

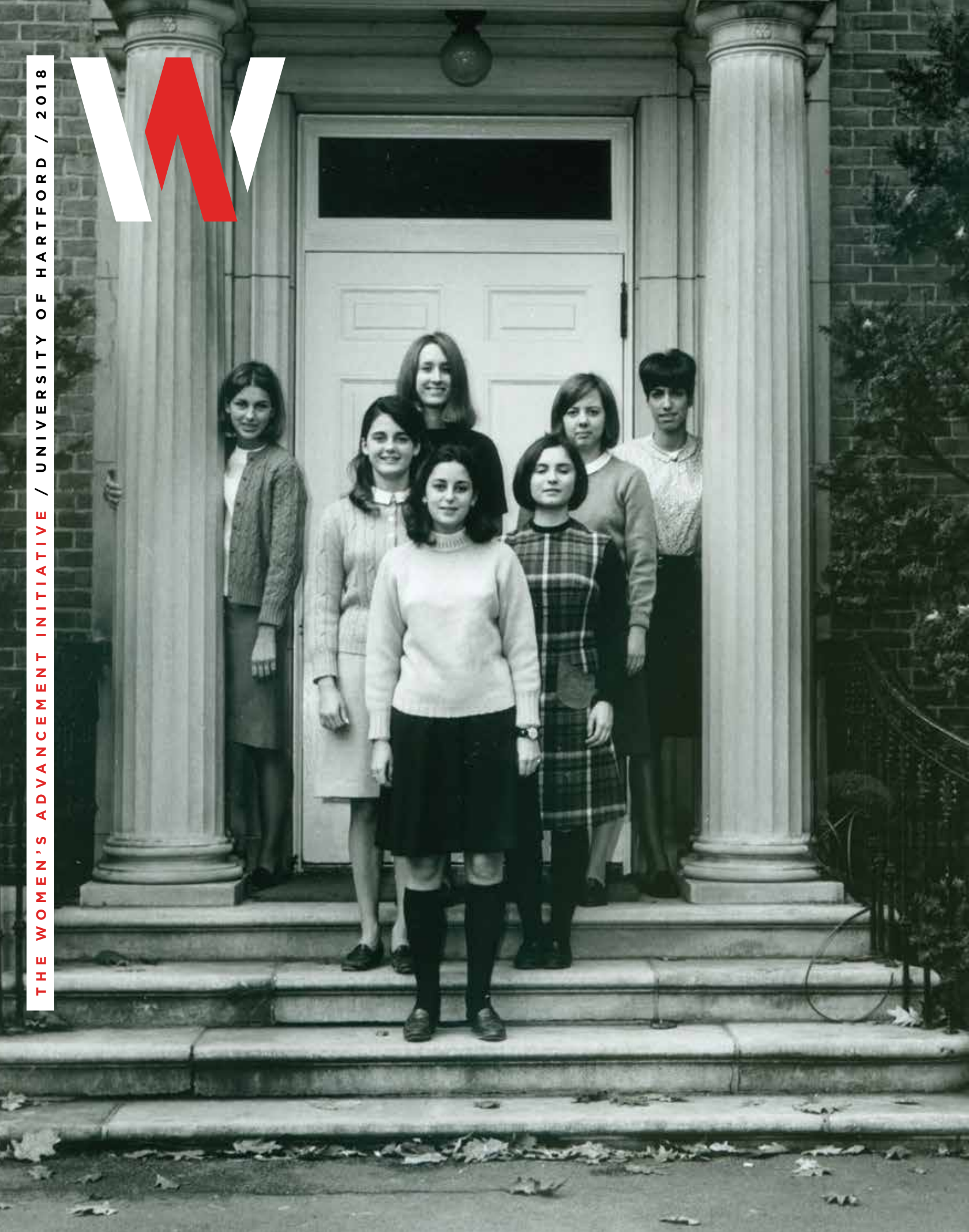
**UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD**

**THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE**  
*CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF HARTFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN*

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**Share Your Hartford College for Women Memories**  
Who was your favorite faculty or staff member? What is your fondest memory? What would you say to your college-age self? What life lessons can you share with today's students? Please submit stories, memories, advice, or photos to [womenadv@hartford.edu](mailto:womenadv@hartford.edu) or call 860.768.5961.



**THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE** uniquely positions women for success through education and leadership programs, research and scholarship opportunities, and career connections and experiences, which open minds and open doors. This distinctive program is built on the heritage of Hartford College for Women and is supported and sustained by a community of women and men who believe that advancing the potential of women is a personal and collective priority.

**CREDITS**

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**DEAR ALUMNAE, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS,**

"Kate, what do you intend to do with your life?" It was a question posed to me back in 1972 by Laura Johnson, President of Hartford College for Women. In her usual straightforward manner, she looked me in the eyes and rolled out the question for which I had no ready answer. Clearly, she was not impressed by my very vague and unrealistic plans to be an Olympic track star!

Life is full of defining moments for each of us. Miss Johnson's question was a defining moment for me. When I reflect on that conversation and my career path, I am reminded of how those brief years of my life at Hartford College transformed and shaped my future.

This academic year, 2018–2019, marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of Hartford College, women's education being a "noble experiment" back in 1933. While it may have started modestly, Hartford College was so much more to me. It was a place where female students felt at home and were part of a community where we were challenged, supported, and accepted.

Eighty-five years later, Hartford College's mission of inspiring women to achieve their greatest potential is alive and well through The Women's Advancement Initiative. The students, faculty, and staff it serves have their own defining moments, and their accomplishments are impressive from scholarship to research to entrepreneurship.

I have found the students enrolled in LEAD, our flagship program, particularly impressive. They are passionate, have diverse backgrounds and views, show inquisitive spirit, share a commitment to making a difference in our world, and are growing in their confidence—the very same qualities that were the foundation of Hartford College.

The Women's Advancement Initiative provides today's women with support and opportunities for personal and professional achievement, continuing the legacy of Hartford College. That legacy is treasured by students, faculty, and staff as they learn about our magnificent beginnings and create their own defining moments.

