ACOUSTIC BEHAVIOR
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Photo by Dana Cusano,
Parks Lab, SU biology department

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AMERICA LOOKS TO ITS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CHALLENGING TIMES, whether to prepare new generations for the evolving responsibilities of citizenship or to drive prosperity through innovation. Continuing aftershocks of the Great Recession once again have placed what we want and need from higher education atop the public agenda, and living up to its legacy of tackling the tough issues of the day, SU is helping lead the national discussion.

With a growing group of like-minded institutions and associations, we’ve formed the American Commonwealth Partnership (ACP) and joined with the nonpartisan, nonprofit Public Agenda, appropriately enough, and the National Issues Forums—a network of civic, educational, and other organizations, and individuals, whose common interest is to promote public deliberation in America—to kick off a nationwide dialogue this fall titled, Shaping Our Future.

Facilitating dialogue around pressing issues of the day is in SU’s DNA, a critically important skill for our increasingly interconnected world that we’re passing along to today’s students. The School of Education’s Gretchen Lopez, for example, is helping students build bridges across campus through the Intergroup Dialogue Program, using dialogue among peers as a technique to promote mutual understanding across differences. Expanding that circle, the Maxwell School’s Grant Reeher and Tina Nabatchi are training students to break out of the campus bubble and engage community members across Central New York through CNY Speaks, an initiative that uses facilitated live forums, online social networking tools, surveys, and journalistic articles to get beyond platitudes and move toward consensus on local issues from environmental stewardship to economic revitalization.

Which brings us full circle to assuring that colleges and universities are the engines of opportunity we need them to be for the next generation: job number one is assuring that we’re accessible and affordable. So, when Vice President Joe Biden L’68 and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan sought to promote transparency about financial aid packages and college costs for students and families, SU answered the call and is now working with a select group of colleges and universities to create model communications for institutions nationwide.

Another urgent message we need to deliver is that developing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics talent from our increasingly diverse pool of youth remains a critical national need. We’re getting that across loud and clear with the likes of the iSchool’s IT Girls retreats, where high schoolers are mentored to aspire to technology careers, and with Project ENGAGE, a summer camp hosted by the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science to help middle school girls chart a course to changing the world for the better, whether by using new techniques to conserve water, new materials for resilient prosthetics, or new technologies for intelligent buildings.

Toward the other end of the educational spectrum, as their year of study at the Maxwell School comes to a close, the latest class of Humphrey Fellows—a dozen, seasoned professionals from 11 countries on four continents sent here to hone their policy knowledge and governance skills—has grown to embody the kind of global leadership the world needs most right now, fully prepared to leverage their SU education to make a difference from China and Myanmar to Ecuador and Oman.

As we send them off—and as we cheer this month for SU’s Olympians from basketball to field hockey and rowing to the heptathlon, in competition that we do well to remember is about promoting peace through cultural diplomacy—we know that SU alumni are giving their all in many roles on the global stage and doing us proud.

Cordially,

Nancy Cantor
Chancellor and President
IN LATE JUNE, WHILE WALKING NEAR A bluebird box in our backyard, I heard good news: the chirping of baby birds. For weeks, we’d watched mom and dad bluebird flitting about our yard and garden, wondering whether offspring would arrive. Our question answered, it was nice to know New York’s official state bird had raised a family in our yard. Decades ago, this may not have been the case as Eastern bluebird populations dropped due to a variety of causes, but conservation efforts helped revive their numbers.

As the bluebirds took to parenting, I was reading Goodbye to a River by John Graves, who documented his travels in a canoe in 1957 along a section of Texas’s Brazos River that was slated to be dammed in several locations, forever altering the area’s landscape. Mixing memoir, travel adventure, and history lessons, Graves creates an account of his journey that illuminates the importance of our understanding of place and how we coexist with the natural world.

These days—amid climate change, our insatiable appetite for natural resources, and the negative environmental consequences of shortsighted actions and inactions—it’s become crucial for us to consider our interactions with the natural world if we want to ensure a hospitable planet for future generations. In this issue of the magazine, there are several examples of how positive interactions with the environment enhance understanding and respect for the world around us.

Through SU Recreation Services, for instance, students can explore the outdoors by participating in numerous activities, from whitewater rafting to dogsledding in the Canadian wilderness, gaining valuable lessons beyond the classroom. In our “Research Snapshot,” you’ll learn how biology professor Susan Parks is studying the behavior of mother-calf pairs of North Atlantic right whales, an endangered species whose existence is imperiled by collisions with vessels and exposure to high-intensity sonar sounds. Parks hopes her research will provide a better understanding of the giant mammal’s behavior, leading to its protection and conservation. In “Vanishing Cultures,” you’ll discover how Newhouse alumni Taylor Weidman G’09 and Nina Wegner G’09 have taken on the daunting task of documenting cultures on the brink of extinction—and through their nonprofit organization, the Vanishing Cultures Project, they are working to support and preserve these unique cultures and the global diversity they offer.

For millennia, indigenous peoples have lived in truly sustainable ways, and there is much we can gain from learning about their traditions and interactions with the natural world. As Wegner says, “Many of these communities understand their native plants and wildlife better than anybody else in the world, and this knowledge has proved to be invaluable to scientists and medical researchers.” That thought alone makes our attention to preservation all the more important.
In January, WaterPort was offered free office space and professional support services—financial, legal, accounting, and more—by the Tech Garden, a start-up incubator and accelerator for companies in Central New York. At the same time, the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems provided the space and expertise essential for developing the product prototype. Grant, now the company’s chief executive officer, says, “If the RainPort is to become the unique, earth-shaking product we envision, it has to be totally self-contained—independent of any external infrastructure or energy source.” In its present form, the RainPort meets this overriding criterion. Powered by a solar panel, it can turn every inch of rain collected in its 200-square-foot catchment area into 120 gallons of purified water—enough to satisfy the needs of a small village. “Essentially, we are there!” Grant says.

Besides organizing their company and refining the product, WaterPort’s partners have been engaged in the trying but critical ritual of business plan competitions. So far, they have won national recognition and more than $20,000 in targeted awards. With entrepreneurship professors Alex McKelvie and John Torrens G’93 as mentors, they’ve become polished presenters. “The competitions are a rigorous testing ground,” McKelvie says. “Each event leads to further refinements in the plan and product. Each gives the team stronger presentation skills and confidence.” Much will depend on the outcome of upcoming competitions, some of which carry cash awards of six figures. “Prize monies will help determine how fast the company can launch and progress,” Torrens says. “The major challenge right now is raising capital without having to give up any equity in the company.”

WaterPort is driven by a five-year vision with the initial goal of setting up shop in Africa, where “there is perhaps the greatest need for pure water,” Grant explains. “One person needs five gallons to survive for 30 days in 90-degree heat. One RainPort could provide drinking water for 70 people for the entire year.” As the first step in their entry strategy, the partners have identified five non-governmental organizations in Africa that are willing to serve as beta test sites. They have also developed a partnership with Magui-guane Consulting Firm and its founder, Jose Cossa, in Maputo, Mozambique. “Our partnership will give us broad access to markets, as well as growth and funding opportunities, across the continent,” Grant says.

Looking back, Walsleben can only marvel. “It’s a thrill to see students master critical academic concepts, develop a plan for a product that can truly change the world, and then execute on that vision,” he says. “They’ve changed their own lives for the better, and they’ll likely change the lives of thousands of others.”

—Tom Raynor
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S LACROSSE team proved this season that heart and determination can lead to big rewards. For the first time in the program’s history, the Orange women advanced to the title game of the NCAA tournament. In the championship showdown on May 27 in Stony Brook, New York, SU dropped an 8-6 decision to defending champion and No. 2 seed Northwestern. “I’m proud of my team,” head coach Gary Gait ’90 said in the post-game press conference. “They never gave up. They played all the way through. We learned a lot—the first time in the championship game.”

For Gait, who completed his fifth season as head coach, it was the third time his Orange had reached the Final Four—and there was no lack of excitement in getting there. In an NCAA quarterfinal matchup against fifth-seed North Carolina in the Carrier Dome, the fourth-ranked Orange rallied from a two-goal deficit with three minutes left to post a 17-16 victory over the Tar Heels. All-American Michelle Tumolo ’13 netted the game-winning shot with five seconds left.

Squaring off against top-ranked Florida in the NCAA semifinals at Stony Brook, Syracuse once again put on a heart-stopping display. The Orange women trailed by seven goals with 17:15 left in regulation, but rallied back to claim a 14-13 win in double overtime against the Gators. Sarah Holden ’12 hit an unassisted shot 58 seconds into sudden death. It was the second largest comeback in the tournament’s history and moved the Orange into the final. “With a little bit of luck, drive, and heart, we were able to come out on top,” Gait said. “This kind of heart never gives up.”

The Orange women completed the season with a 19-4 mark, the most wins and best record in school history. They won the Big East regular season title and reeled off 15 straight wins before losing to Loyola (Maryland), 13-7, in the Big East tournament final.

Tumolo, a Tewaaraton Trophy finalist and Big East Attack Player of the Year, was joined on the Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association All-America First Team by teammates Becca Block ’13 and Alyssa Murray ’14, while Katie Webster ’14 received third-team honors. Murray also led the nation in scoring, collecting a career-high 105 points on 74 goals and 31 assists. Tumolo scored a career-high 95 points to finish sixth in the nation and was ranked 10th in assists (43). Goalkeeper Alyssa Costantino ’14 completed her season ranked in the top 10 in two categories: sixth in goals-against average (8.37) and seventh in save percentage (.492).

Gait, the Hall of Fame player who led the Orange men to three national titles, will look to reload next season with the core of the squad returning—no doubt ready and determined to make another title run.

—Jay Cox
WHEN YOU DOWNLOAD DIGITAL MUSIC THESE days, the idea of music on a disc—let alone accompanying album covers and artwork—seems to be growing ever more remote. That’s quite a contrast from the World War II-era vision of a Detroit businessman named Tom Saffady, who launched Vogue records with the goal of blending high-quality sound, physical durability, and intriguing artwork on a series of 78 rpm records. From May 1946 to April 1947, Saffady’s Sav-Way Industries manufactured a series of 74 picture records, which featured original illustrations for each song, before going belly-up that August.

While picture records were not a new concept then, Saffady’s process for creating them was. His innovative method sandwiched an aluminum core between two paper pictures and coated it with vinyl. The records were sold for $1.05 in clear packaging, allowing customers to view the art. At the time, album cover art was just creeping into existence, and vinyl—an alternative to shellac—was still a few years away from its surge in popularity with the 33 rpm LP. “Hear your favorite artists at their finest with some of the most sensational improvements ever made in the history of phonograph records!” proclaimed a Sears Roebuck catalog ad that also touted the albums as “Unbreakable…Warp-Proof…Less Surface Noise…Longer Life…Illustrated.”

According to Jenny Doctor, director of the SU Library’s Belfer Audio Archive, Saffady was fascinated by automation. “He invented this way of pressing them that was supposed to stamp out records a lot faster, but in the end it never worked,” she says. “He tried to do too many new things at once.”

Last year, Belfer received a gift of 52 Vogue picture records from the late Lila Savada, the widow of Manhattan record shop proprietor Morton J. Savada, whose estate had previously donated more than 200,000 78 rpm recordings to the Belfer archive. Doctor finds herself captivated by the Vogue art and its role in marketing the product. “I’m interested in the idea that somebody felt you needed to have a visual to engage people in the audio,” she says. “We’re used to that now, but in the 1940s, the golden age of film before television, the visual was already starting to be predominant. I think that’s signaled by the Vogue picture disc conception.” Saffady had a stable of illustrators whose signed color pictures ran the gamut from edgy pulp and schlocky romance to cartoon-y. As for the music, there was big band (Art Mooney), jazz (Charlie Shavers), country (Patsy Montana), children’s, and even instructional rhumba lessons. “He didn’t get the big artists of the day,” Doctor says. “His artists didn’t have big hits until later. If he’d had a hit, it might have carried them financially through the hard times.”

One mystery that swirled among record collectors was whether future rock ‘n’ roll star Bill Haley brandished his guitar for the Down Homers on a couple of their Vogue recordings. The country group’s leader, Kenny Roberts, who was known as “The King of the Yodelers,” acknowledged Haley played with the band, but not on the Vogue discs. Roberts also reported that his first recorded yodeling was on the group’s Vogue single “Out Where the West Wind Blows.” Today, like Roberts, Vogue is gone, but not forgotten. As Belfer archivist Patrick Midtlyng, who accessioned SU’s collection, notes, “The Vogue picture record is a unique slice in the history of the record business.”

—Jay Cox
ILYSE SHAPIRO ’14 WON’T SOON FORGET rappelling down a 200-foot waterfall in Costa Rica. She’d been rappelling before, but the experience was nothing like this one on a cold, rainy spring day in 2011, when she took a step back off the cliff and let the adventure begin. “The first step is always the worst,” she says. “But once you start down, you think, ‘This is the coolest thing I’ve ever done.’ It was the most amazing feeling getting to the bottom, looking up, and watching other people come down.”

The activity was just one of the highlights of a nine-day Outward Bound experience arranged in collaboration with SU Recreation Services Outdoor Education Program (OEP). The group also took surfing lessons, went whitewater rafting, zip-lined in a rain forest, and hiked around a volcano. “Students really bond through sharing these amazing activities,” says Scott Catucci, who directs OEP. “It becomes a huge learning experience and we help them identify ways to reflect on it, so they see it not just as an activity, but as a metaphor for learning and how to carry that experience back to their lives.”

Nearly 1,500 students participate annually in OEP offerings, which are supported in part by the student co-curricular fee. There’s whitewater rafting on the Black River in Northern New York, bobsled and skeleton runs in Lake Placid, dogsledding and snowshoeing in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, and a Grand Canyon backpacking and Colorado River rafting expedition. Locally, students go on hikes in nearby parks, and snowboard and ski. Nir Swenson ’13 loves adventure and got a good dose of it on the six-day Outward Bound dogsled trip in January. Amid bone-chilling temperatures and no communications with the outside world, the students took turns dogsledding and snowshoeing in the Ontario wilderness and shared chores, feeding the dogs, setting up camp, gathering firewood, and cooking. “The dogs were great,” Swenson says. “Some of them were so small, you wouldn’t suspect they were sled dogs, but they could pull you. They haul.”

For Catucci, such experiences are designed to offer more than adventure. The students share responsibilities, learn teamwork, reflect on their experiences, build trust with one another, and often establish friendships. Catucci introduces incoming first-year students to OEP through the Leadership Outdoor Orientation Program (LOOP), a pre-orientation initiative in August that includes whitewater rafting, a ropes challenge course, and other team-building activities in the Adirondacks. “I loved it,” says Shapiro, who participated in LOOP and now serves as a leader for the program. “I came to school not knowing anyone and I was terrified, but once I did the program I had 40 friends and felt comfortable.”

Catucci hopes to further enhance student team-building activities with the addition of an outdoor ropes challenge course on South Campus anticipated to be open during the spring 2013 semester. It will complement an indoor ropes course that was installed in Flanagan Gym last August. Swenson, a ropes course instructor, says the ropes can be intimidating, but team support and encouragement often help people master the challenge. “You have to take that leap of faith,” he says. Catucci believes the challenges of outdoor recreation pursuits create memorable learning opportunities and instill confidence. “If you think you can’t overcome an obstacle and then accomplish it through perseverance, wow, you can apply that to anything,” he says. “Instead of thinking you can’t do it, you think you can—and you give it a try.” —Jay Cox
“We want our passion for Syracuse University to be seen and felt long after we’re gone.”

Throughout her career in public education, PATRICIA MAUTINO ’64, G’66 witnessed raw, young talent and identified personally with students who needed financial aid to help them pursue their educational goals. Her husband, LOUIS MAUTINO ’61, G’62, attended SU on an athletic scholarship and went on to be a business owner in the building industry. Together, they are committed to helping young people prepare for successful lives and feel privileged to share their “Forever Orange” spirit with future generations.

As an active member of the Syracuse University Alumni Association and the iSchool Board of Visitors, and a longtime supporter of SU Athletics, “Pat” Mautino already has a strong presence on campus. And with the four scholarships the Mautinos have endowed through their bequest, their love for SU will become an everlasting legacy.

You can leave a legacy, too.

