

## The Horizon of Possibilities

Michael Kahn, Issue Editor

As I recently sat at my grandson's Cornell commencement, the speaker Bill Nye emphasized a theme echoed across thousands of graduation ceremonies this Summer, how change is ever accelerating, how complexity is increasing, how the graduates know much more than their predecessors of just five years ago. Even Galileo, Einstein, Beethoven and Columbus, with all the knowledge they brought to bear on their respective disciplines, would not have certain perspectives that the current graduates enjoy the benefits of, although no one would dispute the genius of their creativities. Whatever skills or knowledge one might possess at any given moment, might be considered necessary, but not sufficient for the challenges ahead. Nor can one hope to achieve this wisdom individually, but through increasing reliance on interpersonal collaboration. It is said, one must be both a master and apprentice, open to new ways, and willing to discard or revise or supplant what one has treasured, worked hard for, and used to form a basis for identity and self-coherence. This horizon, ever shifting, is both challenging and intimidating. Who is one to be? Defined by profession, by reputation, by position, by colleagues, by family, by friends?

As daunting as this is for 22 year olds, I thought of the similar challenges for septuagenarians and octogenarians which have also emerged on the horizon. When we were their age, life-span was 20-25 years briefer than it is today. With the increase in medical knowledge, biological sciences, pharmacology, nutrition, life-style and medical interventions, we have considerably more time to form a new set of self-definitions and actions. Granted, we are less physically robust and hopefully, apply a conservation of energy principle to our efforts, being careful to not overextend ourselves, or flail about in ways that evoke pity or condescension from others. Whatever drove us to be who we were and the paths we chose, we can ask ourselves, do these still remain a touchstone for sustained identity. And do these also allow us perspective, humor, irony, comparative knowledge, integration, and reflection of history and its' analogues, sources for even greater wisdom to come. Certainly, one shouldn't be a Pollyanna or in total denial about changes in our culture and ourselves. Many in our cohort stumble in regard to this challenge, and 35-40% are estimated to be depressed, preoccupied with loss. There is certainly plenty to worry about, one's health, finances, politics, the economy, climate change, and intergroup and international relations. We also don't want to admit that we can, and do become confused, forgetful and intemperate. The "no longer suffering fools gladly" concept only has a certain utility. One can become a brilliant curmudgeon, but aloneness is not an existential position to be envied. A little humility goes a long way to healing the soul, and commiserating with others a virtue.

In a recent issue of the New Yorker (May 27, 2019), the noted and gifted screenwriter David Milch was interviewed about his deepening Alzheimer's disease. Milch accepted the validity of the diagnosis, but refused to capitulate to it. Writing for him was imperative, and he continues to do so. A few of his eloquent thoughts are useful for all of us, healthy or otherwise, as we all face our horizons of possibility. "There's an acute sense of time's passage. Things are important. You don't want to be inconsequential in your perspective on things. I feel that with an increasing acuteness-

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everything counts. We all make deals in terms of how we think about the process of our aging. It's a series of giving aways, a making peace with givings away.... It's kind of a relentless series of adjustments to what you can do, in particular the way you can't think any longer. Your inability to sustain a continuity of focus. And there are accumulated deletions of ability. And you adjust- you better adjust, or you adjust whether you want to or not." And finally, on his embrace of art, "I think that is the chief blessing of art, the opportunity to organize one's behavior around a different reality. It's a second chance. You pray to be equal to it, equal to it's opportunities, and some days you are better at that than others."

Like Milch, we know many of our contemporaries who have to struggle with illness and loss. But we do have more time on our side than ever before, and the tools to expand our base of knowledge. How we use them, as we are reminded, is part of each person's destiny drive. Two of our esteemed colleagues featured in this issue, attest to that.

### **Emeriti Scholarships- Leo Smith**

The first Emeriti Scholarship of \$250 was awarded for the 2007-2008 academic year. Since that time, the awards have grown to the current level of three \$2000 scholarships. The Association thanks those members whose generous support has allowed for such remarkable growth of the scholarship program.

Thirty six well-qualified students applied for the 2019-2020 scholarships. The Walter Harrison Emeriti Scholarship was awarded to Alesha L. Heacock. Alesha will be entering her fourth year in the combined BS/MS program in Health Sciences Prosthetics and Orthotics in the College of Education, Nursing and Public Health. She plans to complete two residencies and examinations to become ABC certified in both Prosthetics and Orthotics. Juli Dajci has been awarded the Humphry Tonkin Emeriti Scholarship. He will be entering his junior year in the College of Arts and Sciences and is pursuing a triple major in Politics and Government, Psychology, and Mathematics. Juli's goal is to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in Socio-Legal Research at Oxford University followed by a double program leading to a J.D. and a Ph.D. Quimby Wechter, last year's Harrison Scholarship awardee, received this year's third Emeriti Scholarship. She will be a senior in ENHP majoring in Health Sciences Pre-PT. After earning her Ph.D. in Physical Therapy, she plans a career in pediatrics. All three of this year's scholarship recipients have maintained a perfect 4.00 GPA.