*Kate Stoddard*

**KATE FARROW STODDARD A'72 (HCW)**

*Chair, The Women's Advancement Initiative Board of Directors  
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YEARS OF  
EDUCATING  
WOMEN IN  
HARTFORD

**Celebrating Hartford College for Women and its legacy of educating women in Hartford for 85 years.**



**“LEAD continues the Hartford College for Women legacy of diversity, community, learning, and scholarship—with a mission to help women to be impactful and successful in their lives and their communities.”**

# A Sisterhood Across Time



**“It is good to see how Hartford College has evolved with the times...in a relevant direction for today's students.”**

**—Carolyn Robbins Siegel A'68 (HCW)**

Hartford College for Women's past bridges into the future. “Being rated the number two junior college in the United States in the early 1970s by a national publication was recognition of how highly Hartford College for Women was regarded,” says Valerie Lewis, former commissioner of higher education for the State of Connecticut and 1962 graduate of Hartford College. Lewis adds, “I am so proud to be an alumna of Hartford College, which was known for being a close-knit community that challenged and supported its students—the same type of challenge and support that continues for today's female students at the University of Hartford through The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program.”

Hartford College for Women began in 1933 as Mount Holyoke in Hartford in the midst of the Great Depression. It was considered a “noble experiment” in which women were afforded higher

education at a time when money was tight and women's options for a college education were very limited. Although Hartford College had several name changes over the years, two truths persisted: it was well respected for its vision, goals, and commitment to academic achievement and the personal success of women; and it was unique in its focus on building a dynamic community. Its graduates went on to selective colleges.

“One of the strengths of Hartford College was that students were hand selected not only for their academic achievements but for their diversity in backgrounds and attitudes,” comments Lewis. “This diversity was sought after to help students learn from each other and was key in building a community that was unique to the Hartford College experience. Another strength was Hartford College's commitment to women's education, embraced especially by its staff and

faculty who were known to reach out and provide extra support to students needing help in academic studies or scholarship aid.”

By the early 1990s, educational options for women had expanded exponentially. Increasingly, female students elected to enroll in the growing number of co-educational institutions. As a result, women's colleges throughout the country experienced decreased enrollment and financial difficulties. The era of single-sex institutions was becoming a thing of the past. Due to unsustainable financial challenges of its own, Hartford College for Women affiliated with the University of Hartford in 1991. Lewis describes it as a “fortuitous coming together.”

The University of Hartford's leaders “respected the academic standing and opportunities for women that the College provided,” says Lewis. “They had

great respect for its students, faculty, and staff and were drawn to the similarities in their vision, mission, and goals.”

Despite high hopes and concerted efforts, Hartford College for Women, like many all-women's colleges, continued to experience financial challenges as fewer female students elected to take women-only classes. After extensive analysis and with great reluctance and sorrow, Hartford College for Women ceased to be a degree-granting institution in 2003.

However, it was not the end. It was, in fact, the start of a new beginning, when Hartford College for Women Trustees and University of Hartford Regents came together to create a new focus and opportunity in women's education—one right for the times—an education in leadership skills for women where they could be challenged and supported in the tradition of Hartford College.

Today, this program is known as The Women's Advancement Initiative and its signature program, LEAD (Leadership Education and Development), which serves more than 100 students annually. Lewis notes, “LEAD continues the Hartford College for Women legacy of diversity, community, learning, and scholarship—with a mission to help women to be impactful and successful in their lives and their communities.” LEAD students will honor their sisterhood with Hartford College for Women with an event on June 8, 2019, to celebrate Hartford College and 85 years of educating women in Hartford. **W**

*Valerie Lewis A'62 (HCW) was assistant director and then director of admissions at Hartford College for Women from 1970 to 1984 and commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Connecticut from 2000 to 2008.*

# Then & Now

## 1933-1939

The Hartford College for Women (HCW) legacy of educating women began in 1933 when Mount Holyoke in Hartford opened as a "noble experiment." Mary Woolley, president of Mount Holyoke, planted an acorn as a promise of the College's potential. It also represented the inner potential women had to grow and be successful in their lives by expanding their learning. In 1939, Hartford Junior College was established as an independent college.



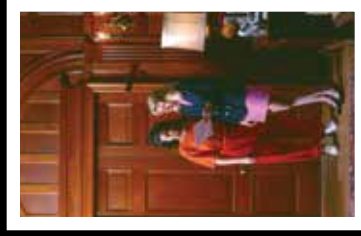
## 1943-1976

Laura Johnson served as dean and then the first president of Hartford College for 30+ years. She established it as a place for "women who wanted to learn and teachers who loved to teach." In 1960, she developed the Laura Johnson Scholars program for displaced homemakers and working women limited in their careers due to lack of training and confidence. She was known for seeing the strength and potential in students.



## 1958

Hartford College moves to Seaverns Estate on Asylum Avenue, which was purchased for the College by Paul Butterworth, father of Oliver Butterworth, beloved Hartford College English professor. Dorothy Goodwin served as a longtime trustee of Hartford College from the 1950s to the early 2000s. She was an educator, political leader, philanthropist, and visionary who inspired women and girls to live beyond expectations and realize their full potential.



## 1970

Hartford College for Women was the only private two-year school to be rated "academically prestigious" by college guidebook Cass and Birnbaum.

## 1983

Hartford College for Women launched The Women's Research Institute, one of 28 in

the nation and the only one in Connecticut that welcomed anyone interested in women's research and created an "encouraging atmosphere" for the study of women and their importance in the world."

## 1990s

By the early 1990s, educational options for women had expanded exponentially. Increasingly, female students elected to enroll in the growing number of co-educational institutions. As a result, women's colleges throughout the country experienced decreased enrollment and financial difficulties. The era of single-sex institutions was becoming a thing of the past. Due to unsustainable financial challenges of its own, Hartford College for Women affiliated with the University of Hartford in 1991.

## 1994

After affiliating with the University of Hartford, Hartford College for Women continued to develop and sustain new programs including the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame (CWHF), founded in 1994 with the Connecticut Forum. At its very beginning, CWHF was housed at Hartford College for Women.

## 1997

Hartford College for Women's strategic plan indicates a curriculum redesign to include leadership.

