



Seth McClellan '00 displays the title frame of *The New Battle*. "In the South," he explains, "it was obvious what people were fighting for. In Chicago it was much more complicated. People were fighting institutional racism to open the Chicago housing market."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Chicago Housing Reform

FILMMAKER FOCUSES ON KING'S COLLABORATION WITH THE CHICAGO FREEDOM MOVEMENT

BY BEVERLY KENNEDY

Seth McClellan '00—independent filmmaker, media producer, educator and Hartt School alumnus—went back to the turbulent 1960s, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. joined forces with the Chicago Freedom Movement, for the subject of his latest work.

The New Battle is McClellan's resulting half-hour documentary. It aired on a PBS station in the Chicago area last fall and won in the Best Short Documentary category at the 2007 Iowa Independent Film Festival. The film, which has no narrator, focuses on the faces of people who worked with King to confront unfair housing practices—Jesse Jackson, C. T. Vivien, Willie Barrow and others—while weaving in John Tweedle's exclusive period photographs accompanied by civil rights songs sung a cappella by Rutha Harris. McClellan has since

expanded the film into his first feature-length work, titled *King in Chicago*.

After graduating from Hartt's actor training program, McClellan pursued a career in acting for several years before going behind the camera. It was the "strength and vision of the faculty," he says, that drew him to Hartt, particularly Professor Henry Fonte, whose "teachings continue to influence me in everything I do." Faculty members in Hillyer College and the College of Arts and Sciences are planning to show *The New Battle* in their classes.

An adjunct professor at Governors State University, McClellan makes his home in Crete, Ill., 30 miles south of Chicago. He and Hartt classmate Brittney Morgan '00 were married in December. ■

Editor's note: On Jan. 21, 2008, the University of Hartford held a national day of remembrance for fallen civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by hosting a campus- and community-wide program. The guest speaker was the Hon. Robert N. Davis, a 1975 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences. Davis, himself a veteran, sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

View film trailers and updates on McClellan's production company at www.thorncreekproductions.com.

Hartt Dance Chair to Advise ABT

Susan Brooker, chair of the Department of Dance in The Hartt School Community Division, has joined a team of artistic advisors for the renowned American Ballet Theatre's new National Training Curriculum.

The new curriculum consists of a comprehensive set of age-appropriate, outcome-based guidelines consistent with the best practices in the fields of sports psychology, child/adolescent development, nutrition and training. Brooker says she was honored to be named one of seven members of the Artistic Board of Examiners and Instructors who will teach the curriculum throughout the country and evaluate students trained in the method.

"One of the exciting things about this curriculum is that it can be used both by teachers already working within a syllabus and those working independently to provide the tools to train versatile dancers for the companies of today," Brooker says. "At the same time, the sound technical and artistic development provides appropriate training for the recreational student." ■

CETA Dean Heads State Initiatives

The University of Hartford and Lou Manzione, dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, have been gaining recognition for leadership in Connecticut in the fields of science and technology.

The Connecticut Department of Higher Education selected Manzione as chair of its Nanotechnology Curriculum Initiative, which will develop the curriculum for nanoscience and nanotechnology education at the postsecondary level as well as ensure appropriate workforce development in these areas. All nine Connecticut colleges and universities that teach engineering and science, including the state's community colleges, are represented on the curriculum committee.

Appointed by Connecticut Speaker of the House James Amman and State Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Manzione also chairs the Connecticut Legislative Council on Broadband Internet, whose purpose is to monitor trends and developments in the state's efforts to develop a statewide, world-class communication infrastructure.

A third appointment comes from the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, which has named Manzione chair of a Truck Weigh Station Technology Study. The study, commissioned by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, will investigate new technologies to weigh trucks traveling on state highways. ■



Student Wins *Good Morning America* Intern Challenge

ABC Television's *Good Morning America* (GMA) selected Kristen Kucks '08, a communication major in the College of Arts and Sciences, for one of its highly competitive internships last summer. Assigned to *GMA Weekend Edition*, the Jersey City, N.J., native and her team of fellow interns went on to win first place in the inaugural *Good Morning America* Intern Challenge, in which GMA asked students to produce videos about their internship experiences. Kucks and her teammates were interviewed live on the show and honored with a national broadcast of their winning video. ■



School Days

Daniel Davis, AIA, professor of architecture in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, has been spending a lot of time as a working architect. He created the design for the Sterling Community School in Sterling, Conn., which opened this fall (above top). The 80,000-square-foot, \$26 million facility serves 540 students in this eastern Connecticut community that dates back to colonial times. In November, Davis attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Clark Lane Middle School in Waterford, Conn., where he designed a 20,000-square-foot addition with six new classrooms, new administrative offices, a new cafeteria/auditorium, an addition to the library, and a new entrance (above bottom). Extensive renovations were also made to the existing 1952 building. Davis is director of design for the firm of Fletcher-Thompson Architects and Engineers. ■



WELFund Grants Back Women's Projects

Both Hartt School faculty member Carrie Koffman (left), and acoustics and music major Alexandra Symmonds '10, received funding from the 2007 Women's Education and Leadership Fund (WELFund), which supports projects that help shape the future of women and girls. Koffman will record the first CD of music composed by women for the saxophone. Symmonds and faculty member Clara Fang developed SWEET (Society of Women Engineers Educating for Tomorrow) Day, a program that brings high school girls and their parents onto campus and introduces them to engineering and its career opportunities. The WELFund is a legacy of Hartford College for Women. ■

Making History

The Hartt School was well represented in Goodspeed Musicals' fall production of *1776* at the historic Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn. Joining Theatre Division Director Alan Rust, who played John Hancock, were Ralph Perkins, Theatre Division director of dance, who choreographed the production, and Christopher Kauffman '07 in the role of The Courier. Goodspeed director for the musical was Rob Ruggiero, a former member of the Hartt theatre faculty. ■



Photo by Diane Sobolewski

(l-r) Edward Watts, Peter A. Carey, Alan Rust, and Ronn Carroll made history come to life in Goodspeed Musicals' *1776*.