of Hartford Men’s Soccer team won six of its final seven games, compiling double-digit wins in back-to-back campaigns for the first time in 15 years (1998-99). The Hawks, who finished the season with an 11-6-2 record, fell 2-1, at UMBC in the America East championship game.

UHart clearly enjoyed the comforts of home, Alumni Stadium at Al-Marzook Field, where the team had an unblemished 8-0-0 record.

Highlighted by a trio of first-team selections, the most in a single season in 18 years, eight different Hawks were named to America East All-Conference squads. Junior Jhamie Hyde and senior Rohan Roye took home the first league honors of their careers, joining junior Javoni Simms, a three-time honoree, on the conference’s first team.

Midfielder Udi Cohen and goalkeeper David MacKinnon were All-Conference Second Team selection, while Andre Morrison was named to the All-Rookie Team. In addition, the Hawks proudly placed a quartet of student-athletes on the America East All-Academic Team—juniors Blake Jones and Anthony LoBello earned the distinction for the second-straight year; MacKinnon and senior Connor Yeane were first-time honorees.

VOLLEYBALL RECORDS MOST WINS IN TWO DECADES

The University of Hartford Volleyball team recorded its highest win total in 20 years, posting a 17-13 overall record. Senior outside hitter Sareeta Nethersole finished with 22 double-doubles (10 or more kills and 10 or more digs per game) on the season, and senior Kathryn Gawrych’s .267 hitting percentage marked the second-best single-season hitting percentage in program history. Freshman Katy Henchy finished the season with 71 block assists, also second best for an individual season.

A highlight of the year was a thrilling five-set win over Binghamton in the home finale on Senior Day, Nov. 9. “The biggest stat tonight,” said excited third-year head coach Alex Temkin after the match, “was our attendance (534). We were rocking this place, and it was an all-around effort from everyone, including our fans.”
As if golfing itself isn't enough of a challenge, University of Hartford men’s golfer Evan Russell ’16 has some added pressure halfway through his collegiate career. It would be quite an understatement to say that he had impressive freshman and sophomore years on the links, so the junior from Grantham, N.H., set the bar high for this year.

This past summer, Russell was featured in *Sports Illustrated*’s “Faces in the Crowd” section after winning his second-straight Vermont Amateur Championship. He trailed by four shots with just two holes to play in the final round, yet somehow managed to force a playoff with a pair of birdies before winning the title after five grueling playoff holes. Russell’s victory made him just the ninth back-to-back champion in the 108-year history of the Vermont Amateur.

“I was down by four shots when I went to the 17th tee box, and I thought I was playing for second place,” says Russell. “Somehow, by the time I got to the 18th green, I had a putt to win.”

Russell’s win in the Vermont Amateur followed a sophomore season at UHart in which he posted top-10 finishes in all 11 team events and qualified, as an individual, for the NCAA Regional in Raleigh, N.C., where he finished tied for 29th. Overall for the season, he posted a single-season record for stroke average, carding a 70.56 average over 34 rounds, besting his previous school record of 73.06 from his freshman season. Russell earned two individual medalist honors and three runner-up finishes.

Named both New England Division I and America Sky Men’s Golf Conference Player of the Year last spring, Russell was selected to the PING All-Northeast Region Team by the Golf Coaches’ Association of America. He finished the season with a national statistical ranking of 18, according to Golfstat’s analysis of Division I golfers.

Pete Stankevich, the head men’s golf coach at the University of Hartford since 2008, recruited Russell after seeing him play on just two occasions—at the U.S. Junior Amateur Championships at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J., and at the World Series of Junior Golf in Providence, R.I.

“I had some other schools looking at me, but at that time, I was just a very average putter,” says Russell. “I think that held me back and scared some schools away.”

Russell chose UHart, where he could major in business management in the University’s Barney School of Business. He immediately made an impact during his freshman season.

He was the team’s best golfer in a year that the Hawks enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in recent memory. Russell was named the America Sky Men’s Golf Conference Newcomer of the Year and was also a First Team All-Conference selection.

Despite his success, Russell downplays his accomplishments and instead points to the flaws in his game. He used his driver to birdie each of the final two holes of regulation and force the playoff in the Vermont Amateur, yet he says he still has to sharpen that part of his game. Russell makes it clear that he doesn’t think he’s playing his best golf right now.

“I’d like to get my game back to where it was before,” he says. “It’s not where it was last year, when I won a few times and played well. I’d love to do that again.”

While he did defend his individual title at the Hartford Hawks Invitational in September, Russell otherwise did not enjoy the same amazing success this past fall. Still, he had plenty of support from his teammates as the Hawks finished first or second in five of the six tournaments in which they competed. And the stage is set for a magical spring, one that Russell hopes will lead not just him individually, but the entire Hawks team, to the NCAA Tournament.

“[At last year’s NCAA Regional in Raleigh], I played okay,” Russell says, “but it was a little different because it was just me and Coach Stankevich. I’d like to go back with a few more of my teammates.”

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**Lining It Up Right**

**GOLFER EVAN RUSSELL ‘16 PUSHES FAR BEYOND PAR**

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Barney Named a ‘Best’ Business School by The Princeton Review

The University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business has once again been named an outstanding business school, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company features the Barney School in the 2015 edition of its annual book, The Best 296 Business Schools.

According to Robert Franek, Princeton Review senior vice president–publisher, “We recommend the Barney School of Business as one of the best institutions a student could attend to earn an MBA. We chose the 296 schools we profile in this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and our reviews of institutional data we collect from the schools. We also solicited and greatly respect the opinions of students attending these schools who reported on their experiences at their schools on our 80-question student survey for the book.”

