Thoughtful Presence
Chancellor Kent Syverud is known and admired for a leadership style that reflects his personable nature, sharp intellect, passion for listening, and commitment to helping others achieve success.

Up for the Challenge
The University’s new outdoor ropes course takes participants beyond their comfort zones and builds teamwork.

Manhattan Immersion
As SU’s new academic campus in New York City, the Fisher Center offers students across disciplines experiential learning opportunities in one of the world’s most dynamic metropolitan areas.

Central to Lacrosse
Three lacrosse films have intricate ties to SU and the Onondaga Nation, highlighting the sport’s history and what it means to those who play it.

ON THE COVER:
Chancellor Kent Syverud began his tenure as the University’s 12th Chancellor and President in January.
PHOTO BY STEVE SARTORI
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WE CELEBRATED THE BEST OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY DURING THE INAUGURATION here on April 11. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community all stepped up cheerfully on a bright and happy day. It started with more than 400 of us running in orange on a 1.2-mile course through campus, included wonderful faculty and student presentations, and ended with the formal ceremony in Hendricks Chapel.

In Hendricks, we heard from Boris Gresely ’15, Student Association president; Oren Lyons ’58, H’93, faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation and a chief of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, the Haudenosaunee, “People of the Longhouse”; Suzanne Baldwin, Michael G. and Susan T. Thonis Professor of Earth Sciences; Renée Schine Crown ’50, H’84, Life Trustee of Syracuse University; retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor; and Richard Thompson G’67, chairman of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees.

In my own remarks, I identified four important areas of focus as we move forward:

First, I believe we must enhance undergraduate education and every aspect of the undergraduate experience. That begins with building an unrivaled College of Arts and Sciences. The college is the heart of the liberal arts experience here at Syracuse and home to the largest number of undergraduates. Syracuse has long been, and I hope forever will be, a university that attracts unentitled people. It is a place that opens its doors to students, whether they be middle class or rich or poor, who crave knowledge and are willing to work hard. Building a distinctive, broad, and deep program across the liberal arts and sciences will help us attract the best unentitled, scrappy, and engaged students in the world and prepare them to thrive after graduation. We also need to enhance their daily living experience, including where they live, eat, work, study, and interact with one another and with faculty.

Second, we need to empower research excellence. I believe we do that by working collaboratively across disciplines, faculties, departments, and schools. Syracuse has great faculty who already are committed to interdisciplinary research. Institutional investment in programs that strategically target areas of need and opportunity will further enhance such efforts and advance our standing as a great private research university.

Third, we must embrace change, because with change comes opportunity. We need to take risks, embrace the entrepreneurial spirit that has already shaped Syracuse in profound ways, and move nimbly. We cannot aim high if all we are doing are the same things that better endowed and resourced peers are doing. We must act boldly, as we did when we embraced global studies ahead of our peers and when we set a national precedent in welcoming a record number of returning World War II GIs when almost all our peers turned their backs on them. These and other distinctive points of pride show how Syracuse can get ahead by embracing the right change and nimbly pursuing it.

Finally, I believe we must once again become the best place for veterans. We have done it before, and we have the resources to do it again. Building on the work of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, we have an unrivaled capacity to bring to bear our expertise in the professions, disability studies, entrepreneurship and information, and the arts and sciences to empower opportunity for those who have served our country and their families.

If we integrate these four ideas into our aims over the next 10 years, I believe we will become a greater University. We will be a place that empowers students to achieve their highest potential and to make a distinctive difference in the world after graduation. I am deeply honored to be a part of such important work.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
TALK ABOUT BEING AT THE CENTER OF HISTORY.

In the appendix of his fascinating memoir *From Kristallnacht to Watergate* (SUNY Press, 2013), Harry Rosenfeld ’52 shares a transcription from one of the infamous Nixon White House tapes that figured in the disgraced president’s fall from power. And there, on April 16, 1973, is Richard M. Nixon discussing Rosenfeld with his press secretary, Ron Ziegler. Rosenfeld, then metropolitan editor of *The Washington Post*, was guiding reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein on their Watergate investigation, and the taped conversation reveals that Nixon and Ziegler understood *The Post* had more information than it had reported so far and was tying together the loose ends, ready to put more damning evidence in print.

For Rosenfeld, it’s just one chapter of an extraordinary career. Take a look at the profile of him (pages 44-45) in this issue and you’ll learn that he credits his work with *The Daily Orange* as an “invaluable experience.” Like so many students, Rosenfeld took advantage of opportunities he found here at Syracuse and grew from them.

That, of course, is one of the beauties of a Syracuse education. Opportunities, in the classroom and beyond, abound. In our Orange Legacy article, for instance, Vince Rigolosi ’54 mentions the role that being exposed to people with different interests played in his development as a person. “It wasn’t just the experience I got in the classroom, but the experience I got on campus, too,” he says.

Rigolosi isn’t alone in this assessment. In our profile of Tanya Forrest Hall ’93, she notes how her SU experience not only expanded her mind academically, but also taught her a great deal about herself. As you comb through the pages of this issue, you’ll come across plenty more examples that illustrate how the SU experience can have such a positive impact, professionally and personally, on students during their time here. Whether it’s doing research with a faculty member, tackling the University’s new Outdoor Challenge Course, studying abroad, getting involved in a student organization, or immersing oneself in numerous other opportunities, today’s students have a wealth of territory to explore—and more often than not they capitalize on these offerings.

For so many of us, college is the place where we discover ourselves—who we are and who we want to become. We gain knowledge, uncover new interests and talents, expand our horizons, forge lifelong friendships, and head out into the world with a sharper vision of what life has to offer and what we can do to make it better for others. There’s no doubt that education and learning are so integral to our journeys—and it’s nice to see how those journeys take shape here on the Hill.
WALKING AMONG GRAVESTONES RIDDLED with bullet holes in a Jewish cemetery in Poland, Danique Masingill ’13, G’14 gained a profound understanding of the causes and effects of conflict in World War II. She was one of eight students who participated in an SU Abroad summer program based in Wroclaw, Poland—formerly Breslau, Germany—that explored the culture and politics of reconciliation. “I was surprised to see the amount of animosity and hate that had to be overcome after the war,” says Masingill, a military history major who attended SU after a five-year stint in the Navy. “But now the people of Wroclaw take great pride in their city and are very welcoming to students. I think this is SU Abroad’s best kept secret.”

Beginning this year, the Wroclaw program will be offered for three consecutive fall semesters. The goal of this full-semester program is to give students an in-depth experience around the theme of conflict and historical trauma where the traces of war and division are still inscribed on the bodies, landscapes, and psyches of the people. “Conflict didn’t end with World War II, so our students have an opportunity to go deep into one region of the world and learn what happened there and how it is still affecting people today,” says Margaret Himley, associate provost for international education and engagement. “Wroclaw is a dynamic urban laboratory where our students can examine the big issues of historic and contemporary violence and divisions and what people do to move through the residual effects of conflict.”

Based in Wroclaw, the new program features a traveling seminar called Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders that will take students to the Czech Republic, Germany, and Lithuania. There will also be a course on Eastern European history in the 20th century—half of which will be taught in Warsaw, Poland, where students will meet with experts and witnesses to some of the city’s most devastating traumas. “This program offers a small cohort of 15 to 20 students from a variety of academic disciplines an opportunity to have a unique individualized learning experience,” Himley says.

The program’s director is Hana Cervinkova, professor of cultural anthropology and the founding director of the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education at the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw. Cervinkova, who has been one of SU Abroad’s academic partners for more than 10 years, is extremely knowledgeable about Central Europe and questions of reconciliation in this region of the world. “Professor Cervinkova is a dynamic, committed educator,” Himley says. “She is a great teacher, as students who have studied with her can attest.”

Masingill agrees. “The way Hana teaches is very hands on,” she says. “The amount of information I was able to learn and retain in four weeks was incredible because we actually went out and saw the sites we read about. And Wroclaw is a beautiful city with a huge market square and colorful old buildings. Going to Wroclaw was the best decision I ever made—I can’t even find enough words to describe how awesome it was.”

—Christine Yackel
ONLINE EDUCATION ➤ KNOWLEDGE-SHARING EXPERIENCE

ALTHOUGH HE HADN’T TAUGHT AN ONLINE class before, Rick Burton ’80, David B. Falk Professor of Sport Management, didn’t hesitate to accept the challenge of teaching a massive open online course (MOOC) to a group of nearly 1,000 students from around the world last fall. With the help of the Information Technology and Services (ITS) department, Burton organized the course, The Subject is Sports, and shared his knowledge of the sports business with participants of all ages and backgrounds through a series of video lessons, live chats, and forum discussions. “It was a bit of an exploratory journey for all of us,” he says. “I was thrilled and honored.”

MOOCs are free online classes that anyone with Internet access can take to learn about a specific topic, usually without earning credits—and they’re catching on in higher education globally and on the SU campus. “It’s a little bit of an interactive experience for someone to get a taste of what’s going on at Syracuse University,” says Michael Morrison, director of Online Learning Services (OLS), the ITS unit responsible for supporting teaching with technology at the University. Along with the sports course, Morrison’s team helped develop The Subject is Lava, which was taught by Earth sciences professor Jeffrey Karsen and sculpture professor Robert Wysocki this spring. For the class, the instructors created lava and poured it on different surfaces to study its behavior from geological and artistic perspectives, constituting an interdisciplinary learning experience. “We wanted to highlight the kind of learning that can go on at SU—that you experiment, try something, work at it over a period of time, and try to figure it out and make something of it,” says Bronwyn Adam G’82, G’04, director of faculty development at SU.

The courses are meant to be a channel for pedagogic exploration at the University rather than a substitute for classroom-based education, says Christopher Sedore, associate vice chancellor for academic operations. “I’m very enthusiastic about the experimentation,” he says. “This is an opportunity to improve not just online education, but explore new approaches to face-to-face education as well.”

Though Falk College offered its first MOOC last semester, the School of Information Studies launched the MOOC Introduction to Data Science in February 2013 as a way to spark interest in its Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) in Data Science. To generate incentives for engagement, participants would receive a certificate of completion to show professional development and a discount if they enrolled in the CAS program within the two semesters following the end of the course, says Peggy Brown, director of learning services at the iSchool. And the strategy was successful. “We were hoping for 500 participants,” Brown says. “By day two we were over 1,700.” The iSchool’s MOOCs differ from OLS’s because they’re based on existing graduate-level courses and are more integrated into the school curricula. The school has completed three so far and will offer a fourth MOOC this fall.

Following the conclusion of The Subject is Lava, the University will evaluate the experience gained through the MOOCs to decide whether to continue experimenting in this direction. “The question is, ‘Is there something we learned in doing this experiment that can make us better teachers, make us a better university?’” says Vice Chancellor and Provost Eric Spina. “We do need to step back and see overall what we’ve learned.”

―Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
PHYSICS »

MODELING TISSUE FORMATION

Scientists have long been challenged by the question of how embryonic tissue develops and organizes itself into organs and layers. For physics professor M. Lisa Manning of the College of Arts and Sciences and a team of scientists she works with, that question led to the creation of a mathematical model that allows them to study tissue development. Central to their work was whether embryonic tissue behaves more like a solid or a liquid—and why. “We found that embryonic tissue was viscoelastic—meaning that it behaved like a liquid, if you pushed on it slowly, but like a solid, if you pushed on it quickly,” says Manning, who received a prestigious CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation in January and was named a 2014 Sloan Foundation Research Fellow in Physics. “A mixture of cornstarch and water also behaves that way.”

Manning and the team, which includes biology and physics professor Eva-Maria Schoetz of the University of California, San Diego, and researchers Marcos Lanio and Jared Talbot of Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics at Princeton University, reported their findings in the journal Interface (Royal Society Publishing, 2013) in September. The work may have major implications for the study of tissue pattern formation and malformation.

The viscoelasticity, they learned, was the result of “glassy dynamics” in cells, caused by overcrowding. The research team discovered that cells within embryonic tissue were packed so tightly they rarely moved—and when they did so, they expended considerable energy to squeeze past their neighbors. Manning—an expert in theoretical soft condensed matter and biological physics who joined the SU faculty in 2011 following a postdoctoral fellowship at the Princeton Center for Theoretical Science—compares this behavior to riding on a subway. “If you’re on a subway train that’s not crowded, it’s easy to move toward the exit and get off the train,” she says. “But as more people get on the train, it takes longer to pick your way past them and exit. Sometimes, if the train is jam-packed, you miss your stop completely because you can’t move at all.”

Using state-of-the-art imaging and image analysis techniques, they saw that each cell was crowded by what Manning calls a “cage of neighbors.” A simple active-matter model, which they created, has enabled them to reproduce data and make predictions about how certain changes and mutations affect embryonic development. “This is exciting because if cells slow down or generate more sticky molecules, the tissue can turn into a solid,” says Manning, adding that such alterations can trigger malformations or congenital disease. “Our results provide a framework for understanding these changes.”

Manning’s work is rooted in that of another Princeton scientist, the late Malcolm Steinberg, who suggested more than 50 years ago that different types of embryonic tissue behave like immiscible liquids, such as oil and water. “This liquid-like behavior helps tissue separate into layers and form structures, including organs,” Manning says. “This type of work is fun because it involves knowledge from lots of disciplines, from soft-matter physics and materials science to cell and developmental biology.”

—Rob Enslin

Professor M. Lisa Manning’s research features experimental and simulation data in which two “droplets” of tissue join together, in a fluid-like manner, to form a single tissue.

