



UNIVERSITY OF
BRIDGEPORT

Opening doors. Building futures.



2008 Annual Report

BUILDING. BECOMING. BELONGING.



The University of Bridgeport

The University of Bridgeport offers career-oriented undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees and programs for people seeking personal and professional growth. The University promotes academic excellence, personal responsibility, and commitment to service. Distinctive curricula in an international, culturally diverse supportive learning environment prepare graduates for life and leadership in an increasingly interconnected world. The University is independent and non-sectarian.

— *Adopted by the Board of Trustees on April 23, 2004*





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President and Mrs. Neil Salonen

We Have



Become...

I am very pleased to present the 2008 Annual Report of the University of Bridgeport. This has been a year of extraordinary achievement, with an 18 percent surge in enrollment that distinguished UB as the fastest-growing university in New England.

That momentum continues. Student leaders and athletes come to UB from every corner of the world, bringing with them a multitude of talents to create a culturally diverse and academically rich environment that prepares them for careers in a competitive marketplace. The awards and recognition they earn – from a Fulbright Scholarship and top engineering and design prizes – attest to the power of a UB education.

Our finances become significantly stronger every year. As they grow, signs of new construction and renovation are visible throughout campus, directly impacting the educational experience for all our students and increasing our effectiveness as an institution of higher learning.

In the following pages we report on some of what we have accomplished through the collaborative effort of our committed faculty and a dedicated administrative team.

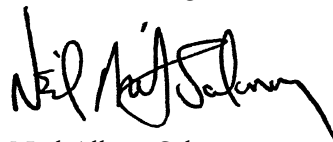
The University takes its strategic planning process seriously, including the public communication of our strengths and identity. In the past year, a major effort to integrate our academic, financial, and facilities plans with a sharpened UB message

in the public mind have led to our new branding tagline: “University of Bridgeport: Opening Doors. Building Futures.” We are indeed a community that opens the doors to successful futures for our students, and our new publications focus on the ways dreams are brought to life at UB.

The University of Bridgeport has always been innovative in its programming, creative and courageous in its thinking. We embrace a broad range of academic diversity. We are proud of the special commitment we have to those students who need personal attention to be successful, but we are also inspired by the group of stellar students who could have gone to any other school in the country – but chose to come to UB.

We can all be proud of what the UB community has accomplished, and excited about what lies ahead. I thank you for your continuing support and enthusiasm about UB’s future.

With warm regards,



Neil Albert Salonen
President

Building...

The past year has been one of breathtaking growth at the University of Bridgeport – from the glittering, state-of-the-art treatment clinics at Fones School of Dental Hygiene to the majestic new sports complex that energizes athletes and fans alike. But the physical transformation of the campus signifies our dedication to enrich all aspects of university life.

Central to this is increasing enrollment, which in 2007-08 surged by 18.2 percent, distinguishing the University as the fastest-growing college in New England. Double-digit enrollment increases continue through the current year, and with students from 36 states and 87 countries, the University excels at providing a culturally and academically diverse education, so vital for graduates to thrive in today's global marketplace.

Accommodating this population has made expanding and updating campus facilities a top priority. To meet this goal, the University secured approval in October for a *\$21.2 million Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA) bond issue*. These monies, along with University funds, made it possible to launch many infrastructure improvements critical to our strategic growth.



As students come together, they thrive from interactions that allow them to share experiences in a nourishing academic community that welcomes all.

Magnus Wahlstrom Library

From bricks to megabytes: the transformation of the Wahlstrom Library truly bridges past to future. Improvements include new elevators, wireless Internet access, and the redesign of the building's crown jewel – the first-floor Library Commons.

Equipped with interactive and research technologies, the Commons is evolving from a repository of the printed word to a 21st-century hub of information.

A new reference theater, designed for collaborative learning, will be enclosed in sound-proof glass walls. Self-checkout machines will increase efficiency, giving library staff greater opportunity to train patrons on the use of powerful online databases that connect to University holdings and vast collections at other academic institutions around the world.