Bequests, no matter what their size, have an impact. In fact, SU’s continued success is the direct result of thousands of bequests—large and small—made by alumni and friends. To learn how you can do the same, call 888.352.9535, or e-mail giftplan@syr.edu. For help on writing a bequest, visit giving.syr.edu/samplebequest.

Be a leader.

When you make a bequest, you’ll be recognized as a Syracuse University Pathfinder—joining a group of insightful leaders who have included SU in their long-term financial plans and are leading the way for the SU students of today and tomorrow.
SCIENCE HORIZONS

INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE SCIENTIFIC WORLD

WHAT DOES THE NUMBER OF FISH IN ONONDAGA LAKE TELL us about the level of pollution? How does identifying types of macroinvertebrates found in the lake help evaluate the cleanup activities under way? These are some of the questions participants in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Science Horizons Program posed to experts during a boat cruise of the lake and field experiments.

The program, a partnership with University College, celebrated its 20th anniversary in June, offering local seventh- and eighth-graders an interactive look at the field of science. Since its inception, more than 800 students have participated in the week-long program held at SU.

Fully funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Science Horizons gives students an opportunity to learn from science and engineering faculty, medical personnel, and working scientists and technologists while taking part in hands-on activities and demonstrations both on and off campus. Students also visited the pathology and cardiology departments at Crouse Hospital, where they examined organs, learned about diseases, and studied the human heart.

Science Horizons began in 1993 to mark Bristol’s 50th anniversary in Syracuse. Kim Buchanan, a science teacher in the Fabius-Pompey Central School District, has been with the program from the beginning. She believes it’s important for students to interact with people passionate about science-related work. “When it comes to careers, science provides a wide range of opportunities that continues to change,” she says. “Just looking at the evolution of Bristol-Myers over the last 20 years, changing from making penicillin to now using biologics, illustrates how science is constantly expanding.” Whether it’s saving lives, protecting our country, producing alternative energy, or improving the environment, Buchanan believes Science Horizons helps students understand how to use science to better our world.

A highlight of the program is a day-long visit to Bristol’s Thompson Road facility. Students learn about the research and development processes at the pharmaceutical plant through a series of interactive sessions, and have lunch with the scientists and engineers. “At Bristol-Myers Squibb, we’ve dedicated our careers to leveraging science to discover, develop, and deliver innovative medicines to help patients prevail over serious diseases,” says John R. Mosack, general manager of the Syracuse plant. “We support programs that encourage students to explore how science plays a critical role in bringing so much benefit to the world. To foster successful scientists and engineers of the future, we introduce young people to the excitement of scientific application in industry.”

Matthew Noyes, a 2003 participant, attends the University of Rochester. He says his experience in Science Horizons—and meeting like-minded individuals—had a huge influence in building his passion for science. “The program covered many different fields, from ecology to rocketry, and presented active engagement I would not have had otherwise,” he says. To enhance his undergraduate studies, Noyes landed a work-study opportunity at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, where he worked on 3D visualization of rocket telemetry and several other projects. He also worked at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center, helping with launch control system software for a new rocket project. “Science is an educational process, and education is life long,” Noyes says. “Children are naturally curious, and if parents, teachers, and role models feed that curiosity with intellectual endeavors, they will stay with them forever.”

Mosack enjoys knowing the program has such an impact. “It is our hope that this program is an inspiring and motivating experience on the students’ journey to successful futures as scientists, engineers, or other science-oriented careers,” he says.

—Eileen T. Jevis
TIM BIBA ’11 WASN’T NERVOUS about appearing on national television until Today Show host Ann Curry told him he would be seen by millions of viewers. Biba had been invited to talk about Books and Cooks!, a program he and fellow interns at the Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service created that provides tutoring and nutritional information to elementary school children to improve their literacy rates and instill healthy eating habits. “I was thrilled to have the opportunity to represent the Shaw Center and all of the good work it does in the community,” Biba says. “It was fun once I got over my initial butterflies.”

Books and Cooks! is the result of a collaboration among Shaw Center interns who in 2010 decided they wanted to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU), which requires applicants to submit a Commitment to Action—a yearlong set of goals that can be measured and evaluated. On their own, literacy interns Biba, Allison Stuckless ’11, and Greg Klotz ’10 teamed up with nutrition intern Kate Callahan ’10 to create a fun and informative after-school program that would address some of the literacy challenges and health issues facing inner-city children in the Syracuse community. “The center’s staff first learned about the Books and Cooks! idea when the interns asked us to edit their draft proposal,” says Pamela Kirwin Heintz ’91, G’08, associate vice president and director of the Shaw Center. “Not only was their proposal accepted, it was selected as an ‘Outstanding Commitment’ to be featured at the conference.”

The team had one year to turn its innovative idea into a hands-on after-school program consisting of lessons in reading, craft activities, and healthy meal preparation based on a variety of cultures. They researched third-grade curriculum requirements, developed lesson plans, learned how to make and keep a schedule, and recruited and trained tutors. They also learned how to budget financial support from the Wal-Mart Foundation and Shaw Center to cover transportation costs and purchase books, maps, craft materials, and cooking supplies for each lesson. “This was the first time I had to see something through from conceptualization to implementation,” Biba says. “It was daunting because we knew a lot of people would be watching—we had to deliver.”

When the original Books and Cooks! team graduated, another group of students was eager to step in and run the program. Literacy intern Victoria Seager ’14 researches and develops lesson plans designed to teach the children about the geography, climate, currency, and customs of a different country.
each week. She then creates a craft project related to the country’s culture. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s awesome,” says Seager, who purchases the supplies and spends several hours a week writing lesson plans. “When we studied Ireland, we made Blarney stones, for Puerto Rico we made maracas, and for Brazil, we made Carnival face masks.”

Nutrition majors Marissa Donovan '13 and Victoria Li '12 plan the weekly cooking lessons, which expose students to the cuisines of various cultures and guide them toward healthy food choices. “When we studied Japan, we brought in some sushi for the kids to try, and then had them make their own with bread, humus, and vegetables,” Donovan says. “If you have kids do the cooking, they’re much more likely to enjoy the foods.”

For Li, the most rewarding part of the program is seeing the children’s enthusiasm for learning. “It’s a great feeling when the kids repeat facts they’ve learned from previous lessons and place them into current lessons,” Li says. “When we made smoothies they remembered why milk is essential to our bodies and that shows me they’re gaining basic nutrition knowledge that will lead to healthier lives.”

This year, the team added exercise to the program because it seemed like a perfect match with literacy and nutrition. “Many children today aren’t getting outside and moving, so we really wanted to expand their knowledge and promote physical fitness,” Donovan says. “Now we have literacy on Mondays, nutrition on Wednesdays, and exercise on Fridays.”

When Seager and Donovan attended the 2012 CGIU (www.cgiu.org/default.asp) this spring, they were excited to discover other schools and colleges were interested in replicating the Books and Cooks! program. “Our original goal was to create a model that could be replicated at other after-school sites in Syracuse,” Heintz says. “Now our goal is to have Books and Cooks! expand beyond Syracuse to become a model for other schools and colleges nationwide.”

—Christine Yackel
BACKGROUND:
There are currently several areas of concern relating to human interactions with marine mammals. The most critical risks may result in the injury or death of individual animals, for example, through collisions with vessels, entanglement in gear, and exposure to explosions and high-intensity sounds. Being able to detect the presence of an individual animal is critical to reduce the probability of encountering these high-risk events. The North Atlantic right whale is a highly endangered species of baleen whale found off the East coast of the United States. These whales regularly traverse regions with high levels of human activity, and there is an urgent need to determine their presence in an area to prevent collisions or exposure to high-intensity sounds.

Two major methods of detection are currently employed: visual surveys from aerial- or vessel-based platforms, and passive acoustic monitoring to detect vocalizations from right whales in an area. Despite these efforts, reproduc-

RESEARCH SNAPSHOT
A FOCUS ON RESEARCH AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

ACOUSTIC BEHAVIOR

PROJECT: ACOUSTIC BEHAVIOR OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE (Eubalaena glacialis) MOTHER-CALF PAIRS

INVESTIGATOR: Susan Parks

DEPARTMENT: Biology

SPONSOR: Office of Naval Research

AMOUNT AWARDED: $677,629 (January 1, 2012-September 30, 2015)
Susan Parks (facing page) prepares to attach an archival suction cup recording tag to a North Atlantic right whale in Cape Cod Bay. The tag records sounds the animal makes and hears, and also contains sensors that document its movements. Parks conducts her research off the coasts of Florida and Cape Cod in the winter and spring and in the Bay of Fundy, Canada, in the summer (top photo). A mother (above left) surfaces with her calf in Florida, while an adult female (above right) breaches above the surface.

tively active females and their young offspring seem to be at increased risk for collisions with vessels. This research will undertake an extensive study of the surface and acoustic behavior of right whale mother-calf pairs to assess what factors increase their vulnerability to collisions with vessels and determine how best to detect these individuals. The study will span the entire development of the calf, comparing the behavior of extremely young right whales shortly after birth through their growing periods of independence prior to weaning in the late summer months. This study will address topics related to monitoring and mitigation of injury of right whales, acoustic propagation of baleen whale calls in multiple habitat areas, and basic scientific studies of the individual development of behavior in an endangered baleen whale.

**IMPACT:**
The data collected in this study will improve our understanding of the behavior of this highly endangered species, aiding in its protection and conservation.

Go to sumagazine.syr.edu to listen to a North Atlantic right whale do an "up call," a sound mothers make to reunite with their calves.
AS THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MANAGER FOR Syracuse University Ambulance (SUA), Paul Smyth never knows what to expect on any given day. Amid ambulance calls for broken bones, the flu, and car accidents, he may find himself at a reception recruiting incoming students for SUA, taking an ambulance in for maintenance work, or sifting through the paperwork covering his desk. Such is life for Smyth, who oversees daily operations at SUA—dispatching ambulances, responding to emergency calls, transporting patients, and training and supervising student emergency medical technicians (EMTs). “Emergency work is what I have been doing for 20 years,” Smyth says. “You can’t be in this job too long if you don’t handle stress well.”

Last August, Smyth took over the position at SUA, a Health Services-based organization that involves more than 70 students who are trained as EMTs and dispatchers. They are the first-responders on campus to more than 1,500 medical emergencies each year, ranging from minor injuries to serious illnesses and accidents. When he joined SUA, Smyth set goals he hoped to accomplish. In less than a year, he has achieved six of eight tasks on his checklist. One change he instituted was the use of glucometry, which allows EMTs to test a patient’s blood sugar. For another, he collaborated with SU Information Technology and Services to replace handwritten patient reports with electronic records that provide clear, detailed information, enabling them to easily track patients’ medical histories. “I want to make the organization neat and well-organized,” Smyth says. “And I’m glad everything is running smoothly so far.”

Prior to joining the SU staff, Smyth worked as a paramedic at the North Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (NAVAC) in North Syracuse for 16 years, including three years as the director of operations. He provided a range of services, from delivering babies and treating car-accident victims to taking care of people with cardiac disease or who suffered heart attacks. When patients came to say “thank you,” it meant a lot to him, he says.

Smyth credits NAVAC’s executive director for teaching him management skills that helped him handle the transition to his SUA duties. He finds it refreshing to work with a group of college students interested in the medical field and dedicated to SUA. When he responds to emergencies, especially if the patients are nervous or scared, the veteran paramedic takes a few minutes to explain to them how the process works and often jokes with them to ease their tension. “I try to get people comfortable,” he says. “Let them know everything is taken care of, and we’re here to help.”

Professional know-how earned Smyth the Emergency Medical Services Advisor of the Year award from the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation. He received the recognition at the foundation’s conference in Baltimore in February. When he heard his name announced, he was surprised to learn SUA students had nominated him for the honor. “I had no idea they wrote all the recommendation letters to support me,” Smyth says. “I felt honored they recognized me, even though I’ve just been here for a short time. Now all I’m thinking about is what I’ll do next.”

Smyth says he enjoys working at SUA and finds it rewarding to see student volunteers graduating with emergency medical experience. “I look forward to continuing to provide good emergency medical services to the SU community,” he says. “We’ll be there if anyone needs us. And I’m always ready to help.” — Yuhan Xu
ONE OF THE FIRST LIBERAL ARTS COURSES CARLA Lopez ’13 took at Syracuse University featured a photo of Istanbul’s magnificent Hagia Sophia—once a mosque, then a cathedral, now a national museum. Lopez was awestruck by the remarkable beauty and majesty of the structure. The colossal edifice was an even more breathtaking sight when she stood gazing up at its massive, ornate dome during an SU Study Abroad trip to Turkey. “I could not believe I was there,” she says. “It was such a magical moment—a dream come true.”

A dream realized could also describe Lopez’s life at Syracuse University as an international relations and political science major in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. A native of Honduras, Lopez, now 20, arrived in the United States when she was 12 years old, speaking little English. Fluent in Spanish and the Black Carib language Garifuna, she attended bilingual schools in the Bronx, where all of the courses were taught in English. Her high school teachers recommended she include Syracuse University on her list of potential colleges, and a visit to the SU campus for a multicultural weekend quickly made up her mind. “I love the diversity here,” she says. “There are so many international students, and I am interested in learning about other cultures.”

The high quality of SU courses was another reason why Lopez decided to come to Syracuse. “I think of education as the key that will open the doors I wish to open in the future,” she says. “Education will never leave me, which is why I seek it. I have to get educated, so I can give my mom, who works as a home attendant, a better life.”

Living on campus, away from her close-knit family and neighborhood for the first time, has given Lopez the opportunity to explore her own personality. “It was here that I got a chance to know who I am,” she says. “I was finally alone to start defining myself. I found out I’m a hard worker who can be a perfectionist to the point of being too demanding of myself.”

Energetic and driven, Lopez is involved in a number of extracurricular activities, serving as vice president of the South Campus Organization for Programming Excellence, and as a global ambassador for SU Abroad. She was a member of the Maxwell School’s 2012 National Model United Nations team, representing Gabon at a week-long conference during which more than 5,100 students from around the world competed to take top honors. This year, for the first time, the SU team received the first-place award as the outstanding delegation. Lopez was chosen as the team’s most enthusiastic member.

An adaptable and seasoned traveler, Lopez will visit China, which has begun strengthening ties with African nations. She plans to learn more about this nascent relationship and to understand its impact on world politics. Eventually, she hopes to earn a doctorate in Pan-African studies with the goal of working for the United Nations or the African union. “In Honduras, I dreamed of becoming a medical doctor,” she says. “Now I want to work to unify the African countries. I want to go there, live there, and be part of the group that continues to help transition the African continent into becoming united and influential in international relations.”

—Paula Meseroll
AS A YOUNGSTER GROWING UP IN SYRACUSE, Katherine McDonald visited refugees’ homes, volunteered at church, and was involved in community issues with her family—experiences that shaped her awareness of social justice. It was, however, her time spent among friends at a Syracuse L’Arche community that defined McDonald’s professional interest in community psychology and changed her life. The Syracuse site is part of the larger L’Arche international federation of communities in which people with and without disabilities share a home and everyday life. So moved by the people she met there, she spent another two years at a L’Arche community in Switzerland following her graduation from Cornell University with a B.S. degree in human development and family studies in 1998. “Those experiences—seeing marginalization up close and how positive relationships transform people’s place in the world—sparked my passions,” says McDonald, a public health professor in the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics and a Faculty Fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) since August 2011.

McDonald’s interests have fueled a research career geared toward inclusion, eliminating disparities, and empowering people with disabilities to be full participants in educational, employment, and social opportunities. “I wanted to do work that was about how we change people’s relationship with their environment, how we change attitudes, and how we change policies to be more inclusive,” says McDonald, now active with L’Arche International. “I got really lucky because I just kind of found my field, found my place.”

After returning from Switzerland, McDonald pursued master’s and Ph.D. degrees in community and prevention research psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The specialized field looks at human beings in the context of their political, religious, school, and community environments. She became interested in inclusive research practices as part of the university’s institutional review board, a federally regulated board that monitors research involving human participants. “I started to learn about how the same issues in terms of community participation outside these walls—exclusion and overprotecting rather than allowing the dignity of risk—happened in terms of research participation,” she says. “We need to have processes that offer safeguards in the least restrictive manner.”