We found that embryonic tissue was viscoelastic.”
WHEN NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING HUMANITARIAN ELIE WIESEL IS ASKED WHAT GUIDING PRINCIPLE HIS READERS SHOULD TAKE AWAY FROM HIS BOOKS, HE OFFERS ONE SIMPLE YET ELOQUENT ANSWER: “THINK HIGHER AND FEEL DEEPER.” SEAN MARTINELLI ’15 TAKES THOSE WORDS TO HEART, AND BELIEVES THERE IS NO GREATER MISSION IN LIFE THAN HELPING OTHERS DO THE SAME. TOWARD THAT GOAL, HE FOUNDED SOULFUL SIT-DOWNS, AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION SERIES THAT INVITES SU STUDENTS TO BE LIFTED OUT OF THEIR DAILY CONCERNS TO REFLECT ON SUCH MATTERS AS IDENTITY, GRATITUDE, AND LIFE PURPOSE. “I SAW A YEARNING AMONG STUDENTS HERE TO GO A BIT DEEPER,” SAYS MARTINELLI, A NEWHOUSE BROADCAST AND DIGITAL JOURNALISM MAJOR. “THEY WERE GOING THROUGH THEIR DAILY ROUTINES, GOING TO CLASSES, AND THEY HAD THEIR SOCIAL LIFE. BUT I COULD SENSE IN PEOPLE THAT SOMETHING WAS MISSING. SO I TRIED TO FIGURE OUT, ‘HOW CAN I BRING SOMETHING MORE INTO THEIR LIVES?’”

MARTINELLI’S VISION FOR SOULFUL SIT-DOWNS WAS TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS COULD HAVE “CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER.” HE SHARED HIS IDEA WITH KATELYN COWEN, HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROMOTIONS SPECIALIST IN THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, REQUESTING HER HELP IN MAKING IT HAPPEN. “I WAS SO PLEASED SEAN REACHED OUT TO ME, BECAUSE SO OFTEN WE THINK OF THESE KINDS OF DISCUSSIONS AS BEING ONLY IN THE RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL REALM,” SAYS COWEN, WHOSE OFFICE PROVIDES LOGISTICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SOULFUL SIT-DOWNS, WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM HENDRICKS CHAPEL. “THIS IS A SPACE FOR EVERYBODY, WHERE STUDENTS CAN DO SOME SELF-EXPLORATION AND REFLECTION, AND REALLY IMPROVE THEIR INNER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AS A RESULT.”

LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY 2013, THE WEEKLY SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS AND SOMETIMES FEATURE GUEST SPEAKERS VIA SKYPE, INCLUDING SUCH WELL-KNOWN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS AND THOUGHT LEADERS AS NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR MARIANNE WILLIAMSON AND MASTIN KIPP, CEO AND FOUNDER OF THE DAILY LOVE INSPIRATIONAL BLOG. MARTINELLI PLANS AND FACILITATES EACH WEEK’S CONVERSATION, SUPPORTED BY JILL OUIKAHLO, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS. “THIS IS UNIQUE—TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO MORE BROADLY AND DEEPLY START TO UNCOVER THEIR TRUTHS AND SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT LIFE’S BIG QUESTIONS,” OUIKAHLO SAYS.

THE DISCUSSION SERIES HAS BEEN WELL-RECEIVED BY STUDENTS, WHO OFTEN REPORT TO MARTINELLI THAT THE SESSIONS HAVE HAD A POWERFUL IMPACT ON THEM. NEWHOUSE TELEVISION, RADIO, AND FILM MAJOR LAUREN TENG ’14, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDERS SOULFUL SIT-DOWNS “A SERIOUS GIFT OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP” AMID A SOMETIMES STRESSFUL COLLEGE LIFE. “IT WAS THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO SPEND AN HOUR EACH WEEK OVER PIZZA WITH SOME OF THE MOST THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE I’VE EVER MET, TALKING ABOUT ALL THE BIG AND SMALL THINGS,” SHE SAYS. “EVERY TIME I WENT, I LEFT FEELING LIGHTER, MORE ENCOURAGED, AND MORE EXCITED TO KEEP LEADING MY LIFE.”

SOULFUL SIT-DOWNS HAS BEEN EQUALLY MEANINGFUL FOR ITS FOUNDER. “THIS HAS BEEN A DEFINING THING FOR ME AT THE UNIVERSITY,” MARTINELLI SAYS. “IT’S GREAT TO SEE THAT YOU’VE DONE SOMETHING THAT HAS TOUCHED OTHER PEOPLE AND LEFT AN IMPRINT ON THEM. IT REALLY HAS PLAYED A DEEP ROLE IN THEIR LIVES, AND ALSO IN MINE.”

—AMY SPEACH

For more information, visit health promotions.syr.edu/get-involved/ soulful-sitdowns.html.
Four College of Arts and Sciences faculty members received Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards—the highest honor given by the National Science Foundation in support of early-career development activities of teacher-scholars. The recipients are chemistry professors Arindam “Ari” Chakraborty and Daniel A. Clark; and physics professors Stefan W. Ballmer and M. Lisa Manning (see page 6).

The SU Marching Band teamed up with the Rutgers University Marching Band for a performance at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, as part of the pregame activities for Super Bowl XLVIII. The two bands played a mash-up of New York-New Jersey songs from the likes of Jon Bon Jovi, Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, and Jay-Z.

Professor Donald I. Siegel, chair of the Department of Earth Sciences, was named a 2013 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fellow. Also receiving the honor was College of Arts and Sciences alumnus C. Page Chamberlain ’79, a professor of environmental Earth system science at Stanford.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean George M. Langford and M. Cristina Marchetti, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Physics, have each been named a 2013 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Langford will complete his term as dean on June 30, and plans to return to full-time teaching, research, and mentoring as Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience.

School of Education Dean Douglas Biklen G’73 retired in February after serving more than eight years as dean and four decades as a faculty member. Biklen, an expert on facilitated communication and longtime proponent of inclusive education, is also an author and documentary filmmaker.

In recognition of his celebrated short story collection, Tenth of December, English professor George Saunders G’88 was awarded The Story Prize and the inaugural Folio Prize.

College of Law student Sean J. Quinn ’06, L’14 was named the winner of the 12th annual American Bar Association Health Law Student Writing Competition.
SPORTS NOTES

Former Syracuse lacrosse stars Matt Abbott ’09, G’10, John Galloway ’11, and JoJo Marasco ’13 were named to the U.S. Men’s National Lacrosse Team in February. Team USA will defend the gold medal at the 2014 Federation of International Lacrosse World Championship this July in Denver.

An NCAA on-campus record crowd of 35,446 watched the Orange men’s basketball team knock off Duke, 91-89, in overtime on February 1. It was the first Atlantic Coast Conference meeting in the Carrier Dome between the storied programs and the two winningest coaches in college basketball, SU’s Jim Boeheim ’66, G’73 and Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski. The record crowd was also treated to a performance by superstar Vanessa Williams ’85, who sang the national anthem.
CROWN HONORS PROGRAM »

COMMEMORATING A BELOVED SCHOLAR

This academic year marks the 50th anniversary of the Renée Crown University Honors Program, which began in 1963 as a few small classes in the College of Liberal Arts, now the College of Arts and Sciences. Today, distinguished faculty members from throughout the University teach Honors courses in a wide range of disciplines to more than 800 students a year from every school and college. “As part of a year-long anniversary celebration, we renamed our library—which holds the bound versions of students’ capstone projects—in honor of Mary Marshall, one of the program’s founders and its first director,” says Kate Hanson, assistant director, scholarship and fellowship preparation, and co-coordinator of the anniversary celebration.

It’s no exaggeration to say that Marshall, a professor of Shakespeare in the English department, had a profound influence on many generations of SU students and faculty who were inspired by her love of words and literature and strong commitment to scholarship. Drama professor Gerardine Clark—a self-proclaimed “Mary Marshall groupie”—recalls how as a new faculty member she was totally in awe of Marshall. “I’m usually quite verbose, but in Mary’s presence I grew very silent and could barely speak a word,” says Clark, a member of the Honors core faculty. “She was always so kind and flattering, but she scared the life out of me because I was acutely aware of the gap between my teaching skills and hers. I didn’t have any women faculty mentors back then, so Mary became my model for the kind of teacher I wanted to be.”

Marshall graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College in 1924 and earned a Ph.D. degree in English from Yale University in 1932. After conducting research in medieval drama as a Guggenheim Fellow, she joined the SU faculty in 1948. In addition to co-founding the University Honors Program, Marshall accrued many professional accomplishments throughout her 69-year academic career. She was the first woman to obtain the rank of full professor in the College of Liberal Arts; she was named the Jesse Truesdell Peck Chair in English Literature; and she co-founded the Syracuse University Library Associates. After her official retirement in 1970, Marshall was granted emeritus status and continued to teach courses through University College for more than 20 years. Clark says one of her fondest memories is sitting behind the door outside of Marshall’s classroom to catch a few minutes of her lecture before running upstairs to teach her own class. “Mary put herself into every word she spoke with such quiet authority, and she never said anything she didn’t believe to be true,” Clark says. “She had a strong moral code and a mischievous dignity—I can still see the twinkle in her eyes.”

As testimony to how much Marshall was loved and admired, a large group of her family and friends formed the “Mary Circle” to care for her in her final years until her death in 2000 at age 97. Clark says she trusts Marshall would be quite pleased with how much the Honors Program has evolved over the years because she always believed in living a full life of the mind. “The growth of the Honors Program would tell Mary that, despite all of the media claims to the contrary, there are still young people today who want to learn and live deeply,” she says, “and the students in the Honors Program continue to hold that as an affirmative principle.”

—Christine Yackel
Imagine the power of a packed-to-the-rafters Sunday service at Atlanta’s Ebenezer First Baptist Church, just across the street from where Martin Luther King Jr. first preached. And imagine that exuberance being directed at you as the congregation rises in a standing ovation in your honor. That was the unforgettable experience of the student interns participating in the College of Law’s Cold Case Justice Initiative’s Five Cities Project last summer—one of many significance-saturated moments that deepened their commitment to investigating racially motivated civil rights-era murders in the South. “I was already feeling this great sense of responsibility that grew stronger the more I learned,” says University of Mississippi student LaChiquita McCray, one of 15 students from SU and other law schools selected for the project. “When the audience got up and clapped for us, I felt like I was somebody they really believed can change the world. It was wonderful.”

Changing the world is quite literally the goal behind the Cold Case Justice Initiative (CCJI), an interdisciplinary project that engages law faculty and students in seeking justice on behalf of victims and their families. Founded in 2007 by law professors Paula Johnson and Janis McDonald, the initiative conducts investigations on unresolved cases, sponsors public forums, and serves as a clearinghouse for sharing information on active cases. Recent highlights include partnering with the NAACP and Southern Christian Leadership Conference to draft a resolution demanding full implementation of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, and hosting a conference at SU commemorating the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement featuring civil rights icons Diane Nash and the Reverend C.T. Vivian. “We started out responding to particular families who asked for our help in investigating and advocating for them with the justice department and the FBI, and that work has grown tremendously,” McDonald says. “We’ve also become aware that nobody has ever fully accounted for all the people who died or disappeared during that time period. And that has become part of our mission—to insist that happen.”

Thanks, in large part, to the support of SU alumni, the Five Cities Project placed students in Jacksonville, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Atlanta; and Nashville. They spent weeks studying databases and news articles in the search for information, uncovering some 60 new cases by summer’s end. Their work expands on previous CCJI efforts that resulted in turning over 196 names of potential victims of civil rights-era killings to the U.S. Department of Justice. “The objective has never been solely prosecutions,” Johnson says. “It has also been about correcting the record. These may be cold cases or old cases, but to the extent that they are not resolved, that no one has been held accountable, and that the families and the communities and the public don’t know who perpetrated these offenses, they are ongoing harms. And the wounds are still open.”

Contributing to the healing of those wounds is life-changing for SU law students. Jillian DaSilva L’15 learned about the CCJI when a victim’s family member spoke at the College of Law. “I’m a person who is very sensitive to violence, and it really touched me,” she says. “Being a part of this has definitely enriched my experience as a law student, and is something I can be involved with throughout my legal career.” Mark O’Brien L’14 echoes her appreciation. “This was a chance to learn by getting hands-on experience—by actually working with families,” he says. “It was a chance to learn by doing research that will help someone’s life, give them answers, and provide them justice.”

—Amy Speach
TWO BELOVED INFANT-ROOM TEACHERS retired from the Early Education and Child Care Center this winter, drawing to a close nearly 60 years’ combined experience of nurturing the tiniest members of the Syracuse University community. Throughout those years, Janie Edwards and Fran Paige have garnered the trust and gratitude of generations of SU faculty, staff, and students by caring for—and celebrating—their babies.

A lively and warmhearted pair, Edwards and Paige have loved helping little ones experience the world as a safe and wondrous place. Whether curling up with a favorite book inside the infant room’s cozy indoor igloo, lining the floor with prints of impressionist paintings to create an art “crawl,” or pushing the center’s famed triple strollers around the South Campus neighborhood, it’s hard to know who was having more fun—teachers or babies. “The reason I’ve been here so many years is because I love what I do,” says Edwards, whose first day on the job was 44 years ago. “You’ve got to have a heart for your work, and I do. I love babies and treat them just like my own. I’m going to miss that.”

Paige is a relative rookie, having come on board just 13 years ago. “I have certainly grown over my years here,” says Paige, a children’s book author who treasures her experience at the center for giving her a front-row seat to the fascinating world of infant development. “Even though I raised a large family of my own, I had never spent an entire day or week or year in one room with six babies under the age of 18 months.” She credits Edwards—her “partner and friend”—with showing her how it was done. “We didn’t always agree,” Paige says. “I wanted to hold and snuggle with each baby, and Janie wanted them to learn to be independent. Over the years I learned it is important for them to be independent, and Janie did more snuggling. We laugh about it now, but the truth is they need both.”

