

OUT OF RHYTHM

Michael D. Kahn

In 1930, in the middle of the Great Depression, George and Ira Gershwin penned what became a classical addition to the pantheon of great American music, the song “I Got Rhythm.” With its catchy melody, memorable chord progression, and optimistic lyric, the tune embodied hope and a better time just around the corner. Well, as all will testify, we are currently being challenged by our circumstances, we don’t know what’s around the corner, and for many, it seems as though current conditions have never before occurred in their lifetimes. Aside from all the usual stresses, we now have three momentous forces, the COVID-19 pandemic, the political climate, and the economy, all accelerating in intensity of change and, some would say, chaotic disorganization. As this is being written in the middle of August, undoubtedly there will be more changes, some unpredictable, by the time the newsletter is distributed to you in September. The rhythm of our lives has been disrupted. We depend on our circadian rhythms, our 24 hour cycle, to distribute our energy in a predictable tempo in the face of any stress, fleeting or continuous. Working at home with looser boundaries on how we regulate ourselves, may, for some, be initially relieving, but we begin to rely less on the intuitive knowledge and syncopation that comes from face-to-face dialogic exchange. And while we may be freer, we’re also less integrated, in our more “virtual” worlds, in the other person’s rhythm. The very nature of identity, one’s place in the world, and with it, the sense of belonging to a group in a particular physical setting, becomes tenuous. Often unspoken, and undoubtedly feared, is the overhang of these momentous forces, bearing down on all of us, affecting what the philosopher, Heidegger, called “being-in-the-world”.

As a culture, we’re also out of rhythm; seasonal renewal of rituals holds the notion of community in its design. Religious gatherings, the opera season, theater, musical performances, the opening of schools and Universities, the millions of fans who gain part of their identity by their support and adulation of sports teams, who now are either not playing, truncating their seasons, or moving them in odd ways and playing in empty stadiums. The result is that both the clock and calendar are out of sorts. In the daily background, there are the constant reminders of illness, tragedy, contagion, and death. We are coming to realize that we have culturally been falling under the sway of what the scholar, Timothy Snyder (2017) calls “the politics of inevitability,” in which we, up to now, have assumed there will be ever-expanding globalization, deepening reasoning, and growing prosperity. Yet the pandemic, both unknown in our times, and dimly in our collective historical shadow, reminds us that some things don’t change, we deal with COVID-19, as our forebearers dealt with the plague, distancing, social isolation, the apprehension of who might be a carrier, what tell-tale symptoms are to be noted, when to rely on whether the virus “will pass through” or will it linger in the air or on the surface. We hunger for information about the virus, and then become inundated with too much information of sometime questionable reliability or validity.

Our compassion goes out to the administrators of all kinds of work organizations who have to design multiple simultaneous paradigms of attendance, efficiency and creativity, with tenuous contingencies on when to trigger those paradigm shifts. We ask, are the initial stages of a paradigm shift going to hold maximum productivity over time, and how does boredom, isolation, curiosity, mentorship, and task adherence vary and effect outcome. At the University level, will parents and students be willing to pay as much for an on-line education as live classes, and will the appeal of an on-campus community experience and place be lost to this generation. With a drop in foreign student enrollment and students less able for economic reasons, to relocate from far-off communities to campuses or to endure quarantine, there will be changes in the nature of community which will have to be considered. The economics of education will become different. And once changed, when and whether to go back to what was the “norm” will be challenged.

Pedagogically, we wonder about the best models for instruction and inspiration, and the best ways to harness participation depending on the subject matter. We wonder about the capacity of faculty to willingly shift their *modus operandi*. We’re already hearing of national trends in which older faculty are often unwilling to enter the classroom due to fear of contagion. One result, paradoxically, is that older faculty, less experienced with on-line course design and delivery than their younger peers, will be the teachers of distal learning, while younger faculty will disproportionately be the ones teaching “live”. And few of our sister colleges and universities will have their curriculum as it once was.