## 2003

Despite high hopes and concerted effort, Hartford College for Women, like many all-women's colleges, continued to experience financial challenges as fewer female students elected to take women-only classes. After extensive analysis and with great reluctance and sorrow, Hartford College for Women ceased to be a degree-granting institution in 2003.

## 2004

The last class from Hartford College for Women graduates.

## 2006

Trustees of Hartford College for Women and Regents of the University of Hartford recommend the establishment of The Women's Advancement Initiative (Originally named Women's Education and Leadership Fund [WELFund]), to honor the legacy of Hartford College for Women and enhance women's education.

## 2008

The Laura Johnson Leaders program is launched to provide community and leadership training to female faculty and staff.

## 2010

The Dorothy Goodwin Scholars program was established thanks to a generous bequest from Dorothy Goodwin. The program supports students doing innovative research or creative projects with faculty mentors. Each year at an annual symposium, students present their projects and lessons they learned from Dorothy Goodwin's life and legacy.

## 2012

Inspired by the way students at Hartford College for Women were challenged and supported, the LEAD program was established to bring elements of the College to today's female students. The launch of LEAD was made possible thanks to the generosity of Alison Gallagher Coolbrith Lasira A'65 (HCW) and Barry N. Lasira, who made a generous gift and offered to match every new or increased gift, and because of the many HCW alumnae and friends who responded.

## 2014

Hartford College for Women Class of 1964 celebrated its 50th Reunion and started the annual tradition of 50th reunions.

## 2016

The first LEAD class graduates. At



### HCW LEADERSHIP

- 1939-40:** Helen Randall, Dean
- 1940-43:** Grace Frick, Dean
- 1943-58:** Laura Johnson, Dean
- 1958-76:** Laura Johnson, First President
- 1976-79:** Joan Davis, President
- 1979-80:** Miriam Butterworth, Acting President
- 1980-84:** Marcia Savage, President
- 1984-85:** Gail Champlin, Acting President
- 1985-90:** Kathleen McGrory, President



See more at [hartford.edu/womensadvancement](http://hartford.edu/womensadvancement)

graduation, LEAD students receive an acorn from the Hartford College for Women campus and a silver acorn pocket charm to honor Hartford College's legacy and assure each student of her potential for growth, strength, and a successful future.

## Today

The Women's Advancement Initiative is proud to honor and celebrate the legacy of Hartford College for Women and benefit today's women, including more than 100 students who participate in its LEAD program annually. In 2019, the HCW legacy of educating women in Hartford for 85 years will be celebrated with special events (see red box below).



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 10, 3 p.m.**  
Reception for HCW Alumnae and Complimentary Tickets to "All Shook Up," the jukebox musical with Elvis Presley music based on Shakespeare's play *Twelfth Night*
- April 4, 5:30 p.m.**  
Annual Women's Advancement Initiative Symposium with presentations from Dorothy Goodwin Scholars, Laura Johnson Leaders, and interactive leadership lessons from today's LEAD students
- April 24, 5 p.m.**  
Hartford College for Women Garden Dedication including art benches donated in memory of Alison Gallagher Coolbrith Lasira A'65 (HCW)
- June 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Celebrate Hartford College for Women Day  
•Class of 1969 50th Reunion  
•All Class Events





One of Mikaela's dolls outfitted with a hearing aid so children with disabilities can embrace their own uniqueness.

**MIKAELA NELSON '18, M'19**

## Scholar on a Mission

“I want children with disabilities to feel like they are not left out or forgotten in the world. I want people to realize that it is okay to be different, and seeing a doll that resembles them is one way to embrace their uniqueness,” says Mikaela Nelson '18, M'19.



To learn more about Mickey's Mission, visit [mickeysmissionllc.com](http://mickeysmissionllc.com) or [facebook.com/mickeysmission](https://www.facebook.com/mickeysmission).

Mikaela loves science, math, and art. The New York native knew she wanted to pursue a career where she could work with her hands. Through her uncle, a military veteran, she became acquainted with several amputees, and so she chose the field of prosthetics and orthotics. That brought her to the University of Hartford, where during her sophomore year as a student in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, she had an idea: “What if she could make dolls with prostheses to help kids with disabilities feel more comfortable about their bodies and have a way to practice using their own prostheses?”

She bought an American Girl doll on eBay and began experimenting with putty, clay, felt, and hot glue, fashioning a prosthetic leg for a repurposed doll. From there, she advanced to making dolls with a 3D printer, enabling her to truly customize each doll to its recipient. Some dolls have prosthetic limbs; others have scars; still others come outfitted with hearing aids or walkers. She promotes her dolls through Mickey's Mission on Facebook—and lots of word of mouth. Through Mickey's Mission, Mikaela hopes these customized dolls will help children cope with serious and traumatic events that affect them.

In 2017, Michaela was awarded a Dorothy Goodwin Scholarship from The Women's Advancement Initiative. As part of this scholarship program, she worked closely with Milena Erwin, University of Hartford mentor and program manager at the Women's Business Center, to expand her nonprofit business, secure nonprofit certification, and raise awareness.

Mikaela is a change agent whose impact has not gone unnoticed. In the last two years, she was the Project Lovely “This Star Won't Go Out” grant

“I never imagined when I started making dolls that I would have such an influence on families and create bonds that last a lifetime.”

recipient and received the “Sister Helen E. Dowd Dreamer Award” presented by the Intensive Education Academy. This past spring, she was honored by Malta House of Care with the “Wonder Women 2018” award. She was the youngest of seven women who were recognized for improving their communities by making an extraordinary impact in often very ordinary ways while inspiring others to do the same.

“I have received so many wonderful comments about how my dolls have truly helped children and their family go through difficult times,” Mikaela says, “I never imagined when I started making dolls that I would have such an influence on families and create bonds that last a lifetime.”