While they look forward to active retirements, both Edwards and Paige know they will miss not only the babies, but also the moms and dads who dropped them off every morning and picked them up each night. The feeling is mutual, as was expressed by the many families who helped create a memory scrapbook to mark the end of an era, voice their appreciation, and wish them well. As one grateful parent put it in a farewell letter, “You have been our partners, our friends, our caregivers, our confidantes, and our advisors. You gave us the best possible gift: Because of you, our children had a better start to school and life than we could possibly have imagined.”

—Amy Speach
You plan your day. 
You plan your vacation. 
Now plan to change a life.

Literacy educator Allen Berger has shared his love of the written word with thousands of students—opening up exciting new possibilities for learning. Now, with the Allen Berger Scholarship, he’s helping future teachers develop their expertise in literacy education—ensuring his life’s work lives on.

Anyone can plan an SU legacy.
You, too, can bring your passion to life at SU. A planned gift—no matter its size—has endless potential to support students’ educational dreams. Whether your gift is one of cash, securities, real estate, business partnership interests, retirement plans, or life insurance—it can truly make all the difference in someone’s life.

“Syracuse University—and the extraordinary teachers there—changed my life. I want to give SU students the chance to become the great teachers of tomorrow.”

Allen Berger ’57, G’66

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As you might imagine, whittling down more than 140 years of Syracuse University history into a series of 215 representative images could be a mind-boggling chore. But that’s the assignment three members of the SU Archives and Records Management staff undertook to produce *Syracuse University*, a pictorial history book published in 2013 by Arcadia Publishing as part of its campus history series. “There were certain things we knew we all wanted to include for various reasons,” says University Archivist Edward L. Galvin, who co-authored the book with archivist Margaret A. Mason and reference archivist Mary M. O’Brien. “But there were a lot of other things we really didn’t know anything about, or hadn’t had any reason to do reference work on.”

Take, for instance, Vita the Goat, a ’20s-era mascot that bah-ed at Archbold Stadium football crowds long before Otto was plucked for duty in Orange Land. “We had known there were different mascots, but Vita was a bit of a surprise,” O’Brien says. “I still think it might have had something to do with the fact that Colgate, which was our big rival back then, also had a goat. So I think it was you have a goat, we’ll have a goat, because after awhile, Vita just disappears. She’s gone.”

Gone, but no longer forgotten, thanks to Galvin, Mason, and O’Brien, who spent countless hours combing through Archives’ vast visual collection of prints, negatives, slides, photo albums, scrapbooks, postcards, and documents. Among the treasured finds: a stereopticon (3D-style) slide of the Hall of Languages—the earliest image they’ve ever come across of SU’s first campus building. There are images of the original *Alma Mater* handwritten by Junius Stevens (Class of 1895), the first *Daily Orange* issue, and a Mount Olympus toboggan run that zipped between Bowne Hall and Carnegie Library. The book also dusts off such lost traditions as Women’s Day and the symbolic “disposal” of the character J.R. Calculus by students who abhorred the required course. One especially good source for many of the early images was scrapbooks donated by alumni or their families. “I was pleasantly surprised by the number of really good photos we found in our scrapbook collection,” Mason says. “We have over 200 scrapbooks. They’re
Among the treasured images in the pictorial history book *Syracuse University* are an aerial view of campus from the 1920s (facing page), the relocation of Holden Observatory in June 1991 (above left), Otto’s Orange ancestor from 1982, a campus toboggan run, mascot Vita the Goat, and an early look at the Hall of Languages.

Various sizes and could be full of newspaper clippings, programs, photos, and memorabilia.”

With an estimated 750,000 images at their disposal, the trio split their research into thematic categories—athletics, academics/schools, buildings, campus views, chancellors, student life and traditions, and special events—and met regularly through an 18-month period, okaying or ousting selections they’d rounded up and crafting captions. Admittedly, each has an affinity for a particular era on the Hill: O’Brien, the beginning years; Mason, the turn of the 19th century; and Galvin, World War II and the post-war GI Bulge. “We all had a couple favorites that didn’t make the cut,” O’Brien says.

Presented chronologically, the book, whose profits will support the work of the archives department, offers a memorable journey. Page after page, the visual narrative captures the people, places, and events that have helped shape the University throughout its prominent history. “We hope the book brings attention to the noteworthy heritage of the University and helps readers to realize what valuable historical information is available to them in the SU Archives,” Galvin says.

—Jay Cox
ALTHOUGH SHE COMES FROM HARBIN, CHINA, IT DIDN'T take long for Ruitong “Flora” Zhou ’14 to embrace life at SU after she first arrived four years ago. “I never had the difficult transition from high school to college, from China to the U.S.,” she says. “I had my friends standing by me and they supported me.”

As a first-year student, Zhou—who majors in public relations, international relations, and political science—met several graduate students from her hometown through the Slutzker Center for International Services and became friends with them. They showed her around, invited her to their dinner parties, and eased her into the campus community. “I never felt isolated,” she says. But Zhou realized many international students have a hard time adjusting to life in America, leading her to apply for a mentor position with the Slutzker Center in her sophomore year. “This has been very emotionally rewarding for me,” she says. “I feel I haven’t been through the pain, and I don’t want other people to go through that if they have another way around it.”

For the past two academic years, Zhou worked with a group of 10 to 20 international students and helped them settle in by introducing them to resources on campus, comforting them when they had personal issues, and organizing social events. Zhou also became involved with the SU chapter of the Chinese Scholars and Students Association (CSSA). As director of its communications department, Zhou helped develop the 2013 issue of CSSA Magazine, which introduced SU Chinese students to college life in America and was written roughly 80 percent in English and 20 percent in Chinese.

While mentoring international students, Zhou’s commitment to nurturing others inspired her to work as a resident advisor (RA). Okhumale Igetei ’15, who had Zhou as his RA at Lawrinson Hall, appreciated the way she connected with students and hosted floor dinners. “If you needed anything, you could just approach her,” Igetei says. “She really helped us get comfortable—the whole Syracuse transition, moving to college and everything.”

But Zhou aspires to apply her counseling and administrative skills beyond campus. Although she’s still debating what she wants to do after graduation, Zhou says her long-term goal is to work in the public sector at an international level. “I want to work either in government for the people or work in a big consulting group and have government or a government department as my client,” she says. “I’m willing to work in some position that helps enhance U.S.-China relations—for sure.” For the second year in a row, Zhou was part of the Maxwell School delegation at the National Model United Nations in New York City, representing Czech Republic in 2013 and Tunisia this spring. In the fall, Zhou completed an exchange program through SU Abroad in Madrid, Spain, where she worked for the Fulbright Commission as an international relations intern.

Newhouse professor Joan Deppa, who’s been tutoring Zhou in English since her first year at SU, describes Zhou as globally oriented. “She’s a very modern Chinese woman in terms of her interests and her goals, the fact that she’s traveled so widely, her desire for real education,” Deppa says. “She really is a woman of her age.”

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
GROWING UP IN POINT PLEASANT, NEW JERSEY, Matthew Manfra was an enthusiastic SU basketball fan, and over the years he has had many opportunities to watch the team play in several cities around the country. Now that Manfra is Syracuse University’s new assistant vice president for alumni engagement, he is thrilled he can experience the Orange spirit in person on the home court. “Going through SU’s extensive search process, I had an opportunity to meet many alumni and members of the campus community who make Syracuse University such a special place,” Manfra says. “The people are the real reason I’m here.”

In addition to creating and implementing alumni relations’ initiatives to increase participation and volunteerism, Manfra oversees the Fund for Syracuse—the University’s annual giving program—to advance philanthropy among students and alumni. This is the first time the two programs have been brought together under one umbrella. “I see annual giving and alumni relations as two of the most effective ways to reach our graduates,” Manfra says. “I believe engagement with alumni needs to be from cradle to grave, and between both of these operations, we’re connecting with a lot of people.”

Manfra’s first alumni relations job was at Trenton State College—now known as the College of New Jersey—where he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1999. As student body president, he had full access to faculty, staff, donors, and alumni, and he discovered early on that he had an affinity for working with alumni and donors. “Immediately upon graduation, I served on my college’s alumni association executive board, so I saw alumni relations firsthand as a volunteer,” says Manfra, who also coordinated the college’s student ambassador program and on-campus recruitment in the admissions office. “I left the board when I became the alumni affairs director.”

After three years in admissions, two years in alumni relations, and four years in human resources—all at his alma mater—Manfra joined Rutgers University as director of regional clubs and then served as director of outreach programs in the alumni relations department. Four years later, he headed west to the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), where he oversaw the alumni relations program and provided leadership to the university’s alumni association board of directors. “My focus at UNC was on developing a strategic and sustainable alumni association,” Manfra says. “We modernized the program and concentrated on young alumni and regional events, which is the same emphasis as at SU. If we’re going to do our job right, we have to keep up with the changes in technology and figure out how our students, alumni, and donors are engaging now—on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn—and be well integrated into their social media network.”

Manfra says Syracuse University does an amazing job of making people feel part of the family and looks forward to finding out why so many alumni bleed Orange, attend events, volunteer their time, talent, and resources, and stay connected to their alma mater years after graduation. “I just started my new role in January, so I’m in a listening phase right now,” Manfra says. “But I’m looking forward to getting on the road to meet our alumni outside of the Syracuse area. It’s my nature to want to meet them all in my first month on the job, but that’s impossible. This is a marathon, not a sprint.”

—Christine Yackel
LORI BROWN WANTS SOMETHING MORE AND SOMETHING BETTER FOR ARCHITECTS AND ARCHITECTURE—FOR HER STUDENTS, HER COLLEAGUES, HERSELF, AND THOSE THEY SERVE—AND SHE’S PUSHING MIGHTILY IN DIVERSE DIRECTIONS TO INCITE CHANGE WITHIN THE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE AND ACROSS THE PROFESSION AT LARGE.

“As a student in the late ’80s and early ’90s, I had such a naïve idea—a narrow picture—about what architecture was supposed to do,” says Brown, a School of Architecture faculty member whose work bridges architecture, feminism, and political activism. “The educational model then was scripted by the mentality of a lone genius working away in the studio, creating beautiful drawings and models that someone else would then be building. That kind of model is just not going to move us forward.”

Brown’s vision, by contrast, places architects smack in the middle of everyday life, tackling contemporary issues and contributing to real-world concerns. Her own teaching, research, writing, and design work offer a rich demonstration of doing just that, often focusing on the relationships between architecture and matters of social justice, particularly those affecting women. For example, she served as project architect on renovations at the Vera House women’s shelter in Syracuse, collaborated with a Turkish colleague to investigate women’s shelters in Turkey, and conducted an intensive study of abortion clinics in North America that resulted in her book, *Contested Spaces: Abortion Clinics, Women’s Shelters and Hospitals* (Ashgate, 2013). “There is a whole array of spaces that architects don’t typically work on, and our built environment is suffering as a result of architecture not being more engaged,” says Brown, who earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an M.Arch degree from Princeton University. “So I want to—and I do—put pressure on the discipline to think about these things, because I believe it’s incredibly important.”

Another central aspect of Brown’s work is her desire to reclaim and redefine the word “feminism” as a matter of global concern rather than being an issue relevant to women only. “It’s really about justice and about equity at large,” she says, pointing to “abysmal” work practices, low pay, and a low work/life balance for architects. While these conditions are of concern for everyone in the profession, they disproportionately affect women and minorities. “What kind of things can we put in place to help push and encourage the discipline and the educational system to evolve more quickly?” Brown says. “How can we create a more equitable practice of architecture and a more equitable built environment?”

As part of her efforts to provide answers to these questions, Brown organized, curated, and participated in feminist practices, a traveling exhibition that evolved into a book, *Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture* (Ashgate, 2011). Both showcase an international group of women designers and architects whose work features feminist methodologies and challenges conventional ideas about architecture. She also co-founded and co-leads ArchiteXX, an organization that works to bridge the academy and practice and provides mentoring opportunities for women and minority architects in New York City. At SU, Brown is reinstituting the Women in Design student group, hoping to empower students to use their voices to begin to effect change while still in school. “Helping students understand the larger picture is critical, or they won’t be prepared for the reality of the inequities of the professional environment,” she says. “It’s very important to educate up-and-coming architects to think about these things in a more conscious way so, hopefully, the practice of architecture becomes more equitable and there are women, as equally as men, designing our built environment. That’s not the case right now.”

—Amy Speach
David Van Slyke never finds his work boring. A professor of public administration and international affairs at the Maxwell School, he says the deeper he delves into his research and teaching on government contracting, public-private partnerships, and strategic management in public and nonprofit organizations, the more interesting it is. “I look at how government works with nonprofits, for-profit businesses, and even with other governments,” says Van Slyke, who has been a member of the Maxwell faculty since 2004. “The exciting part for me is being able to bridge theory and practice with research focused on how policy gets implemented and can be improved.”

Initially, Van Slyke did not have his sights set on an academic career. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in economics, he worked as a project manager in the infrastructure field. Later, while working in higher education administration, he earned a Ph.D. degree in public administration and policy from SUNY Albany. “I’m interested in the intersection of economics, management, and politics—and how the policy environment is shaped by goal complexity, and diverse intergovernmental, stakeholder, and resource pressures,” he says. By way of example, he cites the federal health care exchange—an issue that brought the national media to his door. “Part of why I’ve received inquiries is because the approach was a combination of governmental agencies and contractors engaged in a very complex undertaking,” he says. “The question is, ‘Why were there so many problems?’ Those are the types of partnership and implementation issues I focus on and want to help improve.”