In pursuit of those answers, McDonald did her dissertation on—and continues to study—the research participation of people with developmental disabilities. Her goal is to create materials that would inform researchers about people with disabilities, and materials and strategies that would allow them to participate in studies.

In another area of investigation, McDonald conducts participatory action research with community-based organizations and community members on health, education, and employment disparities among people with disabilities. She has a longstanding collaboration with the Academic Autistic Spectrum Partnership in Research and Education in which project leadership is shared between an academic and an autistic adult. “The work is more socially relevant because it’s inclusive of the community perspective,” McDonald says. In June, she was honored for her work by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with its 2012 Early Career Award, after a nomination by a close colleague and mentor, the late Western Oregon University professor Hank Bersani Jr. G’73, G’82, a leading expert in the field.

McDonald’s research also put her in contact with Peter Blanck, BBI chairman and University Professor, and led to her position that helps connect the work of BBI with the University. In her Disability and Health course, students look at the legal rights and service provisions for people with disabilities, along with disparities in health care and promotion—and their perspectives about their environments shift. “While it won’t necessarily be their specialty, as public health professionals, it’s a population they will serve, interact with, and care about,” McDonald says. —Kathleen Haley
FOR THEODORE WILLIAMS ’12, EXPERIENCE IS THE key. And it shouldn’t come as a surprise that Williams, who received a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science (LCS), is an inveterate tinkerer. In high school, he earned money by fixing computers. Lately, he’s been repairing his car—both for the challenge and to avoid costly bills. “I like practicality,” he says. “Give me something to do. I’m a hands-on type person.”

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, who attended high school in the Bronx, Williams gained significant practical experience working for three years at SU’s Center for Environmental Systems Engineering. Most notably, he collaborated with the Syracuse-based Upstate Freshwater Institute on a study involving the role of zebra mussels in sequestering mercury in the Seneca River. The invasive species has long been considered a nuisance for disrupting native aquatic ecosystems and clogging pipes. But, according to Williams, their research revealed a positive impact of the mollusks’ presence: Areas populated by the zebra mussels contained lower concentrations of mercury. Through their filter-feeding process, the mussels accumulate the contaminant in their tissues and shells, but while tissues biodegrade and release mercury, the shells do not break down easily. “The zebra mussels are, indeed, capturing and sequestering mercury long-term through their shells,” he says. For Williams, the research led to conferences and presentations, including earning a first-place award for his poster presentation at the 2011 Emerging Researchers National Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. He also co-authored a paper pending publication, “Zebra Mussels: A Nuisance or A Valuable Asset to Aquatic Systems?”

Williams, who minored in policy studies and worked summers at a Manhattan law firm, also logged time in a New York City Department of Environmental Protection lab, evaluating wastewater and sludge samples. Last fall, he expanded his educational focus, joining a nanoparticle research project in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, where he plans to pursue a master’s degree this fall. Shifting gears from one activity to another is commonplace for Williams. An Our Time Has Come-Corning Scholar, he co-founded and served as president of the Society of Environmental Engineers at SU, earned certification as a scuba diver, volunteered as a tutor in the Wilson Park after-school program, and, as an LCS ambassador, conducted science experiments at Danforth Middle School. “It’s impressive to see how smart some of the kids are,” he says. “Chemistry is cool, and I was happy to show them experiments to get them interested in science.”

Williams attributes his interest in science and engineering to his passion for developing ideas and building things. Two years ago, he had his laptop ripped off, but out of that experience came an idea for creating a software application that would activate a camera on a stolen laptop, alerting the owner with an e-mail and pictures of the location. The idea earned him a $1,000 grant in LCS’s 2011 Invention and Creativity Competition, and he is now collaborating with two LCS graduate students who are developing the programming. As Williams talks about the project, more ideas pour forth. Like many people with innovative minds, he’s restless, ready to tackle more projects. “When I was a kid, I wanted to be a farmer because I liked watching plants grow,” he says. “Engineering has that aspect to it—you get to watch things grow and develop over time.”

—Jay Cox
WHEN YOU TALK TO HER COLLEAGUES, TWO WORDS come up again and again when describing College of Arts and Sciences neuroscientist Sandra Hewett: energy and enthusiasm. “Your heart rate goes up 25 beats a minute when she enters the room,” biology professor John Russell says. “The energy and enthusiasm is real. And as far as I can tell, now that she’s been my colleague for a year, it never runs down.”

Both Russell and biology department chair Ramesh Raina say that energy and enthusiasm, coupled with an international reputation as a top-flight scientist and successful, well-funded researcher, made Hewett the perfect choice as the department’s inaugural Beverly Petterson Bishop Professor in Neuroscience. After 15 years at the University of Connecticut Health Center, she and her husband, fellow neuroscientist James Hewett, joined the biology department faculty last fall, packing up and moving to Syracuse with their young son, Oliver.

Neuroscience is by nature an interdisciplinary field, drawing on biology, chemistry, psychology, and even mathematics, physics, and computer science. Hewett is charged with pulling together scientists and scholars from across campus and beyond, shepherding a joint neuroscience Ph.D. program with SUNY Upstate Medical University and working with Russell to revamp the undergraduate integrated learning major in neuroscience. “I love my science,” Hewett says, smiling. “I’m happiest when I’m in my lab. But the Bishop Professorship offered me an opportunity to do something new: to build a neuroscience program, build coalitions and work with new people and different resources.”

Meanwhile, in her lab, she will pursue the elusive goal that has kept her working passionately, if not obsessively, for two decades: a neuron-protective treatment for stroke. For generations, scientists thought neurons, the excitable brain cells that enable us to move, speak, and think, were the only cells that really mattered in the brain. In recent years, Hewett and others have shown that astrocytes, the most abundant brain cells once thought to serve as interneuronal glue, are critically important to brain function. In addition to providing nutrients and maintaining proper pH, ion, and water balance in the brain, astrocytes remove glutamate, a key neurotransmitter, from the synapses between neurons. But in the setting of stroke, astrocytes are activated to release glutamate that floods the synapses, and neurons literally excite themselves to death. “It’s called excitotoxicity,” says Hewett, who holds a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology from Michigan State University. She has homed in on a protein that transports glutamate; if she can slow down the transport, perhaps with a drug, she believes she can break the destructive cycle that leads to progressively more brain damage. She thinks the same mechanism is at work in traumatic brain injury, ALS, and brain tumor growth; colleagues are working to prove this. “I’m so excited!” Hewett says, and you believe her. “This is all new; new to the world, new to me.”

—Jim Reilly
WHEN 13-YEAR-OLD KOLA OWOLABI ENTERED A PRESTIGIOUS annual songwriting competition in his native Toronto, he drew from the musical era he knew best—16th-century Renaissance. It was an admittedly unconventional choice for a youngster, but the finished work—Hodie, Christus Natus Est—won, heralding Owolabi as a rising star in the contemporary classical music scene. “I think the judges were shocked to find this kid writing in 16th-century style,” says Owolabi, a professor in SU’s Setnor School of Music who also holds the title of University organist. “It sounded like it was written 400 years ago. But that was what I was singing on a daily basis in the cathedral choir at St. Michael’s Choir School in Toronto. I didn’t know it was ‘16th-century style’; it was just what was in my ear.”

Two decades later, Owolabi has easily lived up to that early promise, distinguishing himself as a gifted composer and award-winning musical force whose tastes and repertoire today span both centuries and genres. Since that first work—an antiphonal motet for double choir still performed today—he has composed 20 other pieces, from four-part anthems to larger concert works. He won second prize and audience prize in the 2002 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, and has performed throughout the United States, and in Canada, Mexico, and Jamaica.

Owolabi began his music training in his father’s home country of Nigeria, where his family lived from the time he was 5 until he turned 10. “It was a culture where everybody learns music by ear,” he says. At age 7, he began private piano lessons and learned to read music. When the family returned to Toronto, he began studies at St. Michael’s, where he also participated in daily choir rehearsals and piano and violin instruction. At age 12, he added organ lessons, and it soon became clear to him he had found his passion. “My family was devout Catholic,” he says, “so I spent a lot of time in church, where I fell in love with the sound of the organ. I loved its wide variety of ‘colors.’ It’s like a painter choosing a color palette—that ability to choose different sounds and blend them in different ways. I always wanted to explore the whole range and scope of the instrument.” After earning a bachelor’s degree in organ performance from McGill University, he received a master’s in organ performance and choral conducting from Yale, and a doctorate in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music. While at Yale, he also served as organist at the University Chapel and directed the Yale Divinity School chapel choir.

In 2006, he came to SU, where, in addition to teaching, he accompanies the Hendricks Chapel Choir; plays for weddings, convocations, and Sunday morning worship; and coordinates the Malmgren Concert Series. Next year he’ll begin a two-year term as dean of the Syracuse chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He also performs solo recitals with the nationally acclaimed, Grammy-nominated Seraphic Fire and its Firebird Orchestra, which features his work on a recording of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, scheduled for release next summer.

While his whirlwind of commitments and variety of gigs inform his own growth, Owolabi says he also wants to ensure that his students appreciate the full scope of possibilities in organ repertoire today. “There’s a wide range of styles being written today for the organ—styles that are more modern, more accessible,” he says. “And there will always be a need for highly skilled, classically trained organists. As long as we have highly trained organists, they will always have value.”

—Carol L. Boll
VANISHING CULTURES

Newhouse alumni Taylor Weidman and Nina Wegner document threatened indigenous communities as a way to make the world aware of their plights and to preserve their traditions.

BY HUSNA HAQ | PHOTOS by Taylor Weidman/The Vanishing Cultures Project

In early spring, a Mongolian herder rides through a snowstorm to collect his animals.
Taylor Weidman’s light bulb moment came in Lo Manthang, the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Mustang on the Tibetan Plateau in Nepal. In 2010, after traveling for 10 days to reach the medieval walled city, whose population numbers only in the hundreds, Weidman G’09, a photojournalist and documentary photographer, spoke with the people there and began hearing the same problems he had heard years earlier on an assignment for a nonprofit organization on a river island of Ghana. Due to a lack of job and educational opportunities, the youth of both cultures had departed to pursue livelihoods elsewhere, leaving only the village elders to witness a rapidly dwindling population—and with it, a unique language, culture, and traditional way of life. “I remember in Ghana wanting desperately to do something to help out, but it was only three years later, when I was in Upper Mustang, that I had a chance,” Weidman recalls.

Weidman had traveled to Upper Mustang on a Fulbright Fellowship to study the endangered Tibetan Buddhist culture of the former Kingdom of Lo in the north-central part of Nepal. It’s a community steeped in culture that once traded on the ancient salt route to China and still centers on farming. Weidman mulled over the concerns of the village elders he spoke with in Lo Manthang and the Ghanaian river island as he and a guide embarked on a rigorous schedule to hike nearly all of the villages in Mustang. There, in the rain shadow of the Annapurna Massif of the Himalayas, amid the arid landscape of the Tibetan Plateau, the Vanishing Cultures Project was born. “It was on these many hikes that the idea of the Vanishing Cultures Project came about as a way to use the skills I had learned in Newhouse to help indigenous communities,” writes Weidman, in an e-mail from Mongolia.

**Sharing Traditional Knowledge**

Every two weeks, a tribal elder dies with the last remaining knowledge of his language, along with other insights, wisdom, skills, and crafts culled through centuries of experience, according to the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages. At the same time, American media are downsizing, cutting back drastically on international coverage, which often is the only link many Americans have to places and peoples outside of the country.

As a way to address this situation, Weidman, who formerly...
Tashi Dolkar Gurung, a Loba woman, removes gravel from rice near the light of a window in her earthen home in Lo Manthang.
worked as a photographer with the Christian Science Monitor, and Newhouse classmate Nina Wegner G’09, a journalist and editor, founded the Vanishing Cultures Project (VCP) in 2011 to document threatened cultures, empower cultural leaders to keep their heritage alive, and improve geographic literacy in the United States. “Our aim is to give indigenous peoples the power to decide their future, while showing the world what an amazingly diverse and endlessly fascinating place our planet is,” Wegner says.

The duo—advised by a three-member executive board that includes Newhouse professor Bruce Strong, a noted international photojournalist and multimedia storyteller—plans to complete one documentary project each year focusing on an endangered indigenous culture. Each project will culminate in a full-color book featuring Weidman’s stunning photography and Wegner’s well-researched prose, as well as an online gallery of prints available for purchase; and an online archive of video, audio, photos, and interview transcripts of the duo’s fieldwork (www.vcproject.org). “I’m grateful to be a part of an organization that is helping to preserve parts of our heritage as a whole, as a human race,” says Strong, who had Weidman as a student in a Newhouse graduate photojournalism course.

This year, the two also started offering a documentary photography workshop to teach people in indigenous communities how to take photos and tell their own stories, so the documentary work can continue long after Wegner and Weidman leave. The pair says documentary journalism has been a powerful tool in their efforts. “We feel that documentary journalism is not only a way to record these beautiful cultures and traditions, but also a way to educate the public about indigenous issues and give some voice and agency to far-flung and little-known communities,” says Wegner, a Huffington Post blogger. “We think indigenous peoples should shape their own future, and that’s why we donate the funds raised through our documentary projects back to grassroots cultural programs run by indigenous leaders.”

Strong believes Weidman and Wegner are setting a compelling example for Newhouse students. “That idea of documenting for future generations the life and culture of a society is important,”
The village of Tangge stands on the edge of a Kali Gandaki tributary in Mustang. The buildings are packed tightly together to help protect residents from the strong winds that kick up each afternoon.
he says. “As photojournalists, that’s what we do, that’s who we are. I believe in what they’re doing, both as a photojournalist and as a professor who wants to encourage entrepreneurial adventures and enterprises within my own industry and by my own students.”

Safeguarding Traditions
For the VCP’s first documentary, Weidman returned with Wegner to the mountains of Upper Mustang, where he first envisioned the project. The region’s remote mountain geography and political autonomy have insulated it from the transformation impacting Tibetan culture, making it one of the last pockets of traditional Tibetan life left in the world. The Buddhist Loba people there still farm with wooden plows and spend hours spinning prayer wheels, chanting mantras, and consulting Buddhist astrologers on every aspect of life. “The people there still live very much as they did 500 years ago when the kingdom was founded,” Weidman told NPR in an interview earlier this year.

But that is changing as a new highway nears completion, connecting remote villages to larger cities and bringing with it opportunity—and accelerating change. And while many Loba laud the arrival of modern conveniences like electricity, well-equipped hospitals, and the chance to travel to nearby Kathmandu and India for school or work, many elders also fear their traditions are eroding fast.

In late 2010 and early 2011, Weidman and Wegner spent months interviewing and photographing the Loba and reporting on the effects of the new highway. Their work culminated in a beautiful photo book, Mustang: Lives and Landscapes of the Lost Tibetan Kingdom, whose proceeds contribute to preserving the Loba culture.

This year, for their second VCP mission, Weidman and Wegner are spending six months in Mongolia, exploring one of the world’s largest remaining nomadic cultures. For millennia, pastoral herd-ers have lived on the Mongolian steppes, grazing livestock on lush grasslands in a centuries-old way of life. Traditional herding communities make up roughly 30 percent of the population in Mongolia, according to Weidman. “But nomadic life is changing very quickly due to a combination of overgrazing, climate change, desertification, and the effects of a rapidly expanding mining industry,” he says.

Weidman and Wegner arrived in Mongolia in mid-March to document the ancient traditions of the nomadic herders, using proceeds from their photographs and reporting to contribute to existing initiatives that work to support traditional lifestyles. “One
of our criteria for working with a traditional community is that they prioritize the safeguarding of their traditions and practices,” Weidman says. “We want to support these initiatives, such as the Arts Council of Mongolia or the government-backed pasture management programs in the western regions of the country.”

Weidman and Wegner often live, eat, and interact with the communities they are documenting for months at a time, experiencing their way of life firsthand. The reception, Wegner says, has been more than gratifying. “I’ve been amazed over and over by the warmth, openness, and curiosity our hosts have shown us,” she writes in an e-mail from Mongolia. “During both our Mongolia and Mustang trips, we’ve been welcomed into people’s homes as total strangers and left as friends. Many of the families we work with have little to give, but they give it openly—they bring us in from the cold, feed us, give us a bed, let us ask impertinent questions, share their stories with us, and teach us games and laugh with us as if we were their family. It moves me every time.”

