On the cover:
Under the watchful eyes of (left to right) John G. Lee, director of research, United Aircraft Corp.; Alfred C. Fuller, chairman of the board, The Fuller Brush Co.; and Mrs. T. Merrill Prentice, Gov. Abraham Ribicoff signed a special act merging the Hartford Art School, the Hartt College of Music, and Hillyer College to create the University of Hartford on February 21, 1957.

Today, nearly 7,300 students attend the University, including (left to right) Othilia Anglin ‘09, a music theatre major in The Hartt School; Roger Castonguay ‘07, a photography major in the Hartford Art School; and Jennifer Rinaldi ‘08, a psychology major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Right:
The University’s first chancellor, Vincent Brown Coffin, confers with a contractor in 1959 on plans for the first new building on the 150 acres of farmland on Bloomfield Avenue. Bates House can be seen in the far left corner. Like his predecessors, President Walter Harrison has overseen dramatic growth in enrolled students, buildings, and academic offerings during his 10-year tenure.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a glorious, and momentous, year for the University of Hartford as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

The visionary leaders who created our University in 1957 by bringing together three smaller institutions recognized that a university for Hartford was critical to the success and growth of the city and the region. Taking their cue from that original vision—that a university was central to the development of a community—succeeding generations of University leaders have developed the institution’s strong tradition as a private university with a public purpose.

Over the last five decades we have reinvented the future in ways our founders couldn’t possibly have imagined. What they did understand was that a university constantly reinvents itself, and in doing so, has a major role to play in shaping the future for all of us—in Hartford, Connecticut, New England, the United States, and the world.
Across from the desk in my office—the desk used by all five University presidents—I keep a framed vintage photograph of the original Board of Regents. It was given to me by one of the founders and original regents, the late Atwood Collins. Every day the photo of those original regents reminds me that they have entrusted the stewardship of this great University to our generation and to me.

They created this institution and nourished it; now it is our responsibility to ensure its growth and vitality, plan for its future, and every day create the best possible learning environment for our students, faculty, staff, and community. That sense of purpose is shared by the donors we recognize, celebrate, and thank in this report. Our founders would smile proudly if they could see the thousands of people and organizations who so strongly support the University they so lovingly founded 50 years ago.

**Strongest Financial Footing in History**

When our founders created the University of Hartford, they showed typical New England self-reliance. I’m pleased that we have continued to justify their confidence and trust in our financial stewardship. The University of Hartford is on a stronger financial footing today than at any time in its history.

Moody’s Investors Service, one of the most widely respected investment firms in the world, cited the generosity of our donors as one of the critical factors in our financial stability. We raised $15.6 million last year, the second-highest fundraising total in our history. Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors, the Campaign of Commitment total has reached $157 million. We also expanded our base to 8,727 donors, a 10 percent increase over the prior year. I think our founders would be as thrilled as I am by this tremendous show of support from alumni, faculty and staff, and the many friends of the University. Thank you for your generosity and support.
The campus and the community celebrated the University’s 50th anniversary at various events throughout the year. A large crowd looks on (bottom) as President Walter Harrison and Alumni Association President Paul Sittard ’85 unveil a bronze H in the new Alumni Plaza. A time capsule to be opened in 2057 was buried as well.

Other events included a birthday party in Gengras Student Union with a ‘50s theme, a basketball game that included a hula hoop contest at halftime, and Community Day, where young and old alike were entertained by “The King” and a vintage car show.
Dazzling New Facilities

Imagine how the founders would react to the University’s growth in 50 years. Remember that in 1957 they launched the University with 150 acres of farmland and big dreams. We have created a vibrant, 350-acre campus from that farmland, and we’re still pursuing big dreams.

One of those dreams became reality in April when we dedicated the Renée Samuels Center. This $5 million addition to the Hartford Art School gives students and faculty the opportunity to reinvent the future of art in the digital age. We’re particularly grateful to Bob and Renée Samuels for their family’s leadership gift of $1.2 million for this striking new facility.

In June we held the construction kickoff for the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center. This is a great project involving a makeover of the former Thomas Cadillac distributorship at the corner of Westbourne Parkway and Albany Avenue in North Hartford, about a mile east of the main campus. The buildings there were designed and built by Albert Kahn, the well-known industrial architect of the first third of the 20th century. His vision of an auto dealership for the future is now being transformed into a performing arts education center of the future. The transformation is both startling and inspiring. The location where some of our founders bought their Cadillacs is where generations of future Hartt School students will launch careers and enrich the arts for years to come.

We have named the Handel Performing Arts Center for two longtime supporters of The Hartt School, Mort and Irma Handel, whose $1.5 million commitment is the largest gift to this project from individual donors. We’ve also received funding from the federal government, the state of Connecticut, and the city of Hartford as well as corporations and foundations, including MassMutual Financial Group and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Handel Center defines, for me, the true nature of a public-private partnership, not only in its funding but in the way it will fulfill this University’s commitment to its neighborhoods.
Left: The Hartt School faculty member Carrie Koffman and acoustics and music major Alexandra Symmonds ‘10 inside the University’s anechoic chamber, which is part of the professional acoustics laboratory in Dana Hall. Both received 2007 WELFund grants for projects that help shape the future for women and girls. The WELFund honors Hartford College for Women.

