of tissue culture, which required special laboratory equipment that the students did not have at their schools. Levesque had experience with tissue cultures, Lipski knew all of the necessary scientific techniques, and the University had the right facilities. A collaboration was born.

“When astronauts spend extended periods of time in space, they experience significant bone loss as well as muscle loss,” explains Levesque. “The goal of this experiment is to find out whether there is some way to counteract the effect of microgravity on bone density. It has been shown that parathyroid hormone will increase bone-cell growth on Earth. We’re testing to see whether parathyroid hormone will have that same effect in space, in microgravity.”

Because the group was only allowed to send one vial of cells up into space, the students spent several hours a week conducting similar experiments here on Earth with different controls, such as temperature and the presence or absence of parathyroid hormone. Once their vial of cells returns to Earth, they will take the results from space and compare them to the results obtained on campus. This experiment not only has applications for astronauts in space but could also help people on Earth who are suffering from osteoporosis.

Lipski graduated in May. He’s looking forward to stepping aside eventually and letting the younger students take more control.

“It’s their opportunity to shine,” he says. “It’s their opportunity to get this experience.”

Levesque agrees. “Research experience is probably the most important part of students’ science education because it’s the one place where they can take everything they’ve learned in the classroom and apply it to solving a new problem,” she says. “That’s why the space experiment is so cool. Not only does it involve the aspect of sending something into space, but it also gives these younger students, as young as eighth-graders, an opportunity to get this kind of research experience early on.”

The students also worked with mentors from Yale University and Hamilton Sundstrand, which provides aircraft and space systems for government and industry customers. The on-orbit educational research opportunity was made possible by the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, NanoRacks LLC, and the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education. Under a Space Act Agreement, NanoRacks, in partnership with NASA, is working to use the International Space Station as a national laboratory.
Hillyer College faculty started moving into their new offices this spring with the completion of a new addition called the Shaw Center at Hillyer College. The new facility is named for lead donors John “Jay” Shaw A’74 and Debi Shaw. Hillyer Hall, which was built in 1962, was the first classroom building on the University’s Bloomfield Avenue campus, and this was its first major renovation.

The two-story, 10,000-square-foot expansion of Hillyer Hall includes much-needed faculty offices, a state-of-the art classroom for the Hillyer honors program, and a large common area that provides an informal gathering space for students and faculty. The Shaw Center project also created four new, general-purpose classrooms in Hillyer in the spaces previously occupied by faculty offices.

“Hillyer College, for the first time in its history, will have a home that’s something other than a hallway,” says David Goldenberg, dean of Hillyer College.

And it’s not just Hillyer College that will benefit. Students and faculty from other schools and colleges holding classes in Hillyer Hall will also take advantage of the new classrooms and the spacious common area, which is designed to encourage spontaneous interaction and collaboration among students and faculty.

Hillyer College, the University’s two-year, associate’s degree-granting college, prepares students to pursue bachelor’s degrees through a solid liberal-arts curriculum within a structured and highly supportive learning environment.

Calculus Program Recognized

The University of Hartford’s calculus program is one of the most successful in the country in terms of preparing students for further study in mathematics, developing students’ enjoyment of mathematics, and giving them confidence in their mathematical abilities.

That’s according to a large-scale survey of undergraduate Calculus I courses conducted by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). The survey is Phase I of a study titled “Characteristics of Successful Programs in College Calculus,” supported by the National Science Foundation.

More than 200 colleges and universities participated in the survey, representing 660 calculus instructors, almost 900 calculus classes, and more than 34,000 students. The study analyzed data and identified departments across a variety of colleges and universities that have particularly effective programs—schools that are doing significantly better than peer institutions in preparing their students for further mathematical studies.

Seventeen colleges and universities, including the University of Hartford, emerged as having particularly successful programs and will be participating in Phase II of the project.

In fall 2012 the MAA will conduct an in-depth case study of Calculus I at the University of Hartford. The second phase of the study will gather additional information to learn more about how each selected institution runs its Calculus I program.
Inaugural Academic Staff Excellence Award

It started out as a regular faculty-and-staff meeting for the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (ENHP). But before the meeting got under way, Provost Sharon L. Vasquez walked in, called Marlene Hall up to the front of the room, and surprised her with the news that she had been selected to receive the inaugural Academic Staff Excellence Award.

Lee Ann C. Leahy ‘84, CPA, gives inaugural lecture

Lee Ann C. Leahy ’84, a CPA and partner in the Boston, Mass., office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, delivered the inaugural lecture of the Corine T. Norgaard Women in Leadership Lecture Series. Leahy’s May 1 lecture was titled “Breaking Barriers: The Emergence of Women Leaders in Public Accounting.”

Randi Ashton-Pritting: Connecticut’s Librarian of the Year

Randi Ashton-Pritting, director of University Libraries, is passionate about the libraries on campus and about supporting school and public libraries in the community. Her vision, dedication, and infectious enthusiasm were recognized on May 8, when she was presented with the Outstanding Librarian of the Year award by the Connecticut Library Association. The award honors the career accomplishments of a librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to her or his library and to the library profession.