The following is a sample Barney student quote from the survey: “The faculty is amazing. They really care and do their best to foster a great learning environment [by being] clear and straightforward in their explanations.”

Wright-Campbell A’02, ’04 Wins Hillyer Award

When Ebony Wright-Campbell A’02, ’04, was a sophomore in Hillyer College, she suffered a personal tragedy that could have derailed her dreams of graduating from college. Her mother and only parent, Sandra Patricia Campbell, was killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Rather than giving in to despair, Wright-Campbell became determined to honor her mother’s memory by completing her college education. With the help of mentors, scholarships, and her own perseverance, Wright-Campbell earned an associate’s degree from Hillyer College and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Today she is employed as a social worker, helping young people finish high school, and she is pursuing a doctorate in social work. On Oct. 7, Wright-Campbell was honored with Hillyer College’s Outstanding Young Alumna Award. During the award presentation ceremony in Wilde Auditorium, Wright-Campbell captivated the crowd with an acceptance speech that served as a tribute to both her mother and the family she created for herself at the University of Hartford.

Black Named Dean of A&S

Professor Katherine A. Black, who served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) for 10 months beginning in January 2014, has been named dean of A&S, effective Nov. 1. Black succeeds Joseph Voelker, who stepped down as dean after more than a decade of service.

Black joined the University of Hartford faculty in 1998 as an assistant professor of psychology. She has served in many administrative and leadership roles at the University, including assistant provost, A&S associate dean for budget and finance, chair of the Department of Psychology, as well as interim dean of A&S.

In outlining her vision for A&S, Black says, “We must continue to promote the value of a liberal arts education and to prepare our students with the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills they will need to be effective in the world. We must help our students delineate clear pathways to careers, and instill in them the values of integrity, responsibility, and lifelong learning that will serve as their guides. We must continue to support innovative teaching and scholarship, and build upon the strong faculty-student relationships and one-on-one mentoring that make the University of Hartford so distinctive.”

CAMPUS NEWS

Ebony Wright-Campbell A’02, ’04 (left), with her mentor Delois Traynum Lindsey, assistant vice president for student development.
Tribute to Rachel D’Avino ’07

Rachel D’Avino ’07 was a behavior therapist who was passionate about education and working with students with autism. But all of that promise was cut short in December 2012, when a gunman killed 20 children and six staff members, including D’Avino, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

In October the Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, with the generous support of the University of Hartford’s Parents Association, dedicated a bench and study alcove in East Hall in celebration of D’Avino’s life and the positive impact that she had on her community. After receiving her bachelor’s in psychology, she went on to earn master’s and postgraduate degrees from the University of Saint Joseph, and she was completing her final requirements to become a board-certified behavior analyst.

IN MEMORIAM: Grace Ellsworth (1913–2014)

Grace Ellsworth, a founder and longtime supporter of the University of Hartford and a member of its original board of regents, died in June 2014 at the age of 100. The following contains excerpts from University President Walter Harrison’s message to the University community upon her passing.

When Grace Ellsworth passed away in June at the age of 100, the University of Hartford lost not only its last living founder and last living member of the original board of regents, but also one of its most steadfast supporters. Grace was a woman who had helped frame the University’s purpose in 1957, who had helped define its links to the Greater Hartford community when it was founded, who presided as chair of the board of regents’ physical plant committee over many, many years as the University grew into a national and international university. And she always retained her fervent interest in the University’s intellectual mission as a center for teaching, learning, artistry, and scholarship. Grace stands out in my mind as a person who devoted a significant part of her long and happy life to making the University what it is today.

Grace’s conservative tastes were reflected in virtually everything she did—in politics, economics, finance, music, and art. She was lively and outspoken, but always interested in debating and discussing her views and opposing ones. For the first decade I was president, she came to see me at least twice a year to be sure we were giving students a chance to hear a variety of viewpoints: she always worried that our faculty—especially in political science—were too liberal for her tastes. And when Dean Malcolm Morrison and The Hartt School faculty decided to change the structure of the voice department in Hartt, both the dean and I had visits from Grace! . . . But here is what I always appreciated: Grace had strongly held views and told me and other University leaders how she felt, but she always ended those conversations by reminding me that she was expressing her views but respecting our authority to run the University.

I walk around campus and recall Grace’s views . . . or remember what Grace would have said about some of the visiting lectures I hear. But I also always recall that Grace valued above all else our freedom to express these views. She was adamant that she and her colleagues had founded the University as a place of learning, and she knew that learning frequently involved conflicting opinions.

Editor’s note: To read President Harrison’s entire message, go to www.hartford.edu/grace-ellsworth.
Dear Fellow Alumni,

There has never been a better time to be an alumna or alumnus of the University of Hartford. If you haven’t visited campus lately, there’s much to see—in dynamic academic programs across many disciplines, attractively renovated facilities, a visionary Strategic Plan and a branding initiative that are driving new enthusiasm and momentum.

Your degree is paying dividends, not just in your own career but with future members of our Alumni Association. Today’s students—they’re bright, passionate, determined, and looking for ways to connect with us alumni of this exceptional institution. Let us know if your business offers internship opportunities, or become a mentor for a week during the new Express to Success program (see p. 29). It’s wonderfully rewarding to help students discover their potential.

The Alumni Association is dedicated to promoting lifelong relationships between current and future alumni, supporting and sustaining the University of Hartford’s objectives, and serving as an advocate for the University and its alumni. All of this is being done in many ways, including some innovative new approaches.