Below: Moshe Paranov (left), co-founder of The Hartt School in the 1920s, applauds as Alfred C. Fuller (center), founder of The Fuller Brush Company, ceremonially begins construction of The Fuller Music Center, the new campus home of The Hartt School in 1962. Fuller was the great-great uncle of Greg Calkin ’74 (right), who stands next to the beautifully restored 1940 Cadillac formerly owned by Fuller.

Below: The University is offering Elementary Chinese I as a special-topics course in the College of Arts and Sciences for the first time, in recognition of China’s emergence in the global economy and students’ need to compete in that economy. In the foreground is Zhou Feng, the instructor for the course, with students Gary Knoble and Amy Yang.
When the center opens in 2008, it will provide stunning, and badly needed, performance space and rehearsal halls for the internationally renowned Hartt School. The Handel Center will help us ensure that The Hartt School remains one of the world’s great performing arts conservatories.

One example of Hartt student accomplishment is Sergey Antonov, an outstanding 24-year-old cellist and Hartt graduate student who won first prize at the 2007 International Tchaikovsky Competition, one of the most prestigious classical music competitions in the world, which was held this year in Moscow. Antonov studied with Hartt professor Terry King, a Grammy-nominated cellist, chamber musician and conductor, whose former students now perform with major orchestras around the world.

Over 200 first-year students moved into Hawk Hall in September. Our largest residence hall construction project since 1989, Hawk Hall was built in response to growing enrollment. This beautiful new facility includes two “smart” classrooms and a kitchen and offers stunning views of the campus. Hawk Hall overlooks Alumni Plaza, a new gathering place for students that will become a central focus of student life at the University for years to come.

We capped our amazing summer with a late-August groundbreaking ceremony for the University High School of Science and Engineering. This 85,000-square-foot, $40 million facility—a partnership between the University, the city of Hartford, Hartford Public Schools, and the state of Connecticut—will be the permanent home for our four-year-old early-college high school, now housed on the Asylum Avenue campus. Students there have the opportunity to earn college credit in high school. We are educating a new generation of young people in this innovative high school, one that is helping to create the future of science, engineering, and technology throughout the world.

Chancellor Archibald Woodruff and William Mortensen (screen inset) couldn’t have imagined the impact of technology as they moved books into the new Mortensen Library in 1971. Barney School students (left to right) Amber Smith ’08, Danielle Lombard ’08, and Angel Salleroli ’08 use one of the library’s two collaboration pods to work on a strategic marketing plan team project. The pod allows students to work together on a project with Internet access, three keyboards, and a 42-inch monitor.
The two-story atrium of the Renée Samuels Center is designed for informal discussions and critiques and has a window created for exterior projections. The artwork shown is by Meaghan Smith ’07.

Bob and Renée Samuels joined more than 400 invited guests in April for the celebration of the opening of the Renée Samuels Center at the Hartford Art School’s spring gala. The Samuels family gave the lead gift of $1.2 million for the center.

The architecturally distinctive addition to the art school building provides new studios for media arts and photography, and renovated painting, drawing, printmaking, and foundation studies studios.

The two-story atrium of the Renée Samuels Center is designed for informal discussions and critiques and has a window created for exterior projections. The artwork shown is by Meaghan Smith ’10.
Twelve of the nearly 40 University of Hartford students who chose an Alternative Spring Break building homes for hurricane victims in Slidell, La., rather than spring break at home or on the beach. They volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. The trip was led by John Mehm, associate director of the University’s Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology.

Members of the 2007 Hartford Hawks women’s soccer team go for the goal against the 1960 men’s team. Shown on the recently renovated Al-Marzook Field, part of the Home Field Advantage, Phase 1, are (from left) goalie Elizabeth Cook ’08, midfielder Maja Siosteen ’08, forward Sara Flowers ’08 and forward Meagan Riemer ’08. Today, the University offers varsity competition in 18 NCAA Division I sports, nine for men and nine for women.
Hillyer students (left to right) Victoria Maalt ’09, Shakia Woods ’09, and Ethan Cowf ’09 worked with Assistant Dean Paula Alderette, English instructor Bette Williams and others to assess and fine-tune the school’s new advising portfolio system, which can be used online or in printed format. The students and faculty traveled to Indianapolis, Ind., in October to present a workshop about the portfolio to a national audience of administrators, deans, and faculty advisors.

Facing page, right: Enoch Lenge ’07 put his degree to work right away. He and a business partner started a business called EarthGuard LLC to market and sell biodegradable packaging material to replace the plastic containers currently used for fruit and vegetables.
Graduate students Nuno Oliveira (foreground) and Jenny Spleen are instructed by professor Kevin Ball, director of the University’s new Human Performance Lab. Using technology formerly reserved for checking the stride and performance factors of elite athletes, students in the physical therapy program in the School of Education, Nursing and Health Professions learn to collect and analyze data to measure the effectiveness of physical therapy interventions in the lab.