Fones School of Dental Hygiene continued to charter new territory when it unveiled its \$4.5 million clinic in February 2008. Opportunity to work with the latest equipment available has placed graduates in high demand by employers seeking professionals at the forefront of oral health care.



The construction of Knights Field Complex over the course of 2007-08 ushered in a series of milestones: Night games, the first in the University's history, came with the installation of outdoor lighting, which illuminates a new artificial turf field used by the Purple Knights and local athletic groups.

Construction and facilities improvements have been made possible by a \$21.2 million bond issue and the sustained and significant growth of University finances.

“E-mail to Go” kiosks and modern signage, conceived by our design students and incorporated into final blueprints, showcase the collective talents of the University as a whole. And because the exchange of fellowship often fosters the sharing of ideas, the Commons is opening a café as a central meeting space to enhance the vibrant intellectual and social community on campus.



Wahlstrom Library's new café will provide opportunities for social exchanges and collaborative scholarship.

Fones School of Dental Hygiene

Fones continued its tradition as a much-respected leader in dental and health education when it unveiled its new \$4.5 million facility in February. Featuring 30 chairs and the latest sterilization and diagnostic equipment, Fones better serves student clinicians and more than 3,000 patients a year who are treated at the campus-based center.

In recognition of its significant public service, Governor M. Jodi Rell approved a \$1 million state grant for the new clinic, and Delta Dental gave \$50,000 for equipment. Fones also received \$100,000 from Educational Foundation of America to expand outreach to seniors.

One-third of the 13,000 total patients served annually by Fones throughout Connecticut are age 51 and older. The grant enables more of this population to receive cancer screenings, cleanings, and other preventative services to safeguard their health.

Knights Field Complex

When the lights are flipped on at Knights Field, they illuminate a field of dreams. What was once a parking lot now boasts a stunning 950-seat grandstand and the largest artificial turf field in the state.

Completed in August 2007, the field gives the Purple Knights their own home, for the first time, while providing much-needed playing space for campus intramural teams and community groups

– including Bridgeport American Youth Soccer Organization, Everton Football Club, and Beachside Soccer Club – who use the field, too. Powerful energy-efficient lights were installed in October, and with them came the first night games in the history of the school. The grandstand features a concession stand, press box, and is handicapped-accessible. In a fitting kickoff to this new era, both the men's and women's soccer teams qualified for the 2007 NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament.

Wheeler Recreation and Hubbell Gym

The staccato of basketballs dribbled on a new hardwood floor. Fans drawing a collective breath as award-winning gymnasts, flying high above recently installed uneven bars, seemingly defy gravity. Glass doors swinging open with a push of a button.

Improvements at Wheeler and Hubbell serve champion athletes to weekend warriors, ardent fans and intramural sports teams. Among what's new:

Physical changes to UB's 50-acre campus serve growing demand and exemplify the truth that a great University evolves to anticipate the needs of tomorrow.

an interchangeable multi-sports system that allows Wheeler to be set up with gymnastics equipment, indoor tennis courts, volleyball nets, or full-size basketball courts. Because such changes should be enjoyed by all, staff have been given free memberships to Wheeler. At Hubbell, Division I quality flooring replaced the 50-year-old court, although the original center court logo is being preserved for display elsewhere in the building. As Purple Knights fans know, certain legends remain timeless.



Interactive white boards, video conferencing, and other technology being installed throughout campus enable professors to better inform and inspire.

Waterbury campus expanded

Enrollment at the University's Waterbury campus has more than doubled in the last four years. To accommodate striking growth, and to make room for two new IDEAL bachelor's degree programs unveiled in the fall of 2008, the school was expanded by 5,000 square feet to include five additional classrooms and larger meeting spaces.

Mandeville Hall

Crews immediately began work over the summer to overhaul the building's heating and cooling systems, replace windows, and upgrade lighting at Mandeville. More changes are to come. Thanks to earmarked funding, donors can now designate their gifts for "smart classrooms" at the business school. Equipped with modern teaching technologies, the rooms will allow faculty to incorporate online content, video-conferencing, and computer software into lessons.