### **Welcoming Our New Members- Ralph Zegarelli**

New members in photograph left to right: Charles Canedy, Barney, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship; Susan Coleman, Barney, Economics, Finance and Insurance; and Michael Bzullak, Barney, Management Information Systems.

Not in photograph: Eugene Kim, Barney, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship; Renwick Griswold, Hillyer, Social Sciences; Paul Siegel, A&S, Communication; and Monica Hardesty, A&S, Sociology.



## Plenary Presentations—Patricia Cairns

At the October 2018 Plenary Meeting Katherine Owens, PhD presented “Engaging Students on Marine Debris”. The 2018-2019 scholarship recipients were introduced and affirmed for their accomplishments. Quimby Wechter, Health Science, Physical Therapy, received the Walter Harrison Scholarship award; Samantha Chasse, Health Science, Physical Therapy, received an unnamed Emeriti Scholarship; and Kali Meadows, A&S Biology, received the Humphrey Tonkin Scholarship.



At the May 2019 Plenary Meeting Paola Sacchetti, PhD Biology, presented “Alzheimer’s disease: the status quo and the emergence of new hypotheses (and treatments)” to one of the best attended plenary meetings.



## Donor Reception 2019—Regina Miller

On April 10, 2019, our third annual Scholarship Donor Reception was held at the home of Regina Miller. Eighteen people enjoyed food, beverages and lively conversation in appreciation of the support provided by our donors to our students.



Donors and scholarship awardees posed for a picture after another delicious lunch provided by Regina Miller. Missing from photo: Walter Harrison, Quimby Wechter and Ralph Zegarelli



2018 awardees left to right: Samantha Chasse and Quimby Wechter, both BS in Health Science, Physical Therapy, attended.

## **In memoriam Emeriti Association 2018-2019—Bob Wallace, Chair, Executive Committee**

It is inevitable, I suppose, that with the relentless passage of time as we grow older so too do our friends. One of my least pleasant activities at each of our Plenary Meetings is a recitation in the In Memoriam section of our Program of the names of those colleagues and friends who have left us since our last gathering. Sadly, but not surprisingly, that number has grown over the past several years. In 2018-2019 we lost 10 colleagues and with that loss so many things that had enriched our lives during the course of our association with them over the years. I am reminded of the words by Yeats in *The Countess Cathleen Scene 5*:

*“The years like great black oxen tread the world,  
And God the herdsman goads them on behind,  
And I am broken by their passing feet.”*

Those lost to us will never be forgotten for they are a part of us and of the very fabric of this University. *Requiescat in Pace*: A. Richard Brayer, A&S; Frank Chiarenza, A&S; Edward Diemente, Hartt; Fred M. Gardner, A&S; Raymond Hanson, Hartt; David Macbride, Hartt; Watson Morrison, Hartt; Paul Stacy, A&S; Immanuel Wilhelm, Hartt; and John Zei, Hartt

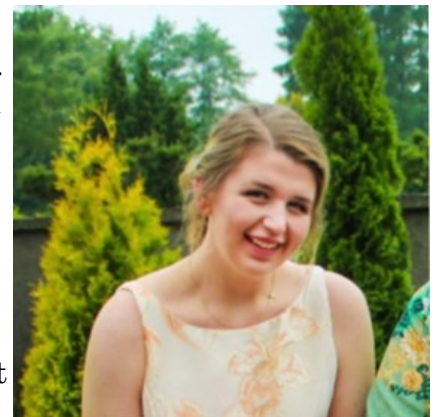
## **Two former Scholarship Recipients**

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

**Kochava Krieger Munro**— I received an Emeriti Scholarship award in 2017. I graduated with a degree in mathematics and secondary education, however, I realized that my true calling was in cantorial work. For the past two years, I worked as the Cantorial Intern/Soloist at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington, Vermont. I lead weekly Sabbath services, tutor b’nei mitzvah students, sing with the preschool and Hebrew school, teach adult education courses, and officiate life-cycle events. I am excited to announce that I will be attending Hebrew College’s Cantorial Program in the fall of 2019 where I will earn a Master’s in Jewish Education as well as Cantorial Ordination! Over the next three years, I will take part in cantorial training, vocal lessons, internships at local synagogues, and learn from wonderful Jewish scholars. I met the love of my life, Jacob Munro, at the University of Hartford and was happily married in May of 2018.