For example, incoming freshmen this year received a copy of a new orientation booklet, *Experience Our Past, Be Part Of Our Future*, developed by the University’s outstanding Institutional Advancement staff. This publication highlights all of our traditions, everything that makes UHart memorable and distinctive—from painting the anchor to attending our annual Hawktober Weekend. If you haven’t seen a copy, take a look online at hartford.edu/alumni.

Our Alumni Association is very fortunate to have a cadre of extremely dedicated volunteers on our board, including some new members selected after a rigorous vetting process last spring. They have already begun making major contributions to our future success. If you’re interested in becoming involved, we would welcome your talents and expertise on a board committee. It’s a great way to reconnect and have a voice in our plans and activities.

Our regional alumni chapters are gaining strength and have some exciting plans under way. Recent events, with wonderful attendance, in great venues in Boston and New York City are only the beginning. There are alumni in surprising places, nationwide and beyond. Hawks fly everywhere!

Don’t forget to send us news of your accomplishments and life events so they can be shared in the Observer. And please know that the University and your Alumni Association are tremendously grateful for your contributions to the Anchor Fund. Your participation not only supports students and faculty but also increases the value of your degree by enhancing the reputation of our University.

Learn more about your Alumni Board at hartford.edu/alumni. Please contact us if you have ideas or suggestions. We’re very enthusiastic about our fabulous staff, led by Alumni Relations Director Heather Corbett, as well as the tremendous ideas that are already in the pipeline.

Join us on social media—Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter—to stay up-to-date.

We look forward to seeing you at alumni events on and off campus throughout the year.

Bernard L. Kavaler ’79, M’88
President
University of Hartford Alumni Association

P.S. If you haven’t seen the magnificent new dining facility at the Commons, it is definitely worth a lunch (see p. 14)!

University of Hartford Alumni Board 2014–15

Bernard Kavaler ’79, M’88
President
Celia Duke Lofink ’79, P’15
Vice President
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Da’Rel Eastling ’99, M’11
Sharae Lewis-Hunter ’13
Bobbi McNeil ’94
Madison Norwich ’16, Student Director
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Kerrie Sullivan ’93
Ariana M. Tarplin ’11
Naomi Lerner Tussin ’77, P’12, P’15
Kaitlin Walsh ’02, M’04
P: Alumni parent
The next session of the U.S. Congress will include two University of Hartford alumni—one of whom made history on Election Day.

This past November, University of Hartford alumna Ma Love ’97 (top left) became the first black female Republican elected to Congress. Love, a Mormon who will represent Utah’s 4th Congressional District, will also be the first Haitian American to serve in Congress. Love’s parents immigrated to the United States in 1974. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Returning to the U.S. House of Representatives will be Congressman Rick Nolan ’76 (top right), a Democrat who has represented the 1st Congressional District in Western Massachusetts since 1988.
ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Walk for Christie

Brien Convery ’89 (Barney), along with many friends, family, and other supporters, organized several fundraising events in October for Christie Rizzuto ’89 (A&S), who has been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig’s Disease. The three events were held in the Poughkeepsie, N.Y., area of the Hudson River.

1983

JENNIFER WALDMAN FRIEDIN (ENHP) of Montclair, N.J., was awarded a Teacher Excellence Award by Success Academy Charter Schools. The accolade recognizes exceptional teaching and highlights best practices and great talent from a pool of nearly 600 teachers across 22 schools. Waldman Friedin is a first-grade teacher at Success Academy Union Square.

ROBERT A. LANDINO (ENGINEERING) of Chester, Conn., was named the 2014 Business Person of the Year by Business New Haven magazine. The publication’s annual Business & Civic Awards recognize seven of the region’s most outstanding business people and organizations. Landino, a developer, is currently undertaking two separate $50 million building projects in New Haven, Conn.

1985

GARY MASSE (ENGINEERING) of Chicago, Ill., has been appointed the new chief executive officer of Coveris, the officer of Chicago, Ill., has been appointed the new chief executive officer of Coveris, the chief executive firm.

1989

JOLIE ROCKE BROWN (HARTT) of Wethersfield, Conn., presented her newly released CD, Rock of Ages: Hymns for the Soul, at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in New Haven, Conn., for the Soul conference. The publica-

1990

MICHAEL J. LeMAY (ENGINEERING, ’92 ENGINEER-

1991

MERI HARARY FLEISCHMAN (A&S) of Hamden, Conn., received her Master of Fine Arts in May 2014 from Southern Connecticut State University. While a student there, she won the Leo Connellan Poetry Prize, from the Connecticut State University System, and the Jewish Women’s Literary Annual Poetry Prize. Published in several poetry collections, Fleischman is currently working on her second book of poetry, Confession of a Double Life. Her first book, Images in Black and White, offers her family’s experiences during the Holocaust and their lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., as poetic themes.

DEBORAH LAVIERO (HAS) of Newington, Conn., is one of eight businesswomen to be honored with the Hartford Business Journal’s annual Women in Business award. Laviero is vice president of organizational development at CI, a Newington-based furniture dealership that serves architectural and design clients.

1992

KERRY BOZANSKI (BARNEY) of Irvine, Calif., is director of athletics development at the University of California–Irvine.

1993

GERRI GREEN CHANEL (M, BARNEY) of Miami, Fla., is the author of Saving Mona Lisa: The Battle to Protect the Louvre and Its Treasures During World War II, published in May 2014 by Heliopia Press.

JAMES W. LONG III (ENGINEERING) of Virginia Beach, Va., is chief engineer with the Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel District. He is responsible for planning, organizing, and designing the design, inspection, and construction of capital improvement programs, as well as ensuring compliance with federal and state policies and regulations.