With all of this swirling about us, it’s gratifying to read that many of our retired colleagues are finding outlets for fun and connection, with nature, friends and family. The sense is that if we have good health resources, enlightened political leadership, and common sense, that we will survive. It’s always amazing to hear the tales of bravery and endurance that humans have faced, and how many times people have overcome the most dire of circumstances. When I was recently grouching to my 96-year-old Holocaust survivor cousin of some relatively minor inconvenience due to being house-bound, he reminded me of our Uncle Wilhelm, who was trapped in Holland as it fell under Nazi occupation. Wilhelm was helped into hiding in Rotterdam by the Dutch underground, and was hidden in an armoire every day, only coming out for a few hours at night. Wilhelm stayed in that closet for two and a half years (!), not knowing from one day to the next if he would be betrayed to the SS and sent to a death camp. When the Canadian army liberated him in May, 1945, he emerged, fifty-five lbs. lighter, his hair snow white. He subsequently married one of his Dutch protectors who had helped save him, and resumed his previously successful professional career.

To return to and conclude with our opening theme, what better figure to quote than Shakespeare’s Hamlet, interestingly, written during a London plague. Hamlet famously says, “The time is out of joint. O cursed spite. That ever I was born to set it right ...”and ends with “Nay, come, let’s go together.”

Emeriti Member Reactions to “What have you been doing during the pandemic?”

Following is a summary of responses. To see the full text of all replies go to hartford.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/emeriti and navigate to the News page.

Jane Barstow “On good days, I am happy to be sheltering at home in a neighborhood I love—walking daily in Elizabeth Park, chatting with friends at an appropriate social distance, enjoying the many creative entertainments available locally and on-line.”

Wally Banzhaf: “Turns out ‘we’re all in this forever’ doesn’t mention that all of us face the same challenges. My wife and I are fortunate; we are retired, have several outside interests that continue even now.”

Ray Bogucki “We are abiding by the rules laid down by the governor and hoping the chemists are working feverishly to find a vaccine!”

Sherry Buckberrough “We are both writing books, which means lots of time spent at home at the desk. Also walks in previously uninvestigated state parks and occasional walks on the beach ... but I nonetheless wish I were in Paris.”

John Carson “Free time is lots of golf with grandsons; occasional walks and coffee with longtime friends as we don masks, practice social distancing and try to be positive on the political, social and economic outlooks.”

William Coleman “Plans to visit family in CT have been scrapped. I chat with my family, and, in particular, my grandchildren by Facebook. In spite of no requirements (or few) here in Florida, I take every precaution. Groceries are delivered. Masks are worn and distances honored.”

Roger Desmond “I miss the gym a lot, so I take daily brisk walks. I know every squirrel in Elizabeth Park. Occasional dinners outside with a small group of friends are comforting, as is working in my vegetable garden.”

Bernard Z. Friedlander “I’m now concentrating on the fifth and final rewrite of a 300-hundred years Euro American family saga of a man I met in the Army during WW II who subsequently turned up in my life again 20 years following our wartime acquaintance.”

Wick Griswold “I am fortunate to live in a place that is somewhat isolated, so social distancing is easy. My little machine let’s me keep in touch with family and friends. It also let’s me research and write on the beach.”

Stephen Gryc: “I find that the best way to cope with the terrible present is to prepare for the eventual end of the pandemic. For me this means producing new musical works that promote healing and foster the rebirth of our culture.”

Robert Logan “We are appalled by the reports of those who, mostly in other states, are irresponsible, brushing aside knowledge of the serious consequences of the Covid virus, and those who are defiant, not wearing masks or practicing social distancing. Fortunately, we live in a state that is cautious and shuns abuses of the guidelines initially set forth by the governmental Task Force.”

Regina Miller: “I am coping well and have taken the time at home to do some projects in addition to my actual paid work that I can do from home pretty easily. Also thinking about the menu for our donor gathering if we ever have it again!”

Sandy Morgan: “First, I am SO glad the technology has evolved enough for us to actually see and talk with each other easily on Zoom. I am sad about not seeing family and friends regularly but have enjoyed a few outdoor get togethers with local friends and am going to actually hug my granddaughter.”