Cooper Hall

With a central location on campus and sweeping views of Long Island Sound, Cooper Hall had long been a favorite residence hall for generations of students before being closed. Cooper is now being reopened to accommodate growing enrollment and is better than ever. Its double-occupancy rooms now feature cable television and wireless Internet access, fresh paint, and new carpeting. Undergraduates will begin moving into the second floor of the building

in 2008-09, while upgrades are finalized on the third and fourth floors.

Going forward

Building upon this year of remarkable growth requires additional resources. As part of its fundraising plans, UB renovated and sold one of its unused buildings to serve as a much-needed elementary school for Bridgeport. Culmination of this mutually beneficial project greatly increases our reserve funds and paves the way for securing approval for additional bond monies.

The University also launched its \$5.2 million private donor campaign to renovate the first floor of the *Arnold Bernhard Arts and Humanities Center*. Once a magnet for the most venerated figures in arts and entertainment – from Aaron Copeland to Billy Crystal, Ossie Davis, and Ruby Dee – the 35-year-old building needs modernizing. When completed, the campaign will restore the Center's 938-seat theater and exterior spaces, including a stunning covered walkway and gardens.



Improving University buildings, and enhancing their appearance to capitalize on the surrounding natural beauty of the campus, impacts the experience of all our students, in all settings – from small study groups to lecture halls resonating with spirited discussion.

Becoming...

“What will UBecome?” That question, broadcast on billboards near the University, serves as a visual reminder that education is the beginning of a journey... a key to possibilities.

It’s also a challenge for the University as a whole, and answering it has actuated significant improvements that make us more effective as an institution of higher education. More importantly, these changes enhance support for students, faculty, and staff so that they also reach their fullest potential – no matter who they become.

Engineering

The School of Engineering continued its impressive growth, enrolling more students in its master’s degree program than any other college or university in New England, including MIT, Harvard, and Northeastern. The milestone did not go unnoticed. “University of Bridgeport is going in a different direction. It is one of the few schools where things are expanding,” according to American Society for Engineering Education.

Curriculum was enhanced, too. For the first time ever, engineering students can work in fields such as e-commerce, robotics, and bio-medical engineering. By honing technical skills and business experience, our graduates are excelling in a multitude of disciplines that are in ever-increasing demand by employers.



At UB, students are equipped with necessary tools to think critically while discovering their fullest potential.

International College

The International College launched its new Global Development and Peace Program in the fall of 2007. The 36-credit track includes a required internship at non-governmental organizations, in less-developed nations, or in the diplomatic field. Blending the pedagogical with the practical affirms the College’s commitment to providing students with real-world experience so that, as they enter their professions, they will more effectively

contend with conflicts that all too frequently impede the full and peaceful development of societies around the world.

Design

The most innovative conceptual design cannot come to fruition without the support of concrete skills. Thus, every design student must complete classes in business, computer rendering, drawing, and other practical skills. Last fall, the design school added Web Applications and Business Practices and Ethics to this roster of fundamental course offerings. Created with feedback from industry professionals, the programs will help graduates accelerate into management positions and thrive in fast-evolving fields of design.



Students come to the University of Bridgeport from 36 states and 87 countries, bringing with them skills and experiences that create a culturally and academically diverse campus. This abundance of backgrounds prepares graduates as future leaders who thrive in an ever-evolving global world.



The University's award-winning design programs have been enhanced with new classes that were created with feedback from industry employers, many of whom select our students for top awards, prestigious internships, and coveted jobs.

UB offers 65 programs of study, a growing curriculum created with input from employers, and a personalized learning environment with no more than 20 students in the average class.