**Nicole Tomasik**— I graduated with a degree in accounting from the Barney School of Business in 2016, a year earlier than expected. Since graduation I interned in KPMG’s tax department. I continued at UHart enrolling in the MBA program and studied in Paris at various businesses and organizations, including the European Union. Following my master’s degree, I started full time at KPMG as an associate in the tax practice focusing on insurance tax. I hope to progress in the firm and build a career at KPMG. The Emeriti scholarship helped me pursue my master’s. I’m grateful for the opportunities the scholarship provided me to help start my career at a big four accounting firm.



## COLLEAGUE ACHIEVEMENTS-EMERITI 2019

Many of our colleagues are doing interesting things, professionally and creatively. Please keep us informed (Kahnmd@aol.com) of your recent activities, so we can keep this network alive and inspirational.

**Wally Banzhaf**, CETA, Engineering Technology. Member, Board of Directors, Tariffville Water Commission; Docent, Guide, Old Newgate Prison and Copper Mine; Workshops on soldering and kit building, Simsbury Library.

**Marty Cohen**, A&S, Biology. Traveled with wife Marsha extensively to Washington, D.C. (Smithsonian), Pompano Beach, Florida, and St. Louis.

**Bill Coleman**, A&S, Biology. Traveled to Greece, China, Maine, Aruba. Won honorable mention for watercolor at the Dunedin Art Show; through church supports social justice projects including an orphanage in Haiti; gardening; and trips to visit grandchildren.

**BZ. Friedlander**, A&S, Psychology. Still active in the Physics Department of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he presents to the Interdisciplinary Chaos and Complex Systems Seminar. Working on final stages of a three hundred year memoir of the Burton Fine family.

**Stephen Gryc**, Hartt, Composition. This coming October Professor Gryc will be a Guest Composer at the University of Ottawa and will teach a course in the University of Hartford's Presidents' College titled "Composer and Performer: How Music Is Made". Stephen's work is being performed throughout the country: Universities of Rochester, Hartford, Kentucky, Florida State, Arizona State, Oregon State, Ball State, the libraries at Englewood New Jersey and Middletown, CT, the Museums of Art Complex (Boston) and the New Britain Museum of American Art.

**Harvey Jassem**, A&S, Communications. Harvey's co-edited book, *Urban Communication Regulation: Communication Freedom and Limits*, Jassem and Drucker (eds) was published this year. He also serves on the boards of the Urban Communication Foundation, the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Relations Council, the University's radio station WWUH, and hosts Monday morning Jazz on the station each week.

**Mike Kahn**, A&S, Clinical Psychology. Began writing a drama surrounding the events of his grandparents being in hiding in Vichy France throughout World War II. Traveled to southern France in research of the actual events and their aftermath. Volunteering on an interfaith council on immigration. Continued supervision of UCONN psychiatric residents.

**Regina Miller**, ENHP. Regina will serve as the Interim Director of The Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford for this coming academic year.

**Leo Rockas**, A&S, English. Continued written work on Jane Austin and Shakespeare.

**Margery Steinberg**, Barney, Management. Currently teaching two courses in the MBA program at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and serves on the program's Advisory Board. Serving also on the boards of several arts organizations and playing a good game of tennis.

**Humphrey Tonkin**, Past President and University Professor of Humanities, Emeritus. Gave a series of lectures on Shakespeare for the San Marino Academy of Sciences. Published a couple of essays one on the great Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz, and the other on the Hungarian novelist Gyula Baghy. Taught a seminar on post-Elizabethan Great Britain for the U of H Presidents' College.

**John Wion**, Hartt, Performance. Continued his Italian studies and traveled extensively, most recently to Antarctica.

## Catherine Stevenson

As a Victorianist, I have always loved Tennyson's poem "Ulysses" in which the aged warrior chafes at the restrictions of his retirement in Ithaca believing that "Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;/ Death closes all: but something ere the end/ Some work of noble note, may yet be done."

Ulysses resolves his retirement funk by sailing off beyond the Western seas. For some of us, that new challenge simply lands in our backyards. In my case this happened when I was asked to assume the position of water manager for our neighborhood lake association in West Hartford. Although high-school chemistry and biology were long in the past, I agreed to do this challenging job because of my concern about the environment and the ecology of ponds and lakes in the Northeast. I found myself plunged into the complex science of limnology (the study of ponds and lakes). My course of study included learning about the watershed of Woodridge Lake which is a small piece of the complex Park (Hog) River watershed, about plant life in lakes and ponds, and about varieties algae. Instead of pouring over literary texts, I was studying sewer maps, reading EPA regulations, and regularly paddling out to gather water samples and to perform water tests and collect phytoplankton samples. I, who previously had been stymied by the mysteries of the copy machine in my office, have had to learn how to calibrate various scientific meters to take the necessary measurements to insure the health of our water body. Being a concerned citizen has led me to regular interactions with various town officials about issues of run off from all the non-porous surfaces that fill our urban environment.