Mikaela will complete her five-year program at the University of Hartford in May 2019, having earned a bachelor's degree in health science and a master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics. She says, “I am truly grateful for the Dorothy Goodwin Scholarship and can relate to Dorothy

### SCHOLARSHIP

#### Dorothy Goodwin

Thanks to a generous bequest from Dorothy Goodwin, The Women's Advancement Initiative is able to offer Dorothy Goodwin Scholarships annually to students who propose innovative research or creative projects. Dorothy Goodwin was a public servant, educator, philanthropist, and community leader. She grew up in Hartford and became a political leader in 1975 when she was elected to the state legislature, representing Connecticut's 54th Assembly District. As chair of the House Education Committee, Goodwin helped redesign the state's school funding formula to give every town a grant commensurate with its need. She served as a longtime Trustee of Hartford College for Women and left behind a legacy of inspiring women and girls to live beyond their expectations and work towards their full potential.



Mikaela shows off one of her dolls on stage at the Wonder Women 2018 awards ceremony.

Goodwin's extraordinary qualities. She chose to be a voice for the people of Connecticut. I choose to be a voice for those around me, especially children, who are not represented in the toy industry.” **W**

## IN THE NEWS

## A Leadership Boost

Giving Young Women the Skills and Confidence to Succeed



Students in the University of Hartford's Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program (Leadership Education and Development) pose for a selfie after seven students gave their senior presentations. PHOTO BY CLOE POISSON

During her MSNBC internship, Jessica Floyd gave her elevator pitch when she ran into an executive from an area where she hoped to work.

Criminal justice and sociology major Jackie Nickolas initially felt unsure of herself as an intern working as a counselor in a men's prison, so she drew on what she had learned about "impostor syndrome."

And Theresa DeFreitas, a mechanical engineering major, used her new networking skills while at her campus job, which led to an internship with a robotics company.



AngeLiz Ortiz-Jones, who is studying to be a physician's assistant, gives her senior presentation.

These three recent University of Hartford graduates are among about 100 women who participated in the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program this past year. The Women's Advancement Initiative launched the LEAD program in 2012, seeking to give promising young women the practical skills they'll need for career and life success, says Amy Jaffe Barzach, executive director of The Women's Advancement Initiative.

Twice a month, students participate in leadership and professional development workshops. The diverse group of students—a quarter to half of whom are the first in their family to attend college—learn skills such as networking, public speaking, interviewing, salary negotiating, budgeting, saving, and goal setting.

They participate in community service work, attend events, forums, and conferences, and are given the chance to shadow professionals in their field of study.

Students are taught problem-solving, conflict resolution, and how to tap into resources on campus, such as the Student Success Center, the Career Services Office, and the Alumni Relations Office. Some participants acknowledge that they're more apt to

take advice from the LEAD staff, peers, and mentors than from their parents.

"LEAD seeks to help highly motivated women who did well in high school but were not the most assertive or confident in their class," Barzach says. A team of reviewers selects about 25 to 30 women per year from up to 200 applicants. Funding limitations prevent the program from reaching more students.

"We have incredible diversity in our programs—in terms of majors, ethnicity, where they're from, and socioeconomic status. There's a kindred spirit component," Barzach says. "They all have a commitment to make the most out of this experience and out of themselves."

Floyd, who majored in politics and government, says the skills she learned through the LEAD program gave her the confidence to apply for prestigious opportunities. In addition to MSNBC, she interned at WNPR and the "Today" show and was selected for one of 13 spots in Politico's Journalism Institute. This summer she began working toward a master's in journalism at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

"I never would have thought to develop an elevator pitch for being in certain situations if it hadn't been for the [LEAD] program," the Valley Stream, N.Y., native says. "They helped me to think ahead instead of being in situations where I'm just reacting."

It also wouldn't have occurred to Floyd to develop mentoring relationships with professors and faculty members if not for her LEAD training, she says. "They teach you how to think strategically. That's what a leader is; they're innovative."

Nickolas, a South Windsor resident who joined the LEAD program as a junior, says she initially thought her internship at a men's prison would focus on research. When she found herself working as a counselor to inmates with substance abuse issues, her LEAD training kicked in.

The design of LEAD was inspired by the way students at Hartford College for Women were supported and challenged.

"Being able to portray myself as a confident woman in the Department of Correction, with all male corrections officers ... that's where I felt my LEAD experience helped me," she says.

DeFreitas, of Brookfield, says LEAD experiences built her self-confidence. Leadership training strengthened the team-building skills that she'll need in a male-dominated field, she says. "You get conditioned to not even speak up in class. It's a vicious cycle; you have to try to break through," she says. She was the only engineering major in her LEAD group, but the women from other majors shared common challenges. Talking about her experiences helped her decompress.

"I was able to share with these women," she says. "It helped me reset myself and keep going."

Her sophomore year, DeFreitas was the only woman in a group for a class project and her classmates tried to give her secretarial tasks. DeFreitas didn't like being relegated to stereotypical women's roles, but she didn't know how to advocate for herself, she says. In similar situations later on, her LEAD training taught her how to stand her ground, to lead by example, and to delegate so that classmates could work as a team.

While working in her campus job in the facilities department, DeFreitas practiced her networking training and struck up a conversation with a project engineer. He connected her with someone who worked at iRobot, a global consumer robot company. Once in the interview, DeFreitas was asked by the interviewer, about the snow removal robot idea she had developed as a sophomore. She landed an internship at iRobot, where she worked on a new product in the lawn care department and learned the basics of creating and testing a prototype.

At an event in May where graduating seniors gave presentations to their peers, mentors, and sponsors, women from the LEAD program highlighted their accomplishments, plans, and long-range goals.

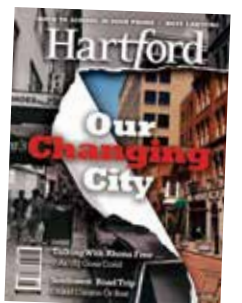
"Speaking in public was terrible for me," Nickolas says. "Shannon's big thing was getting me to talk to people. At networking events, she would literally drag me by the wrist to get me to talk to people."

Nickolas spoke loud enough to be heard, made eye contact with her audience and appeared as comfortable as if talking to a room full of her closest friends. After her presentation, she credited Shannon Mumley, LEAD director, with coaxing her out of her comfort zone.