Strengthening Athletics

The athletics department announced the addition of two new teams to its varsity lineup: women's lacrosse and men's swimming. This brings the school's total NCAA Division II offerings to a total of 13 varsity teams. Women's lacrosse will start competition in the fall of 2009 as part of the East Coast Conference. Men's swimming will commence play in the Metropolitan Collegiate Conference. Meanwhile, the Purple Knights shined in other arenas. In a significant debut, the women's soccer program reached the 2007 NCAA regional championships for the first time in the school's history. Attaining this highly competitive milestone enables the program to attract high-caliber student athletes for future seasons of championship play.

Clarence D.L. Ropp Endowed Chair

Thanks to an anonymous gift, the University can honor much-beloved chemistry professor Dr. Clarence D.L. Ropp with a \$1 million chair. One of the original faculty members, Dr. Ropp taught at the University from 1927, when it was the Junior College of Connecticut, until his retirement in 1962.

U.S. Department of Education Grant

To be more competitive, the University must boost student retention and enhance professional training. The award from the U.S. Department of Education's "Strengthening Institutions" program grant, worth



With an 18 to 1 student-faculty ratio, UB professors provide individual attention to encourage students of all backgrounds to achieve their dreams.

nearly \$2 million, helps achieve both aims. The first installment of the five-year grant, which will be supplemented with University funds, will help create a Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching for staff development. Students who need help also will be able to access the Center for personalized academic support, especially in core areas of math and English that are so critical to future achievement.

Expanding Benefits

It is the fastest-growing university in New England. Yet, the University remains a place where names are called out in boisterous greeting and faces are instantly recognized. Close community is fostered by concern demonstrated to all employees – from professors to maintenance crews, mail room clerks to admissions counselors. As part of its initiative to serve all workers, the University launched monthly benefit information sessions to better inform staff about resources available to them, including retirement benefits and long-term health care insurance, which employees and their families can purchase at group rates.

Building Academic Partnerships

The University continued to ink partnerships with colleges and universities in the United States and overseas. University President Neil Albert Salonen and campus representatives traveled to China, Egypt, and Jordan to develop joint academic programs with colleges in those countries.

Belonging...

Through decades of change at the University, one simple truth holds fast: the true measure of success lies in the accomplishments of those who come to UB to build bright futures.

This year, students' achievements were more than marks of superlative scholarship: they signified their citizenship, their place in the world.

Ely Loew '08, of Manassas, Va., was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Macedonia. Loew, who graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's of arts degree in world religions and political economy and diplomacy, will analyze how integration into the European Union will affect that nation's native Albanian minority.

Louise Lisboa, of Stratford, Conn., spent the summer furthering her Middle Eastern studies at the American University in Dubai as a William Jefferson Clinton Scholar. Only ten scholarships are awarded annually, and Lisboa, a senior majoring in political economy and diplomacy, is the second University of Bridgeport student in three years to win the prestigious award.

Farida Kwaji '08, of Vienna, Va., knew she had to become a doctor when her late mother was diagnosed with cancer. "The experience highlighted to me who I wanted to be, not only as a doctor, but



Fulbright Scholar Ely Loew '08 exemplifies the best of UB: an education that grooms students for the highest levels of success.

as a person," Kwaji told fellow graduates during commencement. Her future already shines bright: Kwaji was accepted by five medical schools. When not studying, the straight-A student also competed with the University ballroom dance team, with whom she glided, twirled, and seemingly floated on air.

By blending what is practical with what is beautiful, *Michael Samaan* of Shelton, Conn., won the \$10,000 scholarship at the global wireless industry's annual CTIA Wireless "Fashion in Motion" conference. Samaan's invention, The Savvy, is a sleek steel headset adorned with chrome accents – a kind of elegant and practical device that demonstrates technical know-how, aesthetic vision, and a keen awareness of the marketplace.

How to keep vehicle passengers safe during the worst rollover accidents? That question inspired industrial design major *Alex Ananin*, from Hamden, Conn., to create the Life Harness seat belt, which won the NISSAN \$4,000 first prize at the 2008 New York International Auto Show. Equipped with air pads that inflate during accidents, the personalized locking mechanism can also be tailored to protect all body



As students reach new levels of excellence, their achievements illuminate the University of Bridgeport as a beacon of possibility – a place where hopes are realized and lives are transformed.