Indigenous Lessons
In a rapidly changing world in which advances in science and technology are pushing the boundaries of what is possible in modern society, why look backward? Why use precious resources to study dying cultures and “outmoded” ways of life? The answer, Wegner says, lies in those issues science and technology are striving to address. “The modern world has given rise to a host of new problems—energy use, land use, the population explosion, climate change, cultural erosion, pollution—which indigenous wisdom can help address,” she says. “The way indigenous communities have lived sustainably off the land for millennia offers valuable lessons in land and natural resource use. Many of these communities understand their native plants and wildlife better than anybody else in the world, and this knowledge has proved to be invaluable to scientists and medical researchers.”

As a “shoestring nonprofit trying to make an outsize difference for indigenous communities,” the VCP welcomes those interested in promoting the organization’s goals. Weidman and Wegner are looking to grow their fledgling project by expanding their support network. They’re eager to collaborate with professionals in fund raising, publishing, the arts, and in media, education, and policy making who will support their efforts. “I would love over time for more SU alumni to become involved,” Strong says. “To have SU alums support us with resources, skills, or publicity is tremendous.”

The VCP Board of Directors has approved the organization’s next project—entering the world of an Amazonian tribe in Brazil, where a proposed dam may displace tens of thousands of indigenous people. Weidman and Wegner plan to cross the globe to photograph and document the tribe’s way of life, so future generations may benefit from its wisdom. “Indigenous communities are stewards of ancient knowledge, but we can all be the beneficiaries of it,” Wegner says. “We feel like this collective body of human knowledge is a public asset, so everyone should feel a responsibility to protect it.”
As the trauma of war takes its toll, social workers stand at the forefront of helping soldiers, veterans, and their families overcome difficult challenges.

BY CHRISTINE YACKEL

Betsy Ferner G’12 was hesitant when her advisor at the School of Social Work suggested she intern at the VA Medical Center in Syracuse. She was anti-war, had no experience with the military, and knew little about the conflicts in the Middle East. “I saw the VA as a big scary place, but I soon overcame my apprehension when I realized each vet is an individual with immediate needs,” says Ferner, who spent a year interning in the Syracuse VA’s diagnostics and therapeutics department. “The School of Social Work provided me with a great skill set that enabled me to respond to veterans’ needs with professionalism and compassion. I was surprised by how much I liked working with the vets—they stretched me personally.”

Ferner was one of eight master of social work (MSW) degree students in the School of Social Work in the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics to intern at the VA Medical Center during the 2011-12 academic year. Next year, the number will increase to 14. “There’s a growing awareness that soldiers returning from conflicts in the Middle East have been affected profoundly—psychologically, physically, and spiritually—and there’s a great need and desire to care for the people who have sacrificed so much for us,” says Professor Carrie Jefferson Smith, director of the School of Social Work. “Social workers are trained to respond to all people in need, including veterans, in a number of different areas—medical crises, behavioral health, sexual trauma, domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, and grief and loss—in a continuum from childhood to old age.”

Wounds of War

According to the Council on Social Work Education, as early as 1918, clinical social workers were trained to work with soldiers returning from World War I suffering from “shell shock.” By the outbreak of World War II, military social work had become a recognized specialization created to meet the needs of soldiers coming home with “battle fatigue,” and later on, “post-Vietnam syndrome,” and “post-traumatic stress disorder” (PTSD), as combat stress is commonly known today. But it wasn’t until 1989, when Congress authorized the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer special PTSD programs, that outpatient services became widely available to treat vets afflicted with the psychological trauma of war. “Our society believes in the American ideal of rugged individualism and self-reliance, so if you can’t take it, there must be something inherently wrong with you,” Smith says. “But in reality, we see now that PTSD is a normal human reaction to extraordinary situ-
Syracuse University Magazine

Kathleen Glow-Morgan ’90, G’97, social work executive at the Syracuse VA, says in the aftermath of more than a decade of war there has been a huge influx of veterans and their families facing all kinds of challenges that demand the expertise of social workers. For example, The Army Times reports there are 18 suicides per day among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans—a rate exceeding that of the general population and the number of combat deaths in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn combined. Many vets are homeless within six months of returning from combat operations, including women, who are now the fastest growing segment of the homeless veteran population.

National Guardsmen and Reservists often feel adrift after their units disperse and have a difficult time transitioning back to civilian life. There are thousands of young veterans suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury in jails across America who need treatment, not incarceration. And there is an increased awareness and reporting of sexual trauma among both men and women in uniform. “Social workers are uniquely poised to not only address the needs of the soldier or veteran, but also to look at the larger system and the negative impact that soldiers coming back and leaving again is having on them and their families,” Glow-Morgan says. “There’s now recognition that social workers have the skill and training that uniquely prepares them to intervene on behalf of veterans.”

In the last three years alone, the number of social workers in the VA’s 153 medical centers nationwide has grown from 6,000 to more than 9,000 strong—an increase of 30 percent. And

“"All of my courses fully prepared me to assess, advocate, and intervene on behalf of soldiers, veterans, and their families...”

Lt. Col. Eric Ehrmann G’11
the Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced it will be adding 1,900 mental health professionals—including social workers—to its existing 29,500 behavioral health care staff due to a 35 percent increase in the number of veterans seeking mental health services. “I think what’s different now is the increased visibility of women in the military,” says Professor Peg Miller G’87, director of field instruction in the School of Social Work. “There is a greater sense of urgency when we send daughters, wives, and mothers to war.”

**DIRECT PRACTICE**

In the past, student interns placed at the Syracuse VA were exposed mainly to gerontology patients. Today, however, they work with veterans of all ages from all branches of the military. The Syracuse VA employs 70 social workers, many of whom are SU alumni, and offers primary medical and acute care services to vets living within a 13-county area of Central New York, including seven community-based outpatient clinics, the 174th Air National Guard in Syracuse, and the 10th Mountain Division stationed at Fort Drum in Northern New York. The VA also supports Vet Centers, which were created as independent units because Vietnam veterans—most of whom were drafted—didn’t want to have anything to do with the government. “Betsy saw the different styles of social workers, inpatient work, outpatient work, case management, and therapeutic interventions,” says Sara Bush G’00, spinal cord injury coordinator and Ferner’s primary supervisor at the VA. “We took her everywhere we went, including the acute care wards and the psychiatric unit. Patients walk or roll into the VA and you never know what the day will bring.”

**READY TO SERVE**

Men and women of all ages—either civilian or military—are drawn to a career in military social work because they have family members in the service, feel compelled to help those who have answered the call to protect and defend, or are members of the military themselves. Lt. Col. Eric Ehrmann G’11 was stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, when his division was deployed to Iraq in 2003. He was selected to be the rear detachment commander, leaving him responsible for the social welfare of more than 2,000 spouses who remained in Germany during deployment. “My focus was on taking care of them through family readiness, so I developed a chain of command, mutual support, assistance, and a network of communications to keep the spouses informed,” says Ehrmann, who will retire in September after 21 years in the Army. “We had several situations where some of the spouses became depressed and needed professional help, so I started work—

**VETERANS BUREAU**

General Order dated June 16, 1926, established the Social Work program in the Veterans Bureau, outlining its organization and functions. The first year staffing consisted of 36 social workers.
REACHING OUT TO SOLDIERS AND VETERANS

From admitting thousands of returning soldiers under the GI Bill following World War II to launching the new Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse University’s commitment to veterans and active duty personnel is steadfast. Along with training social workers to work with veterans and the military, here are some of the programs and resources SU provides to those who answered the nation’s call.

Institute for Veterans and Military Families is the first national center in higher education focused on the social, economic, education, and policy issues impacting veterans and their families post-service (vets.syr.edu).

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities is a nationally recognized, experiential training program that provides post-9/11 veterans with service-related disabilities the tools they need to achieve the American dream of owning a business (whitman.syr.edu/ebv).

Student Veterans Club provides a library of resources on internships and job placement opportunities and a network of support to student veterans.

Yellow Ribbon Education Enhancement Program is a partnership between Syracuse University and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that covers tuition costs for post-9/11 service-men and -women and their dependents pursuing a degree in higher education (veterans.syr.edu).

SALUTE: Syracuse University Veterans’ Resource Center provides academic and financial aid assistance to student veterans who are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program (veterans.syr.edu), and partners with the Workkeys Center to provide skills assessment, instructional support, and training to prepare veterans for the workplace (workkeys@uc.syr.edu).

Veterans Technology Program is a collaborative initiative between the School of Information Studies and JPMorgan Chase that helps veterans transition from military service to careers in global technology and service corporations (get-vet.syr.edu).

SU Department of Athletics maintains a strong Orange connection with soldiers at Fort Drum. Last year, Coach Jim Boeheim ’66, G’73 and the men’s basketball team spent a day at Fort Drum as guests of the 10th Mountain Division, and soldiers have been invited to attend SU practices and games. In August, the football team held its preseason camp at Fort Drum. In 2011, the department sent a football and basketball to members of the division stationed in Afghanistan. The balls, which were taken on combat operations, were signed and returned to the SU football and men’s basketball squads.

Syracuse Area Intergenerational Veterans’ Writing Group, led by Professor Eileen Schell, chair of SU’s writing program, focuses on nonfiction accounts of life in and out of the military written by veterans of all ages, military branches, and conflicts (eeschell@syr.edu).

James Lyons ’03 Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to honor the sacrifice of an alumnus killed in Iraq by helping the children of fallen soldiers and veterans with disabilities attend SU.
Back in the States, Ehrmann looked for an Army installation within close proximity to a reputable school of social work. Fort Drum and Syracuse University’s School of Social Work fit the bill. He was accepted into the MSW program in 2006, but it took him five years to complete the two-year course of study because he was deployed twice to the Middle East and stationed once in South Korea while studying for his degree. “I did my first field placement in Kuwait under the supervision of a Navy social worker, and I took one class via video teleconferencing while I was there,” says Ehrmann, who serves as deputy of force integration at Fort Drum. “After I retire from active duty, I hope to work at an organization where I can assist veterans and their families to get their lives together and successfully re-integrate into society.”

Ehrmann believes all social workers, not just those planning to work with veterans and the military, would benefit from taking at least one specialized course in military culture that focuses on jargon, rank structure, benefits, the deployment cycle, and the difference between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. “It would be helpful for any social worker to take this course because there are thousands of veterans of all ages out in the community,” he says. “Vets are everywhere and not just at the VA, so there’s a 100 percent chance social workers will encounter veterans throughout their careers, and they need to be familiar with veterans’ benefits and the military’s culture of service and pride.”

During her time at the VA, Ferner says she learned professionalism and a heightened level of respect for individuals. She was also impressed by how firmly the VA adheres to the social work code of ethics. “Despite my initial reluctance, I would love to work with veterans again,” she says. And as Ehrmann prepares to transition from military service to social service, he says he would wholeheartedly recommend the School of Social Work for anyone interested in pursuing a military social work career. “My courses fully prepared me to assess, advocate, and intervene on behalf of soldiers, veterans, and their families, and everyone at the school bent over backwards to ensure I reached my goal,” he says. “I can’t wait to get out there and give something back to a deserving group of individuals who put their lives on the line to defend our country—I’m really looking forward to it.”

Social work interns created the VA’s 2012 Clothesline Project to raise awareness about military sexual trauma. The initiative was based on the concept of the national Clothesline Project, which addresses the issue of domestic violence. Pictured (left to right) are Pertrina Works G’12; Kaitlin Reeder G’12, Janice Creamer ’79, G’85, G’95 (outpatient mental health social worker and military sexual trauma program coordinator), and Britney Parente ’10, G’12.
For four decades, the Community Folk Art Center has nurtured artists of the African Diaspora and served as a welcoming creative space for Syracuse residents of all ages.

BY RACHEL SOMERSTEIN
heli Willetts ’92, G’94, G’02, executive director of the Community Folk Art Center (CFAC) and a professor of African American studies, opens the door to the dance studio. In the darkened space, teenagers bounce to the music, smiling and laughing. The teens, students in CFAC’s Creative Arts Academy (CAA), are preparing for their final performance of the year, the culmination of the three-and-a-half hours they’ve devoted each school day to studying visual and performing arts with professional artists. “It’s a discipline,” Willetts says. And it certainly is: In addition to the rigorous training they receive in ceramics, dance, painting, and theater, as well as the competitive portfolios they develop in their chosen medium, students must maintain a C average in their regular studies. The discipline has other rewards as well: The program boasts a 100-percent college attendance rate among its participants.

CFAC, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this spring with a 300-person, sold-out gala two years in the planning, was founded on Syracuse’s South Side by Herb Williams, a professor with dual appointments in SU’s College of Visual and Performing Arts and College of Arts and Sciences. “At the time, you would have to look far and wide to find any public evidence that there were working...
black artists,” says Mary Schmidt Campbell G’73, G’80, G’82, one of CFAC’s founders and currently dean of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. “They were not represented in museum collections, exhibitions, the literature, in American art history texts. They certainly weren’t in the classrooms.”

The same could have been said for SU. Williams came to the University as part of its affirmative action program, initiated in response to student protests about the lack of diversity among faculty and staff, as well as discrimination experienced by students of color on the football team. With the University’s backing, Williams, who died in 1999, created CFAC as a result of discussions that took place during Art of the Black World, a course he taught in the newly minted African American Studies program. “Students were hearing about African American artists, and artists of the African Diaspora, but not necessarily seeing them,” says Willetts, who currently teaches the course. CFAC—which, in its early days, was known as the Community Folk Art Gallery—was created to fill that gap: to provide students models of artists who looked like them, and to show all people the art-historical contributions made by members of the African Diaspora. Critically, at the same time that Williams and his colleagues aimed to diversify the art-historical landscape, they also intended to create opportunities for local residents to participate in the arts. “What continues to inspire me is they could have kept that on campus…. They could have just made it for themselves,” says Willetts, who started her career with CFAC in 1990, as a work-study student. “Instead, they took it to where the community lives and where the community still lives, which is largely on the South Side of Syracuse.”

The original space was across from a bakery on the South Side, but in the decades since, CFAC would relocate three times: first, in the early ’70s, to a storefront on South Salina Street and Wood Avenue; next, to the former Jewish Community Center building on East Genesee Street; and finally, in 2005, to its current location, 805 East Genesee Street, across from Syracuse Stage along the city’s Connective Corridor.

Despite these moves, CFAC has maintained fidelity to Williams’s founding vision. To that end, its shows have brought to Syracuse iconic examples of artwork made by people of African, Latino, Asian, and Native American descent as well as other heritages and many faiths. Exhibitions have featured works by sculptor and printmaker Elizabeth Catlett, a contemporary of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera; painter Romare Bearden; and, most recently, painter Beverly McIver. Similarly, although not a collecting institution, over the years artists and other patrons have donated work to the center, whose holdings now include the Smithsonian’s first African
collection, which that institution de-accessioned in the 1970s, as well as an important collection of pieces from the AfriCobra (African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists) movement. Launched in Chicago in the late ’60s, AfriCobra “was about letting people know we’re here,” founder Jeff Donaldson, who died in 2004, told The Washington Post in 2000. “And I’m talking about both black and white people, most of whom never saw black people in art.”

Equally important, as evidenced by the CAA and its other young adult programming, which ranges from workshops to film screenings, the center has maintained its commitment to using art for youth development, and to forging connections between Syracuse communities divided by racial, economic, geographic, and other divisions. But perhaps most notable is that, in the decades since its founding, as institutions like it closed down or were folded into other academic programs, CFAC—thanks to a committed team of volunteers, visionary leadership, and support from SU—has continued to thrive.

A Passionate Vision
After earning an M.F.A. degree in ceramics from the University of Michigan, David MacDonald joined Syracuse University as a member of the ceramics faculty in 1971, a year before CFAC was first getting off the ground. A widely known—and widely shown—ceramist, MacDonald lives in the same home where he and his wife, Dorcas, a former librarian at Bird, raised their three children. “Herb Williams was a magnetic personality,” says MacDonald, now a professor emeritus. “He was incredibly passionate about his vision. If you got too close to him, you got sucked into his orbit as a result of his gravitational pull. That’s how I became one of the ‘founders’—and I put that in quotes—because he needed individuals from the community, and also from the campus, to help bring this idea to fruition.” Over the past four decades, MacDonald has been heavily involved in CFAC, setting up its ceramics program, teaching children’s and adult ceramics, and, in recent years, sitting on its board. The center, he says, “gave me an opportunity to
get to know more about the Syracuse community, and to use my skills to benefit my community as well.”

