his is a time of great excitement and monumental change at the University of Hartford. Our students have grown stronger academically. Faculty members have distinguished themselves in the classroom, the laboratory, the community, and beyond. Innovative building projects are transforming the campus. Our financial footing is solid, enabling us to continue building on success to ensure a promising future for students of today and tomorrow.

Our admission picture has never been brighter. Applications this year were more than double what they were in 1998, and more of the students we selected chose to enroll. This year, we welcomed to campus nearly 1,700 first-year and transfer students. The incoming freshman class has the highest SAT scores ever and is the most diverse, with students of color representing 24 percent. Our new students come to Hartford from 53 states and 20 nations and from major international cities like Shanghai and small American towns like Port Alexander, Alaska, which can be reached only by single-engine seaplane or boat.

One measure of our growing academic success is the addition this year of the Doctor of Physical Therapy, the university’s fifth doctoral-level program. More and more patients want direct access to physical therapists, who as a result are expected to make diagnoses and referrals. Our new degree program will give our graduates the skills they need to practice independently in a changing world.

One of my proudest moments as president came on August 29, when we opened Phase I of the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology (ISET) complex. As I scanned the crowd at the joyous opening, I was reminded of how important our integrated approach to technology and the health professions will be to our nation’s ability to cope with the challenges of the future. Knowing that Hurricane Katrina had struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast that very day, I realized how much we will need new approaches to engineering, architecture, and technology in order to rebuild that section of the country and to face other natural disasters in the future. Our students will help us find and apply these new methods.
Award-Winning Faculty
Mark Blackwell, associate professor of English, won the 2004-05 James L. Clifford Prize for his research into the practice of 18th-century tooth implantation. His research was supported by a Greenberg Junior Faculty Research Grant.

Home Field Advantage
This fall, the Hawks soccer teams competed on the newly renovated Al-Marzook Field—the first completed project in the university’s athletics campaign. Michael Pereira ’07 stands in the foreground as (left to right) Peter Ortega ’09, Mark Cleverdon ’07, and Maurizio Silvestri ’06 pass a soccer ball.

A Touch of Miami in Hartford
The University of Hartford boasts the Miami String Quartet, one of the most respected quartets in America, as its quartet-in-residence. Cellist Keith Robinson (right) of the Miami String Quartet coaches student Lisa Kramer ’07.

A Founding Father
Aeword Collins U., a life regent who played a key role in the university’s founding, died in November 2004. In his honor, the university named the central seminar in its undergraduate pre-law program The Atwood Collins Seminar.

Our students and faculty are also going to help change the way industry designs and manufactures products. This work will be advanced by a $1.09 million grant from the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology that was presented by U.S. Rep. John B. Larson at the ISET opening. The grant will support the research and development of laser-guided manufacturing, led by Devdas Shetty, professor and dean of research at the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA).

New leadership at two of our schools and in the university’s administration brings new energy and ideas to our institution. We welcomed Louis Manzione as the new dean of CETA in mid-August. Lou joined us from the Bell Laboratories research center in Ireland, where, as executive director, he forged strong links with the Irish academic research community. I expect him to develop similar university/industry relationships here. Jim Fairfield-Sonn, a longtime Barney School of Business faculty member and interim dean of Barney during the previous academic year, became dean of Barney on July 1. On the administrative side, John Carson, previously senior advisor for corporate and community relations, was named vice president for university relations. Don Rizzo became vice president for institutional advancement, after serving as acting vice president since October 2004. I look forward to continuing to work with all of these talented individuals.

With the help of outstanding faculty, students across our campus are doing great things. They have won regional and national accolades and awards in fields that include acoustics, engineering, music, advertising, graphic design, television news, and business development. It’s not surprising that our students are doing so well when you consider their teachers, who are distinguished scholars and researchers. In the College of Arts and Sciences, for example, Mark Blackwell, associate professor of English and department chair, won the prestigious James L. Clifford Prize from the American Society for 18th-Century Studies. His research into 18th-century, live-tooth transplantation was supported by a Greenberg Junior Faculty Research Grant. A team led by Ingrid Russell, professor of computer science, received a National Science Foundation grant of nearly $100,000 for curriculum development related to artificial intelligence. Laura Pence, associate professor of chemistry, received a $50,000 grant from the American Society of Petroleum Research Fund to involve undergraduates in research related to catalysts for petroleum refining. And Donald Ellis, professor of communication, received a Fulbright grant to teach and study political conflict at Tel Aviv University.

New Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy
To meet the growing need for physical therapists, the University of Hartford announced its fifth doctoral-level degree, the Doctor of Physical Therapy. Pictured are (left to right) physical therapy student Julie Podmorska ’06; Lisa Hensley; and Barbara Crane, assistant professor of physical therapy.