Star debut: The Purple Knights women's soccer team reached the 2007 NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament for the first time ever.

types. Sikorsky also noticed Ananin's talent and hired him as a summer intern to work on the interiors of private luxury helicopters.

Graphic design majors *Cecila Jacobsen* and *Kathie Cote* caught the attention of Connecticut's leading advertising groups with posters they created to raise awareness about sexual assault. Jacobsen, from Stockholm, surpassed working professionals when she was named winner of the Connecticut Art Directors Club "Award of Excellence" in June. She and Cote also won "Bronze Pencil" awards from Ad Club of Connecticut, which noted that its "members look for young talent and new ideas, and that's what these students represent."

Reaching out. Giving back.

Chemistry experiments in a lab. Models crafted in a design studio. Classrooms resonating in spirited debate. A great university should equip students with the skills and confidence to attain highest personal success. But at UB, education's best legacy also inspires change. Makes an impact. This year, students and alumni exemplified this commitment to others, drawing on knowledge and personal strengths to help their communities, strangers, and those in need.

Funds for earthquake victims

When earthquakes ripped through China's Sichuan Province, killing thousands, UB students reacted immediately. Within hours, they partnered with local restaurants and organized a fundraising lunch and a slideshow about the affected region that netted more than \$3,000 for the American Red Cross relief effort.

Fulbright Scholar to winner of the biggest automotive-design competition in the U.S. – student awards were nothing less than dazzling this year.

Honor and service

In tribute to the slain civil rights leader, 280 students devoted a day of service during the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Some assembled packets of toys for children in war-torn Iraq. Others prepared meals for the homeless or visited the elderly. A team of videographers taped and assembled a video collage of peace statements.

Constructing hope

Their shared desire to help others united ten students – from MBA candidates to biology and economics majors – who worked together building houses for *Habitat for Humanity* during spring break. The group traveled to Laredo, Texas, thanks to a scholarship given by University Trustee Dr. Norge W. Jerome.

Health with a smile

Fones School of Dental Hygiene alumna *Patty Walsh* '74 didn't have fish-sauce flavored toothpaste, but hundreds of children in Thailand smile brighter thanks to her efforts. Armed with toothbrushes and a dizzying abundance of energy, Walsh treated 400 students from Khao Lak – in just two weeks. Walsh, who is from Old Saybrook, Conn., will return in 2009 to expand her work. No doubt she will be welcomed heartily. Before leaving her care, Walsh says, "each child respectfully placed his or her hands together to say *kop khun ka*, thank you."



Farida Kwaji '08 graduated with acceptances into five medical schools, part of her lifelong dream to become a doctor.

Distinguished alumni

The University's 2008 Distinguished Alumni awards honored three alumni for their service to others:

John Bomster '61, a retired litigator, contributes his services to New Hampshire Legal Assistance, working on cases to advocate on behalf of society's most vulnerable citizens: its children. Among his cases are those arguing state-provided dental care and Medicaid to youngsters in need.

William Modzeleski '67, dedicates his career to combating drug use, child molestation, and school and family violence. As the associate assistant deputy secretary for the Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug-free Schools, he also serves on National Commission on Drug-Free Schools. "We need to constantly be connected to our student population," Modzeleski says.

James M. Sheridan '70 graduated from the University with a bachelor's degree in economics and then went on to reach top positions at various banks. He also has served on boards of New Haven Symphony, Norwalk Volunteer Action Commitment, Connecticut Burns Care Foundation, among others.

As these and other alumni, students, and staff share their talents to inspire a better world, we are proud to celebrate their dedication, and their excellence.

Thanks to our generous donors

Their gifts, along with the generosity of other friends and alumni, help the University thrive and enable our students to prosper.