Other volunteers came from the city’s black artists collective, which included local students and artists committed to making “the work of black artists more visible,” Campbell says. Williams’s vision for CFAC and the collective’s “we’ll-do-whatever-it-takes spirit were the perfect match,” says Campbell. Volunteers curated, mounted, and installed exhibitions, wrote the text for catalogs and wall labels, and taught in CFAC’s after-school programs. Jack White, a former Central New York visual artist now based in Austin, Texas, and one of CFAC’s founders, remembers taking exhibitions on the road. For Ten Above Manhattan, a show he organized featuring New York artists, he packed sculpture and works on paper in wagons, which he drove through parts of Tennessee and Mississippi, installing the show at institutions throughout. Through CFAC, the artist also taught drawing and painting classes at the Auburn prison, and even showed some of the works produced at Auburn in shows at the center. “At the beginning you think anything can happen: These guys are murderers, rapists, anything you might think about,” White recalls. “But nothing ever happened. They would hang on everything you say. They were great students.” That the mostly volunteer organization “had so much vitality,” Campbell adds, “was pretty remarkable.”

Also notable is that CFAC provided an opportunity for its volunteers to stretch their legs professionally. At a CFAC opening, for instance, Campbell met the director of the Everson Museum of Art, who asked her to curate a show of black artists. “I had not curated a show start to finish in my life, but I’d done enough piecemeal work at the Folk Art Gallery to give it a try,” she says. Her first curatorial foray resulted in an exhibition of works by Romare Bearden, who traveled with his wife to Syracuse to see it. “Two or three years later [Bearden] called me and urged me to come to a job interview for the Studio Museum in Harlem,” says Campbell, who landed the post in 1977. “There’s a direct link between the Folk Art Gallery and my first really big museum job.” Campbell’s husband, George Campbell Jr., G’77, H’03, also a founder, recently retired as president of Cooper Union; still other founders, such as Shirley Harrison ’73 and Basheer Alim ’74, went on to leadership positions in the corporate world (Alim is also currently an artist). “It was a great place to sink your roots as a burgeoning professional,” Campbell says.

MacDonald adds that SU’s African American Studies program has also played a decisive role in CFAC’s continuity. At other schools, black studies courses and faculty have been absorbed into other departments. But at SU, African American studies is still a degree program, he says. “The fact that African American studies was allowed to remain a distinct academic unit is a very important difference from what has historically happened with black studies programs at other academic institutions. That structural concern enabled the African American Studies program, and through that the Community Folk Art Center, to maintain a certain amount of integrity and autonomy.”

Finally, Campbell, MacDonald, and Willetts credit CFAC’s survival to the University’s support over the past 40 years. “I think it is to Syracuse University’s credit that they had the foresight and vision to recognize that this was a real asset,” Campbell says. Recently, MacDonald adds, the center has especially benefited from Chancellor Nancy Cantor’s commitment to forging stronger relationships between the University and the community. “There was a considerable upgrade in facilities, a greater subsidy by the University in terms of staff salaries, and programming money as well,” he says of CFAC during Cantor’s tenure.

At the same time, CFAC has maintained its
connection to the local community. “When kids came in, we gave them classes, and if they were hungry, we tried to get them something to eat,” Willetts says of her experience at CFAC as a work-study student. “We had to nurture; we had to create a safe space. I would like to believe that we still continue to create a safe space.” To that end, and as it has for four decades, CFAC hosts a juried exhibition each year open to area teens; the organization still provides door-to-door transportation for students who attend its programs. Overall, Willetts says, the University respects CFAC’s autonomy in such a way that recognizes the organization as a fundamentally grassroots institution. In that way, CFAC is an early example of Chancellor Cantor’s Scholarship in Action vision. “We engaged in community engagement from the very beginning,” Willetts says. “This was their ‘community engagement’ idea before anyone coined it anything. It’s just what we did. We are literally a living, 40-year-old manifestation of it, which is why we know that idea works.”

**Bridging Communities**

In the coming years, Willetts hopes to cultivate patrons—corporations and private donors—for long-term, sustained support. Because CFAC has only had its official nonprofit designation since 2005, she says, the organization has not long been in the position to cultivate these types of relationships. She also hopes to create memberships to CFAC, but in such a way that maintains the organization’s commitment to low- and no-cost access, and that does not “create a new sense of class division,” she says. “We don’t want to create a new barrier, because our job is to dismantle barriers.”

Willetts would also like to continue to forge connections throughout the community, which she says can be challenging. “No one asks why or why not they go to the Everson,” she says. “They go because they enjoy the space. But when it comes to the CFAC, people say, ‘I’m not black.’ OK. I’m not a ceramist—but I go to the Everson.”

MacDonald has observed a similar response about CFAC among some members of the art community. “Some people feel, ‘Well, that’s for the black people. That’s not for us,’” he says. In fact, one of CFAC’s objectives was—and continues to be—“to expose the dominant culture to aspects of the minority culture,” MacDonald says.

Or, as Willetts puts it, the relationship is about building bridges. “I really consider the Community Folk Art Center a meeting place, in that we build bridges between communities,” she says. “I love to continue to encourage people to explore.”
Here are some highlights of the 158th Commencement of Syracuse University and the 115th Commencement of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, held on May 13 in the Carrier Dome:

**DEGREES CONFERRED**
SU, 5,056; SUNY ESF, 637.

**CLASS MARSHALS**
Patrick J. Alvarez, College of Visual and Performing Arts, and Stephen A. Barton, College of Arts and Sciences

**STUDENT SPEAKER**
Stephen A. Barton, University Scholar

**HONORARY DOCTORAL RECIPIENTS**
Joel Louis Lebowitz G’55, G’56, George William Hill Professor of Mathematics and Physics and director of the Center for Mathematical Sciences Research at Rutgers University, and human rights activist (Doctor of Science); Patricia Anne Moore, gerontologist and designer (Doctor of Fine Arts); Carl J. Schramm, entrepreneur and former president of the Kauffman Foundation (Doctor of Humane Letters); Aaron Sorkin ’83, award-winning screenwriter, producer, and playwright (Doctor of Fine Arts).

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**
Aaron Sorkin ’83

**QUOTING SORKIN**
Today is May 13th and today you graduate and the rules are about to change, and one of them is this: Decisions are made by those who show up. Don’t ever forget that you’re a citizen of this world. Don’t ever forget that you’re a citizen of this world, and there are things you can do to lift the human spirit, things that are easy, things that are free, things that you can do every day. Civility, respect, kindness, character. You’re too good for schadenfreude, you’re too good for gossip and snark, you’re too good for intolerance—and since you’re walking into the middle of a presidential election, it’s worth mentioning that you’re too good to think people who disagree with you are your enemy. Unless they went to Georgetown, in which case, they can go to hell. Don’t ever forget that a small group of thoughtful people can change the world. It’s the only thing that ever has.

Rehearsal’s over. You’re going out there now, you’re going to do this thing. How you live matters. You’re going to fall down, but the world doesn’t care how many times you fall down, as long as it’s one fewer than the number of times you get back up.
TO VIEW MORE COMMENCEMENT photos and a video of Aaron Sorkin’s address, go to sumagazine.syredu and click on the links.
DANNY ZUKER WAS DAYS AWAY from delivering the keynote at the 2012 Newhouse School Convocation, and he was worried about...not being funny. “They’re expecting funny,” he says. “It will be quite a disappointment if I’m dry.”

Sometimes it’s hard to tell if Zuker, the Emmy Award-winning writer and co-executive producer for ABC’s Modern Family, is joking, but it’s safe to assume he is. Turns out being funny comes naturally to Zuker—and always has. Here are excerpts of his phone conversation with SU Magazine contributing writer Wendy Loughlin G’95, Newhouse’s communications director.

When did you decide you wanted to do comedy?
My grandfather was a bartender at a hotel in the Catskills, and he knew all the performers. When I was about 5, he introduced one of them as a comedian, and I asked what that meant. He told me it’s someone who tells jokes. A light bulb went on, the heavens opened up, angels started singing. I thought, “Wait, you can get paid to do that?” To me that was the ultimate job.

Were you always funny?
I started doing stand-up comedy when I was 16. I would sneak into Manhattan and talk my way into clubs—I have always looked older than I actually am, which is a drag now that I’m 48—and I’d do this really terrible stand-up. I kept doing it all through college and got up to the level of mediocre.

What was your first “big break”?
I can trace my entire career back to a college internship. I was working on the show PM Magazine with executive producer Steve Schwartz [now a Hollywood producer]. After graduation, I moved to the city and worked odd jobs, including making videos about developmentally disabled kids—not exactly the best job for a comedy writer. Schwartz was putting together a talk show for Howard Stern, and he hired me as a PA [production assistant]. That was my first job in show business.

Tell me about your first writing gig.
My first time as a paid writer was on The Arsenio Hall Show. I was basically a glorified PA, but I submitted jokes every day for three weeks and was writing a large portion of the monologue. Finally, Arsenio called me in and said, “I either have to fire you or hire you [as a writer].” So he hired me. And now I make a living writing jokes, which a lot of people say you can’t do. I think it’s all about the luck of throwing yourself out there and finding a way.

You were working on another project when you saw the pilot for Modern Family and you wanted in. What drew you to the show?
I’m a father of three, I live in the suburbs, I’m not terribly unlike Phil Dunphy. I could relate to it. And the cast: It’s like lightning in a bottle. Good writing has never saved bad acting, but good acting has often saved middle-of-the-road writing.

You’re very active on Twitter [@DannyZuker], and hilarious. How did that come about?
At first I didn’t get it. I went a year or more without tweeting anything, except “How does this work?” Then I heard about people amassing followers by telling jokes, and I could see the utility. Twitter is like a whole new form of stand-up, and it forces you to write, and you get feedback, and you can do it all day. I got a rush out of it. And it’s a democratizing tool. You can put jokes out there and if you’re funny, and funny every day, eventually people will notice and you’ll get picked up.

In 140 characters or less, what’s your best piece of advice for students who want to go into the entertainment industry?
Send someone else your spec script.

Postscript: Zuker was decidedly not “dry” at the Newhouse Convocation ceremony. Watch the video at www.youtube.com/NewhouseSU.
WHEN ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST CARA HOWE G’10 DELVED INTO THE Syracuse University Archives to select photos and printed material for an online exhibition featuring coeds’ fashion trends, she discovered there was too much historic material to research and present in one exhibition. “Our collection is massive, so I decided to narrow my focus to the years between 1870 and the 1950s because women’s fashions saw a big transition during this time period,” Howe says. “At the beginning of the 20th century, college women played sports wearing knee-length skirts with leggings underneath, but by the 1950s, coeds were walking around campus wearing pants and Bermuda shorts.”

Howe, who holds a master’s degree in library and information science from the School of Information Studies and is pursuing a master’s degree in museum studies from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, curated the exhibition Changing Women’s Fashion: A Look at Coeds’ Clothing on SU’s Campus from Pre-1900-1950s as a class project. She began by pulling items from the archives’ more than 6,200 digitized images, searching through photo collections, and looking through copies of the Onondagan yearbook for team photos showing women’s athletic apparel and head shots depicting the latest hair-styles, necklines, jewelry, and accessories. “Our yearbook collection, which dates back to 1878, was also a good source for local department store ads featuring fashions for women,” says Howe, who works with the Pan Am 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives in the Department of Archives and Records Management. “And I was able to use student publications and campus newspapers for additional material as well as a few alumni scrapbooks that have been donated to SU.”

The selected items featuring women’s formal, casual, and athletic attire were scanned into the archival database and then tweaked to produce crisp, high-quality images. To write captions for the images, Howe pored over historical fashion books for accurate descriptions of various styles and the correct terms for assorted necklines and silhouettes. The fashion exhibition, which went live in March, will be featured through December, after which it will become part of archive’s permanent online collection (archives.syr.edu/exhibits/fashion). “The exhibitions never end, they are just no longer featured,” Howe says. “We’re planning to present one large online exhibition a year. Fortunately, we have a long list of topic ideas that will keep us busy for quite some time.”

—Christine Yackel
TREASURED MEMORIES

THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES and Records Management has been mounting online exhibitions since 1997. Over the years, the technology and format have changed, and more recent exhibitions are larger in scale, but all highlight memorable moments in SU’s remarkable history. Below is a sampling of recent online exhibitions of interest to alumni and academic researchers.

From the Waltz to the Jitterbug: Dances at Syracuse University, 1900-1960
SUNY ESF and SU: 100 Years of Collaboration
Tip It, Frosh! The First-Year Student through SU’s History
Handle with Care: Glass Plate Negative and Lantern Slide Collections at the SU Archives
50 For 50 Years!
The Art of the Onondagan II
HOODOO! The Syracuse/Colgate Football Rivalry

To view the complete collection, go to archives.syr.edu/exhibits/.

Cheerleaders with the 1947 Football Queen (top) exhibit pleats in their skirts that provided more movement than their straight-cut predecessors of the ’30s. The second decade of the 20th century (above left, circa 1911-15) saw a significant simplification of female dress. Bermuda shorts (above center) became popular in the ’30s, but were frequently banned from women’s wear and remained a heated issue into the ’50s. During World War I, women participated in the war effort on a large scale, necessitating functional garments. The female student on the left even appears to be wearing soldier’s breeches.
IN THE PAST, PEOPLE MAY HAVE thought of Syracuse University as an iconic campus nestled amongst the rolling hills of Central New York. That has changed dramatically with a focus on “Geographies of Opportunity,” those key regions throughout the country and the world where many of our applicants, students, and alumni live.

In one of her first vision statements on Scholarship in Action, Chancellor Cantor issued the following challenge: “We need to be engaged with the world and the pressing concerns of the day.... To do this we are reaching out—in a disciplined and programmatic manner—beyond our ‘Hill’...raising our profile in the great cities of the world, from London to Beijing.”

SU has always been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as having one of the highest quality study abroad programs in the nation, with study centers in more than 30 countries, in such cities as Beijing, Florence, Hong Kong, Istanbul, London, Madrid, Santiago, and Strasbourg. What Chancellor Cantor had in mind, though, was much more—to demonstrate an increased commitment to welcoming international students, to better prepare graduates for an increasingly connected—and complex—global society, and to create and strengthen lifelong bonds and more closely engage with alumni throughout the world. Seven years later, one can only marvel at how the Chancellor’s challenge has been met. International enrollment is at a record high of more than 2,000 students representing nearly 130 countries. There are almost 10,000 SU alumni living outside the United States, with the largest concentrations in Canada, India, Taiwan, and South Korea, and also in places like Sierra Leone, the West Indies, and Bolivia. We have international clubs in 13 areas around the world. We opened an office in Dubai in June 2011 and have an expanded presence in Istanbul as well. Last year, a contingent of SU trustees and senior administrators traveled to Dubai and Istanbul to meet with local alumni to strengthen ties with them and their countries.

Although there are many examples of SU alumni “in the world, for the world,” I will share one. Last year, Greg Bilazarian ’06 decided he had done his last television news stand-up in a snowstorm in Toledo, Ohio. So, he traveled to Armenia to do volunteer work and then got a paid position as a producer for a fledgling national news operation. He now works for Civilitas Foundation, the parent organization for CivilNet TV, where, after starting from zero, he co-manages the Internet-based news operation.

While it may be a “small world after all,” Syracuse University is poised to continue to extend its borders to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent global dynamic and to become a leader in international educational engagement.

Bonnie Spector ’78
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association
JOSH YOUNG SLID OUT ON STAGE, IN A SHINY, ELECTRIC blue suit, looking for all the world like a polished televangelist seeking to win souls and capture the congregation’s attention. And did he ever capture our attention. His charisma on stage as Judas Iscariot in Jesus Christ Superstar on Broadway reaches out and virtually grabs theater-goers by the shoulders and shakes them. It’s not that I’m a theater aficionado, no connoisseur of stage, but I know what I like. And I like Josh Young.

It’s Josh’s first role on Broadway, and yet this newcomer to the Great White Way has made a giant splash, garnering a Tony nomination for his portrayal of the betrayer of Jesus. “I just had a different take on the role,” he says. “I wasn’t willing to take another performer’s interpretation. Judas is often portrayed in a far less sympathetic light, a bad boy, a high tenor screeching, a rock ‘n’ roll screamer. It’s not me.”