We anticipate great 2007 seasons for our sports teams, which continue to gain national prominence. Last year, coach Jennifer Rizzotti led the women’s basketball team to the America East Championship and their third-straight postseason appearance. The men’s basketball team showed dramatic improvement under the leadership of coach Dan Leibovitz in his first year, and I expect them to continue this upward trajectory. Thanks to the Home Field Advantage campaign, our baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse teams now have world-class outdoor fields where they can pursue their dreams of championship seasons. Indeed, the women’s soccer team began that tradition by winning the 2006 America East Championship and advancing to the NCAA tournament.

A Force for Good
Our founders clearly had the community in mind when they created a private university with a public purpose. I believe we consistently exceed their expectations with our ability to be a creative, energetic force for good in our region, our nation, and our world.

In one of our innovative collaborations with Hartford public schools, 150 students began a new, three-year, computer-training program at the University designed to prepare them for careers in information technology. The students start with basic IT training, and over three years, advance to paid internships at local organizations. The project, called IT Community Support Project, is managed by Colleen Kruger of the University’s Center for Professional Development and is funded by a $900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Forty University of Hartford students gave up their spring break plans to help build homes for victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. John Mehm, associate director of the University’s Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology, led the group, which spent a week in Slidell, La., where they volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. This learning experience was very different from what is learned in the classroom, but it’s a life lesson that will stay with them forever.
Seventeen-year-old Dili Udeh proudly displays the website he created for the Park River Watershed Foundation as part of the IT Community Support Project managed by the University’s Center for Professional Development. Udeh is one of nearly 50 youth who participate in the after-school and summer project that teaches information technology and offers work experience through internships at local businesses, nonprofits and colleges. The project is funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation. Udeh is a senior at the University High School of Science and Engineering.

Above: Christyle Winn enjoys a book at Nu Attitudes Hair & Nail Salon in Bloomfield, Conn., while salon owner Michael Willis does his wife Yvonne’s hair (in mirror). Willis’s salon is one of several that participate in a University of Hartford Educational Main Street program called Community Literacy Initiators. The program provides free books to the salons and trains salon owners to talk to their clients about encouraging children to read.
Engineering students working with David Pines, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, are using advanced technology to bring a clean, sustainable water supply to residents of Abheypur, India, a village about 30 miles south of New Delhi. Only a handful of the 3,000 residents of the village have running water in their homes. For the rest, women and girls walk up to a mile to reach a hand-operated well, and they balance containers of water on their heads on the way home. Our engineering students are working with the local Engineers Without Borders chapter and others to develop and install a solar-powered well that will be an efficient, reliable source of clean water for the village.

**Transforming the Educational Experience**

Just as we have exceeded our founders’ expectations in carrying out our public purpose, we are reinventing the future of this amazing private university for our students.

The College of Arts and Sciences is offering a distinctive program to train and certify high school math teachers. There is a pressing need for qualified teachers today that will become even more critical as technology enters every area of our personal and professional lives.

The College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions launched a groundbreaking graduate program in deaf education this past summer. Teachers are learning to educate hearing-impaired children using the latest amplification and cochlear implant technology.

Responding to the needs of its customers, the Barney School began offering an accelerated MBA this fall. The program—which is tailored for experienced professionals, managers and executives—can be completed in just 20 months with little time out of the workplace. Classes are held on Thursday evenings and Saturdays so that participants can pursue their careers full time while they gain the knowledge and training they need to ensure their future success.
Above: It appears that some of the students relaxing in the living room of a campus residence hall in 1967 would have had the moves to challenge Sean Cohen ’08 in his Guitar Hero® video game. Cohen is a communication major and general manager of WSAM, the University’s student-run radio station.

Left: The University’s newest residence facility, Hawk Hall, casts beams of welcoming light onto the new Alumni Plaza. Each wing of Hawk Hall focuses on a different residential learning theme, including leadership; honors; environmental awareness; women in science, engineering, and technology; wellness; cultural exploration; and Hawk spirit. Designated faculty and staff associates help students develop programming related to the themes.
Vision for the Future

It’s impossible to anticipate all the changes we’ll see over the next 50 years, but I am sure the University of Hartford will continue to adapt as it has in the past to provide an outstanding learning experience for our students and prepare them fully to be citizens of the world.

Providing an outstanding educational experience is our fundamental goal. Today we are a university of approximately 7,300 students with diverse economic, social, racial, religious, ethnic and geographic backgrounds. Our challenge in this coming year, especially in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, is to enhance safety and security on campus while also establishing community values in a secular, multicultural, coeducational setting. I am confident we can meet these challenges with our characteristic creativity and energy.

Our founders shared values and a vision. I believe they would enthusiastically support our achievements thus far. Now we must deepen our sense of what it means for the University of Hartford to be a caring, learning community, and establish a set of shared values that will guide and sustain us in the years to come. This is the greatest legacy that we can give to our students as they move into the world to reinvent the future in ways that we can’t possibly imagine today.

From our very founding 50 years ago, private support has made it possible for this University to achieve its dreams. Your support continues to do that today, and provides the foundation for us to build a strong future tomorrow, for the next 50 years, and far beyond.

From all of us in the University of Hartford community, I thank you.