How was she able to pull off such a polished speech? Mumley's interest in her and commitment to her success paid off, Nickolas says. "This year, something just clicked." **W**

—Theresa Sullivan Barger

Used with permission from Hartford magazine, August 2018.



## GIVING BACK

# Saying “Yes” to Life

## Lifelong Activist Mims Butterworth Still Giving and Teaching

When 20-year-old college student Miriam “Mims” Butterworth had the chance to study in Germany in the summer of 1938, she said yes, despite the rise of the Third Reich.

When Governor Ella T. Grasso asked her to serve as the first woman commissioner on the Public Utilities Control Authority in the late 1970s, she said yes, before learning what the job entailed.

And when a friend invited Butterworth to join 240 women and men from 42 countries on a peace train to a World Conference on Women in Beijing, Mims, then 77 years old, said yes, not letting her age deter her.

Butterworth’s willingness to live fully and embrace challenges inspired The Women’s Advancement Initiative to adopt her “Just Say Yes” philosophy as a core value of its LEAD program for female students. In turn, she says, The Women’s Advancement Initiative’s commitment to educating women from diverse backgrounds and preparing them to reach outside their comfort zones has motivated her to give annually and to create the Miriam and Oliver Butterworth & Family LEAD Program Endowed Fund. Her husband, Oliver “Bud” Butterworth, was a beloved English professor at Hartford College for Women (HCW).



Mims Butterworth’s willingness to live fully and embrace challenges inspired The Women’s Advancement Initiative to adopt her “Just Say Yes” philosophy as a core value of its LEAD program.

The Women’s Advancement Initiative’s LEAD program prepares young women to work toward issues to which Butterworth has devoted a lifetime to—living in a democracy with freedom of the press, a just legal system, equal opportunity for all, minimizing the negative impact of climate change, and preventing nuclear war.

“They’re encouraging women to be leaders,” says Butterworth, who served for a year as acting president of Hartford College for Women from 1979 to 1980. “I tell people: We don’t need to worry if people get a broad education.”

Historically, Hartford College offered an affordable way for young women to

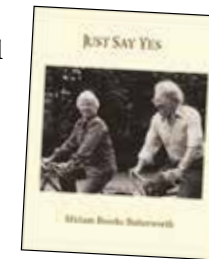
earn a two-year associate’s degree and complete their bachelor’s degree at prestigious colleges in the region.

Butterworth says she appreciates the commitment that The Women’s Advancement Initiative makes to creating an inclusive environment for female students.

Through a lifetime of activism, this extraordinary 100-year-old woman defies categorization. A former history teacher, wife, and mother of four, she met Eleanor Roosevelt at the American Youth Congress of 1939 in Washington, (D.C.), attended the Paris Peace Talks in 1971, and worked as a lifelong champion of peace and justice.

“The thing that always struck me about Mims is her intellect, her interest in ideas, and in encouraging people.”

Her inclination to accept challenges and opportunities led to her “Just Say Yes” philosophy, the title of her 2010 memoir. Butterworth’s lifelong high regard for education and opportunities to learn inform The Women’s Advancement Initiative’s LEAD program, which helps women find their competencies, channel their strengths, and hone their skills—and whose design was inspired by the way students at Hartford College were supported and challenged.



“Rather than pontificate on what others should do, Butterworth leads by example. When she and her husband invited Hartford College students to their home to make ice cream, she engaged students in conversation and showed interest in their education, their ambitions, and their brains,” says Pat McKinley,

### Ways to Give

#### GIVE ONLINE

Click on “Make a Gift” at [hartford.edu/womensadvancement](http://hartford.edu/womensadvancement)

#### MAIL A GIFT

Send a check in the enclosed envelope.

#### SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND

Unrestricted annual gifts provide essential support for daily operations of The Women’s Advancement Initiative’s programs, including LEAD, Dorothy Goodwin Scholars, and Laura Johnson Leaders.

#### DONATE TO THE LEAD PROGRAM

Gifts to the LEAD program provide unique educational opportunities for undergraduate students to experience a life-changing professional development and personal enrichment program. You can make a donation of any size, or for a donation of \$2,000 you can sponsor a student’s participation in LEAD for one academic year and receive updates from the student(s) you sponsor.

#### CONSIDER A MAJOR GIFT

To discuss major gifts or alternative options—including directing a gift from a donor-advised fund, retirement assets, or real estate—please contact Erin Pollard at 860.768.2401 or [epollard@hartford.edu](mailto:epollard@hartford.edu).

### FUND

## The Miriam and Oliver Butterworth & Family LEAD Program Endowed Fund

The Miriam and Oliver Butterworth & Family LEAD Program Endowed Fund celebrates their family’s meaningful history with Hartford College for Women. This generous gift will be used to provide programmatic support to The Women’s Advancement Initiative’s LEAD program. Mims Butterworth’s “Just Say Yes” philosophy is one of the major tenets of the LEAD program, inspiring students to “just say yes” to life’s challenges and opportunities. **Donations to the Miriam and Oliver Butterworth & Family LEAD Program Endowed Fund are welcomed and appreciated.**



LEAD students and more than 200 guests helped Mims Butterworth celebrate her 100th birthday at Butterworth Hall in April.

A’72 (HCW), who worked at the College when Butterworth served as acting president.

“The thing that always struck me about Mims is her intellect, her interest in ideas and in encouraging people,” says McKinley, who has remained friendly with Butterworth. “She always had multiple interests and continues to pursue them.” **W**

JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

## THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE

## Donor Report

Thanks to the support of donors like you, The Women's Advancement Initiative is able to make a significant difference in the lives of today's women. We honor and thank you for helping us advance women's potential in the Hartford College for Women tradition.