Still, Josh definitely hits the high notes, and his high notes make me want to rush down the aisle and bow at the altar. It makes for a momentous “Come to Jesus” moment. He plays Judas as “a good person in a bad situation—a guy who makes a tough choice, leading to the demise of his close friend,” he says.

Josh Young had his own tough choices to make in real life, just as JCS was opening. For a month this spring, he was sick with an upper respiratory infection, bronchitis, sinusitis, and bacterial laryngitis. “If you can’t breathe, you can’t sing,” he tells me. “I thought, ‘My career’s over.’” But he knew the influential reviewers, the true tastemakers of theater, would show up, and Josh thought he should too.

So he battled through the breathing problems and performed on opening night. And he managed to do so for at least a quarter of the shows throughout the month while suffering through his illness. The reviewers, it appeared, couldn’t tell. The New York Times described Josh’s voice as “rangy, powerful and pure.” The Hollywood Reporter called Josh, “the production’s key onstage asset” and described his vocals as “electrifying.”

Josh gives much of the credit for his success so far to his alma mater. It was not only the high expectations of his professors at the College of Visual and Performing Arts, but also what Syracuse University gave him as an alumnus. Between gigs after graduation, Josh asked to audit SU drama classes in New York City, offered as part of the Tepper Semester for undergraduate drama students. “I tried out songs in front of those classes and without that experience, I wouldn’t be here,” he says.

Josh firmly believes the University gives student actors an edge over the competition. “They get the acting toolbelts at SU,” he says. “Then they get the senior semester in New York, the master classes, it’s a big leg up.”

Josh Young is already in good company, joining other illustrious alumni performers nominated for 2012 Tony Awards: Frank Langella ’59 for Man and Boy, and Jessie Mueller ’05 for On a Clear Day You Can See Forever. And he’s enjoying the attention he gets from alumni fans. “It’s pretty cool,” he says. “People come up to me; they went to Syracuse or saw me in shows at Syracuse... I hope it’s bringing more attention to the school.”

Our shared SU connection is the reason why I introduced myself to Josh backstage after the show, why I asked to interview him for Syracuse University Magazine. It was also the reason I was so disappointed when he didn’t win the Tony for Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Musical (for more on the Tonys, see page 62). But Josh himself is rather pragmatic about the loss. “I was happy with the nomination,” he says. “I’ll have many more opportunities.”

Veteran television journalist Contessa Brewer ’96 is an anchor for NBCUniversal and host of MSNBC’s Caught on Camera. She is also a member of the SU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Arthur J. Roth '61 (A&S) of Loudonville, N.Y., is a directorat-large of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. A tax consultant with Mayer Brown, he was the commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance from 1999 to 2003.

Frances Pokras Yariv '61 (A&S), G'64 (EDU) of Pasadena, Calif., enjoyed a 50th reunion get-together with her Sigma Delta Tau pledge class of 1957 in Norwich, Conn., in May.

Joyce Dallaportas '62, G'70, G'75, G'88 (A&S) received a citation from the archivist of the Henry Moore Foundation in England, acknowledging that the foundation’s copy of her dissertation on sculptor Henry Moore and author D.H. Lawrence is the only piece of work in its collection dealing with the two. The acknowledgment validates her vision of bringing the pair together to show their intertwined themes and modes of expression.

Robert V. Rose '63 (A&S) is a retired physician who did an online survey of “Teachers Applying Whole Language” to test his belief that teaching children to write the alphabet to a definable level of fluency would facilitate the acquisition of literacy, and he found an overwhelmingly positive correlation. He also published an article about his survey in *Pen World Magazine*.

Richard deRosa '65 (A&S), who lives with his wife, Sandy, on a 10-acre hillside outside the village of Cooperstown, N.Y., wrote *Hawthorn Hill Journal: Selected Essays* (Sunnyside Press). His collection of essays covers a wide range of topics, including politics, art and culture, hiking, family teaching, raising chickens, and the joys of gardening (jderosa.com).

Allan Hyman '65 (A&S) of Sands Point, N.Y., was honored by the Nassau County Bar Association WE CARE FUND for working to improve the quality of life for children, the elderly, and others in need throughout the county.


Patrick Morelli '66 (A&S) is an internationally recognized sculptor and architectural designer. He gave a presentation at the King National Historic site in Atlanta about the personal and professional challenges he faced during his 10-year odyssey to create *Behold*, a 10-foot bronze statue of a father holding his infant, which overlooks Dr. Martin Luther King’s tomb at the historic site (www.MorelliART.com).

Robert Coleman '67 (SDA) of Atlanta received an Industry Statesman Award during the American Coatings Association's 125th anniversary reception and dinner held in Indianapolis in May. The award is given in recognition and appreciation to a person near retirement for his or her long and devoted service to the paint and coating industry.

Richard Spiegel '67 (A&S) of Staten Island runs Ten Penny Players Inc. with his wife, Barbara Fisher. The company, which Fisher started as a children’s theater in 1967, focuses on publishing poetry and providing creative writing programs through its Waterways Project.

Dennis E. Bradford '68 (A&S) wrote *A Dark Time* (Ironox Works Inc.), a novel about a student who vanishes from SUNY Geneseo in New York.

Lawrence Brill '68 (WSM) practices law and is a principal at Export Trade Consultants in Columbia, Md.

Charles W. Dayton G'68 (A&S) of Nevada City, Calif., is working on a series of mystery novels.

William “Biff” Olson ’68 (WSM) of Hendersonville, N.C., published two e-books, *Listening for Blue Fog* (Hukilau, 2011) and *The Ahhh* (Hukilau, 2012). Both novels have received five-star ratings from Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com.

Alan Gordon L’69 (LAW) is the national executive director of the American Guild of Musical Artists, which represents opera singers, and ballet and modern dancers.

Robert L. Kravitz '69 (NEW/SDA) of Scottsdale, Ariz., earned Master Chaplain credentials from the International Conference of Police Chaplains. Rabbi Kravitz, who serves as...
coordinator of the Roth Family Hospital Chaplaincy of Jewish Family & Children’s Service, delivered the Centennial Invocation to open the session of the Arizona House of Representatives on Statehood Day on February 14.

**70s**

**Victoria Brown ’70** (NEW) of Boca Raton, Fla., wrote and self-published Zemsta (Woodchuck Publishers), an historical fiction and suspense novel about the Prohibition era.

**Augustine F. Ubaldi ’70** (LCS) of North Olmstead, Ohio, gave a live interview on the CBC Canada television program Connect with Mark Kelley regarding the February 26, 2012, VIA Rail derailment.

**Joseph Agonito G’72** (MAX) of Syracuse published his third book, Lakota Portraits: Lives of the Legendary Plains People (Morris Book Publishing, 2011). He received the Western Heritage Award for Best Western Novel in 2006 for Buffalo Calf Road Woman, the Story of a Warrior of the Little Bighorn (Morris Book Publishing), a book he co-authored with his wife, Rosemary Agonito.

**Karen DeCrew L’T72** (LAW) spoke at the plenary session of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York in June. She was also invited to be one of 15 special guest readers at an event sponsored by the Syracuse James Joyce Club.

**Stephen Landrigan ’72** (NEW) of West Roxbury, Mass., is a journalist and playwright who co-authored Shakespeare in Kabul (Haus Publishing), a book that chronicles a production of Shakespeare’s Love’s Labour’s Lost he helped produce in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2005 and 2006 (www.shakespeareinkabul.com).

**40s**

**Rose Ciotta ’75** (A&S/NEW), senior projects editor at The Philadelphia Inquirer, was a member of the newspaper’s team that was awarded the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. The Inquirer published a seven-part series, “Assault on Learning,” which documented widespread violence in the Philadelphia School District that was largely underreported by the district. The Pulitzer committee cited the newspaper for “its exploration of pervasive violence in the city’s schools, using powerful print narratives and videos to illuminate crimes committed by children against children and to stir reforms to improve safety for teachers and students.” Ciotta, a veteran editor and investigative reporter, is also the author of Cruel Games: A Brilliant Professor, A Loving Mother, A Brutal Murder (St. Martin’s Griffin, 2009), a true crime story about a University of Pennsylvania professor who killed his wife in 2006.
IN HER VERY FIRST CLASS AT SU, CAROL MARTINEAU BALDWIN sat next to the young man she would one day marry. But at 5-foot-11, she would not accept his invitation to a dance unless he met her height requirement. “If he had been shorter than me, I wouldn’t have gone out with him,” says Baldwin, a native Syracusan who together with her grandparents, parents, and four of her grandchildren comprise a long line of SU graduates. Fortunately, Alexander Baldwin ’53, G’54 passed the test, and the couple went on to marry, move to Long Island, and raise six children, including the four Baldwin brothers—Alec, Daniel, William, and Stephen—of stage, screen, and television fame.

Baldwin says her sons must have inherited their acting ability from her because she gave an award-worthy performance at Stephen’s wedding just a few weeks after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1990. Her doctor advised against having surgery before the big event, so Baldwin pulled herself together, put on her best game face, and mingled with 400 wedding guests without letting on about what awaited her in the coming days. “I put on a great show at the wedding, although my heart was broken because I knew what I was going home to,” says Baldwin, who moved back to Syracuse in 1987 a few years after her husband died. “Two days later, I had both of my breasts removed.”

Out of six sisters, Baldwin was the first of three to be diagnosed with breast cancer. But she turned heartbreak into healing by taking a leadership role in the founding of the first Susan G. Komen Foundation chapter in Central New York to help advance the search for a cure and to provide a support group for women dealing with the trauma of undergoing breast cancer surgery and treatment. “After surgery you look at your body and it’s so devastating,” Baldwin says. “That’s why I’ll talk to anyone in need of support any time of day or night because your family really doesn’t understand what you’re going through, and you don’t want to frighten your children by telling them every time you get a pain in your toe you’re worried it might be a reoccurrence of cancer.”

While visiting a friend on Long Island, Baldwin happened to see a television program about a breast cancer mapping project in West Islip. Before long she was going door to door collecting data for the Long Island project and then launched a similar mapping project in Syracuse and Onondaga County to gather critical information about the incidence and prevalence of breast cancer in the region. In 1996, in recognition of her dedication to finding a cure, Stony Brook University named its new breast cancer diagnostic and treatment facility the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Care Center—one of only seven centers in the world now equipped with a tomosynthesis machine that features 3-D diagnostic technology. Members of her family were so moved by this honor they established the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund to help support research about the disease at Stony Brook, raising $4.2 million to date.

When Baldwin was approached about establishing a similar fund to support breast cancer research in her own community, she and her family created the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund of Central New York, which supports the work of surgeons, oncologists,
and radiologists at SUNY Upstate Medical University. All of the proceeds raised in Central New York through a variety of fund-raising events stay in the local community (for a list of fund-raising events, go to www.findacurecny.org). “For every $50,000 grant we give, we make it in memory of a woman who lost her fight against breast cancer,” says Baldwin’s daughter Beth, executive director of the fund. “We also present a photo of the person who died, the title of the grant, and the name of her doctor. So far we have 40 framed pictures.”

For the Baldwin family, it’s all hands on deck when it comes to raising funds for breast cancer research. Carol is chairwoman of the fund’s board, sons Alec and William serve on the board of the Stony Brook center, while Stephen and Daniel are actively involved in the Upstate chapter, and daughter Jane sits on the board. And in addition to her duties as the fund’s executive director, Beth spends hours at the hospital sitting with patients and their families before, during, and after surgery, and throughout chemotherapy treatments. “My brother Alec makes an annual donation that allows us to send out pink blankets with a handwritten note of encouragement from our mother to women undergoing breast cancer treatment,” Beth Baldwin says. “We’ve also established an endowed lecture series to bring in breast cancer experts to share their knowledge with medical professionals from around the region, and we’ve created a second endowment with a $3.5 million goal to ensure research funds will be available for however long it takes to find a cure.”

With an eye toward preparing the next generation of Baldwins to carry on Carol’s quest for a cure, the newest team members are her granddaughters, Jill Keuchler ’11, who serves as Beth’s administrative assistant, and Jacqueline Baldwin-Calveric ’01, who acts as the fund’s ambassador. “I do the public relations work, go to events with my grandmother, emcee fund-raising events with whichever one of my famous uncles has time to fly in at the last minute, and I’m in charge of our annual run/walk on the SU campus,” she says. “It took me a year to plan the first A Run for Their Life event, but it was worth it because we raised $153,000. My grandmother and I are going to be featured on billboards around town promoting our second run/walk in October, so I’m hoping to surpass the amount we raised last year.”

At age 82, Baldwin is keenly aware a cure for breast cancer may not be found in her lifetime. But she is comforted by her family’s promise to never stop working until her search for a cure is fulfilled. “You have to understand that I’m not an activist, I’m a crusader,” Baldwin says. “And it is all of the people crusading with me now and in the future who will help us win the battle against breast cancer. Together we will find a cure.”

KUDOS FOR CAROL

Carol Baldwin ’52 enjoys the support of her granddaughter Jacqueline Baldwin-Calveric ’01, who serves as an ambassador for the breast cancer research fund the family established in Central New York. Participants (below) take off at the start of the 2011 A Run for Their Life event.

Carol Baldwin has been featured in People magazine, appeared on the Oprah Winfrey, David Letterman, and Montel Williams television shows, among others, and has received numerous awards for her dedication to the cause. Most recently, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations awarded her the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which pays homage to remarkable Americans who create a better world in the future by the work they do today. Other honors include:

Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award-Community Service, L.I. Association
Gilda’s Club, New York City
2002 Grey Goose Vodka Award
Pink Ribbon Pioneer Award, Self Magazine
Woman of the Year, Junior League of Long Island
Special Achievement Award, Three Village Community & Youth Services Inc.
Key to the Town of Brookhaven
Patron Award, Stony Brook School of Medicine
Lisa Cowan Memorial Award, The Sass Foundation
Cancer Survivors Hall of Fame
2008 Women of the Year, Regina Coeli Society
JASON JEDLINSKI VIV- idly remembers the sunny afternoon in 1995 when he met new classmates who had been editors of high school newspapers and campus TV stations. He knew right away they shared his enthusiasm for journalism and he could learn from them. “I was excited to see a lot of passionate students all gathered in Newhouse,” he recalls. “I really felt I made the right choice for the upcoming four years.”

Along with the memory of his first day as a first-year student, the Chicago native had what he calls “wonderful times” at the University. He majored in broadcast journalism at Newhouse and obtained hands-on experience of storytelling on various platforms. “Newhouse taught me technology will change,” says Jedlinski, now the vice president of digital products and platforms at Tribune Broadcasting, a subsidiary of Tribune Company in Chicago. “But the way you tell a story and the value of original reporting endures.” He complemented his journalism skills by taking courses in policy studies at the Maxwell School. With lessons learned in class and an internship at Syracuse’s WSTM-TV, Jedlinski landed a job at WGN-TV in Chicago as a part-time overnight newswriter immediately after graduation.

Glad to be back in the city he is proud to call home, Jedlinski started his workdays at 2 a.m., observed others in the newsroom, and kept volunteering for assignments. “Hey, give me a shot, let me try it,” he’d say. Within two years, he was promoted from the assignment desk to producer of the station’s investigative unit. Four years later, Jedlinski accepted a position at Fox Chicago News as a special projects producer. In the meantime, he volunteered for the Chicago Headline Club, the largest chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and became its president in 2006. Ready for the next challenge, he joined Tribune Interactive that year, managing content for the TV station’s web sites. “That was a kind of turning point for me,” he says. “It allowed me to learn a lot of things, especially about the business of journalism I hadn’t been exposed to before.” When describing his current work, Jedlinski becomes excited, explaining exhaustively how the emergence of technologies is reshaping the way TV stations distribute content and how they will use that opportunity to share information with unlimited audiences. “It’s no longer about one channel, one time,” he says. “It’s about getting content anywhere people want to see it. We have a lot of opportunities, a lot of potential in that space.”

Along with his professional endeavors, Jedlinski dedicates himself to giving back to the SU community. As a member of the SU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Newhouse Network Board of Directors, and the University’s Chicago Regional Council, he describes himself as a “catalyst” who helps alumni reconnect with SU. He enjoys returning to campus, speaking with students and offering them advice. “I love hearing their concerns,” Jedlinski says. “It’s always a great opportunity to reassure them. The outlook is not as gloomy as they may read sometimes. There are a lot of exciting innovations and opportunities to do creative, groundbreaking work.”

