

Emeriti Matters

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

Emeriti Newsletter, Vol. 5, Issue 1, Fall 2021 1-8.

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

From the Desk of Gregory Woodward President of the University of Hartford

Dear Friends:

I am most thankful that after your years of service in higher education, you continue to associate with friends and colleagues and remain a vital part of UHart and its exciting future through the Emeriti Association. And you do this in a tangible way. Our emeriti contribute to the Anchor Fund, teach, support departmental activities, join committees, and are often among our biggest spirit leaders. The three Emeriti Association scholarships awarded annually are clear proof that your desire to see students succeed continues long after you leave the classroom.



I encourage you to read the story of our fabulous new academic building on campus, the Francis X. and Nancy Hursey Center for Advanced Engineering and Health Professions—[Google “Hursey Center”](#). Right at the center of campus, the future of health care, engineering, and technology will unfold before our very eyes. The technology, resources, classrooms, labs, and makerspaces will be transformative in the innovative and experiential education of our students.



Another focal point recently added to the heart of campus is our Center for Student Success, the most visible aspect of our revamped Division of Student Success, which is leading a holistic approach towards student success and development. The entire first-year experience of our students has been reimagined in the academic and student life realms. An increased focus on

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career support and preparation seeks to ensure smooth post-college transitions for our diverse student body. Our coordinated approach is paying dividends! As of this past fall, retention had risen to 81 percent. Even more encouraging is that the retention rate among the University's students of color had improved from 63 percent to 81 percent, the same as the overall average.

Over the last 18 months, we could not have anticipated anything as disruptive as the COVID-19 pandemic—especially so instantaneous in effect. The strength of our institution to be flexible during challenging and evolving times was a great asset. “Keeping Hawks Healthy” was the theme on campus through the entire 2020–21 academic year—and our students, faculty, and staff responded. UHart became a model school for how to live and learn on campus successfully and safely. We implemented many tools designed to help keep our community safe, including a team of 14 registered nurses to conduct professional contact tracing, a contrast to many universities that relied on students or staff. We also took the unusual precaution of implementing wastewater testing, which indicates the prevalence of COVID-19 within a community and pinpoints a rise in infections before positive test occur.

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, I am also pleased to announce that beginning next year, UHart will recognize Juneteenth (June 19) as an official holiday. Our observance of Juneteenth will provide space to intentionally use this time to celebrate freedom from the atrocities of slavery and reflect on our personal and institutional commitments to equality and justice. This is another significant step in our institutional progress toward inclusion for all and we can all be proud of the important and meaningful work we continue to do together.

“Change” has been a theme of this letter—and of these times. In that same light, I wish to share one more update. In May, after significant and careful analysis, the Board of Regents voted to begin the multi-year process of transitioning the University's intercollegiate athletics programs from Division I to Division III. This ongoing process took into consideration some of the stark fiscal and enrollment realities that exist across higher education today—and those associated with our budget and offerings. The University will officially file its intent to move to Division III with the NCAA in January 2022 and, if approved, will work with the NCAA on the reclassification process, in preparation for active membership no later than September 1, 2025. The Board determined that Division III's approach to intercollegiate athletics better aligns with the University's mission and goals of creating exceptional academic, co-curricular, and wellness experiences for all students.

I am grateful that you remain involved with the University of Hartford as we continue to adapt to a changing world.

If you have not already, take a moment to read and feel pride in the latest issue (issuu.com/universityofhartford/docs/h-magazine-summer-2021) of H Magazine, featuring the inspiring accomplishments of many students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Sincerely,

Greg Woodward

2021 Scholarship Awardees

The Emeriti Association is pleased to announce the recipients of Emeriti Scholarships for the academic year 2021–22. Every year since 2007–08 scholarships have been awarded to exceptional students. Invitation to apply for a scholarship was made in February with an application deadline at the end of March. The review committee received 40 applications. Requirements for applying were at least a 3.5 GPA and either junior or senior standing during the year the scholarship is received. The applicant pool contained many outstanding students. As a result, the process of deciding the recipients for this year was very challenging but it was very rewarding to review the résumés of the applicants and to note their impressive credentials. The funding available limited the number of scholarships to three, each in the amount of \$2,000. The profiles for the three people chosen are given below and an expanded version is available at <https://www.hartford.edu/faculty-staff/faculty/emeriti/scholarships.aspx>. These profiles give you the opportunity to meet and be impressed with the credentials of the recipients of the Emeriti Scholarship for this year.