**\$2,500.00 +**

Miriam B. Butterworth  
Barry N. Lastra  
Lucille M. Nickerson and  
Ralph Zegarelli  
Karen Gibbs Orefice A'65 (HCW)  
and Jerry A. Orefice '66  
Kate Farrow Stoddard A'72 (HCW)  
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Amy Jaffe-Barzach P'20 and  
Peter I. Barzach P'20  
Debra M. Javit A'83 (HCW)  
Valerie Fleming Lewis A'62  
(HCW), Hon. '08 and  
Dr. Thomas R. Lewis Jr.  
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Dr. Louise Earle Loomis M'78  
Linda H. and Reid MacCluggage '61  
Gail Brotherton Meyers A'58 (HCW)  
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Maria T. Orefice '72 and  
David Lundberg  
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Rosanne Druckman A'68 (HCW)  
and Larry Scherzer  
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(HCW) and David L. Farrington  
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Wanda Foley P'18 and  
Ron Foley P'18  
Patricia C. Furnivall  
Carol Stern Gendel A'67 (HCW)  
Dr. Susan A. Grantham P'16 and  
James L. Grantham P'16  
Alice Devaux Grillo A'72 (HCW)  
Ruth E. Harlow A'67 (HCW)  
Karen H. Kellerman and  
Peter Arakas  
Paul J. Krause '13  
Joyce Ramos Lemega A'65 (HCW)  
and John W. Lemega  
Shirley Leong M'03  
Yingcui Lily Li and Jason Zhong  
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Donna A. Menhart M'89, P'16, P'18,  
and Joseph R. Menhart P'16, P'18  
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Corinne Ansbro '18  
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Demi L. Arroyo '18  
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Dr. Jane M. Barstow and  
Norman Barstow M'77  
Alyssa J. Barzach  
Christina Bateman  
Brianna C. Baylor '18  
Melanie Bazer A'89 (HCW)  
Sharon Mason Bell and Michael Bell  
Susan Levin Bergman C'90 (HCW)  
and Bruce E. Bergman '66  
Paige M. Bestle '18  
Frances Finesilver Blumenthal  
C'60 (HCW), '62 and  
Samuel F. Blumenthal  
Ruvyn Bogati  
Kaitlin R. Bosetti '17  
Elizabeth Leigh Bradley and  
Dr. David H. Goldenberg  
A'73, '76, M'76  
Yoanny Brito '21  
Sandra Bruggemann  
A'89 (HCW), P'87  
Peggy Buchanan and  
Louis J. Golden  
Elaine Nowicki Camposeo  
A'69 (HCW)  
Stephanie Canales '21  
Rosanne Casale-Daigneault A'66  
(HCW) and Brian M. Daigneault

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Cynthia Chaffee A'56 (HCW)  
Amy Chorew  
Dr. Caryn Christensen  
Ellissa M. A. Cibelli '18  
Elizabeth Ciccone  
Matthew Ciccone  
Claudia A. Clark A'78 (HCW)  
Heather J. Corbett and  
Todd Bamford  
Marcia and Alan Cornell  
Alexandra Morley Coury '08, M'10,  
and John D. Coury '08  
Kathleen A. Czarnota C'99 (HCW)  
Danielle A. and Ronald A.  
D'Amato P'21  
Ashley M. DeFreitas '20  
Theresa J. DeFreitas '18  
Nicole A. Demars '18  
Rosalyn J. Dischiavo and  
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Deborah J. Ehrichs  
Erin and Steven Ernst P'21  
Jillian K. Ernst '21  
Marianne Ernst  
Shanell Farmer '18  
Alicia Farrell Favata '09 and  
Sam P. Favata '08  
Susan M. Filupeit A'67 (HCW)  
Casey M. Fish  
Hannah L. Francis '20  
Jay R. Francis P'20  
Kate W. Galambos A'68 (HCW)  
Josephine M. Garcia  
Sandra Nowicki Garick A'62  
(HCW) and Bruce S. Garick  
Patti A. Garwood '18  
Dorota K. Glosowitz '11  
Cori L. Gorcenski  
Dorothy A. Griffen P'18  
Debra Hagen-Foley  
Steffany L. Hamilton

Shannon Hammer '21  
Catherine S. G. Harger '17  
Mary E. Harrison '17  
Marguerite C. Hennessey  
A'87 (HCW)  
Mary J. Hoeller '79  
Dr. Jane Horvath  
Madeline Hunt '20  
Elizabeth F. Hyatt P'20  
Denise Amidon Jacobson A'71  
(HCW) and Walter Jacobson Jr.  
Nancy Janeczczek  
Astrid E. Jarvis '86  
Ta'Tiana M. Jenkins '19  
Stephanie S. Kallicharan '21  
Suzanna and Bisnauth  
Kallicharan P'19  
Judith Hall Kane A'64 (HCW)  
Breanna Karabeinikoff '19  
Nana Kittiphane  
Aaron Knight  
Natalie J. Kowalski '21  
Courtney Krepps '19  
Kochava R. Krieger '17  
Susan Wazorko LaFreniere '74  
and Leon A. LaFreniere  
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A'72 (HCW)  
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Morgan Ley  
Henry Link  
Lee and Vincent Mason  
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Heather Arnold McDonald M'01  
and Mark A. McDonald  
Emily J. Meachon '16  
Marie Menhart  
Rachel Menhart '18  
Jin Miao A'91  
Patricia A. Moran M'83, M'87  
Glandina Morris '04

Jaime-Lynn Morrow '18  
Alexander N. Mucci  
Michaela A. Mueller '20  
Elida A. Mullarkey  
Shannon M. Mumley M'17  
Jaclyn E. Nickolas '18  
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Jason Oruch  
Kelvin C. Parker  
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Jasmine P. Perez A'16, '18  
Jennifer Pilarte  
Christine M. Pina and  
Alex D. Smith  
Fay Kleiman Poles A'36 (HCW)  
Abigail M. Pollock  
Elizabeth G. Pond A'17, C'17, '18  
Diara L. Pope A'16, '18  
Joan M. Pritchard A'74 (HCW)  
Dr. Arathi Rao-Pinto P'17 and  
Colin D. Pinto P'17  
Valerie L. S. Remy '19  
Michael Rooney  
Carol S. Roosa P'20  
Kylie N. Roosa '20  
Paul D. Roosa P'20  
Ana M. and Osvaldo Rosado P'20  
Angeline Rosado-Rivera '20  
Lori and James St. Amand P'21  
Carly E. Schuyler '18  
Dr. Olga L. Sharp  
Caitlin N. Simard '11, M'15  
Carissa L. Sirois M'13  
Sharon Lindquist Skelley '75 and  
Thomas Skelley  
Diane M. P. and Samuel N.  
Skinner M'85  
Beverly A. Smith A'10, P'07  
Frances H. Smith