Even in his international work with ministries and banks in India, China, Thailand, Singapore, and Russia, Van Slyke says the number-one challenge is how to get two sides working toward a set of common goals and achieving collective outcomes. In his latest book, Complex Contracting: Purchasing in the Wake of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Deepwater Program (Cambridge University Press, 2013), he writes about how difficult it was to get the government and private contractors to understand how to work with one another while engaged in the contract. “There’s often a problem of mutual understanding in how government and nongovernmental organizations work with one another,” says Van Slyke, who is also a non-resident faculty member at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands.

Last July, Maxwell Dean James Steinberg named Van Slyke the Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business and Government Policy in recognition of his leadership role at the school as well as for his innovative and widely recognized work in the field of government contracting and public-private partnerships. The chair was established by the late Louis F. Bantle ’51, H’94 in honor of his father to provide support for teaching and research in business and government relations. “I think Lou Bantle wanted to promote more active engagement to build bridges between government and its different partners whereby their collective strengths could be used to achieve productive outcomes in advancing important public policy goals,” Van Slyke says. “Being named the Bantle Chair is a privilege, honor, and a great opportunity.”

Van Slyke enjoys being at Syracuse because he appreciates the quality and ambitions of his students as well as the alumni and their commitment to public service. “I’m in a super department with strong leadership and colleagues who are committed to creating value through high-quality and relevant teaching and research,” he says. “This is an institution of inclusiveness, respect, and ambition—important attributes for success—and a great place to contribute and make a difference for our future.”

—Christine Yackel
WHEN NATHALIE QUEZADA WARREN ’08 TOOK AN HONORS course in public policy taught by Professor William Coplin, it set her on a career path that was completely unexpected. “He told me about a program from the 1990s that brought together Latino students and police officers, and offered to help me make the connections I would need to restart the program,” says Quezada Warren, now assistant director of Winnick Literacy Initiatives in SU’s Shaw Center for Public and Community Service. “I was a first-year student and had no idea what I was getting into.”

Like the South Bronx, where Quezada Warren grew up, Syracuse’s West Side is a predominantly Latino community confronted by many of the same challenges—poverty, language barriers, drugs, and violence, where police officers are not typically seen in a positive light. So Quezada Warren founded Cross-Cultural Connections, a program in which Latino high school students from the West Side taught city police officers how to speak Spanish. They discussed each other’s cultures and shared a weekly dinner. “It was our way of exposing the officers to our culture, our food, our way of life, and it’s had lasting effects,” says Quezada Warren, who is of Dominican descent and whose mother insisted the family speak only Spanish at home. “To this day, the former students and police officers still get together. The program was all about creating relationships and changing perspectives—not only those of the students, but of the police officers, as well. I think the program helped to bridge a gap and break down barriers. It was the highlight of my college career.”

In recognition of her efforts, Quezada Warren won the InterFaith Works of Central New York Racial Justice Award, and the SU Chancellor’s Award for Public Service in 2007. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in international relations and psychology, she worked for Catholic Charities as a youth health educator, then as a program coordinator and site director for Say Yes to Education, promoting attendance initiatives, after-school programs, and student government participation. Married and the mother of a young daughter, Quezada Warren maintains her close connections with Syracuse’s Latino community. She is a member of the board of directors of Partners in Learning Inc., an organization that provides support to the West Side Learning Center, which offers adult education services to refugees and others for whom English is not the first language. Drawing on her own experience as the first person in her family to attend college, Quezada Warren also serves as a mentor for On Point for College, a program for young first-generation college women.

Quezada Warren joined the Shaw Center in 2012, coordinating the Literacy Corps tutoring program that pairs more than 300 SU student literacy volunteers with pupils in the Syracuse City School District and community-based organizations. “Literacy is the gateway to a life beyond poverty,” she says. “If a child can read, she is more likely to stay in school, develop strong literacy skills, and be able to engage more fully in her own community. Not only are our tutors supporting academic success, they are empowering students to pursue their personal and professional ambitions.”

For Quezada Warren, coming to Syracuse University was a life-changing experience. “SU gave me the chance to showcase my leadership skills,” she says. “I learned that what I want to do is empower the community, empower youth. And what better way to do that than to help them feel they can be role models for others?”

—Paula Meseroll
IT’S PLAIN TO SEE THAT ENZYMES EXCITE CHEMISTRY DOCTORAL student Joseph E. Darling G’12. When asked to describe an enzyme he’s researching, the Michigan native reacts with the swiftness he relied on as a former high school sprinter and soccer player. “It’s easier to draw,” he says, springing from his conference-room seat to a white board in the Life Sciences Complex and charting out a molecular interaction in red marker. “Your body has all kinds of enzymes like this, which is what makes biochemistry so cool. It’s really just a chemical reaction on a large scale with proteins. It’s your body’s way of sending and receiving signals, and that’s basically what life is.”

For Darling, the enzyme in question is known as GOAT (ghrelin O-acyltransferase)—a catalyst for modifying the peptide hormone ghrelin, which regulates appetite and other physiological processes. As a member of chemistry professor James Hougland’s research team, Darling is exploring interactions between GOAT and ghrelin to develop GOAT inhibitors that could prevent the enzyme from triggering ghrelin’s hunger signaling. The research may one day lead to a therapeutic treatment for Prader-Willi syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes hyperphagia (insatiable appetite) as well as obesity, and may reveal a connection to diabetes. “I like trouble shooting,” Darling says. “You have fun when things don’t work because you get to try to figure out how to make them work. You study a system and break it down into individual components.”

Darling’s work in Hougland’s lab helped him win a 2012 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a highly competitive award that comes with an annual stipend, funding for research materials, seminars, and other activities, and allows him to do full-time research. Darling credits Hougland for sparking his interest in enzyme research in the first graduate class he took at SU in fall 2010. “He’s a really good teacher,” Darling says. “I’m so happy I’m in his lab.”

Darling was introduced to research as an undergraduate at Lake Superior State University in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, performing studies on algal toxins under the guidance of Professor Judy Westrick. “I’m not a numbers person, but when I took organic chemistry, I realized there was more to chemistry than calculations and dimensional analysis,” he says. “There was an art to it.”

After graduating from Lake Superior State, Darling ventured to Sierra Leone, where he worked for a summer on a clean water project as part of a humanitarian relief effort. The experience fulfilled an interest he’d had since childhood of helping out in a developing country and provided him the opportunity to assist desperately poor communities, where children die regularly from cholera contracted through unsafe drinking water. “Kids passed while I was there in the village,” he says. “I had hydrology maps and did my best to pick well locations in different villages. A couple years later, they finally drilled in some of the locations I’d selected.”

When Darling returned stateside, he decided to pursue graduate work in chemistry and SU was on his list. His parents had grown up in Syracuse (his mom, Gail, attended SU) and his sister, Kari G’12, was working on a doctorate in chemistry here at the time. “They were a big influence on me,” he says.

Now in his fourth year here, Darling, who has logged time as a teaching assistant, knows he’s found a supportive environment that has reinforced his love for teaching and research and where the intrigue of enzymes continues to captivate him. “My NSF funding lasts until May 2015, so that gives me lots of time to get as much done on this project as we possibly can,” he says. “After that, I’m not going to leave any stone unturned with anything I’m curious about.”

—Jay Cox
THOUGHTFUL PRESENCE

CHANCELLOR KENT SYVERUD is known and admired for a leadership style that reflects his personable nature, sharp intellect, passion for listening, and commitment to helping others achieve success.

BY CAROL L. BOLL | PHOTOS BY STEVE SARTORI

WHEN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW DEAN KENT SYVERUD called Adrienne Davis to recruit her for a faculty post at the school, Davis says her first thought was—"Wow! I've been waiting 10 years for this phone call!" She had worked previously for Syverud during a brief stint as visiting fellow while he was dean at Vanderbilt University Law School and had long hoped for another opportunity to work under him. If she had been predisposed to accept the offer, her conversation with Syverud during a recruitment dinner further sealed the deal. "I was doing my 'faculty recruitment' thing, and I expected him to be doing his 'dean recruitment' thing," recalls Davis, a law professor and vice provost at Washington University in St. Louis. "And he really pushed me. He wanted to talk about my articles and my scholarship, and I thought, 'This guy has actually read my work. And he's invested in it.' And he kept pushing me to articulate what I needed as a faculty member to move forward to the next step. I was stunned. No dean had ever asked me that before."

That interaction, Davis says, exemplifies what she calls Syverud's "Wizard of Oz" quality—"his real understanding of what each person needs to get 'home.' He really would press [faculty] to articulate what we needed, and to come up with a sense of what we could do and what the institution could do to support it. It was absolutely extraordinary."

In January, Syverud left Washington University to begin his tenure as Syracuse University's 12th Chancellor and President. And friends, former colleagues, and those involved in his selection say his well-documented passion for empowering the highest and best potential in students, faculty, and the institution as a whole will serve SU very well. He’s the type of person, they say, who would rather listen and learn about others than talk about himself. A person of extraordinary intellect as well as deep humility. A collaborator and consensus-builder. A gifted teacher who works hard to know his students "by
name and by story” and who still gratefully acknowledges those who helped shape his own story.

Syverud’s appointment marks a homecoming of sorts for him. A native of Irondequoit, New York, he says he is thrilled with his return to Upstate New York and, specifically, with his new post at Syracuse University—the first college campus he saw as a child. “It was funny, but when the recruiting firm called about the position here, they started to go into this spiel about how despite the snow it really was an okay place to be and that I should consider it,” he says. “But for me, Syracuse was always the university when I was growing up. So it was sort of like that line from the movie Jerry McGuire—‘You had me at hello!’ People have sometimes pitched things to me that didn’t feel right. This just felt right. And it still does.”

Search committee members say Syverud was easily the unanimous choice to replace Chancellor Nancy Cantor, who left to assume the top post at Rutgers University-Newark. “On paper, it was clear that we were dealing with someone who showed tremendous skill and ability from not only an administrative standpoint, but also from an academic ability standpoint,” says Ryan Williams, SU’s associate vice president for enrollment management and a member of the search committee. “Then when we met him, it was striking—and I mean striking—just how thoughtful he was, how prepared he was. He really understood the nuances of Syracuse University from every standpoint, and he understood some of the trials and tribulations that a school like Syracuse would be going through in Upstate New York, competing against some of the best institutions in the country if not the world.”

Williams says he also was deeply impressed by Syverud’s humility and clear appreciation for the opportunity before
him. “It was very apparent that here was someone who really appreciated where he was, appreciated this opportunity to be at a place like Syracuse University, and really was going to make the most of it,” Williams says. “He made us feel very proud to be a part of SU during the interview process.”

Management professor Kris Byron agrees, citing Syverud’s sense of authenticity, strong listening skills, record of achievements, and superior intellect as a potent combination that quickly won over committee members. “It was a true Kent love fest,” Byron recalls with a laugh. “When he left the room after his second interview, no one hesitated. I mean, it felt like we were on the second date and we were ready to get married. I’m not exaggerating. And we were a very diverse bunch of people who came in there with different ideas about what the institution needed.”

Chancellor Search Committee Chair and SU Trustee Joanne Alper ’72 says she came away from the interview process impressed not only by Syverud’s tremendous intellect, humility, and natural leadership presence, but also by his keen focus on students. “During the first interview, when Kent was given the opportunity to ask questions of the committee members, his first questions were to the students,” she says. “During the second round, when we met with him in a smaller group, again his first questions were to the student. Throughout the process, he demonstrated a sincere desire to learn more about the students’ backgrounds, lives, interests, needs, and ambitions.”

That quality of Syverud’s leadership style has been vividly evident since his first days on campus, says Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Thompson G’67. “The first and most important impression about Chancellor Syverud during the interview process was his laser-like focus on the quality of the student experience,” Thompson says. “Since he was named Chancellor, there have been dozens of examples of this focus, including his decision to live in a residence hall for two weeks in December. He continues to reach out to students every day in the classrooms, the cafeterias, sporting events, and public gatherings. His commitment to improving the opportunities for every student has already made a big difference for the entire University community.”

PASSION FOR EDUCATION

Syverud took a somewhat circuitous route to the Chancellorship of the university down the road from his childhood home. One of five siblings, including an identical twin, Scott, he developed an early passion for learning—a trait for which he credits his fifth-grade teacher, who challenged him intellectually and refused to let him “drift.” Her name? “Shirley Berger,” he says. “She only taught at Irondequoit for a year, and I’ve never seen or heard of her since, but she really transformed my life. She was spectacular.” After high school, he attended Georgetown University to study for the foreign service, but eventually opted for graduate study in economics and earned a law degree at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

While at Michigan, Syverud struck up a friendship with a young woman pursuing graduate study in environmental toxicology and public health who rented a room in the same rooming house. “She was dating a Canadian statistician, and I concluded she could do better,” he says with a smile. “And, fortunately, she eventually reached that conclusion also.” Syverud and the doctoral student, Ruth Chen, married in 1982 and are the parents of three sons: Steven, a business development officer for Coursera; Brian, a graduate student in biomedical engineering at University of Michigan; and David, a
Q&A

What do you perceive to be some of the challenges facing Syracuse University?
I think the key challenges facing Syracuse University are the same ones facing all of higher education today. Technology is changing higher education just as it is changing every other field of endeavor. We cannot be in denial about this. There are some aspects of a great education that will never change, like excellent teaching with face-to-face interaction between teacher and student. But other aspects are going to continue evolving dramatically, and we need to be out in front of it.

I also think we need to pay more attention to our global competitors. Universities have been among the most stable sectors of this nation’s economy, but other countries are now investing heavily to overtake us. We need to expand our notion of “competitor” beyond U.S. News and World Report and start paying attention to what other countries are doing to try to surpass us.