Lecture Series Honors Former Dean Corine Norgaard

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With more than 27 years’ experience, Leahy serves higher-education and healthcare clients throughout the Northeast region. Her responsibilities include engagement partner on financial statement audits of large academic medical centers, research-intensive universities, and well-endowed liberal arts colleges. She also supervises federal and state compliance audits and internal control-assessment engagements.

Leahy graduated from the University of Hartford in 1984, earning a degree in accounting from the Barney School of Business. She is a former member of the Barney School board of visitors and has been a frequent speaker at Barney accounting department classes and events.

Norgaard served as dean of the Barney School of Business from 1996 to 2004. Her years as dean were marked by many significant accomplishments, including gaining accreditation of the Barney School by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Norgaard died in June 2011.
The 2012 Goldfarb Awards
Students explore old and new media

Student artists submitted more than 240 works for this year’s Alexander A. Goldfarb Student Exhibition, the annual juried show that is open to all University of Hartford students. From the 75 pieces selected for the prestigious exhibition, held in March and April at the Joseloff Gallery, two works—a sculpture and a photographic print—won top honors.

Each year, students are invited to enter their finest work, which is juried by a professional in the visual arts. The invited guest juror this year was Joseph D. Smith, sculptor and professor of art at Mount Holyoke College.

The two Alexander A. Goldfarb Purchase Awards went to Sam Miller, a junior majoring in sculpture, and Sarah Mitrani, a senior photography major. Both artists are students in the Hartford Art School.

Miller won a purchase prize for his mixed-media sculpture titled *Human Landscape* (2012), made of glass, concrete, oak, pine, and limestone. Mitrani won for her archival inkjet print, *Untitled (Hospital)*.

Every year, two student artists receive purchase prizes in the amount of $1,000 each, made possible through the Alexander A. Goldfarb Endowment Trust. Entries reflect a wide range of media, including drawing, painting, graphic design, illustration, sculpture, ceramics, video, and photography. The winning students’ artwork becomes a part of the Goldfarb Memorial Collection, owned by the Hartford Art School and proudly displayed throughout the University in offices and public spaces.

*Photos by Roger Castonguay ’07, The Defining Photo*
Cecilia Welna, Former Dean and Beloved Teacher

Cecilia “Ceil” Welna was part of the fabric of the University of Hartford, from its founding in 1957 right up to the present day. With Welna’s death on March 8, 2012, at the age of 84, the University lost a good friend and dedicated educator who played a key role in the institution’s first 50 years.

Welna was a professor emerita of mathematics and helped to build the Department of Mathematics as its longtime chair. She served as dean of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions (formerly the College of Education and Allied Services) from 1982 to 1991, during some of which time she also served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1980, Welna became the first-ever recipient of the Roy E. Larsen Award for Excellence in Teaching, the University’s highest teaching honor. Passionate about teaching and helping students overcome their fear of math, she had a notable impact on generations of students.

Welna began teaching mathematics in 1956 at Hillyer College, one of the three schools that merged in 1957 to form the University of Hartford. While she retired as a full-time faculty member in 1993, she continued to teach for many more years and was serving as cochair of the Emeriti Association at the time of her death.

“Ceil Welna will always be a Hartford hero, a leader of the University since shortly after its founding, a favorite teacher and role model to literally thousands of alumni, and a dear friend to hundreds of faculty and staff over the years,” said University President Walter Harrison. “Despite her many accomplishments and successes, she lived her life with modesty, warmth, and caring. I join her thousands of friends in celebrating a life well lived,” Harrison said.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Cecilia Welna Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Hartford, c/o Toni Robinson, Institutional Advancement, 200 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, CT 06117.

Walter Gray Markham
Former professor of politics and government and dean of Arts and Sciences

The following tribute was written by Harald Sandström, associate professor emeritus of politics and government, and a longtime friend and colleague of Walter Markham.

Walter Gray Markham, 86, professor emeritus of politics and government and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, died peacefully at his home in Portsmouth, Va., on April 15, 2012.

Walter was a cherished colleague whose slow gait, quick humor, and profound thoughts made him a fixture in Hillyer Hall. Whenever anyone spotted his trademark plaid jacket and turtleneck, he would be sought-after company for some serious insights into current American politics or a joke du jour. He did not suffer carelessness or lack of effort lightly; he was known to walk out of class in a huff when students clearly were unprepared. By the same token, they knew they received quality instruction from this thoughtful and caring man.

Colleagues and administrators knew his wisdom and steady ways, and entrusted him with responsibilities such as chair of his department and Promotion and Tenure Council. . . . [W]hen the search for a dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chaired by Markham, failed to land an acceptable candidate, Markham was appointed dean. He served in that position from 1987 to 1992.

A naval aviator who flew missions over Korea from a carrier, and who lived to tell amusing stories of hanging his plane over the edge of the ship due to equipment malfunction, Markham abandoned that career at the level of lieutenant commander when, in his words, his big mouth prevented him from gaining command of his own ship. In pursuit of a second career, he entered the University of Pennsylvania on a Ford Foundation Fellowship, completing his PhD in political science in 1971 with an award-winning dissertation.

He spent the next 22 years at the University of Hartford, retiring in 1993. He and Annette, his wife for nearly half a century, moved to Virginia, where Annette had many family members. Walter said he owed that to Annette, having taken her away from them for all those years in Hartford. They lived near Walter’s beloved ocean, over which his ashes [were to be] scattered. Walter will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.