Sharon W. and Robert H. Smith Jr.  
Kayla M. Starkey '17  
Sabrina R. Streeter '18  
Nicole A. Suissa '12  
Karen Sullivan M'08 and  
Keith A. Campagna  
Courtney E. Sylvain '08 and  
Brian J. Verderosa '15  
Jeffrey Tamborello  
Lynn M. Thibodeau A'91 (HCW)  
and Nicolaus Nisula  
Jeralyn Thrower '19  
W. George Viering  
Laura Antonik Wallace A'68  
(HCW) and Roy Wallace  
Sarah Webb A'84 (HCW)  
Angie Weber  
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Esther Scheinblum Yeck  
A'70 (HCW)

Every attempt has been made to record and honor gifts from our donors accurately. If you note any errors, please accept our most sincere apology and contact us at [womenadv@hartford.edu](mailto:womenadv@hartford.edu) or call 860.768.5961 so that we can correct our records.

Donations can be directed to the HCW Legacy Fund, which supports The Women's Advancement Initiative's programs for today's women; the Miriam and Oliver Butterworth & Family LEAD Program Endowed Fund; Annual Fund; or LEAD.



FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

# Innovation in Practice

## Honoring Faculty Committed to Teaching, Scholarship, and Mentoring



Left to right: Paola Sacchetti, Lillian Kamal, and Katharine Owens.

The Women's Advancement Initiative Faculty Fellowship program honors full-time female faculty members at the University of Hartford who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to advancing their discipline in teaching, scholarship, mentoring of female students, and/or engagement in profession. Each recipient receives a grant, which may be used for research, travel, or professional development.

This year, 20 outstanding early and mid-to-late career applications were submitted. Paola Sacchetti, assistant professor of biology and director of the Master of Science in Neuroscience program in the College of Arts and Sciences, received the Early Career Award for her proposed project, which combines the study of ketogenic diet, circadian rhythms, and Alzheimer's disease, to identify potential new treatments to ameliorate symptoms of neurodegenerative disorders.

In her time at the University, Sacchetti has taught hundreds

of students and mentored six female graduate students through defense of their theses and multiple Dorothy Goodwin Scholarship recipients.

Sacchetti says, "This award will allow me to start an exciting new project but it is so much more. It is a personal reward for the work that I have done so far with women and for women at this institution. It is a great motivating force for continuing to invest in forging future neuroscientists knowing that I am part of a community that supports women scholars and is invested in forging strong leaders and mentors."

Lillian Kamal, associate professor of economics in the Barney School of Business, and Katharine Owens, associate professor of politics and government and director of University Interdisciplinary Studies (UIS) in the College of Arts and Sciences, jointly received the Mid-to-Late Career Fellowship Award for their collaboration on a research project with a study abroad component, which will

explore ways that social entrepreneurs are addressing the problem of marine debris.

Owens has taught three iterations of a marine debris and policy class. She has been awarded more than \$500,000 in grants, including a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, to teach and conduct research on marine debris. She won a Nehru Fulbright grant for the spring of 2018 to teach and conduct research on marine debris at the University of Kerala, India. Owens frequently mentors students doing research, having collaborated with 42 individual students.

Kamal teaches economics and finance of social entrepreneurship in which students create social entrepreneurship ventures with detailed financial and sustainability analyses. She has published research on financial development and microfinance, a vital funding source for social entrepreneurship, in addition to mentoring several female students' research.

"Our Board of Directors and Program Committee were pleased to receive such innovative and impactful projects, which demonstrate the aptitude of our exceptional faculty, and support female students to be future leaders in their professions," says Amy Jaffe

### Making a Difference

The Women's Advancement Initiative enhances the education of women and honors the legacy of Hartford College for Women. Our vision is for women to have access to educational and leadership opportunities that serve as catalysts for personal and professional growth.

100+

LEAD students are provided each year with tools and training to navigate their college journey through leadership education, career connections and resources, and resiliency and opportunity coaching.

112

Laura Johnson Leaders have participated in this two-year leadership program for female faculty and staff focused on building community and professional development.

56+

Dorothy Goodwin Scholars have engaged in innovative research or creative projects with faculty mentors (6 to 10 each year).

Barzach, executive director of The Women's Advancement Initiative. "All applicants have created invaluable educational opportunities, which serve as a catalyst for personal and professional growth while developing projects that strengthen our community and have the potential for global impact." **W**

2018

# Events



Caroline Zeiser '19, Destiny Kirk '19, Shanell Farmer '18, and Seana Jean '18 conducted the "Women in Higher Education Roundtable with Dr. Judith White." Dr. White (center) is the former President of Higher Education Resource Services, an institute dedicated to creating and sustaining a diverse community of women leaders.

President Gregory Woodward and his wife, Penny, continue the tradition of inviting LEAD students to their home for President's House Receptions.



The first-ever LEAD reunion was held at Hartford Flavor Co. in August for alumnae in the Classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018.



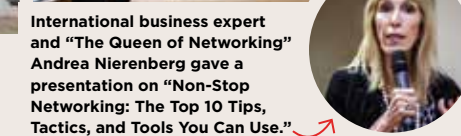
Taylor Ugrinow '18, a Dorothy Goodwin Scholar and cinema student, showcased her legacy project, a documentary about Mims Butterworth, at The Women's Advancement Initiative Annual Symposium in April. Dorothy Goodwin Scholars and LEAD students presented their projects and interactive leadership lessons.



LEAD senior Sabrina Streeter '18 joins Board member Pearl Douglas at the annual LEAD Closing Circle. Senior students reflect on their journey and are presented with graduation cords of HCW blue intertwined with University of Hartford red to symbolize the two institutions.

