

In a Weary, Restless World

SPEAKER URGES GRADUATES TO USE THEIR IMAGINATION



Michael Wilson addresses graduates and their families at Fall Commencement. He is flanked by Peter Eio, chair of the board of regents (left), and Joseph Voelker, interim provost (in blue).

“What may seem impossible to us is not . . . if only we will engage the power of imagination,” said Michael Wilson, who received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts at Fall Commencement on Dec. 2.

Wilson, who is in his 10th season as artistic director of Hartford Stage, told the graduates that they should be very proud of the University of Hartford for its active role in the community, and he encouraged them to work to make a difference in “a world that is weary, restless, and in need of rejuvenation.”

The annual Fall Commencement ceremony celebrated the achievements of more than 150 students who completed their degree requirements in September or January.

Under Wilson’s leadership, Hartford Stage has pursued an ambitious community outreach and education program, supported the development of emerging playwrights, and become one of the country’s most acclaimed resident, not-for-profit, professional theaters. Wilson has received numerous awards at the regional and national levels, including a recent National Governors Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts.

The citation that accompanied Wilson’s honorary degree described his productions as being ones that “unfailingly surprise the eye and ear while remaining honest and insightful explorations of human behavior at its best and worst.” ■

Alumnus Leads University Finances

Arosha Jayawickrema M’91 (right) was appointed vice president for finance and administration of the University in July. Jayawickrema, who joined the University in 1991 as a staff accountant, has held a series of increasingly responsible positions within the financial side of the University, becoming associate vice president for finance in 2004.

“Arosha has been an important part of the University’s finance team for many years,” said President Harrison. “His deep understanding of higher education and of this University make him an outstanding choice. His great work here has earned him the trust of the board of regents and high regard by people throughout the University.”

Jayawickrema earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas and a master’s in business administration from the University of Hartford. He succeeds Beverly Maksin, who retired last summer. ■



Seymour Baer served in Lebanon and in the Gulf War. He was photographed by Sara Hostetler M’08 for the Sherman Museum exhibit.

War Stories

LOCAL JEWISH WAR VETERANS HONORED

Jewish war veterans of the Greater Hartford area are the subject of an exhibit currently showing in the George J. and Lottie K. Sherman Museum of Jewish Civilization at the University through Feb. 24, 2008.

Portraits of 22 local Jewish war veterans taken by students at the Hartford Art School and an assemblage of memorabilia, many items of which were donated by the veterans themselves, make up *Our Greatest Generations: The Untold Stories of Jewish War Veterans*. The students were enrolled in a documentary photography course taught by Christine Dalenta, staff member at HAS.

The veterans served in World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War era, and the Persian Gulf and Iraq wars. Display cases contain photos, a Japanese phrasebook from the Philippines, food rationing coupons, and medals. President Walter Harrison, who served from 1969 to 1972, donated his military commission and Air Force uniform jacket.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the generosity of the family of U.S. Naval Officer Jack Rosenblit. For more information, call 860.768.4964. ■