MICHAEL MENAPACE (HARTT) of North Granby, Conn., is a chapter co-author of The Reference Handbook on the Commercial General Liability Policy, Second Edition, a 2014 American Bar Association publication. An attorney with the law firm of Wiggin and Dana, Menapace teaches insurance law at Quinnipiac University School of Law.

AMY EKROSS QUIGLEY (A&S) of Belmont, Mass., was the invited speaker for the Corinne T. Norgard Women in Leadership Lecture hosted by the University of Hartford’s Barney School of Business. Her topic was “Brand You: The Power of Connections and Building Your Personal Brand.” Quiagle was recently named president of the Massachusetts Innovation & Technology Exchange, New England’s leading digital marketing, media, and Internet business nonprofit association.

1994

BRETT D. GERSTENBLATT (HAS) of Scarsdale, N.Y., is enterprise creative director at CVS Caremark Corporation, based in Woonsocket, R.I. He is responsible for CVS’s recent campaign to remove cigarettes from its inventory.

ADAM RAIDER (A&S) of West Hartford, Conn., is co-author and sole author, respectively, of two brand-new books on pro hockey: 100 Things Rangers Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die (Triumph Books, 2014) and Frozen in Time: A Minnesota North Stars History (University of Nebraska Press, 2014). His current book project about the New York Mets is scheduled for a spring 2015 release.

1995

JEFFREY S. CRYSTAL (BARNEY) of Old Tappan, N.J., has been named branch manager of Morgan Stanley’s wealth management office in Ridgewood, N.J. Before his promotion, Crystal was an executive director with the firm.

ARTHUR S. HENNIG (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., chief operating officer at Magellan Complete Care in Avon, Conn., recently rang the opening bell for the NASDAQ Stock Market in New York City in celebration of Magellan’s 10-year anniversary of being publicly traded on the stock exchange. While at UHart, Hennig was a four-year member of the University of Hartford’s Men’s Soccer team (1988–91).

JACQUELINE MARTINO (HARTT) of Norwalk, Conn., received her doctorate in music education from Boston University in January. She is the head of performing arts at the King School in Stamford, Conn. She also works with an El Sistema organization called Orquestra.ndo a Vida, teaching choral music in Brazil.

2014

BRADLEY G. KERRY (HAS) of Irvine, Calif., is chairman and chief executive officer of Irvine Company, a privately held real estate investment trust.

2015

ROBERT A. LANDINO (ENGINEERING) of Chicago, Ill., has been appointed the new chief executive officer of Coveris, the chief executive firm.

MARTHIA SIDES (HARTT) of Nashville, Tenn., is a country singer who has had videos on The Country Network, CMT, HBO, TLC, and other television networks. Sides has toured around the country and has been covered by *The Denver Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Country Weekly* magazine. See also “Hawk Hatchlings,” page 29.

JOHN ANTHONY (A&S) (right) of East Lyme, Conn., competed this summer in Newton’s Revenge, a 7.6-mile cycling race up New Hampshire’s Mount Washington, the highest peak (6,288 ft.) in northeastern United States. Anthony trained and rode with his son, Luke (left), finishing the 22-percent grade a second behind his son.

VEERA KHARE ASHER (M, HARTT), DMA, of Santa Monica, Calif., in her capacity as a strength-and-conditioning specialist, was a featured presenter at the 2014 World Voice Day in Santa Monica. The annual April 16 worldwide event celebrates the phenomenon of voice.

SARAH FINDLAY NASTASIA (WARD) of Westford, Mass., is affiliated with Hammond Residential Real Estate’s Concord, Mass., office, where she services buyer and seller clients.

KRISTA A. SIVICK (A&S) of Davenport, Fla., was named a 2014 Florida Rising Star. She is a general litigation attorney with BakerHostetler, a firm of nearly 900 lawyers in 14 offices nationwide.

WEDDINGS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

Melanie Angel M’13 (Barney) and Matthew LeRoy ’09 (A&S) stand flanked by their attendants and ushers above the scenic Connecticut River on Oct. 6, 2013, at The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam, Conn. Jennifer Pedro M’13 (Barney) was the bride’s maid of honor, and Mike LaBella ’09, M’11 (A&S), was best man for his former roommate. The newlyweds are at home in Granby, Conn.

Michelle Dennis and Robert Kudyba ’94 (Hartt) were married on Oct. 10, 2013. The couple chose a historic urban setting at the Angel Orensanz Foundation, the oldest surviving synagogue building in New York City.

Lori Sedlacek and Jeff Trelewicz ’99 (A&S) took their solemn vows on June 7, 2013, at the Smithville Inn in Absecon, N.J. Alumni celebrating with them were Alice Riley-Leach ’00 (A&S) and David Rose ’99, ’13 (A&S).

The Great Wall of China serves as a backdrop for Gil Rogers ’05, M’07 (Barney), director of marketing and outreach for Zinch, a branch of Chegg, Inc. Rogers was in Beijing this year to consult with the company’s international division, Zinch China, which helps colleges and universities (including the University of Hartford) with brand building and market intelligence services in China and other emerging markets. Rogers advised the Beijing team on effective marketing and outreach practices as the company transitions its business and consumer brand over the next 12 months.
IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE M. BROPHY D’06, former chief information officer at the University of Hartford, died on June 19, 2014. He taught for a number of years in the MBA program in the University's Barney School of Business and the educational leadership program in the University's College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions. He retired in December 2013 after 13 years at the University.