Camryn Butera—2021 Walter Harrison Scholarship Award

Camryn Butera is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in biology and a double minor in chemistry and psychology. She is an honors student and currently has a 4.0 GPA. In addition, she was actively engaged in research for the past two years and involved in an array of extracurricular activities focused on improving the University community: Resident Assistant (RA), College of Arts and Sciences Ambassador, Women for Change club, the Dreams are Real club, the Women Against Rape and Sexual Assault club, Delta Zeta Sorority, Pre-Medical club, and a peer support workshop tutor.

Becoming a physician is a lifelong goal of hers. In recognition of her academic achievement, she was awarded the Junior Regents Honor Award this year for being one of the highest academically achieving students within the College of Arts and Sciences. She is the recipient of a Dorothy Goodwin Scholarship from the The Women's Advancement Initiative. The scholarship helped her improve her professional skills and facilitated access to professional women.



Dana Brooks—2021 Humphrey Tonkin Scholarship Award.



Dana Brooks is an honors student in the College of Arts and Sciences with a 4.0 GPA. She is a criminal justice major with a double minor in sociology and Spanish. Her plans are to graduate early from the University of Hartford, attend law school, become a criminal defense lawyer, and to work for reform of the criminal justice system with special consideration for marginalized and oppressed people. In order to graduate early, she is taking a full (maximum) credit load each semester and summer courses.

On campus, Dana participates in a variety of service and leadership positions. She is a Residential Assistant (RA), a College of Arts and Sciences Student Ambassador, vice president of the Rotaract Club, a youth affiliate of the Rotary Club organization, Praise dance captain, and works as a supervisor in the Sports Center.

Dana is a strong believer of giving back to the community. Because of this, she started a scholarship for the Fellowship of Christian Athlete Club at her former high school. Last year, she was able to donate \$700 for a student to use for college.

Sydney Lewis—2021 Emeriti Scholarship Award.



Sydney Lewis is a junior in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture with a major in civil engineering and a minor in psychology. She is an honors student with a 3.92 GPA and is a member of the engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi. Last year she received the Dean of Student’s Recognition of Service Award. She is actively involved in a faculty research project to analyze the condition of Connecticut bridges for the Department of Transportation. She also participates in a variety of extracurricular activities.

It is unusual for a first-year student to be recommended for an internship but at the end of Sydney’s initial year on campus, her advisor was so impressed with her professional demeanor that the advisor contacted a colleague about possible internships in New Jersey.

Sydney is an active member of the highly selective Women’s Advancement Initiative’s Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD) program at the University of Hartford. This program helps students identify their strengths, explore opportunities, and overcome challenges. In 2019, as a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Sydney led a contingent of women engineering students to the national SWE conference in California. To no one’s surprise, she left the conference with an offer for a summer internship.

Currently Sydney is serving as the vice president of the SWE, tutors students, is a lab instructor for the Department of Physics, supports other students and members of the community through her work as a College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture Ambassador, and is a Red Cap Orientation Leader for the Center for Student Success.

Three Former Scholarship Recipients

Andrea Wojcik—I graduated in 2013 from the College of Arts and Sciences with a double major in communication and gender studies. During my undergraduate studies at UHart, I participated in a School for International Training (SIT) study abroad program in Amsterdam, where I met my Dutch husband, and I have been living in the Netherlands since the summer of 2013. Love motivated my cross-Atlantic move, but I have continued to pursue my goal of higher education. In 2014, I was awarded the Amsterdam Excellence Scholarship to study for my master’s in social sciences research at the University of Amsterdam, which I completed in the summer of 2016. During this time, I became enthralled with Science and Technology Studies (STS), an interdisciplinary field that explores the social implications of our technological world. I am now specializing in STS for my PhD at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht



University. My ethnographic research details how undergraduate medical students at the University of Development Studies in Ghana train their bodies as diagnostic tools. In particular, I study how doctors' touch is implicated in nondigital simulations used in the classroom as well as in formal assessments. Think, for example, of learning cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a dummy. I focus on touch because through learning to touch patients, medical students learn how the cultural, technical, and scientific relate to one another in medical practice. My research is part of Associate Professor Anna Harris's project, "Making Clinical Sense: A Comparative Study of How Doctors Learn in Digital Times," which is funded by the European Research Council (ERC). For more information, visit makingclinicalsense.com or view our digital sensory exhibit at sensoryexhibit.makingclinicalsense.com.