And, of course, affordability is a big concern. We want students who are hungry for knowledge and for the chance to be the best they can be, whether they come from rich, poor, or middle-class backgrounds. So how do we keep higher education within reach financially? Syracuse University actually has been ahead of most of its peers in this regard, and we need to build on that in ways that are consistent with our values and maintain our ability to deliver an excellent academic experience.

What are your top priorities in this first year?
To learn as much about Syracuse University and listen to as many people as I can. I believe that is absolutely necessary in order to practice due diligence before formulating a vision of where we go next. Four things that I do believe will be essential to our long-term success are enhancing undergraduate education and the undergraduate experience; empowering excellent research, especially interdisciplinary research; embracing opportunities for change and innovation; and making Syracuse a leader in empowering and promoting opportunities for veterans.

What do you see as Syracuse University’s greatest strengths?
Syracuse has a history of embracing innovation and of taking risks. Chancellor Tolley’s decision to enroll scores of returning World War II soldiers under the newly implemented GI Bill was an incredibly bold move. It also was probably one of the most important strategic decisions made here in the past half-century. That institutional willingness to take risks and respond nimbly to emerging needs will serve us well during this time of rapid change.

We have wonderful students who come here in spite of our long winters. They are resourceful and eager to discover what excites them and where they fit into the world. They are learning from dedicated teachers who are pursuing research discoveries on campus and around the world. Our faculty are not only outstanding scholars and researchers; first and foremost, they are passionate teachers who care about their students and about making Syracuse the best place it can be.

Can you give three words to describe yourself?
Nope. Human beings are complicated and wonderful. Trying to reduce them to three words or 140 characters is exactly what I try never to do.

What do you see as your strengths?
I like to listen. I learned long ago that there’s so much you can learn just by asking and genuinely hearing what people are saying to you. I also work hard at valuing people as they are and then trying to inspire them, respectfully, to be even more. I also genuinely know what I don’t know and want to learn it. As I get older, I realize how much there still is to learn in every area. That’s a joyous discovery for me because there’s always something new to learn, and learning and discovery are what keep you young.

We understand you are an avid reader. What are some of your all-time favorite books?
For stress relief, I read murder mysteries—right now Colin Cotterill’s Laotian series. I read aloud to my kids for many, many years, and the best read-aloud book was Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird. My other favorites include Shelby Foote’s The Civil War: A Narrative and Water Margin, a Chinese classic. But I read pretty much everything.

Other hobbies?
I love music, especially opera and choral music, and I sang in choirs through high school, college, and while I was dean at Vanderbilt. Of course, music is a big deal in Nashville, so it was quite strenuous. But it was great because it was the one thing I did where it was not possible to think about anything else while doing it, because if you weren’t paying attention, you got into trouble. So it was very therapeutic. I also love outdoor activities in any season, like cross-country skiing, canoeing, and kayaking.
graduate of Augsburg College who recently completed an externship in finance and accounting for an assisted living company. (For more on Dr. Ruth Chen, see page 28.)

A defining point in Syverud’s law school career came with the opportunity to clerk for a relative newcomer to, and first woman to serve on, the U.S. Supreme Court—Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. The experience, he says, was incredibly intense yet deeply rewarding. “Justice O’Connor was extremely kind and understanding, yet also had extremely high standards,” he says. “She was a very straight-forward person who calls it as she sees it, and that’s a great work environment. You know what to expect. You know to aim high. I enjoyed it terrifically.” Syverud says he was particularly struck by O’Connor’s capacity for efficiency and kindness even as she shouldered the burden of making life-and-death decisions. “At the time, I didn’t realize that was unusual,” he says. “I just thought that was the way people in leadership roles behaved. I was really fortunate that this was the first experience I had with someone in a high-pressure, high-demand job, because she did it so well.”

He also clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Louis Oberdorfer, during which time he formed a close and lasting friendship with a fellow law clerk, Robert E. Cooper Jr., who now serves as attorney general for Tennessee. Cooper says the two law clerks immediately hit it off. “Kent obviously was incredibly smart,” Cooper recalls. “But in addition to being smart, he was just an excellent communicator and a great listener. He was someone who I think had a vision, but was not overwhelmed with himself and by his success. He has always been a humble guy.” Cooper says even then he assumed Syverud ultimately would land in academia. “It was clear to anyone who knew him then that wherever he went to teach, he was soon going to be running the place. And that’s certainly the way it’s turned out,” he says.

After a short stint with a private law practice, Syverud entered academia on the urging of the same law school mentor, Allan Smith, who had recommended him for the Supreme Court clerkship. He joined the University of Michigan Law School faculty in 1987 and discovered a passion for teaching. He continued to teach even as he moved into administration, first as dean at Vanderbilt Law School and then at Washington University in St. Louis. In fact, excluding leading a seminar at Washington University in early January, this marks the first semester he has not taught a class. He hopes to add teaching to his schedule next fall.

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

Syverud says he has continued teaching because he loves to see those “light bulb” moments students experience as well as the opportunity to satisfy his own intellectual curiosity about the latest research discoveries. In an essay titled “Why I Teach,” from the Spring 2009 issue of Washington University Law Magazine, he offered yet another reason: “Without daily exposure to student learning—and to how hard good teaching is—a dean can gradually come to take the ingredients of a great education for granted.” One of those essential ingredients—good teaching—begins with “knowing students really well,” Syverud says. “Knowing where they’re coming from. Knowing what they already think they know, including what they already think they know that’s wrong. You need to know them by name and by story. And you need to take them as they are and build from that.”

Former colleagues from Washington University say Syverud excelled at building connections with students. “Kent would always think of everything in terms of how this is going to help students,” recalls Peter Joy, law professor and former vice dean under Syverud. “Most institutions of higher education in my experience start to think that whatever is good for the teachers or the administrators just has to be good for students—when, in fact, that is not always the case.” He also cites Syverud’s doggedness in helping students, recalling an instance where one recent graduate was repeatedly stymied by his inability to land a job. “Kent spent an enormous amount of time with the student—talking to him and connecting with the career services office, which in turn put him in touch with an employment coach,” Joy says. “Kent reached out to different people he knew, and it basically became a joint mission to help this student. He just has such determination. He never gives up. He doesn’t give up on students, he doesn’t give up on their aspirations, and he conveys that to them.”

Washington University’s Adrienne Davis says Syverud shows the same regard for faculty and excels as a consensus builder. She remembers the time he brought before the faculty an initiative involving online course offerings that had been in the works for more than a year. “And then the faculty balked,” she recalls. “A lot of deans would have lost their tempers or gotten frustrated and abandoned the effort. But Kent said, ‘You know what? You guys are right. Let’s do a do-over. Let’s get more faculty and staff involved; let’s do this from the beginning, and let’s do it right.’ I was stunned. We did, and we had the same outcome. But this time, everybody bought into it. That part was really illuminating for me—his willingness to say, ‘This isn’t the process it should’ve been, and we’re going to redo it,’ because process is crucial for institutions of higher education.”

Scott Syverud, a physician at University of Virginia, says his twin brother never was one to shy away from difficult challenges. “He’s very direct,” Scott Syverud says. “He doesn’t like to avoid problems but rather solve them, including the hard ones where there are strong opinions on multiple sides. The ones that most of us put off or hope will go away or leave for somebody else to take care of. That’s not his character.”

Syverud has put that quality to work outside the university setting as well, serving as one of two appointed independent trustees for the $20 billion Deepwater Horizon

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He never gives up. He doesn’t give up on students, he doesn’t give up on their aspirations, and he conveys that to them.”

—PETER JOY, Washington University law professor
Dr. Ruth Chen

TRACKING TOXINS

Dr. Ruth Chen knows the havoc that chemicals can wreak on the human body. As a staff fellow with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health early in her career, she pursued research that helped expose the damage that even a seemingly benign substance like acetaminophen can cause to the liver of a young child if taken on an empty stomach. As state toxicologist for Tennessee, she worked to assess and control risks posed by industrial contamination and to educate the public on what they could do to avoid or minimize the risk of exposure to toxic elements.

Now Chen, whose spouse, Kent Syverud, became the University’s 12th Chancellor in January, brings that wide-ranging expertise to SU. She looks forward to playing multiple roles within the campus community: supporting the Chancellor in his work to enhance the growth and learning experiences of all students; promoting the environmental health of the campus community; and serving as a professor of practice in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Next fall, she will teach a course on environmental risk assessment and toxicology that will both familiarize students with the skills needed to conduct a risk assessment of a contaminated site and educate them about the effects of toxic substances on the human body. “The outcome of a risk assessment is to protect human health by EPA regulation,” says Chen, who holds doctoral and master of public health degrees in environmental toxicology from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston. “But it’s also a cost-effective issue. You have to be able, in a very short time, to accomplish the goal of protecting human health while not bankrupting your company. And that’s quite a responsibility for a young person. You have to know where to find the best information and how to ensure that the data is of high quality. You have to familiarize yourself with the rules and then understand how to figure out a contaminated site, because no two sites are the same. And then you have to evaluate the human health impact. You need to understand the toxicology of the chemicals, organ by organ, so the regulations will make sense to students and they understand why they are doing the risk assessment.”

In her capacity as state toxicologist for Tennessee from 1998 to 2006, Chen oversaw landfills and hazardous waste sites and investigated industrial contamination practices. With a joint grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she investigated the effects of contamination caused by a chemical company that once led the world in pesticide production. The most rewarding part of the job, she says, was giving residents the information they needed to limit their exposure to, and minimize their risk from, such toxic substances. The greatest challenge? “Convincing people that the truth shall set you free,” she says.

“Convincing people that the truth shall set you free.”

“For example, if samplings show that a house with young children has pesticides in it that are endangering the children’s health, they need to know what steps should be taken so the children are not exposed and how we can help them. But their fear is that if they get their house tested and it has pesticides, the value of the house would decrease. Therefore, your phone calls would not get answered, your fax would go unanswered, your emails would not be answered. You don’t want to harass people, but they have little kids, and their fear that decontamination would depress the value of their house is unfounded.”

Immediately prior to joining SU, Chen was a faculty member of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Washington University in St. Louis, where she taught courses in environmental risk assessment, energy and environmental economics, and risk management decision making. She also developed and directed a professional engineering master’s degree program and an international study abroad program in energy and environmental and chemical engineering. At Syracuse, she hopes to cultivate in her students the kind of skills and expertise that will serve them well whether they choose a career in industry, academia, or government. The need for such specialized knowledge will only grow, she says, as the number of chemicals in the environment continues to proliferate. “We are never going to produce fewer chemicals than we have right now,” she says. “And we don’t even know all the injurious effects, because there are more chemicals now than we have data on them.”

—Carol Boll
Oil Spill Trust. The fund was established to compensate victims of the 2010 explosion of a BP oil rig that killed 11 and spewed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. In a radio interview last fall with SU political science professor Grant Reeher, Syverud said that experience has underscored for him the critical importance of honestly acknowledging risks and taking steps to manage them. “I’m trying to learn from that, and to practice non-avoidance of problems,” he said in the interview. “If there’s a problem, it’s important not to pretend it’s not there, or to let your PR efforts overwhelm your self-knowledge.”

Syverud’s willingness to face issues head-on, listen to diverse stakeholders, and support the aspirations of others speaks to that aspect of leadership that he says he most enjoys: Stewardship. “And by that,” he says, “I mean the role of facilitating the success of others and confronting obstacles to people’s success and either making it work better or making it get out of the way.” Toward that end, he has wasted no time in starting to build relationships with members of his new campus community, launching the “Bleeding Orange” blog available at chancellor.syr.edu, spending two weeks in December living in the Brewster-Boland-Brockway student housing complex, touring campus buildings and classrooms, and listening, listening, listening. It’s all part of what he calls “the best job in the world.”

“There’s something special about Syracuse and about what happens in this place,” says Syverud, a voracious reader who consumed five volumes on SU history before he even arrived on campus. “These are the best people in the world here. They are scrappy, entrepreneurial, decent people who overachieve relative to the expectations others thrust upon them. And that is just wonderful to see. You see it in the students who play the bells in Crouse College. You see it in the folks who are Otto the Orange. You see it in the classroom. It’s special. It is idiosyncratically Syracuse, and it’s got to be nurtured and protected and get even better. But that’s my job.”

INAUGURATION DAY
The University celebrated Chancellor Kent Syverud’s inauguration on April 11 with a number of activities. Clockwise (from top left): Syverud thanks retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor after her speech in Hendricks Chapel; the Chancellor shares his inaugural remarks; a student smiles as he poses with her for a “selfie” photo; the SU Marching Band performs on the Shaw Quad.
OUTDOOR ROPES COURSE takes participants beyond their comfort zones and builds teamwork.

THE CHALLENGES come with names like the Hyperbola, Wild Woozy, Tumultuous Traverse, and Pulley Polka. They may sound like dizzying carnival rides, but they’re about much more than fun and games. They’re part of the University’s new Outdoor Challenge Course on South Campus that provides participants with an unforgettable experience focused on team building—from high above the ground.

“It’s a unique learning environment where the participants’ true emotions come out,” says Scott Catucci, associate director for outdoor education and student development in the Department of Recreation Services (DRS). “We like them to have fun, but it really is geared toward an experiential education—they’re physically doing something and learning because of what they’re doing.”