Got Change?
Terri Albert, assistant professor of marketing at the university’s Barney School and scholar-in-residence at New York University, is studying the relationship between consumer behavior and spare change. Each year, Americans remove $8 billion in spare change from circulation, and Albert’s research studies these factors that might induce consumers to spend some of that change.
TV Studio Dedicated to Industry Pioneer
Kent McCray ’51 (right), with Local Sports Break students Jorge Sanchez ’06 (left) and Jessica Fine ’07, pose in the newly dedicated Kent McCray Television Studio, as Amanda O’Shea ’07 (facing page, bottom) operates the camera. McCray, a Hartt School alumnus and honorary regent, donated $100,000 for new field equipment and the studio conversion to high-definition standards. McCray was the prolific producer of Bonanza and Little House on the Prairie.

Karate Hour at the University
Bill Thomson, assistant professor of illustration at the Hartford Art School, received several prestigious awards for illustrating his first children’s book, Karate Hour, by Carol Nevius. The book has also received starred reviews from the American Library Association’s Booklist and School Library Journal publications.

Performing Arts Center Project
The $30 million University of Hartford Performing Arts Center will provide new performance spaces, teaching rooms, and state-of-the-art facilities for the internationally renowned Hartt School, and will expand educational programming for students and the community. Pictured is Charliah Beat ’07, master’s degree candidate and viola student.

Magnetic Studies
Laura Pence, associate professor of chemistry, was awarded a $50,000 grant from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund. Her proposal in magnetic studies features the involvement of undergraduates in carrying out the research.

Hawk Alumnus Captures First PGA Tour Win
Former Hawks golfer Tim Petrovic ’88 earned his first PGA Tour victory in May, winning the Zurich Classic. He joins fellow alumni Jerry Kelly ’89 and Patrick Sheahan ’92 on the PGA Tour.

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Stephan Ballard, assistant professor of biology in Hillyer College, received a grant from the Long Island Sound Fund for a study aimed at protecting Long Island Sound from an invasive marine species. Bill Thomson, assistant professor of illustration at the Hartford Art School, received several prestigious awards in national juried illustration competitions for his work in the children’s book, *Kermit Hour*, by Carol Nevius.

The university continues to build on its success in fields from the arts to business as well as science and technology. Plans are moving ahead for a new Performing Arts Center for The Hartt School. Approximately $11 million has been raised to date for the project, including a grant that the Connecticut Development Authority increased by $500,000 to $2.5 million. The Barney School is sharpening its focus on financial services, thanks in part to a $200,000 Starr Foundation scholarship grant to support students who major in insurance and finance.

Our faculty and students are deeply engaged with the Greater Hartford community. We are having a powerful major in insurance and finance. We have been selected as one of 12 schools nationwide to participate in a groundbreaking program designed to reduce the health and social consequences of substance abuse. A $1.09 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will enable us to help 900 students over the next three years through a campus program called Project OASIS (Outreach and Action for Substance Abuse Reform). The project is backed by the Connecticut Development Authority, which provided $200,000 to the Upper Albany neighborhood. Their efforts received a boost from a $200,000 grant from the Bank of America to the Upper Albany Main Street Project. University staff and students have supported the Say Yes to Education program founded by university regent George Weiss, which provided free college educations to fifth-graders at Hartford’s Annie Fisher Elementary School. A celebration this year marked the successful completion of the program after 15 years.

As students reach out to help others in the community, they also need support to ensure their own health and well-being. We have been selected as one of 12 schools nationwide to participate in a groundbreaking program designed to reduce the health and social consequences of substance abuse. A $1.09 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will enable us to help 900 students over the next three years through a campus program called Project OASIS (Outreach and Action for Substance Abuse Reform). The project is backed by the Connecticut Development Authority, which provided $200,000 to the Upper Albany neighborhood. Their efforts received a boost from a $200,000 grant from the Bank of America to the Upper Albany Main Street Project. University staff and students have supported the Say Yes to Education program founded by university regent George Weiss, which provided free college educations to fifth-graders at Hartford’s Annie Fisher Elementary School. A celebration this year marked the successful completion of the program after 15 years.

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Student Improvement Services). The abuse of alcohol is a major challenge facing colleges and universities around the country. I am proud that we are taking a leadership position in confronting the issue here.

Intercollegiate athletics also promote students’ health and well-being while adding immeasurably to the spirit of an institution. Our student-athletes have done us proud on the playing field and in the classroom. In fact, our athletes’ graduation rates and grade point averages outpace the student body as a whole. They are setting an example for their peers in the national drive to raise academic performance. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) earlier this year adopted the recommendations of a committee that I chaired to raise academic standards for student-athletes and hold universities responsible for results.

Last March the university took great pride in the women’s basketball team as it won the America East championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in the past four years. September 2 was another of many red-letter days for university athletics as the women’s soccer team won the first game to be played at the newly renovated Al-Marzook Field. The renovation is the first completed project in the $10 million Home Field Advantage campaign. We are constructing new baseball and softball fields for the spring 2006 season with support anticipated from a $700,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation.

In many areas—from academics and athletics to our relationships with the community—we are building on success. We are transforming the university into an institution that prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century.

President
November 2005