During the pandemic, I have been working from home to write my PhD and teach at Maastricht University. I have greatly enjoyed encouraging students to think critically about their everyday lives, a skill that I first learned at UHart, but I greatly look forward to meeting students and colleagues in person once again.

Biliana Mihaylova—It's always hard to believe when you look back and college graduation was 10 years ago...well, 11 years in my case, but who's really counting, right? I didn't quite grasp the implication of Commencement on that beautiful June day in 2010. Commence; begin; start. Honestly, I was as ready as anyone is in their early 20s—so ready to move onto the next thing, without any consideration for the speed of life as each year rolls by.

I wasn't ready to be "done with school" after my three, short years at the University of Hartford. Upon graduating with a 4.0 and a BA in communication/minor in marketing, I decided to jump into my next degree at Northeastern University, where I completed my MBA in 2012.

With a year of part-time project management at IBM under my belt, I chose the consumer packaged goods industry, and Ocean Spray Cranberries, as my full time home away from home upon completion of my MBA. After four wonderful years and many diverse experiences, including traveling abroad as an associate business development manager for the European region and running three consecutive Falmouth Road Races as part of the Ocean Spray team, I ventured into salty snacks. The next four years of my life were all about...popcorn. I joined Popcorn Indiana, later acquired by Eagle Foods, and, lastly, jumped ship to a west-coast competitor, Popcornopolis. As life goes, a few unpredictable twists and turns landed me at my current company, Hayden Valley Foods, where I have had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge of private labels, ingredients, nuts, and family-run businesses.

Since graduating, I completed two different certifications through Harvard's Extension School, a 200-hour yoga teacher certification, barre certification, countless road races, and two marathons (Vermont City Marathon 2015 and Boston Marathon 2016). While it all sounds simple when summarized in a few sentences, the past few years have been rewarding and challenging. They have brought me to Boston, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and everywhere in between, often calling a hotel my home for days or sometimes weeks. I have been fortunate to meet an incredible partner and acquire two incredible fur babies (a Klee Kai and Great Pyrenees named Hamilton and Barry) along the way, and somehow managed to land close to home in New Hampshire.



Quimby Wechter—Since graduating from the University of Hartford in 2020, I have worked in two different roles at Boston Children’s Hospital. First, I worked as a clinical research coordinator on the neuromuscular team. I ran clinical trials for children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy. I recently accepted a new position within the hospital as the program coordinator of the National Business Strategy Team. I work on initiatives that help patients from across the United States receive complex care at our hospital.



While at the University of Hartford, I majored in health science/pre-physical therapy and minored in business management and biology. I accelerated my curriculum and graduated after three years. The community and extracurricular activities positively impacted my experience at UHart. I served as the senior resident assistant for the Village Apartments, a chemistry lab instructor, and a proctor for Access-Ability Services. Additionally, I was the director of communication and recruitment and a tour guide for the Red Key Society. I completed honors research with Associate Professor Sandra Saavedra, which has since been published in *Illuminate*, titled “Determining the Reliability of an Axial Rotation Measure for Children with Cerebral Palsy: Empowering Greater Activity, a Proof of Concept Study.”

I am honored to be the first student to receive the Emeriti Scholarship twice. The Emeriti Association was instrumental in my success at the University of Hartford. I went on to receive both junior and senior Regent Awards, the Solomon Elsner Award for graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA, and the Belle K. Ribicoff Award. The Belle K. Ribicoff Award is “the most prestigious award at the University, awarded annually to an exemplary graduating senior who has demonstrated academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, originality of thought, and a commitment to extracurricular activities and community service.” I appreciate the Emeriti Association supporting my academic and personal growth.

In my free time, I tutor local children, exercise, enjoy city life in Boston, and spend time with friends.

Highlighting the Accomplishments of Charles Condon, esq.