The ropes course, operated by DRS through its Outdoor Education Program, opened last September and welcomed an estimated 556 participants from both SU organizations and external groups.
from the local community. Built atop one of the highest points in the city, the course offers a sweeping view of Syracuse and the surrounding area. But the main attraction is the action that takes place on three towers aligned in an L-shape with upper (35 feet) and lower (18 feet) platforms. The course also features a dual zip line and a separate element known as the Triple Leap of Faith, which involves scaling a pole and then jumping out to grab a trapeze bar. The platforms are connected by cables that allow participants—tethered in with a harness and safety lines—to venture off the platforms and tackle a series of team exercises that push them out of their comfort zones and help them learn about themselves and their colleagues. “It’s all about teamwork,” Catucci says.

For participants, the session begins at the new Outdoor Education Center at the base of the hill. After meeting with the program’s outdoor education professionals and trained student facilitators, they hike up the hill and go through safety instructions and ground exercises. Then it’s time to grab hold of the cargo nets and climb up to the platforms. “Some of our members were very adventurous and some had never been more than a few feet off the ground,” says Harrison Otterbein ’14, a field supervisor with SU Ambulance (SUA), one of the participating groups last fall. Otterbein called the Tumultuous Traverse “particularly nerve wracking,” noting group members had to sit on a bench together and pull themselves along. “It wasn’t smooth,” he says. “But that was the one we started off on, so it set the tone for the rest of the course.”

SUA volunteer Mike Smith ’12, G’13 enjoyed the opportunity to work with fellow SUA members outside of their normal environment and liked how the challenges reinforced the importance of having the ability to work together. “It was a fantastic experience,” he says.

At the end of each session, the facilitators lead discussions that help the group reflect on the activity. “We like to say that what you’re doing up there applies to real life,” Catucci says. “You’re working as a team, developing trust, respect, and responsibility, and the communication required to get things done.”

—Jay Cox

Last fall, members of the SU Ambulance (SUA) tackled the new Outdoor Challenge Course on South Campus. A cargo net (top photo, facing page) serves as the main entry point to the course’s central tower, which has two levels. After ascending to a tower platform, SUA members give the Lateral Limbo challenge a try (lower right). Among the other challenges are the Tumultuous Traverse (above, left) and the Pulley Polka (above, right). The exercises are designed to teach team-building skills, helping participants learn about themselves and each other and gain self-confidence in their abilities to, literally, overcome obstacles.
As SU’s new academic campus in New York City, the Fisher Center offers students across disciplines experiential learning opportunities in one of the world’s most dynamic metropolitan areas.

BY AMY SPEACH | PHOTOS BY JOSEPH LAWTON
Inside a dance studio in the Fisher Center, the University’s new academic facility in midtown Manhattan, the soundtrack to *Dreamgirls* is playing, and loudly. Actress Jennifer Hudson belts out, “I am changing, I’ll be better than I am...But I need you, I need a hand.” Even louder, movement teacher Darryl Quinton blasts encouragement to a roomful of SU actors-in-training. He weaves among them, getting in their faces, making them laugh, making them sweat, and calling on them to shout out lines for the rest of the class to repeat at the top of their lungs (“Why, man, he doth besstride the narrow world!”) while they hold painfully still in excruciating poses intended to strengthen their bodies and, more importantly, their acting skills.

Later in the day, after changing from workout gear to street clothes, students gather around comedic actor and writer Ed Herbstman, who coaches them in the virtues and intricacies of improvisation. “I’m going to repeat this constantly: Dive deeper, go deeper, invest in what you are doing instead of inventing,” he says, inviting two students to serve as “guinea pigs” in a demonstration of “a different way of encountering information from somebody.” Lots of laughter fills this class, too, as students collaborate in the moment to create characters and scenes, simply by playing off each other’s body language and facial expressions.

Across the hall, in a different type of artists’ studio, another kind of learning activity is taking place. A hushed intensity is the only soundtrack here, where architecture students sit at

“NEW YORK is so vibrant, so dynamic, so layered with culture. It’s the most interesting city in the world. Now we can offer our students an even greater chance to tap into that.”

—WINSTON FISHER ’96 University Trustee
Designed to accommodate the University’s customized educational programs in New York City, the Fisher Center opened its doors in January to two well-established SU immersion programs: the Tepper Semester for drama students and Syracuse Architecture NYC.

computers alone or in twos, surrounded by three-dimensional models crafted of white paper or pale blue foam. Professor Angela Co consults privately with a pair of students, first at the computer and then while studying their models, asking questions and offering suggestions for variations. “There are some really lovely effects in this one,” Co says, gently holding an intricate paper model not much bigger than a sandwich. “I’m glad you guys took on this challenge. And it’s quite well made considering how difficult it is.” The three scholars rarely look up from the work they are discussing, and, in fact, no one in the room even seems to notice the lively gathering of drama students who are talking and laughing at their lockers on the other side of the studio’s glass walls.

Though dissimilar in form and content, these two academic endeavors share a common bond: Both are Syracuse University programs providing students with invaluable immersion experiences in New York City—a city that’s home to more than 40,000 Syracuse alumni, and one that offers up the ultimate real-world learning environment. The Tepper Semester is SU’s rigorous conservatory-style training program for drama students, giving young artists exposure to the industry through master classes, interactions with faculty and guest artists who are at the top of their professions, and introducing them to all aspects of life in New York’s cultural and theater world. “The Tepper Semester seeks to educate students not only in the specifics of their chosen fields, but also through developing them as the unique artists they are,” says award-winning casting director David Caparelliotis, who teaches advanced audition techniques. “No other program exposes students to so many types of theater, from downtown to Broadway, and creates a platform to help them integrate and metabolize these experiences into their own work.”

The Syracuse Architecture New York City program blends classroom and design studio learning with guest lectures and an extensive field trip itinerary, providing students with diverse opportunities to learn from renowned Manhattan-based architects while gaining a firsthand experience in one of the world’s great cities. “Design-wise, so much is happening here, and the program connects us to that,” says architecture student Lara Moock ’16, who hopes to work in the city after graduating. “New York is such an international hub and it’s always exciting. Being here is an amazing experience. It motivates me and gets me passionate about architecture.”

A SENSE OF PLACE

Now, thanks to the recent opening of the Fisher Center, the two programs also share a permanent home in the city—one that is custom-designed to serve SU students from across disciplines and allow them a wealth of opportunities to connect with and be inspired by the energy and excitement of the Big Apple. “The value of immersion experiences in the heart of New York City is they afford students the opportunity to enhance critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills while receiving a hands-on introduction to the workplace of their choice in their chosen discipline,” says University Trustee Winston Fisher ’96, a partner in Fisher Brothers, one of the nation’s leading real estate firms, whose naming gift led the way in establishing the center. “New York is so vibrant, so dynamic, so layered with culture.
The new academic facility, located in the heart of Manhattan at Madison Avenue and 31st Street, measures 20,000 square feet and features state-of-the-art classrooms, studios, and lecture and event spaces.

It’s the most interesting city in the world. Now we can offer our students an even greater chance to tap into that.”

Located on the second floor of an elegant 17-story office building at Madison Avenue and 31st Street, the Fisher Center measures 20,000 square feet and features state-of-the-art classrooms, studios, and lecture and event spaces to accommodate the University’s customized educational programs in New York. The new facility expands on the University’s existing presence in the city, including the facilities at Lubin House, and is modeled on SU’s successful metropolitan centers in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and abroad. The center opened its doors in January, the culmination of a process that began early in 2012 and enlisted the practical and financial support of Fisher and other alumni leaders in the real estate business. Among them was Hal Fetner ’83, president and CEO of Durst Fetner Residential, who provided guidance on vendor selection, construction oversight, and shared his expertise throughout the project’s implementation.

University Trustee James Kuhn ’70, G’72, who is a founding partner of the center and lends his name to its lecture hall and to the NYC program being developed by the Whitman School of Management, scoped out the perfect location—one that is safe, allows easy access to train and subway, and is situated in one of New York’s most sought-after neighborhoods. “This places us in the northern end of midtown south, which is the direction the city has taken since the influx of technology and new media tenants,” says Kuhn, a Manhattan native who is principal and president of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank, one of the world’s largest real estate brokerage firms. “It’s an area where the young generation of New Yorkers wants to live and work.”

Once the location was acquired, Jonathan Resnick ’89, also a generous benefactor to the Fisher Center, helped transform the new space from an empty warehouse to an ultra-modern academic facility in just 16 weeks. “It’s what I do every day, so it was easy for me to jump in and run with it and help the University,” says Resnick, a Newhouse graduate and president of Jack Resnick & Sons real estate development and management company. “It was a fun project for me and a really successful one for the University.” His appreciation is echoed by Michael Lefkowitz ’86, who attended to legal matters associated with acquiring the Fisher Center space. “From the earliest stages, I thought it would be wonderful for the University to have a presence that connects Syracuse so directly with New York City,” says Lefkowitz, a member with Rosenberg & Estis real estate law firm whose family has made a major gift commitment to the Fisher Center. “It was a pleasure to be part of the process and to help the University through the rough-and-tumble world of New York City real estate. We’ve created a real sense of place for the University in the city.”

Founding partners Richard and William Eggers, sons of former Chancellor Melvin Eggers and his wife, Mildred, are continuing a long-standing family commitment to the University through their investment in the center, where the facility’s seminar room will be named in honor of their father. “It’s exciting and personally meaningful to see the University expanding its academic programs right here in the city where I’ve lived for 30 years,” Rich-
“WE LOVE IT—it’s beauty, its function, and the quality and refinement of the architectural design, which supports the excellence and standards of the program.”
—LISA NICHOLAS
Director of the Tepper Semester

Life-size murals of the Hall of Languages and Crouse College lend a familiar backdrop to the Fisher Center’s elegant gathering spaces.

ANGCHED IN THE CITY
The Fisher Center’s first residents had no trouble settling in to their new home at the start of the spring semester. Lisa Nicholas is director of the Tepper Semester and also teaches in the program, which was established in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) by Broadway producer and University Trustee Arielle Tepper Madover ’94. Currently in its eighth year, the program has grown from 16 to 63 students a semester and from two majors to six. Nicholas reports that students and faculty alike are thrilled with the permanent space at the Fisher Center, which allows for even further expansion of the program. “We love it—it’s beauty, its function, and the quality and refinement of the architectural design, which supports the excellence and standards of the program,” says Nicholas, a VPA alumna. She points to such features as the custom-designed sprung wood floors, mirrored walls hung with curtains, and evenly distributed sound speakers dropped from the ceiling—details that were worked out before construction began to best meet the specific needs of drama students. “The technology and design make a difference in the daily lives of the students and enhance their educational and artistic development,” she says. “After seven years in three different venues, it’s fantastic to have this extraordinary home for the program. We’re very grateful.”

Tepper faculty member Sarah Stern agrees, applauding both the new facility and the program itself. “It’s a great space that lends itself to creative dialogue and focused work,” says Stern, who is co-artistic director of New York’s Vineyard Theatre and teaches classes in theater immersion and analysis. “This is the only program I know of that’s bringing talented students here at this point in their undergraduate careers—as they are transitioning to professional lives in the theater—and creates this kind of intensive opportunity for them, both in terms of the caliber of classes they are taking and the professionals they are meeting and interacting with. They are getting a real sense of the landscape and are going to be much better positioned as a result. I wish I’d had that before I came to New York.”

According to VPA Dean Ann Clarke, the Tepper Semester has provided drama students with an “unparalleled immersion experience” right from the start. “What was missing was a place the program could truly call home,” she says. “The Fisher Center is more than a state-of-the-art facility—it is a home for our students, combining the spirit and support of Syracuse University with the cultural opportunities of New York.”

Angela Co is coordinator of the Architecture NYC program, one of three global campuses where School of Architecture students can spend a semester or summer. She says the Fisher Center gives the program plenty of room to grow. With the capacity for up to 30 students, the program’s
space at the center features two studios with computer stations, pin-up walls for displaying design work, and built-in projectors and screens for faculty-led discussions. “The studio space is ample and has an amazing exposure and view out onto Madison Avenue,” says Co, who teaches the program’s design studio as well as the course Introduction to New York Architecture. “It is set up a bit more like an office setting than the traditional studio, which is really nice and much more flexible.” Additional spaces specific to the architecture program include plotter and printing facilities and a model-making shop. “The facility is pretty incredible,” Co says. “It’s very glossy and bright with a lot of natural light. We’re really excited about the space and happy to be working here.”

The architecture program also makes use of the lecture hall, a shared space available to any academic discipline using the Fisher Center. Shared spaces also include several smart classrooms, allowing visiting faculty to teach in New York with the same capabilities and technology available to them on campus in Syracuse. “The lecture hall is a great thing because it enabled us to put together a pretty incredible event series, something we weren’t able to do before,” Co says. “That series is helping us move the program toward being more anchored in the city and engaging in a very active dialogue with contemporary architectural culture.”

School of Architecture Dean Michael Speaks considers the NYC program essential to the school’s overall mission. “The Fisher Center allows us to develop and propagate a uniquely Syracuse view of the contemporary city, planning, and architecture,” he says. “We want to give our alumni, supporters, and the general public opportunities to participate in this discourse and to take part in special workshops, symposia, and short courses. Since all education today is continuing education, the center allows us to extend our educational platforms and expand our reach.”

GREAT THINGS AHEAD
Not only is the Fisher Center perfectly located to enhance SU’s existing New York City programs, it is also fueling the University’s growth in the city, enabling expanded offerings in such disciplines as business and technology, communications, the arts, fashion, and the humanities. With every day that passes more programs are being developed by SU’s schools and colleges to take advantage of the Fisher Center—whether as full semester programs or for shorter offerings made available during January or spring breaks, Maymester, or the summer. Next fall, for example, the Newhouse School will launch a semester-long program for all majors, centered on student internships with NYC communication companies. “This opens up a whole new realm of possibilities for our students,” says Newhouse Dean Lorraine Branham. “It also allows us to get some of our New York alumni more engaged with the school and our students. And it is an opportunity for our faculty to have a place to go and connect with alumni and others in the industry. So it’s a win-win for us on a number of levels.”