When asked what he expects for the media in the future, Jedlinski chuckles. “More change,” he says. “What keeps me interested and excited every morning is knowing there will be new technologies, new things continuing to arrive. I expect information is going to be more and more accessible and there will continue to be important roles for journalists to play.”

—Yuhan Xu
Janet Roseman ’76 (EDU) of Boca Raton, Fla., is a clinical assistant professor in family medicine at Nova Southeastern University School of Medicine, specializing in the areas of compassion, presence, spirituality, and medicine.

Steven A. Paquette ’77 (NEW), L’79 (LAW), a member of the Bousquet Holstein law firm in Syracuse, is a certified Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a member of the board of directors of the Central New York Collaborative Family Law Professionals.

William Crossett IV ’78 (A&S) of Fayetteville, N.Y., was inducted as a Fellow of the College of Workers’ Compensation Lawyers for his sustained contribution to the field at large. He is a partner in the law firm of Meggesto, Crossett & Valerino in Syracuse.

Lauren Overs Hunnicutt ’78 (A&S), a managing real estate broker in the greater Seattle area, earned membership in the International Diamond Society, a level achieved by only the top 8 percent of all Realtors in the Coldwell Banker system worldwide.

Fran Becque ’79 (FALK/NEW) of Carbondale, Ill., started Focus on Fraternity History, a blog about women in higher education and the history of women’s fraternities (www.franbecque.com).

Crystal Godfrey LaPoint ’79, G’84, G’88 (VPA) of Fitchburg, Mass., is an accomplished composer and artist. She wrote When My Mommy Cries (Balboa Press, 2012), a book that translates a tale of mutual understanding to help families cope with sadness.

Lizz Lund ’83 (VPA) of Lancaster, Pa., wrote Kitchen Addiction (CreateSpace, 2011), her first novel of the Mina Kitchen series. A sequel, Confection Connection, will be published soon.

Dave Giambattista ’84 (WSM) is vice president, human resources, enterprise BPO at ACS Inc., a Xerox company.

David Rufo ’84 (VPA) had his article “Building Forts and Drawing on Walls: Fostering Student-Initiated Creativity Inside and Outside the Elementary Classroom” published in the May issue of Art Education.

Mary Alice Smolarek ’84 (A&S), a partner in the Wright, Constable & Skenne law firm in Baltimore, was selected for inclusion in the 2012 Super Lawyers in Maryland for estate planning and probate. She also was named to the 2012 “Top Women Lawyers in the Northeast” in Maryland for trust and estates, wills and probate by Martindale-Hubbell.

Charles Finn ’86 (NEW) of Elizabeth, N.J., is editor of High Desert Journal, a literary and fine arts magazine out of Bend, Oregon. He wrote Wild Delicate Seconds: 29 Wildlife Encounters (OSU Press), a collection of micro-essays that border on prose poems.

David Kelly ’86 (LCS) of West Newton, Mass., wrote The Ballpark Mysteries (Random House Books for Young Readers, 2011), a series of chapter books for elementary school children that follows two cousins who encounter mysteries when they visit different Major League Baseball parks (www.ballparkmysteries.com).

Tracy Kinne ’86 (NEW) took honorable mention in the general non-fiction category at the 2012 Paris Book Festival for On Sale: Employers Get Good Workers Dirt Cheap, her memoir about working as a low-wage cashier and sales associate after taking a buyout from her 21-year career as a journalist (www.tracykinnebooks.com).

Robert Odawi Porter ’86 (A&S) is president of the Seneca Nation, one of the six nations of the Haundenosaunee Confederacy. When elected president, Porter took a leave from his position of professor of law, Dean’s Research Scholar of Indigenous Nations Law, and director of the Center for Indigenous Law, Governance and Citizenship at SU’s College of Law. A resident of Salamanca, N.Y., he was honored with a distinguished alumnus award by Syracuse University’s Western New York Alumni Association.

Kevin Twitchell ’86 (NEW), vice president of global sales and partnerships for New Video headquartered in New York City, is a member of the board of directors of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function, a nonprofit organization internationally recognized for its groundbreaking programs involving music therapy.

Erica Branch-Ridley ’87 (VPA/NEW) of West Orange, N.J., is vice president, executive in charge of production, for Sesame Learning, where she is responsible for working across multiple platforms and connecting various Sesame Workshop departments to ensure the greatest benefit of their mission-driven content.

Sheryl Kahn Berk ’90 (NEW), a New York Times bestselling author, collaborated with TV star Tia Mowry on her memoir, Oh, Baby! and with Jersey Shore’s JWoww on her Rules According to JWoww. She also co-wrote Soul Surfer, which was a major motion picture last summer. Berk and her 9-year-old daughter, Carrie, authored The Cupcake Club: Peace, Love and Cupcakes, a new children’s book series (www.facebook.com/PLCCupcakeClub).
Syracuse University Magazine

launched RAINRAP, a company that launched RAINRAP, a company.

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Nukk-Freeman & Cerra. She was selected by the

CityCenterDC project in

Kerrie Restieri Heslin '91 (WSM) of New York City is a partner in the

field operations of the $425

(ARC) is vice president at Clark Foundation Group, where he is responsible for the field operations of the $425 million CityCenter DC project in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Hickey ’94 (A&S), a partner in the Choate, Hall & Stewart law firm in Boston, was named a “40 Under 40 Deal Makers” finalist for 2012 by The M&A Advisor, an organization that recognizes and connects the world’s leading merger and acquisition, financing, and turnaround professionals (www.moadvisor.com/).

Andrew Kaffes ’94 (NEW), president of A.G. Kaffes & Associates, a public relations firm located in Washington, D.C., was named one of Greek America’s “Forty Under 40” by the Greek America Foundation (www.greekamericafoundation.org).

Andrew L. Kopp ’93 (FALK) and her husband, Shawn Oxenham ’96 (NEW), of San Francisco announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Scarlett.

Andrew Kaffes ’96 (A&S/NEW) was a recipient of Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellow for her dissertation “The Death of Myth on Roman Sarcophagi,” which examines the extinction of mythological imagery in ancient Roman funerary.

Susan Cornelius Edson ’90 (A&S/NEW), assistant athletic director for communications at SU, was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame in June.

John Robinson ’90 (NEW) of Glenmont, N.Y., launched OurAbility.com, an online resource for people with disabilities to be able to mentor and connect with one another through social networking, uploading personal video stories, and offering career and educational guidance.

Nicole Dasso ’96 (ARC), associate director at architecture/engineering firm Skidmore Owings & Merrill, was selected as one of Crain’s New York Business “Forty Under 40.” She was cited for her role in almost single-handedly ensuring that 1 WTC is built to specifications, managing a team of 50 architects and designers while resolving issues with engineers and contractors, so the 1,100 workers constructing the 1,776-foot tower stay on schedule.

Curtis E. Smolar ’90 (A&S/NEW) of San Francisco is a partner in the management-side law firm

Kevin M. Morley ’93 (A&S) of Centreville, Va., earned a Ph.D. degree from George Mason University. He is the security and preparedness program manager for the American Water Works Association for her teaching excellence and outstanding contributions to the academic world.

Ken DeLeon ’95 (VPA) is president and creative director of DeLeon Group, an advertising agency in New York City that celebrated six years in business in February.

Christopher Jones G’95 (MAX) is a professor of political science and associate vice provost for university honors at Northern Illinois University (NIU). In 2011, he was a member of the U.S. scholarly delegation invited by Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss international security issues, and was named NIU’s Outstanding International Educator. His latest book, The Handbook of American Foreign Policy (Routledge, 2011), was co-edited with Steven W. Hook.

Dane Lopes ’95 (LCS) is senior vice president, sales leaders-east region, at Swiss Re Corporate Solutions in New York City.

J. Adam Blair Boone ’96 (VPA), G’98 (A&S) of New York City is the founder and vice president of the Art Song Preservation Society (ASPS). The society, which held its first vocal arts competition in March, awarded the winner coaching, rehearsals, and career advice that will result in a future solo recital with ASPS.

Christine Ferrara Della Monaca ’96 (NEW) and husband, Michael, of Leominster, Mass., announce the birth of their daughter, Melissa Katherine, who joins brother Gregory James.

Elyssa Kreitzer ’96 (VPA) of New York City runs Divalyssious Moms, a luxury lifestyle company she founded that plans events for moms in the tri-state area, and also markets new brands and companies to moms on her www.divamoms.com web site.

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Kristin Bojanowski ’97 (NEW) married William Bruton Jr. They live in Tonawanda, N.Y.

Rachel Ganslaw Robbins ’97 (SWK) and her husband, Seth Robbins ’96 (IST), of Newton, Mass., announce the birth of their son Eli Samuel, who joins sister Sarah and brother Ethan.

Lisa Bauer L’99 (LAW) is special counsel in the Kenney, Shelton, Liptak and Nowak law firm, where she concentrates on insurance coverage counsel and litigation practice.

Brian Smorol ’99 (LCS) and his wife, Emily, of Syracuse announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie Emilia.

Mark Starosielec ’99 (A&S/NEW) and his wife, Jaclyn, announce the birth of their son Reed Andrew who joins sister Sophia, and brother Tate. Mark is a supervising attorney with the Social Security Administration in Buffalo.

Bradley Wirz ’91 (WSM) of Severna Park, Md., founded GoneReading, a philanthropic start-up that markets a line of unique products for book lovers and then donates 100 percent of the profits to help fund libraries and reading-related charities (www.GoneReading.com). So far GoneReading has supported Ethiopia Reads and READ Global, two nonprofit groups that have been developing rural libraries in the poorest parts of the world for many years.
SHANE EVANS believes “EVERY ARTIST HAS TO BE A great observer.” It is a lesson he has learned both close to home and a continent away in Africa. “Africa was a different adjustment for me as an artist and a human,” says Evans, who made his first trip there in 1996, to Burkina Faso in West Africa, as part of an educational journey. “I saw poverty and hunger, but I also saw much joy and happiness. It informed me about what the world is—a beautiful place, even in the ugliness. It taught me about myself and how delicate life is.”

Evans has carried those lessons with him while continually honing his skills as an illustrator and artist. He has illustrated many books geared toward children, including *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom* (Roaring Book Press, 2011), which earned him a 2012 Coretta Scott King Book Award for illustration from the American Library Association. Illustrating various children’s books, such as *My Brother Charlie* (Scholastic Press, 2010), has also provided Evans with the opportunity to hear from the most honest of critics. “When I started doing children’s books, I went out to a school,” Evans says. “Children will tell you the truth. There is nothing more humbling than a child or a wise older adult. That is encouraging. They will tell you if they don’t like something.”

Evans considers his SU education and the friends he made to be key parts of his journey. Six years ago, he received a Chancellor’s Award at Coming Back Together, a triennial gathering on campus for African American and Latino alumni. Evans and fellow alumnus, actor Taye Diggs ’93, collaborated on the children’s book *Chocolate Me* (Feiwel and Friends, 2011) and returned to campus last fall for a book signing during Orange Central. “Taye and I went to the Rochester School of the Arts and Syracuse together,” says Evans, a Buffalo native who moved to Rochester as a teenager. “We were encouraged by many people around us, teachers and family, and our hearts were led by faith. We always found a way to step forward and find a place to put our talents to good work.”

In May, Evans delivered the Convocation address to his home school, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, where he earned a B.F.A. degree in illustration nearly two decades ago. After graduation, Evans interned at *Rolling Stone* magazine before taking a job with Hallmark in Kansas City, Missouri. “I packed up a truck after the summer of ’93,” he says. “I did not know this place at all.” Since then, the city has grown on him. It’s home for Evans, his wife, and daughter, and where he opened a studio four years ago to pursue his creative endeavors, which also include photography and designing handcrafted furniture, clothing, and CD cover art (www.shaneevans.com).

Evans says he is not the owner of stories. He is the interpreter of stories. For him, it’s about listening and observing, whether he is at SU, in Missouri, or seeing the happiness and sadness of people in Africa. “Tragedy affects us all, even if we think it is far off,” he says. “There is one world and we live in it together. The reality is they are all our neighbors and seeing this for myself allowed me to see that truth. Not only did I see atrocities, but I also saw joy, and this affects who I am. The African experience for me is a deeply spiritual one that lives with me.”

—Brian Hudgins
Q & A: Meredith Goldstein ’99

PLIGHT OF THE SINGLE WEDDING GUEST

GUESTS IN A BOSTON RITZ-CARLTON ballroom delighted in cake pops, raised champagne flutes, and shimmied on the dance floor on April 26 to celebrate a special couple: Meredith Goldstein and her new novel, The Singles (Plume). The Boston Globe reporter and advice columnist’s story of five solo guests at a wedding has deep Syracuse roots. Several characters were based on college friends, and the book is peppered with references to such familiar locations as Alto Cinco, Syracuse Stage, and Ostrom Avenue.

Goldstein’s journalism career began at SU, where she majored in newspaper and served as editor-in-chief of The Daily Orange. After working at the Providence Journal for two years after college, Goldstein reported on Massachusetts coastal towns from the North Shore bureau of the Globe. She moved to feature reporting in 2005 and in 2008 began covering the Boston society beat and writing a daily online advice column called “Love Letters.” The column, which also appears in the paper weekly, draws about a million pageviews a month. Goldstein spoke recently with contributing writer Aileen Gallagher ’99, a Newhouse magazine professor and former classmate and Daily Orange colleague of Goldstein’s.

You’re a newspaper reporter. How did that inform your experience writing a novel?
When you’re a newspaper writer, you’re trained to notice details and to describe them. When I started writing these characters, my instinct was to really know them and provide a lot of detail. The trouble was, when you’re a newspaper reporter you don’t make things up. It took me about six months to allow myself to make up dialogue, to change people’s jobs, and make up a character who didn’t exist in real life. I got used to wearing two hats in the same day. I would go to work and write facts, and then come home and go to an imaginary place.

SU plays a big role in the book. Did you plan that initially or did that part of the characters’ lives evolve?
The wedding in this book is based on the real-life wedding of a Syracuse friend. In the first draft, I set these characters at a school in Vermont because I thought it would be cheesy if I set it in Syracuse—everyone would know that the author was basing it on her own experience. But after I got the book deal, it seemed that everybody wanted me to set it where it happened. Syracuse had a specific reputation and character and weather patterns that made the whole plot understandable. When you talk about characters meeting at a place where it’s too cold to go outside, that means something when you know the place is Syracuse.

I was excited to set these characters at Syracuse for something that wasn’t sports related. I pictured them hanging out with VPA [College of Visual and Performing Arts] kids. They go to Syracuse Stage. They represent a part of Syracuse culture that isn’t often seen. I was excited to use my Syracuse experience, not the one I always see on TV.

The main character in the book works as a casting director, and The Singles has been optioned for a movie. Who do you see appearing in the film?
I change my mind every day. Let’s hope there’s a young Syracuse up-and-comer from the drama department who just moved to Hollywood and her first big role is playing one of the Singles. That’s the dream.

How did your Syracuse experience influence your career?
Within Newhouse you’re required to have a minor outside of communications. It exposed me to a fantastic women’s studies department. I took film classes where I got to meet people in VPA. So many of these characters are inspired by Syracuse letting me see so many different things at once. Even though I spent most of my time in Newhouse and at The Daily Orange, Syracuse wouldn’t let me stop there. I had to learn about the rest of the world. And that made me a better journalist, and a better novelist.

You return to campus regularly to speak to Newhouse classes. What’s changed since the late nineties?
I just remember rolling out of bed and getting to class in pajamas and eating a donut while I was there. Students are not only dressed better, but they eat better. In 1999, there would not have been a sushi restaurant on campus. The students today are much more sophisticated.

To read more of the interview, go to sumagazine.syr.edu.

Photo by Aram Boghosian
TEA TIME

AT THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, WHERE Todd Rubin spent long nights toiling over the drafting table, most of his fellow students pumped themselves with coffee to stay awake. But Rubin is a tea man. His senior architectural thesis explored how tea informs rituals and rituals inform tea history through the design of a tea importer’s headquarters and museum in Boston.

