make them look good to potential employers. Many companies like to hire former student athletes because of the key skills and traits they possess, such as leadership, communication, teamwork, and competitiveness.”

Smith wasn’t the only CUA athlete in the House of Commons this past summer. Molly Owens, a senior volleyball player from Thorham Park, N.Y., also interned there.

“My internship was the best possible situation for me. Every day was an amazing experience and it convinced me to pursue politics as a career. I miss London and working in Parliament so much more than I thought I would,” said Owens.

Darrell Carroll, a senior from South Amboy, N.J., and a member of the men’s basketball team, has served as a summer analyst on Wall Street for J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. for the last two summers. Through this experience he already has secured a job with the company that will start following graduation in May. He says his future employers are impressed that he kept up his academics while playing college basketball.

“Being an intern is the best way to discover which career path is best for you while still in college. The experience you gain and the people you meet may become instrumental in your life, no matter what career path you may choose,” says Carroll. — M.S.

New Basketball Court Debuts on Main Campus

When students returned to campus this fall, they found a new place to stretch their legs: an outdoor basketball court next to the Eugene I. Kane Student Fitness Center and very close to most of the University’s residence halls.

The Office of Facilities Maintenance and Operations broke ground on the court in early June. The project took about eight weeks to complete.

Josh Monroe, a senior architecture and civil engineering major from Aurora, Ohio, drafted the initial schematic drawings for the court two years ago. He had been approached to come up with the sketch by Marie Kennedy, former director of the fitness center, for whom he had worked. Kennedy and Athletic Director Mike Allen came up with the idea for the court and initiated the project.

To inaugurate the court, more than 50 students gathered on the first day of fall semester to compete with President John Garvey in a game of Knockout, a fast-paced game in which players survive elimination by making baskets.

When Garvey stepped up to the foul line to take his first shot, it swished through the net, eliciting a chorus of “oohs” from the crowd.

A couple of rounds later, Garvey was knocked out of the game by Andrea Villena-Lanzi, a senior politics major from Palm Beach, Fla. Villena-Lanzi shrugged her shoulders as she walked to the back of the line to continue in the tournament. “I’m not going to graduate,” she joked, saying to the spectators.

Students sat on the grass next to the court and cheered on the competitors as their numbers dwindled. In the end Chris Prudents, a senior politics major from Allentown, Pa., was the winner. And judging from the heavy court traffic from recreational hoop players this semester, the many CUA students who love a pick-up game are all winners.

Pep Band Returns

When Victor David went to his first football game last year as a freshman, he thought something was missing. He soon realized he was missing a pep band along with the audience participation that comes with it. So he did something about it. He founded one.

After researching the history of pep bands at CUA, “an on-off, off-again thing,” the honors program student, politics major, and Knights of Columbus member started asking people if they’d like to play music together to generate more school spirit around campus, especially at athletic events. He posted flyers and advertised over different CUA media.

“Sure enough,” he says, “they came — classics majors, politics, music, English, basically everything under the sun.” Now a pep band can be heard at football games and select basketball games, getting students in the spirit as they cheer for their Cardinals.