SU’s continued growth in New York City is an idea that gets Winston Fisher fired up, and it’s one he hopes other alumni will want to get on board with. “I’m competitive, and I want Syracuse to be the best,” he says. “I want us to do great things and achieve greatness. And because I’m in real estate, I think facilities can help us do that. I believe the Fisher Center can be the start of something that’s transformative for the University in terms of New York City offerings. It’s a beautiful, modern, and really cool learning environment in a phenomenal location. And I’m proud of it.”

The Fisher Center’s pantry and kitchen area (top) serves as a mini Schine Center for SU students. The center’s reception area and lecture hall both offer glimpses of the facility’s bright and sleek design.
CENTRAL TO LACROSSE

Three lacrosse films have intricate ties to SU AND THE ONONDAGA NATION, highlighting the sport’s history and what it means to those who play it.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK
IT’S SURPRISING HIS PARENTS DIDN’T TAKE a page from Native American tradition and place a miniature lacrosse stick in his crib hours after his birth. After all, Roy Simmons Jr.’s father was coaching Syracuse University lacrosse at the time and had developed a canyon-deep appreciation for the sport’s sacred ties to Native culture during his many visits to the Onondaga Nation, just seven miles south of campus.

When Roy Jr. was about 4 years old, he began accompanying Roy Sr. to the nation, where they often would buy wooden sticks that had been freshly carved and strung by Onondaga craftsmen. “I enjoyed history and art, so I loved hearing the stickmakers tell stories about how each stick had been carved from a live hickory tree and, therefore, when you held it in your hands, you were holding a living thing,” says Simmons ’59, who succeeded his father as coach in 1971 and guided the Orange to a record six NCAA titles. “The stick connects them to the sport they believe was given to them as a gift by their Creator many centuries ago. And its origins are in Central New York. To have been able to play and coach in an area regarded as the cradle of lacrosse has made the experiences I’ve had in the sport all the more special.”

In recent years, America’s oldest sport has become its fastest growing, and the Simmons family and Syracuse University have played integral roles in fueling that explosion in popularity. Roy Sr. ’25 was an All-American on two national championship lacrosse teams at SU under the program’s first coach—Laurie Cox. The elder Simmons took the reins from Cox in 1931 and coached the Orange for 40 years. Roy Jr. played for him on the undefeated 1957 team that featured football immortal Jim Brown ’57 and renowned human rights activist and Onondaga Faithkeeper Oren Lyons ’58. During Roy Jr.’s three decades as head coach, his entertaining, fast-breaking style of play produced a 290-96 record and 138 All-Americans. It also helped lacrosse evolve from a regional game popular in such pockets as Central New York, Baltimore, and Long Island into a national sport.

Since 2000, youth participation in lacrosse has tripled, prompting hundreds of high schools to add boys and girls programs in recent years. The enormous increase in interest also has resulted in the release of three different lacrosse films in the past two years. Not surprisingly, there are strong Central New York and SU connections in the production and content of each of the films.
America's First Sport is a documentary researched by Syracuse students and written and produced by Dennis Deninger ’73, a professor in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. Crooked Arrows is a fictitious Hollywood feel-good drama co-produced by Neal Powless G’08, a member of the Onondaga Eel clan and assistant director of SU’s Native Student Program. The Medicine Game is a documentary by Newhouse alumni Lukas Korver ’03 and Jason Halpin ’03 that explores the journey of two brothers from the Onondaga Nation as they pursue their dreams of playing lacrosse at SU. “Each film comes at it from a different angle,” says Deninger, a three-time Emmy Award winner who spent 25 years as a producer for ESPN. “Yet, each film, in its own, distinctive way, pays homage to the game’s Native American roots and shows how the sport continues to be an integral part of their culture.”

AMERICA’S FIRST SPORT
Documenting Lacrosse History

The idea for a student-researched documentary was the brainchild of Michael Veley, the Rhonda S. Falk Professor in the Falk College. Veley, the director and chair of the college’s Sport Management Program, envisioned creating a body of student-generated sports research that future scholars could reference. “He wanted us to produce something that showed this is how we take sports seriously, this is how we research, this is how we tell

A gift of the Creator, a game played to bring people together, to resolve conflicts, or as a healing game—powerful medicine to heal the sick.”

—Narration by Mike Tirico ’88

In America’s First Sport, Onondaga Nation Chief Irving Powless Jr. says, “It’s not important who wins. What’s important is that we play the game—because we’re entertaining the Creator.”

Falk College professor Dennis Deninger ’73, producer of America’s First Sport, with legendary former Syracuse lacrosse coach Roy Simmons Jr. ’59.

“They take this wooden stick and they teach their kids where the game came from,” says lacrosse stick craftsman Alf Jacques of the Onondaga Nation.
stories about sports,” Deninger says. “America’s First Sport was a research project, but instead of the end result being a 50-, 70-, 100-page report that’s going to be put into a binder and read in the future, its final format was put into a film. It has a great deal of information, but it’s done in a more alive format.”

Deninger and students from his History of Sport class determined during the Fall 2012 semester that lacrosse would be an ideal subject to explore in greater depth. “They were excited when they discovered that the earliest accounts of Europeans watching the game on this continent stretched all the way back to 1637,” he says. “And they were intrigued by the dramatic growth the game was experiencing and the good and bad that comes with that. So, we decided to cover, as best we could, the broad history of the game and the trends of the past, present, and future.”

The lion’s share of the research and interviews was conducted in spring 2013 when Deninger and five independent-study students who had taken his history class immersed themselves in the project. They identified 50 people to interview and formulated questions based on their research. “I was aware of the deep Native roots, but wasn’t [overly] familiar with them,” says Kathryn Jane Wickham ’14, a sport management and hospitality management double major. “I didn’t know how tightly woven the Native Americans and the sport were, and it was great to be able to learn so much more about it.”

Early in the film, narrated by ESPN’s Mike Tirico ’88, we’re told how the sport was “a gift of the Creator, a game played to bring people together, to resolve conflicts, or as a healing game—powerful medicine to heal the sick.” We see scenes of Native craftsman Alfie Jacques carving a stick and of Lyons holding several sticks and a ball while telling viewers: “It’s in our cosmology, it’s fundamental to our life. It’s a foundation. You’ll see the young fathers with their sons. You’ll see the grandfathers with their grandsons. You’ll see that exchange going on all the time.”

Over the course of 55 minutes, we learn how the Gait brothers—twins Gary ’90 and Paul ’90—helped the Orange revolutionize the game with an array of flashy shots and creative passes never seen before on a lacrosse field. We discover how SU’s dramatic victory against traditional lacrosse powerhouse Johns Hopkins University in the 1989 NCAA title game was a watershed moment for the sport. And perhaps the most poignant moment comes when Simmons Jr. talks about staging a lacrosse clinic in Lockerbie, a year after the 1988 terrorist attack on Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over that Scottish village, claiming 270 lives, including 35 Syracuse students.

The documentary premiered in Syracuse last fall and aired nationally on ESPNU in March. “There was a sheer sense of pride in seeing the finished product,” Wickham says. “It was amazing how much support we got throughout the entire making of the film.” Meaghan Lane ’15, a Newhouse public relations major, concurs. “I learned just how much work goes into documentaries—much of which the viewer never even sees,” she says. “Once it all came together, I realized how much I had learned over the course of the documentary process. Lacrosse-wise, I learned just how much the sport truly means to the people whose ancestors created it. We are so lucky to be able to share in such a special tradition, and I sincerely hope that as time goes on, players, coaches, and fans will remember the game’s roots, which transcend the boundaries of history, religion, culture, and family. Lacrosse itself is so much more than a sport.”

After the premiere, Deninger says former SU lacrosse players sought him out to thank him and tell him they learned many new things about the sport’s history. “That was extremely gratifying,” he says. “Our students had done research to tell stories that hadn’t been told before. They produced something lasting and that’s pretty cool.”

**CROOKED ARROWS**

Hollywood Stickwork

Onondaga Native Neal Powless was reluctant to get involved. He had heard rumors the original script for Crooked Arrows was rife with inaccuracies and would only perpetuate old stereotypes about Native Americans. After grudgingly agreeing to give it a read, his fears were confirmed. But rather than toss it aside in disgust, he began rewriting it. The producers were grateful and pleaded with him to join them as a full-time advisor. “I made sure I had an escape clause because I only wanted to be involved with something that my people and I would be proud of,” Powless says. “If the people running the movie weren’t going to make the changes that needed to be made, I didn’t want my name associated with it.”

As it turned out, they agreed to virtually all of his suggestions, and leaned on him for everything from authenticating costumes and rituals to recruiting Native actors. “I was pleased overall with the final product,” says Powless, who was an All-America player for small college lacrosse power Nazareth College in the late-1990s. “It wound up being a story Natives can watch and feel good about and that non-Natives can learn from.”

The movie is about a rag-tag high school lacrosse team from...
a fictional tribe that gets its act together at the end and upsets a boorish prep school team in the championship game. The opening scene shows young Native American men in buckskins playing lacrosse in ancient times—not on a confined, rectangular field, but rather in a boundless area, through woods, meadows, and creeks. After a few minutes of brisk, bone-crunching action in which the ball changes hands several times, the film fades into the present and we see a 21st-century player in helmet and uniform flinging the ball into a goal. “I was thrilled with that opening scene,” says Powless, who helps oversee SU’s Haudenosaunee Promise Scholarship Program for Native students. “Our game is a thousand years old, so they decided to start the movie a thousand years ago.”

Powless says the film has been well-received by Natives in territories throughout North America. “I had parents tell me their kids watch it every single day,” he says. “It appeals to them because it makes them realize they can be proud of their culture and heritage. There aren’t a lot of movies out there where Natives can feel that way about themselves.”

**THE MEDICINE GAME**
*Two Brothers, One Dream*

A friend suggested Newhouse alumnus Lukas Korver should produce a documentary about lacrosse. Korver liked the idea, but needed to find a way to narrow the subject’s focus. His older brother, Erik, had an idea. A teacher at LaFayette High School, not far from the Onondaga Nation, Erik had become acquainted with Jerome and Jeremy Thompson ’11, two Native American students from the nearby territory who were among the best high school lacrosse players in the United States. “What if you told your lacrosse story through the eyes of these two brothers?” Erik asked. Luke’s face lit up. “In retrospect, I couldn’t have picked a better situation,” says Korver, an award-winning documentarian and television commercial producer whose subjects have included Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Michael Phelps. “They were great players and great kids and they came from a loving, supportive family. I was able to explore how lacrosse was essential to them and the struggles they faced as Native Americans trying to succeed in a mainstream environment that often felt foreign and unwelcoming. The story had great potential.”

The plan was to follow the Thompsons from April through July 2006, the lacrosse season through high school graduation. But the story encountered numerous unexpected twists and turns, and it wound up taking seven years to chronicle the brothers’ amazing journey. “Their dreams were to play at Syracuse, but
neither one had the SATs to qualify, so they wound up going to Onondaga Community College, and then circumstances conspired to take them down different paths,” Korver says. Jeremy battled alcoholism. Jerome, known as “Hiana,” fell in love and dropped out of school.

With their dreams crumbling around them, the brothers looked to their close-knit family and their Native teachings for guidance. Jeremy eventually overcame his personal struggles and was accepted at SU. In one of the film’s most heart-rending scenes, Jeremy scores a goal in his Orange debut in the Carrier Dome, while his brother watches from the stands with mixed emotions. Hiana is proud that his brother has made it, but sad that he did not.

Although he grew up just an hour south of the Onondaga Nation Territory, Korver says he “was 100 percent ignorant of what went on there” until he produced this film. He actually wound up living at the Thompsons’ home to gain a better understanding of the family dynamics and their culture. “There were American kids, friends of theirs at LaFayette High School, who were as ignorant as I was; who thought that Natives still lived in teepees,” Korver says. “So, there’s still a huge barrier there. Hopefully, this film about a family’s love for lacrosse and for each other can help break down some of those stereotypes. Perhaps The Medicine Game can promote some healing.”

Scott Pitoniak ’73, a Newhouse School graduate, is a best-selling author and award-winning columnist based in Rochester, New York.
HARRY ROSENFELD ‘52 KNOWS THE heavy responsibility of being a good editor. The former Washington Post metropolitan editor guided two young reporters through a series of stories that led to the resignation of a U.S. president and changed the way a nation thought about investigative reporting. Most recognize the names of those reporters—Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward—but Rosenfeld’s may not be as well-known. His presence, however, in directing the prize-winning Watergate coverage is no less important. The facts were scrutinized and the veracity of sources was questioned, and Rosenfeld backed his reporters in telling the stories that eventually led to congressional hearings. “I knew the quality of our work, and I had total confidence in it,” Rosenfeld says. “We managed by our work to finally engage the government.”

In his new memoir, From Kristallnacht to Watergate: Memoirs of a Newspaperman (State University of New York Press, 2013) Rosenfeld chronicles his decades-long career as an editor, including his tenure at The Washington Post and the fascinating, complex time in which the Watergate scandal unfolded. He also tells of his years at the famed New York Herald Tribune and Albany’s Knickerbocker News and Times Union, and looks back on life as a 9-year-old immigrant in New York City, having escaped Nazi Germany with his family. “The segregation, the denigration of the Jews was part of my normal life in Germany,” he says. “But I was old enough to know that I was deliriously happy to leave it, and I immersed myself in my American life.”