Joan Omara “With the great weather here in Seattle, we started to spend every afternoon from 4-6 taking our grandchildren, ages 2 and 3, for walks to explore the area.”

Tom Perra: “When I retired from the University, I started my second career as a Realtor. Before the “Pandemic”, real estate kept me busy. It’s a sellers market due to lower inventories in areas that have high demands because of location, style of homes and closeness to work.”

Sharon Pope: “I’m still on a couple Boards: the The Hartt School, and I’m the Chairwoman of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women. My journey has been a challenge as I was living in Indiana most this academic year caring for my mom who passed on May14.”

John Stewart: “My wife and I have probably doubled our hiking outside to 25+ miles a week, but work from home was our pattern before and still is. We do miss traveling, eating out, and being with (and hugging!) relatives and friends. I miss my rock climbing”.

Robert Wallace “Being more or less isolated is an inconvenience to be sure but tolerable. I have had my books, my music, my wine and my two dogs to assist me so compared to many, I can’t complain. I also have a friend who provisions for me so that is a big help.”

Barbara Wolfe “I am enjoying three books a month for my three book groups, all now meeting virtually along with a variety of discussion groups and programs on Zoom. I’ve been baking bread each week since yeast and flour have once again become available.”

Scholarships Funded by Emeriti – Harry Workman

A significant number of scholarships have been created over the years to honor and celebrate the careers of faculty at the University of Hartford. It is worthwhile to bring attention to these scholarships and the valuable contributions *emeriti* faculty are still making to the University. In compiling the list there is the possibility of some inadvertent omissions. If you know of a missing name, please contact the Emeriti Association and it will be added to a future newsletter. The following is a list of scholarships:

Dr. Ernest B. Gardow Scholarship Fund

Malcolm P. Stevens Memorial Chemistry Fund

The Professor **Melvin Goldstein** English Scholarship

Professor **Melvin Goldstein** Award

Professor **Edward L. Friedman** Endowed Scholarship

Frederick J. Mahaffey Memorial Endowed Architecture Scholarship

Dr. Cecilia Welna Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Dr. David Komisar Memorial Scholarship for the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz

Beatrice Liebman and David D. Komisar Scholarship Fund

Kevin Gray Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Barry C. Broden, CPA Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Richard A. Cohn Memorial Award Fund

Susan Wilmarth-Rabineau Painting

Scholarship

Vytautas Marijosius Endowed Scholarship

Fred Wessel Endowed Scholarship

Harald Sandström Endowed Scholarship

Frederic Fritz Moses Vocal Scholarship

Peter McLean Scholarship

Lloyd Glasson Scholarship

Stephen Brown Memorial Endowed Scholarship

S. Edward Weinswig Award Fund

S. Edward Weinswig Scholarship Fund

Andal and Rao Singamsetti Endowed Award

The **Charles R. Canedy III** Scholarship Fund

Peter K. Breit Endowed Scholarship

Vijaya and Bharat Kolluri Award

Raymond F. Bogucki Scholarship

Lucille M. Nickerson and Ralph Zegarelli Endowed Scholarship

William S. and Dorothy G. Wallace

Memorial Neuroscience Award

Two former Scholarship Recipients

We are proud to feature the continued progress of two of our past scholarship recipients

Rachel Waddell — A lot has happened since I graduated from the The Hartt School in 2009. I moved across the country and completed two advanced degrees in orchestral conducting – a M.M. from Northern Arizona University and a D.M.A. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In the first year of my doctoral degree I won a professional appointment as the Assistant Conductor of the Canton Symphony Orchestra in Ohio, where I worked for five seasons. In 2017 I accepted a position as the Director of



Orchestral Activities at the University of Rochester in New York. In addition to conducting our symphony and chamber orchestras, and coordinating our chamber ensemble program, I have continued to

remain active as a professional conductor. I was one of nine conductors accepted to the Dallas' Opera's prestigious Hart Institute for Women Conductors, and our orchestras have twice placed nationally for the American Prize's Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award in Orchestral Programming. This may be my favorite accomplishment because of my passion for diverse and creative programming, and the connection back to Hartt through Maestro Marijosius.