EDWARD LOUIS FRIEDMAN, professor emeritus of electrical engineering, died on June 19, 2014. He was 87. Following a successful career as an engineer in the aerospace industry, Friedman was a full-time faculty member at the University of Hartford for 30 years. A registered professional engineer in Connecticut and Vermont, he was a licensed FAA private pilot and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

VIRGINIA HALE, professor emerita of English and a University of Hartford faculty member for more than four decades, died on July 19, 2014, at the age of 76. She played an integral role in the creation of the University’s model All-University Curriculum and taught extensively in the Presidents’ College. Hale served as cochair of, and held other offices in, the University’s Emeriti Association.

George D. Maharan A’47 (Hillyer)  Wallingford, Conn. 5.18.14
James J. Pauski A’47 (Hillyer)  Chaplin, Conn. 4.8.14
Lucian R. Stanley A’48 (Barney)  Simsbury, Conn. 7.30.14
Arthur A. Chaves A’51 (Hillyer)  Avon, Conn. 4.3.14
John N. Drost A’52 (Barney)  Windsor, Conn. 3.30.14
Raymond K. Lang Cert’52 (Ward)  Windsor Locks, Conn. 3.9.14
Weston J. Gourley A’51, ’53 (Hillyer)  Sturte, Fla. 5.12.14
Edward D. Harris A’53 (Hillyer)  South Windsor, Conn. 8.7.14
Sue-Jane S. Lescher A’53 (HCW)  Windsor Locks, Conn. 7.2.14
John P. Reno Cert’53 (Ward)  Farmington, Conn. 5.28.14
Josephine Zocco D’Orsi A’46, ’54 (Barney)  West Hartford, Conn. 3.30.14
Edward F. Koziak A’55 (Hillyer)  Canton, Conn. 9.3.14
Philip Liverant M’55 (Hillyer)  Colchester, Conn. 3.12.14
Richard G. Rouse M’56 (ENHP)  Rocky Hill, Conn. 3.30.14
Robert G. Arnold M’57 (ENHP)  Durham, Conn. 6.28.14
Leonard Virello Cert’57 (Ward)  Bristol, Conn. 7.16.14
Elmer F. Dallesander ’58, M’61 (Barney)  Menden, Conn. 8.28.14
Laverne W. Miller ’58 (Barney)  Dunnington, Fla. 8.9.14
Nancy Anderson Antonez M’59 (ENHP)  West Hartford, Conn. 5.8.14
Roderick J. Crochiere ’59, M’67 (Hartt)  Suffield, Conn. 7.28.14
George R. English Jr. ’59 (Barney)  Leesburg, Fla. 4.18.14
Angelo V. Grecco M’59 (Hartt)  Berlin, Conn. 3.22.14
Vernon J. Gresh ’59 (Hartt)  Avon, Conn. 8.30.14
Salvatore J. Valvo Cert’59 (ENHP)  Camp Hill, Pa. 8.30.14
Albert A. Bordonaro ’60 (A&S)  Menden, Conn. 8.24.14
George Andrew A’54, ’61 (Engineering)  Rocky Hill, Conn. 5.13.14
Margaret G. Corcoran M’61 (ENHP)  Windsor Locks, Conn. 5.8.14
Bernard P. Lemanski A’61 (Barney)  Deltona, Fla. 4.23.14
Nancy C. Gutman ’61 (ENHP)  West Hartford, Conn. 5.21.14
Robert E. Olmstead M’62 (ENHP)  Mount Dora, Fla. 3.2.14
Harry B. Schaechter ’62 (Barney)  West Hartford, Conn. 3.25.14
Susan Kane Alter ’63 (ENHP)  West Hartford, Conn. 8.28.14
William H. Godfrey ’63 (HAS)  Canton, Conn. 7.6.14
Thomas L. Heffron Cert’63 (Ward)  Stafford Springs, Conn. 5.21.14
Michael Kaminsky Cert’63 (Ward)  Southington, Conn. 8.10.14
Gustave A. Nelson A’58, ’63 (Barney)  Farmington, Conn. 6.6.14
Ruth I. Edelson M’64 (ENHP)  Brooklyn, N.Y. 8.14.14
Eileen A. Foley M’65 (ENHP)  West Hartford, Conn. 3.29.14
Daniel Miller ’65 (A&S)  West Hartford, Conn. 3.31.14
Ronald W. Mitrowski Sr. A’65 (Ward)  Tolland, Conn. 8.25.14
Ralph E. Neild A’65 (Ward)  Newtown Square, Conn. 5.8.14
Leroy W. Spiller A’61, ’66 (Barney)  Hartford, Conn. 8.30.14
Peter C. Bransfield M’67 (Barney)  Westbrook, Conn. 3.8.14
Bruce R Williamson ’67 (Barney)  Pensacola, Fla. 6.9.14
Robert G. George ’68, M’81 (Barney)  Enfield, Conn. 5.9.14
John L. Crowley A’70 (Engineering)  Southington, Conn. 5.15.14
Paul J. Dmytryk M’70 (Barney)  Litchfield, Conn. 5.7.14
Kenneth J. Gwozdz ’70, M’76 (A&S, ENHP)  Glastonbury, Conn. 4.28.14
William C. Bauer M’71 (Barney)  Middletown, Conn. 3.16.14
Russell C. Peckham A’72 (Barney)  Avon, Conn. 9.2.14
Donna Kaminsky ’73 (ENHP)  Newington, Conn. 8.18.14
Lee J. Cogswell M’74 (Barney)  Bristol, Conn. 5.30.14
Gilbert R. Anderson ’75 (Barney)  Bolton, Conn. 4.30.14
Raymond L. Conrad ’75 (Barney)  South Windsor, Conn. 5.18.14
Rosalind E. Moore-Beckham ’75 (ENHP)  Hartford, Conn. 3.1.14
Charles R. Branchini ’77 (Barney)  Enfield, Conn. 3.8.14
Betty J. Waugh ’79, M’84 (HAS)  Colchester, Conn. 5.30.14
Arnold S. Novick M’80 (Barney)  Plantation, Fla. 6.22.14
Edward Schoenrock ’81 (Barney)  Tariffville, Conn. 4.25.14
Marvin R. Selsky M’81 (Barney)  East Hartford, Conn. 7.6.14
Jodi M. Singer ’81 (ENHP)  West Hartford, Conn. 8.28.14
R. E. Veilleux M’81 (Barney)  Wethersfield, Conn. 7.26.14
Russell E. Wilson ’82 (A&S)  Manchester, Conn. 6.28.14
Andrew K. Keir M’87 (HAS)  Agawam, Mass. 8.1.14
Robert J. Runyon ’87, M’83 (Barney)  Rocky Hill, Conn. 8.9.14
Rachel G. Gioia A’88 (HCW)  Old Saybrook, Conn. 8.6.14
Ian S. Smith ’89 (HAS)  Weatogue, Conn. 6.5.14
Bryan S. Leopold A’88, ’90 (Hillyer, Barney), West Hartford, Conn. 7.26.14
Judy Johannsen Cert’92 (HCW)  Simsbury, Conn. 4.25.14
Virginia McCullough ’94 (HAS)  Marlborough, Conn. 3.8.14
Malgorzata Schenborn ’94, P’12 (A&S)  Newington, Conn. 7.10.14
Margaret J. O’Palick ’98 (ENHP)  Enfield, Conn. 7.10.14
George M. Brophy D’06 (ENHP)  Manchester, Conn. 6.19.14
Victor J. Nahigian ’11 (Barney)  Westport, Mass. 3.23.14
EXPRESS TO SUCCESS