But I don't spend all of my time getting wet! Surely for all of us the most difficult aspect of retiring is losing the daily contact with good colleagues. The longing for serious intellectual endeavor in a community of like-minded people doesn't ever diminish. Fortunately, I found two stimulating alternatives. I teach every spring in the Presidents' College at the university—almost always an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century text that is long and complex. What a joy to have an audience of bright individuals who eagerly devour the texts (and don't complain about their length or difficulty!). Teaching these engaged, smart adults keeps me on my toes and motivates me to keep up with the newest scholarship in my field.

I also have become part of a group of women who write and present papers on a chosen topic. Called "The Thursday Club," this group was founded in 1883 (and has been meeting continually since then) by young women who desired "mental advancement" in an era when formal higher educational opportunities were limited. It was part of a nation-wide movement toward "self-advancement" that took root in the 1880s across America. I learned in my research that these groups played a crucial role in the development of local libraries in America and lobbied successfully for improved sanitation, lighting and ventilation in schools. In this community of kind, smart, curious women from a wide array of professional backgrounds, I have listened to (and written) papers on a huge variety of topics—from "Mata Hari and the Myth of the Femme Fatale" to the "Ecological Function of River Deltas." Who says that retirement narrows your focus?

## Sharon Pope

Of course I keep trying to retire from my law firm, Czepiga, Daly, Pope & Perri. We are the largest Elder Law firm in New England; a very busy and successful firm and I have always loved working with elders and people with special needs. I am now “Special Council” to the Firm and I consult as needed.

This allows me some time to enjoy the 2 young grandsons we have in Wellesley as I travel there once a week to be with them.

But my teaching at UConn Law School has also kept me challenged. A few years ago I created the Elder Law clinic which I teach. In addition I was appointed as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at Yale Law School where I direct law students in pro bono work with Smilow Cancer center patients. It’s wonderful to combine both of my professions, one as a professor and one as an attorney.



Additionally, in keeping with my devotion to women’s issues I was just elected the Chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women. This is more than challenging as the current climate regarding sexual harassment is quite a complex subject and sorely in need of extensive reviewing especially the City of Hartford policies. Hartford may be one of the few cities in the country that has such a permanent commission.

Then I also wanted to help refugees and immigrants so I’ve joined a committee of CIRI, Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. We have our first fundraising event in Hartford at the Real Art Ways on April 17th. CIRI is 100 years old and an outgrowth of the YWCA. It’s Connecticut’s largest non-profit helping settle refugees and representing immigrants.

To round out my balancing act, I was elected to the Board of Trustees at the Hartt School this past year. This is so different from my usual advocacy but it’s a great group of people. Then I added piano lessons recently and just bought a keyboard to use when I’m out of town at our house at Martha’s Vineyard.

I really do read quite a bit as I am in a few book groups. It’s hard to identify favorites as there are so many but recently I’ve liked: “Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders”; “Sing for your Life” (the Ryan Speedo Green story (a very unlikely Met opera performer) and he was a graduate of the University of Hartford); “The Stranger in the Woods”; “When Breathe Becomes Air”; “Educated”; “Being Mortal”; “Eligible: A modern retelling of Pride and Prejudice”; and “Engines of Liberty” and one of my all time favorites, “The Warmth of Other Suns”.

**Join us at the next plenary  
meeting on October 24, 2019,  
10:00 a.m. at the 1877 Club  
Restaurant**

## Emeriti Matters

**UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD**

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

### **EA Trip to the Florence Griswold Museum—Robert Wallace, Chair, Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee has been discussing a second trip for the Association this Fall to the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. We are planning on a September 5 date with departure from the University around 9:00 a.m. for Old Lyme. Our visit would include a docent led tour of the museum and collection, an opportunity to tour the grounds and lunch at the Café Flo at 11:30 a.m. We would expect to be back at the University around 4:00 p.m. Details will be sent out to the membership in July. It should be an interesting trip so look for material from Mary next month and reserve the date. Our trip to the Yale Museum of British Art with lunch at the Union League Café was enjoyed by those attending last year and we hope that this trip will prove of interest as well.

### **Emeriti Association Publication Committee:**

Michael Kahn, Newsletter Issue Editor, Mary Dowst, Executive Secretary, Regina Miller, Sandy Morgan, Leo Smith, Bob Wallace, Ralph Zegarelli, Compiler & Associate Editor

If you would like to join the committee we would welcome your ideas and participation. If so inclined, contact Mike Kahn (kahnmd@aol.com) with your interest in our growing organization.

**Please visit the new Emeriti website:** <https://www.hartford.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/emeriti/>