Michael David Thatcher — I graduated from the University of Hartford in 2012 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, summa cum laude. During my time at Hartford, I was a starting pitcher on the Division I baseball team, the president of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), as well as a tutor for mathematics and sciences core classes.

After graduation, I began my career at Tetra Tech in Framingham, MA, an Engineering consulting firm. Since 2012, I worked in a variety of disciplines and capacities at Tetra Tech, including Project Engineer, Project Manager, and most recently, Technical Leader of the company's Civil Engineering group in the southeast United States, located in Orlando, FL. Since joining Tetra Tech in 2012, I implemented over 100 major infrastructure improvement projects in multiples states including Florida, Texas, Tennessee, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Ohio, all in a variety of disciplines and capacities, and was a Project Manager and Engineer of Record (EOR) on more than 15 projects, some with individual construction budgets that exceed \$37 million.



This past fall I also tied the knot with my husband and best friend, Graham. We enjoy traveling, hiking, and attending festivals in Rochester, where we live with our three cats and dog, Pierogi.

I am a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the State of Florida, as well as a certified Construction Documents Technologist (CDT), and Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP).

In my free time, I enjoy golfing, fishing, hiking, running, and playing with my two dogs. I married my fiancé, Shannon, in May of this year.

2020 Scholarship Awardees — Harry Workman

Every year since 2007—2008 Emeriti Scholarships were awarded to deserving and exceptional students. This year the tradition was continued. Applications from students were solicited in February for the 2020—2021 scholarships. By the application deadline in March, the review committee received 26 applications from very qualified and remarkable students.

Requirements for applying were at least a 3.5 GPA and either Junior or Senior standing during the year the scholarship is received. It was a delight to review the resumes and note the talent exhibited by these students. All the applicants reviewed were outstanding and deserving. The funding available limited the number of scholarships to three, each in the amount of \$2000. The profiles for the three people chosen are given below. These profiles give you the opportunity to meet and be impressed by the credentials of the recipients of the Emeriti Scholarship for this year.

Margaret Hofbauer — 2020 Walter Harrison Scholarship Award.

Margaret is a rising Senior with a GPA of 4.0 pursuing a Bachelor of Health Science degree with an emphasis on Physical Therapy. Margaret is a Resident Assistant, participates in the Student Government Association, is in the Honors Program, is a Chemistry, Biology, and Writing tutor and is an Asian Student Association executive board member. She is a Physical Therapy volunteer at the Hackensack Hospital University Medical Center, helps families in need at the Youth Center Family Promise in Paramus, New Jersey and mentored young girls at The Avenue in New York, NY.



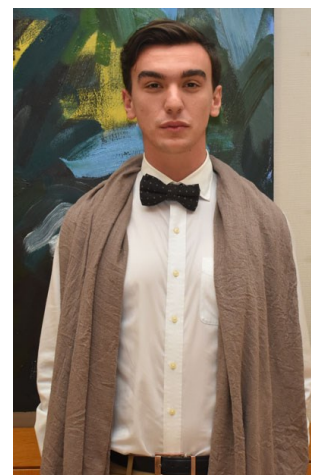
Kyleigh Oliver — 2020 Emeriti Scholarship Award.

Kyleigh is a rising Junior with a GPA of 3.83 pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis on Ballet Pedagogy and a minor in Management. Kyleigh welcomes incoming first year students as a Red Caps Orientation Leader, exposes first grade students to the arts by conducting dance activities at the University of Hartford Magnet School and develops her leadership skills at the National Society of Leadership and Success. She also trains students ages 5 to 16 in ballet, jazz and hip hop at the Connecticut Dance Academy and teaches Hartford Connecticut students in an after-school dance program at Spectrum in Motion.



Juli Dajci — 2020 Humphrey Tonkin Scholarship Award.