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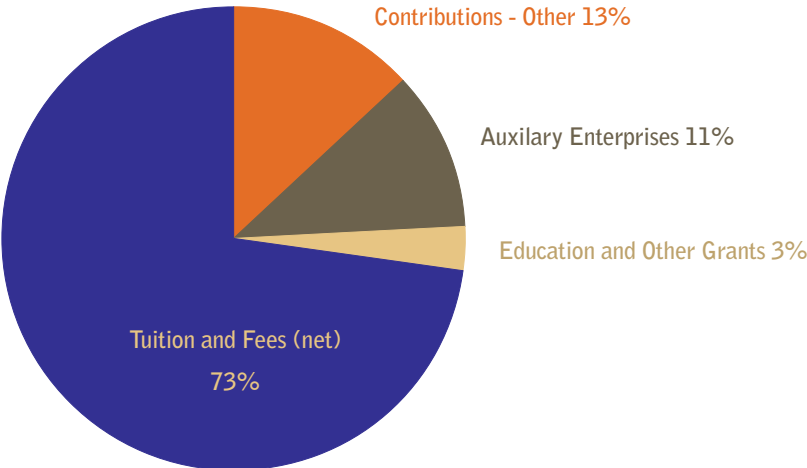
By all accounts, the 2007-2008 fiscal year has been a successful one for the University of Bridgeport. We have forged new partnerships, achieved solid increases in revenue and grants and experienced remarkable increases in enrollment. It has been a year marked by steady progress and growth as is evident in the strong financial results. With continued support of our partners – donors, alumni and friends – and our diligent focus on strategic and sustainable growth, the University will continue to demonstrate the lasting value of partnerships and fulfill our vision of providing first class career-oriented educations for the leaders of tomorrow.

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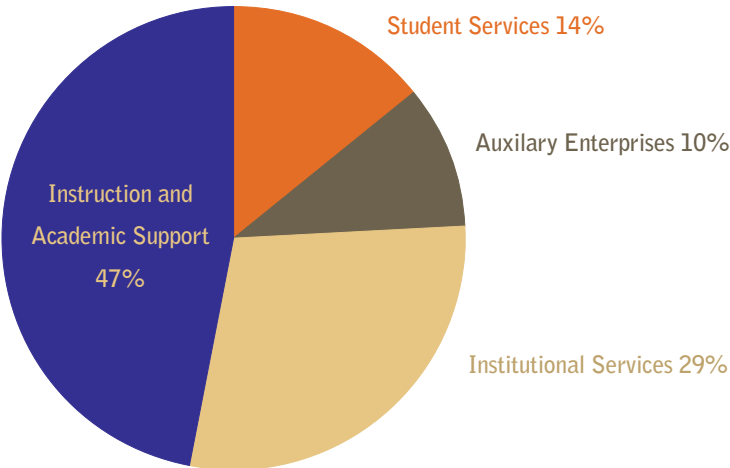
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008
(Dollars in thousands)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Operating revenues:			
Tuition and fees (net)	\$59,021	\$ –	\$59,021
Auxiliary enterprises	8,571	–	8,571
Contributions - other	7,217	1,470	8,687
Education and other grants	2,048	–	2,048
Interest and dividend income	945	5	950
Realized investment losses	10	1	11
Unrealized investment gains	(62)	(86)	(148)
Other additions	1,939	–	1,939
Released from restrictions	562	(562)	–
Total revenues and net assets released from restrictions	\$ 80,251	\$ 828	\$81,079
Expenses:			
Instruction	\$28,835	\$ –	\$28,835
Academic support	2,581	–	2,581
Student services	9,561	–	9,561
Institutional services	17,852	–	17,852
Development	1,490	–	1,490
Auxiliary enterprises	6,477	–	6,477
Total operating expenses	\$66,796	\$ –	\$66,796
Other gains and (losses) and other changes in net assets:			
	\$ (381)	\$ –	\$ (381)
Change in net assets	13,074	828	13,902
Net assets, Beginning of year	18,800	1,376	20,176
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$31,874</u>	<u>\$2,204</u>	<u>\$34,078</u>

Operating Revenues



Expenditures





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