Alumni Relations’ Express to Success program pairs University of Hartford sophomores and juniors with our alumni for an intense, weekend-long job-shadowing opportunity during spring break. Zenobia Adgers ’16 and David Bosso M’04 had an exceptional experience in March 2013. Bosso, who teaches at Berlin High School in Berlin, Conn., was a perfect match for Adgers, who is studying early childhood education in the University of Hartford’s College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

Bosso had this to say about his mentoring experience: “The most rewarding aspect of the Express to Success program was working with Zenobia, even for a brief time. It was clear that her wonderful disposition, willingness to learn, and desire to get the most out of the experience were vital personal traits that will translate into professional success as she begins her career. I am grateful that several of my elementary school colleagues and I were able to provide a productive and valuable experience to such a hardworking, open-minded, and engaging student as Zenobia.”

And from Adgers’s student perspective: “The best part of my experience in the Express to Success program was meeting and working with someone as great as Mr. Bosso. He was so willing to go out of his way to make extra arrangements to make my Express to Success shadow experience all the more meaningful and worthwhile. It was amazing to see how well respected and liked Mr. Bosso was by his students as well as colleagues and how much he made learning fun. I am glad to have been paired with someone that I know I will continue to keep in touch with and learn from as I grow in my career as a teacher.”

2000
RANDY ZIMMERMAN (HAS) of Cromwell, Conn., created two award-winning ads for Dillon Mailing & Printing, where he is data services manager, overseeing both data and creative departments. The company won Ad Club Awards in two categories, Consumer Logo and Business 2 Business Logo. Zimmerman has been with Dillon for more than 13 years.

2001
KATHERINE M. DOUGHERTY (ENHP, M’03 ENHP, D’14 ENHP) of Hartford, Conn., received her Doctor of Education at the University of Hartford’s spring Commencement ceremony. Dougherty is assistant principal of Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts in Hartford.

2002
KEVIN DUDA (HARTT) of Greenfield, Mass., performs in Broadway’s Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, which received seven Tony Award nominations.

2003
KATHARINA LINDNER (A&S, M’05 A&S) (center) of Kleinheim, Germany, a former member of the University of Hartford Women’s Soccer team, was inducted into the University’s 2014 Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame. Lindner is a professor of media studies at the University of Stirling in Scotland. Celebrating with her in the photo are life partner Laura Montgomery (left) and Eva Bergsten-Meredith, Lindner’s former coach.

2004
AMANDA BACKER NELSON (A&S) of Colchester, Conn., is director of marketing at RingLead, a technology company specializing in data quality for customer relationship management and marketing automation. She is married to fellow A&S alumnus THOMAS NELSON ’04.

2006
ROSS BARSII (A’03 Hillyer, A&S) of Incline Village, Nev., was a corecipient of Adweek magazine’s bronze prize in the inaugural Isaac+ Award, recognizing inventions, new products, and concepts that are expanding the realm of possibility and transforming media, advertising, marketing, and technology. Barsi and Matt Wells, a fellow MFA student at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, Calif., won for their creation of Geico’s Safe Miles app and its accompanying commercial.

2007
JASON FORTIER (A&S) of Cumming, Ga., has organized a Facebook fundraising campaign in support of his niece, Zoe Rose Fortier, who was recently diagnosed with osteogenesis imperfecta, a congenital disorder characterized by brittle bones that are prone to fracture.

DESIRÉE “DESI” K. ROBINSON (A&S) of East Elmhurst, N.Y., moderated a panel at the “Just Food Conference: NYC Food Policy: What’s Ahead” in April at Teachers College, Columbia University. Discussion included officials’ visions for a healthy and sustainable food system for New York City.