It’s only natural, considering Rubin’s family has a long history in the beverage business. His father and grandfather had a liquor and wine distributorship in Southern Illinois. As that field began to consolidate, Rubin’s father became the Southeastern distributor for Clearly Canadian, one of the first sparkling flavored waters, and in 1994, he purchased the fledgling Republic of Tea, a Novato, California-based supplier of teas and herbs from around the world. The Republic of Tea is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary and is the leading purveyor of premium specialty teas in the United States, one of the first to retail rooibos and white tea varieties to American consumers.

Although Rubin had worked doing product demonstrations during high school, he had long been passionate about art, design, and photography. A college counselor steered him toward architecture. After completing the five-year Syracuse program, Rubin worked for a New York architecture firm for three years before finding himself at a crossroads. While considering changing firms, he learned there was an opening at The Republic of Tea. Drawn to the family business, he joined the company as a national sales manager for the East Coast.

Now vice president of the company—or Minister of Evolution (it’s a whimsical company)—Rubin manages the company’s key Embassies (customers), such as Panera Bread and Crate & Barrel, as well as the firm’s marketing operation and internal product development team. Since December, when his father purchased a winery in Sonoma, California, Rubin has essentially been running the day-to-day business as well. So far, satisfying his creative nature hasn’t been a problem. “As part of the specialty foods industry, we’re the innovators in the tea category,” he says. “Being a small, family-owned company allows us to anticipate trends and go to market faster.”

Rubin remains associated with the School of Architecture as a member of its advisory board and recently funded the Rubin Global Design Studio, a unique study abroad program for architecture graduate students. The program brings a visiting architect to Syracuse to teach a design studio in collaboration with a faculty member, and then takes first-year graduate students to an international city for a week to study urban and architectural design. The trip provides students with the opportunity to experience the public space that results from a variety of cultural and political conditions and sustainability policies. It’s an experience Rubin finds easily relatable. As a student, he spent a year in Florence, traveling to eight different countries. “It was by far the educational experience that had the greatest impact on me, and I know some people just don’t have that opportunity,” he says.

In February, Rubin met up with 19 first-year graduate program students in Copenhagen. “For three days, I was back in school with students,” he says. “I got to learn, without being responsible for any completed work.” In April, he traveled to Syracuse to attend the final review of the students’ design work. “The assumption was they would take what they learned and apply it to their coursework,” he says. “So I got to see firsthand what kind of impact the trip had on them.”

Rubin plans for the Global Design Studio to be an annual event. “It’s a way to combine giving back to Syracuse and staying connected with architecture with discovering and exploring new cities around the world,” he says. —Renée Gearhart Levy
that provides a forum for users to rediscover their favorite childhood memories through videos, images, audio, and games (www.scrapcity.com).

Ashley Hanry Kang ’04 (NEW), G’11 (EDU) and husband HeeRak Kang ’04 (LCS) of Syracuse announce the birth of their son, Yoon-Mo Desmond. Ashley is director of The Stand, Syracuse’s South Side Community Newspaper Project, and serves as the community newspaper coordinator for SU. HeeRak is a quality engineer for Welch Allyn in Skaneateles Falls, N.Y.

Andrew Thomson ’04, G’09 (IST) of Kennebunk, Maine, is CIO and in-house counsel at Shipyard Brewing Company in Portland.

Brittany Bunce Buffington ’05 (WSM) is a certified financial planner who works as a financial services representative and an investment advisor representative at the Financial Freedom Group in Rochester, N.Y.

Emilio Nicolas G’05 (NEW), L’05 (LAW) of Austin, Texas, was selected as one the 2012 “Rising Stars” by Thomson Reuters, a business data provider located in Manhattan. Rising Stars are attorneys who are 40 years old or younger, or who have been practicing law for 10 or fewer years.

Alexander Roberts ’05 (WSM) earned an M.B.A. degree from Yale University in May.

Colette Smith ’05, G’07 (VPA) of White Plains, N.Y., is founder and president of the DAR Project Inc., a nonprofit organization that raises money to send Tanzanian college students and sends donated goods to its partner organization in Dar Es Salaam, including 50 pounds of clothing collected on the Syracuse and Columbia university campuses.

Alexandra Alazio G’06 (NEW) of Port Monmouth, N.J., is a member of the client solutions department at USA TODAY, creating cross-platform marketing campaigns for national advertisers. She also serves on the board of trustees at the Adult School of Montclair and chairs its public relations committee, focusing on increasing the school’s social media presence.


Louis Jim L’10 (LAW) is an attorney in the Rochester, N.Y., office of Bond, Schoeneck & King, where he concentrates his practice in litigation matters.

Ryan O. Pyne ’10 (A&S) of Bloomfield, N.J., completed his U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes.

Lindsay van Harssele ’11 (VPA) of Lewiston, N.Y., is art director at J. Fitzgerald Group, an international marketing technology company based in Lockport, N.Y.

Jonathon Hughes ’11 (A&S) of Stamford, Conn., is a global partnerships associate for Latin America and the Caribbean with AmeriCares, a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization.
TRIBUTE

DISCOVERING INSPIRATION

BY GREGORY M. MILONOVICH

INSPIRATION COMES IN MANY FORMS AND FACES. YOU MAY FIND yourself inspired by a story you read. You may glean inspiration from something you witnessed. You, simply, may find it in the work you do every day. But, when is inspiration enough to motivate someone? How long does that last? Is it merely short-lived? What are the effects of inspiration from our former bosses and leaders?

Recently, I began to examine—actually, list—every direct supervisor I have had in my work life and whether each individual inspired me or not. I discovered 31 bosses over the years, starting with my first paid job at age 14 and taking me to the present day in the FBI.

While in the midst of this research, I had the honor of attending one of my former boss’s full-military-honors burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Retired Brigadier General Corey Jefferson Wright G’66 passed away on August 10, 2011, at age 82. He was a husband, father of two, grandfather to three, and inspiration to many, including me. General Wright retired from a 30-year, active-duty career with the U.S. Army in 1980 and later headed the Army Programs Office (APO) at his alma mater, Syracuse University. While completing my M.B.A. at Syracuse, I was General Wright’s last graduate assistant. He ran the APO until his retirement in 1996. “The General,” as many of us referred to him, inspired me and had a significant effect on my personal life and career—especially my decision to embark on a journey in public service.

As I stood on that hillside above his final resting place at Arlington Cemetery, I could not help but feel what a fitting tribute that ceremony was for his life, career, and the indelible impressions he left with others. General Wright not only received the time-honored tradition of the 21-gun salute but 11 cannon shots, each echoing off of the Pentagon nearby. No less than 80 young and impressive soldiers of the U.S. Army Honor Guard accompanied his procession, complete with a caisson and the U.S. Army Band. From a distance, I watched his oldest grandson, about 10 years old, receive the American flag that had draped his grandfather’s casket. I listened as family members recalled stories from summers at General Wright’s camp in the Adirondacks, how he was the first one up each morning, ventured out in his canoe on the lake, and brought back fresh lily pads for his family’s table setting.

These reflections and stories reminded me of my own interactions with The General, those evening chats we had at Syracuse about school, life, family, service, and sports. He remains an inspiration for me. I know I am not alone in these thoughts. I have heard from many former participants in his programs and been reminded of what an exceptional public servant, family figure, and, most important, inspirational human being General Wright really was.

So, ask yourself, from whom do you draw inspiration? How much does that person’s leadership motivate you? Who is your General Wright, and, probably most important, are you someone’s General Wright?

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

—John Quincy Adams

Special agent Gregory M. Milonovich ‘94, G’96 is an instructor in faculty affairs and development at the FBI Academy. This article first appeared in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin and is reprinted here with the publication’s permission.
IN MEMORIAM

Notices of deaths must be accompanied by a copy of an obituary or memorial card.

Send to: Alumni Editor, Syracuse University Magazine; 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308; Syracuse, NY 13244-5040; fax 315-443-5425.

Hilton Kramer, a leading art critic of the past century, died on March 27 at age 84 near his home in Damariscotta, Maine. A native of Gloucester, Massachusetts, Kramer majored in English at SU, but shifted critical focus from literature to art after publishing a rebuttal of an essay on action painting by Harold Rosenberg. The graduate student’s critique of the art-world Brahmin caught the attention of Clement Greenberg ‘30, editor of Commentary, and Kramer’s takes on the artists and issues of the day were seen there and in other influential arts and politics journals, including The New Republic, The Nation, and Arts Digest, where he became editor in 1961. Kramer reached his pinnacle of public influence as an art critic for The New York Times (1965-82). During that period, as the center of aesthetic attention was shifting from modernism to pop art, minimalism, and postmodernism, Kramer became an unabashed defender of modernist “high art,” known for his broadsides against trendy isms, wherever he found them—and he found them everywhere. He left the Times to become co-founder and editor of The New Criterion, a journal that gave full voice to Kramer and like-minded conservative souls in the art world. Asked by Woody Allen if he was embarrassed by chance encounters with artists he had skewered, Kramer replied, “No, I expect them to be embarrassed for Woody Allen if he was embarrassed by chance encounters with artists he did bad work.” He showed no sign of backing down in his last book, The Triumph of Modernism (2006).
As we count down to the end of The Campaign for Syracuse University, your gift is more important than ever. Not because it will help us reach a goal, but because there are still so many vital initiatives that need your support:

- Faculty Today gift challenge program
- Dineen Hall construction
- Institute for Veterans and Military Families
- Inclusive Campus Initiative
- Newhouse studios renovation
- Carnegie Library renovation
- Hendricks Chapel
- Huntington Hall renovation

Learn more at campaign.syr.edu. Then support one of these initiatives or another part of SU you love. Visit givetosyr.com/susuccess or call 877.2GROWSU (247.6978) to give today. In the final countdown, every gift counts!

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

TONY AWARDS

ALUMNI HONORED AS BROADWAY’S BEST

FOUR SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WERE AMONG THE WINNERS AT the 66th annual Tony Awards held on June 10 in New York City. The awards, which honor Broadway plays and musicals for theatrical excellence, are presented by Tony Award Productions, a joint venture of the Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing.

- Van Dean ’96 is a producer of The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess, which won Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical and Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical.

- Jane Dubin ’57 is a producer of Peter and the Starcatcher, which won five Tony Awards: Best Performance by an Actor in a Featured Role in a Play; Best Scenic Design of a Play; Best Sound Design of a Play; Best Costume Design of a Play; and Best Lighting Design of a Play.

- Jack Feldman ’72, who wrote the lyrics for the Broadway musical Newsies, won a Tony Award for Best Original Score Written for the Theatre.

- Daryl Roth ’66 is a producer of Clybourne Park, which won the Tony Award for Best Play, and One Man, Two Guvnors, which won Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play.

—Erica Blust

Jack Feldman ’72 (above right) and Alan Menken celebrate their Tony Award for Best Original Score Written for the Theatre. Feldman wrote the lyrics and Menken composed the music for Newsies.
SU WAS PART OF YOUR SUCCESS. NOW BE PART OF THEIRS.

The lessons you learned at Syracuse University are a part of who you are today. The people you met, the experiences you had—all have helped shape your life and your success.

Now you can pay that forward. Make a gift to The Campaign for Syracuse University, and you can support vital scholarships, stellar faculty, innovative academic programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and everything else it takes to prepare students to make it in today’s world.

With just a few months left to go, the impact of the campaign has been tremendous. But many initiatives are still in need of funding. Give today at givetosyr.com/susuccess or 877.2GROWSU (247.6978). And be part of our students’ success for generations to come.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
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NOTHING WARMS PAULA MARTIN more than hearing about the accomplishments of a former student. “There’s nothing better than getting a call from a former student who now has more degrees than I do,” says Martin of the countless physicians, lawyers, teachers, and other professionals who made it to college with her assistance.

For 40 years, Martin has worked to provide educational opportunities to underserved students, including the last 25 as executive director of the Harlem Center for Education, which targets its efforts at four high schools and a middle school in Washington Heights and East Harlem. “These are the young people that need to be educated if we’re going to reach the Obama administration’s education goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020,” she says.

The Harlem Center provides a broad range of free services—SAT preparation courses, after-school programs, tutoring, career, and college and financial aid counseling that augments what the schools provide themselves. Most of the students are from minority, low-income families (more than 80 percent qualify for the free lunch program), with parents who did not attend college. “These students have a lot of obstacles—starting with the quality of the public schools—that impacts their college readiness,” Martin says. “We try to fill that gap.”

Martin understands those challenges well. A product of the neighborhood herself, she was fortunate to have a mother who was determined that her daughter would not attend local public schools. Instead, Martin attended the Riverside School and Hunter College High School before heading off to Syracuse University, where she earned an undergraduate degree in psychology. It was a time of social upheaval, and Martin says she grew tremendously—academically, socially, and politically. She was active in the Student Afro-American Society, which was instrumental in waging the campus protest movement, demonstrating against a visit by Alabama Governor George Wallace and arranging for civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael to speak on campus.

Martin went on to Teachers College, Columbia University, where she earned a master’s degree in developmental psychology. During her studies, she applied for a summer job teaching child psychology in Upward Bound, one of the original federal TRIO programs. At the end of the summer, Martin was hired full time as a counselor, and a year later, she was appointed assistant director. She remained at Columbia for 12 years, leaving in 1985 to become executive director of the Harlem Center. “This was not an intentional career, but one I discovered I had a natural passion for,” says Martin, who realized the opportunities education had created in her own life. “Sometimes, the thing that makes the biggest impact is just having an adult the kids can relate to take an interest in them.”

The nonprofit Harlem Center receives funding from corporations and foundations, as well as U.S. Department of Education grants through two federally funded TRIO programs targeted to assist low-income individuals, first-generation potential college students, and individuals with disabilities in progressing through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs. Martin, who became the first female president of the Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, trains staff members of TRIO programs across the United States, and is passionate about the programs’ efficacy. She recently received the Council for Opportunity in Education’s Walter O. Mason award, the highest honor for educational opportunity professionals, named for the man who helped write the legislation for the first Upward Bound program.

Martin is disheartened that despite the Obama administration’s ambitious education goals, funding for these programs remains stagnant. “The administration is putting forth new programs, such as Race to the Top, which are unproven, when they could be investing in programs that have been demonstrated to work,” she says. “I don’t see us meeting those goals without gearing up the TRIO programs.” —Renée Gearhart Levy
BASSEL AL SHAHADE WAS A GIFTED 28-YEAR-OLD FILMMAKER AND ACTIVIST who longed to see freedom and democracy sweep across his native Syria. A Fulbright Scholar, the Damascus resident came to Syracuse to pursue an M.F.A. degree in film at the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Deeply committed to the revolution against the Syrian regime, he returned to his homeland late last year to cover the uprising as a citizen journalist and to teach others journalism and videography skills, posting their work on social media sites. On May 28, Shahade was killed in the war-torn city of Homs while filming attacks against the Syrian people by government security forces. News of his death was reported worldwide, and he was memorialized in his home country as well as other places around the globe. On campus, friends and other supporters gathered on the steps of Hendricks Chapel for a candlelight vigil in his memory. This fall, the University plans to hold a formal memorial service.

Before arriving in Syracuse, Bassel Al Shahade traveled from Syria to India on an old Russian motorcycle he called “Lenin.” With the rebellion under way, Shahade returned to Syria and trained fellow activists in filming and editing video footage (middle photo). Following news of his death, Shahade was remembered by friends on the steps of Hendricks Chapel.

ONLINE LINKS:
www.facebook.com/groups/417796718243601/
www.reelfestivals.org/bassel-shehade/

Photos courtesy of Mireille Bakhos and SU Bassel’s Friends on Facebook
Join us and celebrate all things Orange—
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Orange Central 2012 is an action-packed weekend full of traditional homecoming and reunion events, plus exciting new ways to celebrate with fellow SU alumni, today’s students, and special guests. Here’s a sneak peek:

- Reunions for Generation Orange, Orientation Leaders, and University Union alums, too
- ’Cuse Commotion parade and pep rally
- SU vs. Louisville football in the Carrier Dome
- Arents Award dinner
- On-campus viewing of the “Battle of the Midway”—the SU men’s basketball team vs. San Diego State aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier

Get all the details...
Visit orangecentral.syr.edu often so you don’t miss a thing, and be sure to keep your contact info current at alumni.syr.edu/cuse. Follow all the action on our Facebook page: facebook.com/syracuseuniversity!

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