Juli is a Senior with a GPA of 4.0 pursuing Bachelor of Arts degrees in Politics & Government, Psychology and Mathematics. Juli speaks, reads and writes in 4 languages: English, French, German, and Albanian. At UHart he is a Resident Assistant, a Peer Tutor at the Center for Reading and Writing and a customer service representative at the Center for Student Success. Juli also served as Teaching Assistant and Preceptor in Pol110: Power & Politics in America and FYS100: Beauty, Body Image, and Feminism. Awards and acknowledgements include the 2019 Humphrey Tonkin Emeriti Association Award, a PAYCE Fellowship and the Herbert P. Schoen Award.



Robert Wallace

In recognition of his long career at the University and leadership role in the Emeriti Association, it is appropriate to highlight the career of Robert Wallace in this issue of the Newsletter. His productive, and noteworthy association with the University of Hartford began in 1968 as a member of the Department of Psychology. He became Director of the Neuroscience Option when the program was created as a specialization within the MA Program in Experimental Psychology in the Department of Psychology. The program did not exist until he and colleagues at Trinity and the Institute of Living developed this novel option. It was always administratively based at the University of Hartford but was cross institutional in nature. Later an association with the University of Connecticut Medical School at Farmington was added.



He chaired the Department of Psychology for six years during the 1980's. In the 1990's he would switch to Biology and become chair of the Department of Biology until his retirement in 2000. He was one of the first faculty members to have a joint appointment across two Departments (Psychology and Biology). After a lengthy period of work and review in 1998, the Neuroscience program was revamped, and a new graduate program in Neuroscience was created and based in the Department of Biology. This successful program continues today and students entering the program can earn a MS degree. At the time of its creation the program was unique.

During his career at the University he served on many committees such as P&T, and Institutional Animal Use. He also was co-chair of the Library Committee and chair of the Pre-Med Committee for many years. He served as a Marshal for A&S at graduation and later as Chief Marshal for the University. In 2012 he was invited to become a member of the Advisory Board for Arts & Sciences. He is still serving on the board.

Bob joined the Emeriti Association in 2000 after his retirement and soon was asked to join the Executive Committee of the Association. Starting in 2005 he co-chaired the Emeriti Association for two years with Ceil Welna. In 2007 he became chair of the Association and was chair until 2019. He was instrumental in planning the Plenary Meetings of the Association and in bringing interesting speakers to the meetings. To help maintain a strong relationship with the University of Hartford, he arranged for the President of the University to visit with the Emeriti on an annual basis and provide an update on the status of the University. Those who know Bob recognize his strong commitment to the University of Hartford. His love of excellent wines and fine cooking are also recognized by those who know him. Thank you, Bob for your service to the University and to the Emeriti Association.

New Building Under Construction for Fall 2021

The Emeriti are pleased to see the continued development of new applied programs such as Nursing. The new building is being erected on the green near the library. The pictures on the right include an artist's rendition and a current view of the construction in progress. For more information go to the university webpage at: hartford.edu/academics/academic-building or go to hartford.edu and search for "new building".



The next plenary meeting via WebEx is October 22, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. You will receive an invitation via Email. Sean Parke, the University Archivist will present “An Introduction to Archives and Special Collections.”

Emeriti Matters

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

In memoriam Emeriti Association 2019-2020 — Leo Smith, Chair, Executive Committee

Donald DeBonee (CETA), Richard Lugli (Hillyer), Margery Gardow, and John Gray (A&S)

Welcoming Our New Members — Ralph Zegarelli

Marcia Seabury Hillyer, Donn Weinholtz (ENHP) and Demaris (Dee) Hansen (Hartt)

Emeriti Association Publication Committee:

Ralph Zegarelli, Newsletter Coeditor; Harry Workman, Newsletter Coeditor; Michael Kahn, Newsletter Editor *Emeritus*; Mary Dowst, Executive Secretary; Regina Miller; Sandy Morgan; Leo Smith; and Bob Wallace

If you would like to join the committee we would welcome your ideas and participation. If so inclined, contact Ralph Zegarelli (zegarelli@hartford.edu) with your interest in our growing organization.

Please visit the new Emeriti website: hartford.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/emeriti/