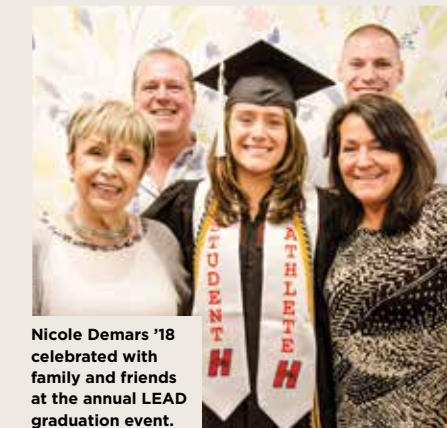


To help make every moment count, LEAD students spent part of their winter break volunteering at Give Kids the World in Orlando, Florida, supporting severely ill children and their families. Jan Sweet A'65 (HCW) participated.



International business expert and "The Queen of Networking" Andrea Nierenberg gave a presentation on "Non-Stop Networking: The Top 10 Tips, Tactics, and Tools You Can Use."

50th HCW Reunions were established in 2014 by the HCW Class of 1964 and continue to this day. HCW alumnae from eight states attended the Class of 1968 50th Reunion, which was organized by Roseanne Druckman A '68 (HCW), Priscilla Ransom Marks A '68 (HCW), and Martha Ferris O'Neal A'66 (HCW). Judge Karen Flowers A'68 (HCW) and Shannell Farmer '18 were the luncheon speakers.



Nicole Demars '18 celebrated with family and friends at the annual LEAD graduation event.



Bonnie Carlson A'68 (HCW) and Kathryn Johnson Berg A'68 (HCW) attended their Hartford College for Women Class of 1968 50th Reunion in May.



## KAREN GIBBS OREFICE A'65 (HCW)

## A Foundation to Succeed

When Hartford College for Women alumna Karen Gibbs Orefice's husband surprised her with a birthday gift five years ago, he warned their grandchildren to get the tissues ready.

Jerry Orefice '66 had donated a scholarship in her name to The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD (Leadership Education and Development) program, sponsoring five students' participation in this life-changing program. LEAD provides students with a supportive community, leadership training, and practical skills needed for career and life success.

After Jerry wrote a generous check, the University of Hartford president, The Women's Advancement Initiative staff, and scholarship recipients had a wonderful idea. They made a video introducing the women being sponsored, who thanked The Women's Advancement Initiative's Board member and wished her a happy birthday. At Karen's birthday party with family present, Jerry played the video.

"There they were in real life. We saw the girls we were going to sponsor. That changed everything. They weren't just a name on a piece of paper," says Karen, of Thousand Oaks, California. As her husband predicted, the students' gratitude and appreciation moved her to tears.

"It was just ... wow," she says. "This was the best gift ever, because it helped so many young women who deserved the recognition and encouragement to continue to strive for excellence. LEAD gives female college students a foundation and the confidence to achieve their goals like I received from Hartford College for Women."

The couple has continued sponsoring LEAD students, and Karen has developed friendships with them offering encouragement. And they thank her, ask her about her life and family, and get together with her when she is on the East Coast or on campus.

"I love them all. They are the most incredible people. They are so amazing and driven, all of them," she says.

Karen's original sponsored students have graduated, and she keeps in touch, marveling at what they're doing with their education and the lessons they learned through LEAD about setting goals, networking, and believing in themselves.

Today, she and Jerry sponsor three students. When she talks about what she gets out of giving, her voice catches.

"It's just so worthwhile, because of the ripple effect," she says after pausing. "We know they are pursuing such meaningful and wonderful careers."

More than 50 years since Karen earned her associate's degree from Hartford College for Women in 1965, followed by her bachelor's at Southern Connecticut State University, she carries the lessons she learned.

She had entered college hoping to be a retail buyer and work her way up, but an internship experience convinced her she'd be miserable in the cut-throat environment. She spoke with Laura Johnson, president of Hartford College, who encouraged her to find a career that was a better fit. When she chose liberal arts because she wanted to widen her worldview, Johnson supported her wholeheartedly.

"Being at Hartford College opened a world for me," Karen says. "I mixed with

girls who traveled. That made me want to go to Europe and delve deeper into the arts and history."

She developed an appreciation for teaching, learning from her professors about how to impart information while keeping students engaged. She remembers her English literature professor, Lawrence Scanlon, recalling how he would teach class outside under wisteria trees.

Karen had been teaching Sunday school since junior high. She knew she had a love for children and teaching and therefore pursued this for her future. When she later taught fourth grade in East Granby, Scanlon's child was in her class. "That was a joy for us both," she recalls.

When Karen and her husband moved to Southern California, she focused on raising her children, volunteering in their classrooms and with many charities, and teaching in her church. She later launched a floral design business, which grew into a holiday and home-design business. Eventually, she and her husband of 50 years designed and built homes on both coasts.

Some of the lessons taught at Hartford College in the 1960s endure in the messages given to LEAD students—with a little updating.

"Hartford College always taught me to put my best foot forward," Karen says. "This has followed me all my life. I taught my children and my students the same thing. The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program is teaching the very same thing to today's students. It's an empowering feeling to always be prepared for any situation and therefore for whatever comes your way." **W**

## Karen Orefice's Sponsored Students

**Natalie Cruz '19**

Home: New York  
Major: Graphic Design

**Nina Vazquez '19**

Home: New York and Puerto Rico  
Major: Criminal Justice and Political Science

**Kylie Roosa '20**

Home: New Hampshire  
Major: Criminal Justice and Political Science

**Kaitlin Small '20**

Home: Maine  
Major: Accounting

## ALUMNAE

**McKenzie Davis '18**

Home: Connecticut  
Major: Insurance and Finance

**Nicole Demars '18**

Home: Massachusetts  
Major: Communications and Marketing

**Gia Vasquez '17**

Home: New York  
Major: English and Communications

**Puja Bhardwaj '16**

Home: New York  
Major: Health Science

## Support Students

There is nothing more energizing than making a difference in the lives of young women. Share your career and life experiences with a student—in person or on the phone. Enjoy lunch with them. Hire a student as an intern. Or host a student in your workplace for a few hours or a few days as part of the Express to Success job-shadowing program. To learn more, call 860.768.5961 or email [womenadv@hartford.edu](mailto:womenadv@hartford.edu).