The career of Charles Condon at the University of Hartford has many interesting facets. He worked with four university presidents (Archibald Woodruff, Stephen Trachtenberg, Humphrey Tonkin, and Walter Harrison). Charles was hired by President Woodruff as an associate provost. Because of his background, an AB degree and a JD degree from Harvard University, he became involved with legal issues at the University and soon was designated university general counsel and secretary. He responded to a variety of legal issues with just an office coordinator for support. If necessary, Charles would consult with local law firms. Because of the range of legal issues he faced, he was considered a jack-of-all-trades for legal matters. His role as university secretary involved organizing the meetings for the Board of Regents, supporting Commencement activities, and participating in the Board of Regents’ Pomp and Ceremonies committee. One of his strong points was the self-effacing way he conducted business.



During his time at the University, Charles was a strong supporter of the library and initiatives that enhanced the stature of the University. As university counsel, he guided the library through numerous contract negotiations and relationships. Under President Trachtenberg, Charles worked on the planning for major construction to create a complex (Harry Jack Gray Center) that would expand the Mortensen Library, house the Department of Communication, the Hartford Art School, and the 1877 Club. Former University Head Librarian Randi Ashton-Pritting described his role as a member of the University Libraries Board of Visitors as an “avid supporter of the libraries’ mission to the University community, both on and off campus.” Because of his relationships with people outside of the University, Charles was also instrumental in nominating new people for membership to the Board of Visitors.

Charles was a major champion of the John G. Martin and Marion A. Bills Scholarship available to senior University of Hartford students that supports two years of graduate study at Oxford University. He worked with President Trachtenberg to create the scholarship and through the years continued the process of developing and maintaining strong relationships with representatives from Oxford University.

The Emeriti Association was a brainchild of Charles and was initially discussed with President Stephen Trachtenberg and Interim President Hank Lebed. President Humphrey Tonkin endorsed the idea soon after he took office in 1989. With this endorsement, Charles went to work to create the association. President Tonkin stated that Charles understood that the formation of the Emeriti Association was a tangible way “of showing the University cared.” Charles, acting as secretary, and 17 emeriti faculty and administrators met for the first time in the fall of 1989. Twenty-five years later, just after retiring, Charles became a member of the Emeriti Association at a meeting on October 7, 2014. During the meeting Charles discussed the history of the association’s founding. His speech followed the dedication of a tree planted on the east lawn of the Computer and Administration Center. There is also a plaque on the site commemorating the founding.

Although Charles made many valuable contributions to the University, one that always brings a smile to his face is the donation he made of a ceremonial University mace. Like a proud father, he is always reminding University marshals about the proper handling (no fingerprints) of the mace during Commencement.

Thank you, Charles, for your many years of service to the University and your instrumental efforts to create the Emeriti Association.

We are thankful for the discussions with President Harrison, President Tonkin, Randi Ashton-Pritting, Wally Banzhaf, and others that helped highlight the story of Charles Condon.

Scholarships Created by Emeriti—Addendum

In last year’s newsletter a list of the scholarships created to honor the careers of faculty at the University of Hartford was provided. These scholarships are reminders of the positive contributions the emeriti faculty are still making to the University. If you know of a new scholarship or one not previously listed, please contact the Emeriti Association and it will be added to a future newsletter. An additional scholarship, not mentioned last year, is as follows:

Professor Sherry Buckberrough Art History Scholarship

The next plenary meeting,
hopefully in person, is
October 26, 2021, at 10 a.m.

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UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

In memoriam Emeriti Association 2020–2021

Robert B. Wallace, College of Arts and Sciences; Joseph Voelker, College of Arts and Sciences; and Stephen Misovich, Hillyer College

Welcoming Our New Members

Douglas Eichar and Laurence (Larry) Gould, College of Arts and Sciences; Gene Gort, Hartford Art School; Ladimer (Lad) Nagurney, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture; Carl Smith, Barney School of Business; and Randi Ashton-Pritting, Director, Harrison Libraries.

Emeriti Association Publication Committee:

Ralph Zegarelli, newsletter co-editor; Harry Workman, newsletter co-editor; Michael Kahn, newsletter editor Emeritus; Mary Dowst, Executive Secretary & Treasurer; Regina Miller; Sandy Morgan; and Leo Smith.

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/