Hawk Hatchlings

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Petra Domingo Baxter ’99 (HAS) & Gregory Baxter (Charlotte Andrea, 5.13.14)
Bethany Margolis & Matthew Margolis ’02 (Ward) (Isaac Evan, 12.23.13)
Caitlin Bailey O’Neill ’07 (A&S) & Christopher O’Neill ’05, M’07 (CETA) (Reilly Jay, 1.11.14)

Martha Sides ’96 (Hartt) & Kevin Shaw (Echo Shaw, 2.28.14)
Stephanie Tuoehy A’05, ’07 (Hillyer, Barney), & Ryan Tuoehy A’05, ’07 (Hillyer, A&S) (Samantha Jane, 3.7.14)
ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Barney Alumni Selected for CTCPA Service

Seven Barney School of Business alumni have been selected by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA) to serve in its 2014–15 activity year. The 30-member advisory council, which advocates on behalf of the accounting profession, is pleased to welcome these Barney alumni.

TOP (L–R):
Pamela Q. Weaver M’79, M’96
Marie Kulesza M’99
Michael J. Hanlon M’05

BOTTOM (L–R):
Brenden Healy M’05
Amber D. Tucker M’06
Edwin R. Muenzner M’06
Thomas Goldfuss III M’12

2008

ROGER CASTONGUAY (HAS) of Bristol, Conn., has received a 2014–15 Business Development Grant for Artists and the Creative Industry. The grant, funded through the Community Development Block Grant, supports Hartford, Conn.–based individual artists and microenterprise businesses in the creative economy in order to increase their income and capacity to produce new work. Castonguay was one of 15 artists, designers, photographers, musicians, and others to receive the grant.

LAERTA PREMTO (HAS) of Newington, Conn., has launched a blog, trav-elle.com, as a platform to discuss travel and fashion. Premto realized her passion for travel and fashion when she went to Sicily as part of a course she took while at the University of Hartford in 2007.

2009

JOHN BRINK (HARTT) of Astoria, N.Y., performs in Broadway’s Les Miserables, a 2014 Tony Award nominee.

2009

MATTHEW DAIGLE (BARNEY) of Wethersfield, Conn., was the inspiration behind ConnectCon, a multigenre convention for fans of comic books, electronic gaming, hobby games, science fiction, fantasy, horror, and related genres. The event, held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, welcomes more than 10,000 devotees each year.

DOUGLAS LYONS (HARTT) of New Haven, Conn., performs in Broadway’s Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, which received seven Tony Award nominations.

2010

SARAH LONG (A&S) of Niantic, Conn., has graduated from Ross University of Medicine with honors. She is a resident physician in psychiatry at UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala.

JAMES MADONNA (A&S, M’12 A&S) of Oak Ridge, N.J., has published his first book of poetry, titled Poetry from the Next Room. Many of the works featured relate to his personal struggle to overcome the challenges of Asperger Syndrome, a neurological disorder on the higher-functioning end of the autism spectrum. Madonna is an Asperger Syndrome public speaker.

2011

ALEXANDER A. BECKER (A&S) of Freehold, N.J., received a Juris Doctor degree from New England Law | Boston, where he was a Dean’s List student. Becker completed internships with the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, Monmouth County Division, and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, Boston Trial Court Division.

2012

JOY BUMPUS (BARNEY) of Durham, N.C., recently passed her CPA exam and earned her CPA license.

ELIZABETH “LIZ” CALVI (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., has developed a photography series titled Lost Boys, whose subjects are this generation of 18- to 26-year-old men who, with unpromising job prospects and uncertain futures, return home after completing their educations to live in their parents’ homes in the northeastern American suburbs.

WILLIAM A. DÁVILA (ENHP) of Springfield, Mass., was named director of operations for the UMass Center at Tower Square in Springfield.

LAUREN HILL (HARTT) of Portsmouth, N.H., performed the role of Madeline in Dorian’s Descent at the MET Theatre in Los Angeles, Calif. The new musical is based on Oscar Wilde’s enduring novel The Picture of Dorian Gray.

STASS SHPANIN (HAS) of Agawam, Mass., upon his return to the United States from his Fulbright fellowship studies in Russia, taught and lectured at a number of institutions, including Wethersfield State University; the University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School; and the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, a collaboration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Shpanin continues his graduate studies at Temple University’s Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, Pa.

SAMANTHA CAHILL SLADE (M, A&S) of Cromwell, Conn., is the new development manager at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford. Previously she was assistant director of communications operations for alumni and parent relations at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn.

2013

SCHUYLER JACKSON (HARTT) of Msoop, Conn., was appointed acting second bassoonist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.


BENJAMIN WILCOX (A&S) of Cranston, R.I., is a news anchor at WENY-TV News in Elmira, N.Y. He won first place in the New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Association annual news awards in the categories of Best Enterprise Reporting and Continuing News Coverage.

2014

DAVID BERNHARDSSON (BARNEY) of Tiph, Sweden, a forward in his undergraduate years at the University of Hartford’s Men’s Soccer team, is a new assistant coach for the Hawks.

With Gratitude . . .

Kami Morasco-Lacki ’97 (Hartt) and Ireneusz “Irek” Lacki ’99 (Hartt) wish to extend their deepest thanks to Natalie Wing ’95, M’06 (A&S), and the entire University of Hartford community for organizing and supporting Joy for Joey, a spring fundraising event for the Lackis’ son Joseph, who was diagnosed with cancer. The Lackis themselves were not able to attend but were able to watch it streamed live on the University’s website.

“What outshines everything is the warmth and compassion that was extended to us by complete strangers at our alma mater,” writes Morasco-Lacki. “We will never forget this amazing act of love and thoughtfulness for our family.”

Pardon . . .

