

University of Connecticut

REFLECTIONS FROM A LEGACY ALUMNI MENTOR

by Annette Lombardi ('76)

The University of Connecticut has always been a special part of my life, as a student in the 70's to my current volunteer role as 1st Vice President for the UCONN Alumni Association's Board of Directors. Upon receipt of a memo from the UConn Alumni Association in December 2006 highlighting the partnership between alumni and current students participating in the Leadership Legacy Experience, I responded that I would love to be a part of this wonderful experience. It has far surpassed my expectations and my latest connection to the university is now through the Leadership



Annette (center) with her Legacy Students, David Steuber and Jennifer Elman. Legacy Experience as an alumni mentor for two phenomenal UCONN students (Jennifer Elman and David Steuber). I have had the privilege of being a participant in a program that is truly rewarding for all of

community today and throughout their careers and lives as well. I have attended programs featuring influential individuals in leadership positions, enjoyed social gatherings and have formed bonds with the next generation of outstanding leaders. I would encourage all UCONN alumni to become involved with our alma mater and have the opportunity to meet our exceptional students. I am so proud to be a graduate of our great university! *Annette Lombardi, '76 lives in New Hartford and works for the Connecticut Department of Social Services. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the UConn Alumni Association.*



WHICH FORK WHEN?

Legacy Students and their Mentors brush up on some etiquette in February.

Did you know that when being toasted, it is impolite to drink to your own toast? In February the Legacy Students and their mentors gathered at the home of Christine and Phil Lodewick, just off campus, for a Sunday lunch and conversation about etiquette. Led by Ms. Teresa Brown, an expert in social etiquette, students and mentors dined and

enjoyed each others company while brushing up on many of the skills and etiquette tips that help leave a positive lasting impression. Many of the tips came as a surprise not only to our Legacy Students, but to some of our mentors as well.....All in all, this was another educational and enjoyable event for all who attended.



LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY: DR. LAFAYETTE

This past March our Legacy Students, their mentors, and the entire University community was treated to an on-campus presentation titled, 'Leadership in the Face of Adversity' by Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. Dr. LaFayette has been a civil rights movement activist, minister, educator, lecturer, and is an authority on the strategy on non-violent social change. Among other accomplishments, he directed the Alabama Voter Registration project in 1962 and was the National Coordinator of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. LaFayette engaged a crowded Konover Auditorium audience in the Thomas J. Dodd Center for almost 90 minutes, sharing his experiences in the civil rights movement and his wisdom on leadership, achieving non-violent social change, and inspiring students (and non-students) for a life of leadership beyond college. *This event was co-sponsored by the Global Leadership Commission (Honors Program) and the African American Cultural Center.*



LEGACY LIT BY ALYSSA MOSS

One of the components of the Leadership Legacy Experience that interested me the most was the concept of having alumni as our mentors. I was quite lucky and was paired with Steven Hoffer '95 who works at Casey Family Services. This was incredible for me because Casey Family Services is a non-profit child welfare agency and I hope to pursue work in the social work field in the future.

Steve invited me to come to his office to see what he did and to give me a better idea of what Casey Family Services does as an agency. I met many of his colleagues as he showed me around and saw many of the different areas that different programs are held in. Steve has worked with many families and children over the years with a few different agencies. One young man, who is not actually technically in Casey Family Services care anymore, but still keeps in touch, dropped by while I was there to say hello to Steve, so I got to meet him too. This gave me a better idea of the types of relationships that get built as a result of doing this type of work and how much of an impact you can have on people's lives.

Steve took me out for lunch and we talked, in a more casual environment, about what I might be more specifically interested in doing, and what things I have done so far that would help me to reach this goal. We talked about life experiences and things I had seen through volunteering in soup kitchens or doing hurricane relief work or spending time in an orphanage in Africa, that in some way I felt related to what I would be seeing working as a social worker. Being able to understand what someone in this profession does and what they see on a daily basis is important. I think a lot of times people think they know what they want to do, but then when they actually start doing it they find out that it really isn't what they thought it was going to be. When I left that afternoon I felt like I had found the place where I belonged in life. I know that this type of work is my true passion.

LEGACY LIMELIGHT: CHARLAYNE MCSTAY



Charlayne serves as a Program Coordinator for the Husky Ambassador Program, and is a member of the Global Leadership Commission, UConn Tap Team, Honors Council, and the Pre-medical society. Above and beyond her nature of involvement, Charlayne is a Chemistry major, a UConn Presidential Scholar, a National Merit Commended Scholar, and is listed to the Dean's List. She gives of her time as a volunteer at various hospitals and is a worthy advocate of organizations such as American Cancer Society, Red Cross Blood Drive, and Hurricane Katrina relief. While working towards pursuing her dream of becoming a Pediatric oncologist, Charlayne holds a great passion in the area of Human Rights. She prides herself on being self-motivated and is truly proud of her accomplishments – especially of being selected to work in a chemistry laboratory as an undergraduate researcher. Her Faculty Mentor is Dr. Katherine Ratcliff of the Sociology Department and her Alumni Mentor is Frank Milone ('92).

Legacy Mentor Joins UC Alumni Board!

Frank Milone '92, Legacy Alumni Mentor for Charlayne McStay and Christian Mendonca was elected to the Board of Directors of the UConn Alumni Association this past spring. Frank, a Partner with Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP, hails from the School of Business. This will mark the beginning of Frank's first elected term on the Board, having been appointed to fill an open seat in 2005. He has served for two years as Association Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee. Frank's involvement has included being a member of the Building, Investment and Strategic Planning Committees.



Legacy gatherings....(clockwise from upper left) 1) Legacy students Allie Lemkin, Emily Gelbard, Charlayne McStay, Jen Elman, Alyssa Moss, Christian Mendonca, Jon Sierakowski; 2) Legacy Students enjoying a wrap-up BBQ; 3) Julie Silverstein, Robyn Kaplan, Joe Briody; 4) Legacy Students discussing their future in the program; 5) Legacy students—"Growth!" on 3...



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