Overcome by a Wicked spell cast over its spring 2014 issue, the Observer ran a back cover photo that in fact was not Broadway stars and Tony Award performers Christine Dwyer ‘07 and Jenni Barber but rather Kerry Ellis and Kendra Kassebaum. The real Dwyer (right) and Barber are pictured here.

University of Hartford students have been chosen for the Connecticut Poetry Circuit Student Poets Tour since well before 2008–09, as stated in the spring 2014 Observer (p. 20). Other Connecticut Student Poets, with their tour years, have included these UHart and now-affiliated alumni:

Carol Foster A’85 (HCW), 1985
Anne Minicozzi ‘86, 1986
Rafael Oses ’94, 1993
Jack Brown ’95, 1994
Eric Amling ’03, 2001
ALUMNI EVENTS

Summer Theater on Cape Cod
President Harrison (far left) makes brief remarks to alumni and guests at a Monomoy Theater reception on July 25 in Chatham, Mass.

UHart Night at Fenway Park
UHart Red Sox fans came out to root for their favorite team at Fenway Park in Boston on June 16: Top (l–r): President Walter Harrison, Brendon Adelson ’14, Red Sox All-Star David “Big Papi” Ortiz, and Arthur Smith. Bottom (l–r): Donna Menhart ’89, P’17; Rachel Wolff ’10; Rebecca Wolff ’10; and Theresa Menhart ’17.

Los Angeles Alumni Reception
From left: Hartt School Dean Aaron Flagg (currently on sabbatical) mingles with Rebecca Kahn ’17, Anna Russell-Madonia, Kevin Ghaemi, Amy Levy ’90, and Athalie Caro at our Los Angeles Alumni Reception on June 9.

Presidential Reception at the Downtown Harvard Club, Boston
Top (l–r): Brooke Tallinger ’14, Emily Burns ’13, Tina Brockmann ’09, Michelle Schultz ’09, Anthony Filardo ’09, Stephanie Dilorio ’11, and Clark Smidt ’70 represent a wide range of alumni years at our Downtown Harvard Club reception in Boston in May. Bottom: President Walter Harrison (center) is joined by Jordan Gimonde (left) and Kerri Woods ’10 (right) at the Downtown Harvard Club in Boston.

Hartford Club Presidential Reception
Joining President Walter Harrison at the Hartford Club in Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 16 are (l–r) Lauren Flecha, Carmen Siena ’94, and Maria Strano ’77.

Game Changers/BSU Anniversary Celebration
In September alumni came back to campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Game Changers and the evolution of organizations that effected change for black students on campus: Top: Leonard Epps ’90 (left) leads students in a Boston ceremony with drumming. Bottom: Game Changers alumni and current students join forces for a great reunion photo op.

For more information about all Alumni Association events, go to hartford.edu/alumni.
Sitting on the stage of New York’s Metropolitan Opera and other famous venues has become “normal” for bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green ’08 just a few years after graduating from the University of Hartford’s Hartt School.

Green was recruited from the Governor’s School for the Arts in Norfolk, Va., by Joanna Levy, an associate professor in Hartt’s Vocal Performance Department and chair of the department at that time. She remembers an early conversation with him about his unusual name.

“We noticed that while we were calling him ‘Ryan,’ the other students were calling him ‘Speedo,’” recalls Levy. “When he told me he planned to perform under the name Ryan Speedo Green, I wasn’t sure that the opera world was ready for that. I suggested to him that Ryan Green was a wonderful name.

“He said, ‘No. My name is Ryan Speedo Green.’ Here he was, talking to his college professor, and he already knew he was going to make it on his own terms.

“And of course, he was totally correct,” she adds with a smile.

Green received a full, four-year scholarship to Hartt in 2004. Here, he was nurtured by the entire vocal faculty in everything from developing his voice to developing good study habits. He then went on to earn a Master of Music in performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.

Now approaching 30, Green has an impressive stage presence, standing six feet five and weighing around 300 pounds. He is in his final year of the three-year Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera, for which he was competitively chosen in 2011.

Green was also one of five winners at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2011. The competition, which began early in January that year with some 1,200 entrants performing at venues around the country, has been likened to the American Idol of opera. Writer Daniel Bergner documented the competition with a focus on Green for The New York Times Magazine’s May 22, 2011, issue in an article called “Sing for Your Life.”

This past April, Green received a 2014 Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund for the Performing and Visual Arts grant that will provide $50,000 a year for two years to support the development of his voice. Opera singers spend years training their voices, learning to sing in foreign languages, developing a stage presence, acting, and more. Levy likens the training in terms of length, expense, and rigor to that of a neurosurgeon.

Green made his Met debut in the 2012–13 season singing the Mandarin in Turandot and the Second Knight in a new production of Parsifal. He returned in the 2013–14 season to sing the Bonze in Madama Butterfly and the Jailer in Tosca. For the 2014–15 season, Green will become a full company member of the revered Wiener Staatsoper (Vienna State Opera).

Green’s rise from a childhood spent in a trailer park and low-income housing in southeastern Virginia to the Metropolitan Opera stage is unusual, to say the least. He very nearly slipped through Fortune’s fingers, but a class trip while attending the Governor’s School for the Arts helped him find his destiny.

On that trip to New York City, Green attended his first opera, Carmen. When he heard the toreador’s aria, sung by black opera singer Denyce Graves, and the audience’s response, he was hooked. Afterwards he told the choral director at Governor’s, the late Robert Brown, that he was going to sing on that stage someday.

And so he did.

To hear Green singing in the George London Competition earlier this year, go to hartford.edu/ryan-speedo-green.
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