The now-retired newspaperman, who remains active as an editor-at-large and a member of the Times Union editorial board, crafted a life in journalism that was influenced by a childhood under a brutal regime and channeled his perspective into the best of what it means to live in a democracy. His book has sent him across the country to packed audiences eager to hear the tales of a young boy from Germany who grew into the role of a tenacious editor.

Rosenfeld’s work in the newspaper business began even before he started at SU in 1948. He had already been working at the New York Herald Tribune as a shipping clerk, trying to get his foot in the door. “I wanted to do something of public service and I thought journalism would be a good vehicle,” he says. While studying English and American studies, and taking journalism courses, he covered sports for The Daily Orange. “It was an invaluable experience, traveling with teams, writing on deadline, doing feature stories,” says Rosenfeld, who was the first recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences’ Distinguished Alumni Award.

After college he became an editorial assistant at the Tribune news service before being drafted to serve in the U.S. Army. Newly married to his wife, Annie, he headed off to Korea, where he served as a clerk/typist in the military history section. Returning to the Tribune, Rosenfeld rose through the ranks as an editor and later managing editor for the news service and then foreign editor. In 1966, however, he left the struggling paper as it was about to merge with two other papers. “I was heartbroken,” Rosenfeld says. “I had spent half my lifetime there.”

In his job hunt, Rosenfeld was offered a position by then-Washington Post managing editor Ben Bradlee. He began as night foreign editor before being assigned to head the foreign desk, which meant an around-the-world trip to become acquainted with staff correspondents and report for a time from Vietnam. Rosenfeld later took over as metro editor, the position he held on June 17, 1972—the day a team of burglars was arrested inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex. When Rosenfeld and his colleagues learned about the arrests, they knew there would be much more to the story than a simple burglary. “Right away we found a White House connection through Howard Hunt [a former White House employee whose phone number was found on one of the burglars],” Rosenfeld says. Into the second week, John Mitchell, the former attorney general, resigned as head of the Committee for the Re-Election of the
President. “I knew then that this was going pretty high up,” he says.

With the implications for a national scandal, Rosenfeld was cognizant that their coverage would be picked apart and had to be irrefutable. Woodward and Bernstein, or “Woodstein” as they were referred to, began leading the reporting and generating scoops on the money trail. “They soon recognized what they had in their hands,” he says. “It was the story that would make their careers.”

The pinnacle of The Post’s coverage came in two stories just before the November 1972 election. “The first said that the Nixon campaign had for years been on a sabotage campaign against its opponents, long predating the current campaign, and that they used all manner of dirty tricks funded by a slush fund,” Rosenfeld says. A long-worked-on follow-up story revealed how five people, including Mitchell, controlled the fund that was constantly being replenished. The final Nixon executive identified, and the most important, was H.R. “Bob” Haldeman, the president’s chief of staff.

A key, of course, in the work was “Deep Throat,” a moniker for one of Woodward’s sources. At that time, Rosenfeld decided against knowing the source’s name. Years later, but long before “Deep Throat” was revealed as FBI agent Mark Felt, Rosenfeld came to realize every editor should know a reporter’s sources. “What’s on the line is not the reporter’s judgment—it’s the newspaper’s,” he says. “The reporter extends the confidentiality on behalf of the newspaper. The newspaper has to make sure the reporter did the right thing.”

Nixon was re-elected that year, but in the following months, The Post, which was recognized with a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1973, continued its investigative pieces and Congress held hearings about the break-in. The end came on August 9, 1974, when Nixon resigned. “It vindicated our hard work at a time when no other media was doing it,” Rosenfeld says.

The events were turned into a best-selling book by Woodward and Bernstein, All the President’s Men, and later a movie, with actor Jack Warden portraying Rosenfeld. “I thought it captured the work of the reporters accurately but less so that of the editors,” he says. “We did not make snap decisions, but argued and agonized over them.”

In 1978, he was asked to head up the two Hearst-owned Albany papers, and later a third, the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, for a time. “I wanted to run my own newspapers, and this was my chance to do so,” says Rosenfeld, who retired at the end of 1997, but is still connected to the newspaper business.

With his many years as an editor, his best advice for those guiding reporters is to be open and curious and listen to their staff members—and be ready to defend them. “I think you have to be demanding, but with that you have to be fair,” Rosenfeld says. “They may not like you, but they have to respect you.”
THESE PAST FEW MONTHS have been exciting times for Syracuse University alumni. Across the country, we have been celebrating our inaugural year in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) through events and game-watch parties. As I traveled around the country to watch our athletic teams take on new competition, I was energized by all of our loyal alumni who joined me in cheering on our alma mater. Orange Nation is proud and passionate, and we are everywhere!

Back on campus, one of the highlights during these past few months had to be the “Ultimate Tailgate Party” held in the Schine Student Center prior to the Syracuse/Duke men’s basketball game. The event drew more than 600 alumni and friends to celebrate this new rivalry. Then, to cap off this historic day, Syracuse beat Duke, 91-89, in a dramatic overtime victory in front of a record-breaking crowd of 35,446!

If you’re looking for an opportunity to connect or possibly even reconnect with Syracuse University, mark your calendars for this year’s Orange Central: October 9-12, 2014. Beyond reuniting with friends and classmates during this Homecoming weekend, you will also have the opportunity to take advantage of faculty presentations, campus tours, a football game against the defending national champions, and much more. I hope you will be able to join us on campus!

I’m sure your time as a student brings back a lot of fond memories—it certainly does for me! So now, I would like to challenge all alumni to support your local SU alumni clubs by becoming active members. These groups are a great way to remain engaged with the University. You say there’s not a local SU alumni club in your region? Well then, please reach out to the Office of Alumni Relations to see how we may be able to help you establish one.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your alumni association president. It is an honor and a privilege to represent such amazing alumni.

Go Orange!

Laurie Taishoff ’84
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association
WHEN I WAS SELECTED AS A 2004-05 REMEMBRANCE Scholar—a scholarship set aside to honor the 35 Syracuse University victims of the 1988 Pan Am 103 terrorist attack—I was reminded that we all must cherish every moment we are given because we don’t know when our last will come. I also learned that being a part of the Syracuse University community meant having the responsibility of honoring and remembering those who have touched our lives.

In 2006, SU lost Chris Sawyer ’04, a member of our University family who made a lasting impact on my life. Chris and I got to know each other well while serving in our shared role as Otto the Orange. Chris was an amazing entertainer and a great friend. He knew people everywhere he went. Chris could really work a crowd, including a 30,000-plus strong one in the Dome, with his endless spirit, energy, and enthusiasm for all things Orange.

When SU basketball games were nationally televised, Chris always had the best ideas for how to get Otto on camera. He would coordinate with the film crews and the band so that upon coming back from commercial break, they could lead with Otto playing the drums. Let me tell you, trying to fit behind the drum kit and play in full Otto costume was no easy task, but Chris pulled it off every time.

I’ll never forget Chris’s last home game versus UConn in 2004. We all knew the rules and what Otto was and was not supposed to do, but he wanted to pump up the crowd one last, unforgettable time. After coordinating plans with friends and fans, Otto went crowd-surfing through the student section—a feat that probably never should have happened. But Chris just had to do it, and the crowd went wild. Man, did he love making games memorable for everyone.

After Chris graduated, he went on to become a professional mascot in both hockey and baseball. In 2005, Chris, a healthy, strong young man, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Although I’m sure he fought as hard as one could, he lost his battle with the disease, passing away a year later at just 24 years old.

Remembering what I learned about honoring those in my SU family, I signed up in 2008 to run the Phoenix Marathon as a part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training (TNT). In exchange for raising money for patient care and blood cancer research, TNT coaches will train anybody to be prepared for an endurance event. I am proud to say that not only did I finish the race well that year, but in my first attempt at fundraising in honor of my friend, I raised more than $3,000.

I have since completed three additional events for TNT, and this June will compete in my first triathlon with them in Hyannis on Cape Cod. Since 2009, I have raised more than $12,000 in Chris’s name. This year I have set my goal high, hoping to raise $10,000 for this single event. Although I first started this journey for my friend Chris Sawyer, having told people about what I’m doing has introduced me to so many others whose lives have been touched by these terrible diseases, and I feel privileged to be a part of this new family of incredible people.

A graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences, Elie Rabinowitz ’05 resides on Cape Cod with his wife, Newhouse alumna Becca Miller ’05, two dogs, and three chickens; teaches high-school Spanish; and coaches baseball. Along with serving as Otto the Orange and being a Remembrance Scholar, he was an orientation leader and helped found A Men’s Issue.
A WELL-WORN PATH HAS DEVELOPED FROM NEW JERSEY and the home of the Rigolosi family to the Syracuse University Hill. That’s because a long line of Rigolosi family members picked SU—and more could be coming. To date, eight are Syracuse graduates. First, there are the four brothers: Charles ’51, Vincent ’54, Robert ’57, and Ronald ’65; then Charlie’s sons, Domenic ’78 and Daniel ’91, as well as Bob’s daughter Rebecca ’92 and son Robert ’91.

It all started with Charlie, the oldest of seven children born to Italian immigrant parents—a father who worked in a factory and a mother who was a seamstress. Charlie was a boxer, and earned a scholarship under boxing coach Roy Simmons Sr. ’25. Charlie told “Simmy,” as the Rigolosi brothers refer to him, there were others “just like him, even better” at home. Soon, Vince and Bob followed. Ronnie arrived after SU discontinued the sport, but would have been the fourth brother to enter the ring for the Orange. Charlie, Vince, and Bob are all Lettermen of Distinction Award honorees. Charlie and Vince both battled their way to Eastern Intercollegiate boxing titles, and Bob was a two-time New York State Golden Gloves winner, a U.S. Olympic finalist in 1956, and an NCAA finalist in 1957.

But Bob’s boxing stories don’t end there. In 1960, as a medical student at the University of Rome, he was asked to work as an interpreter with the U.S. Olympic boxing team. Bob knew the boxing coach, and the team trainer was from SU. While there, Bob met the young Cassius Clay before he became Muhammad Ali. “He was 18 years old and the friendliest guy in the Olympic Village,” Bob recalls. After Clay won the light-heavyweight gold medal, he autographed the sneakers he wore during his championship bout and gave them to Bob as a thank you for his help with the team. Bob chuckles when he tells the story of how, years later, his mother accidentally threw the sneakers away. “I couldn’t be angry,” he says. “She was throwing all of our old sneakers away before she and my father moved.”

As for his time at SU, “great memories,” Bob recalls. He remembers living with other student-athletes in temporary housing on South Campus, and sweeping up at Crouse Hall to the sounds of “beautiful organ music, or wonderful voices singing from the classrooms,” he says. Bob, a 1992 Arents Award recipient, went on to become a doctor, specializing in nephrology and establishing dialysis programs in New Jersey during a time when few existed. He is also the founder and medical director of the department of hemodialysis at Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck, New Jersey. “I’ll always be grateful to Syracuse,” Bob says, “for giving us the educational and inspirational support to reach high goals.”

Ronnie also became a doctor, while Vince was the lawyer and politician in the family, having served elected office in his home state. Vince credits his parents, who never attended high school, for the family’s academic achievements. “They always valued education,” Vince says. “They went to work early in life shortly after immigrating to the United States where they met, married, and raised four boys and three girls.” All of the Rigolosi children earned advanced college degrees, with the three girls becoming teachers. Vince most values the friendships he forged at SU that still exist to this day. “I became exposed to people who had interests of every sort,” he says. “That goes a long way in developing you as a person. It wasn’t just the experience I got in the classroom, but the experience I got on campus, too.”

So is eight enough when it comes to the Rigolosi family connection to SU? Don’t count on it. “There are 24 nieces and nephews out there, along with 26 grandnieces and grandnephews,” Vince says. “It’s a running joke in our family that each of them has to at least consider Syracuse, and be prepared for the needling if they go somewhere else.”

—Keith Kobland
Alan N. Willson Jr. G’65, G’67 (E&CS), Distinguished Professor and Charles P. Reames Chair in Electrical Engineering at UCLA, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to the theory and applications of digital signal processing.

Diana Knight Bendz ’68 (ESF), a retired IBM manager, received the 2013 Technical Innovation Lifetime Achievement Award from the Small Scale System Integrated Packaging Center at Binghamton University for her contributions to the Greater Binghamton technical community.

Frank Ritter ’68 (A&S) presented a photographic exhibition titled The World Trade Center: A retrospective of the last twelve years...and from where we came, at the 331 Main Gallery in New York City last September.

Karen B. Winnick ’68 (VPA), a children’s book author and illustrator, wrote Gemina, the Crooked-Neck Giraffe (Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens), a nonfiction story about a giraffe that inspired children because she was comfortable with who she was, even though she was different from the other giraffes at the Santa Monica Zoo.

70s

Genie Abrams ’70 (NEW) began a four-year term as a member of the City Council of Newburgh, N.Y., on January 1.

Ken Goldberg ’70 (A&S), G’73 (IST) is president of the Cleveland Heights (Ohio) Historical Society. He retired from his position as librarian/records manager for the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and has long participated in activities involving local architecture and history.

Deborah Mackin ’71 (VPA) of Eagle Bridge, N.Y., co-wrote Survival of the Hive: 7 Leadership Lessons from a Beehive (AuthorHouse), which provides leadership lessons and organizational “survival” tactics through the eyes of one of the world’s most industrious and successful creatures, the honey bee.

Karen DeCrow L’72 (LAW) was the keynote speaker at the Women’s Health: Where Are We Today? conference sponsored by Upstate College of Nursing. Her topic was “Healthcare for Women: A Historical View.” DeCrow also was a panelist for The Passion for Law and Opera event held at the New York City Bar Association.

John P. Kellogg ’72, G’75 (NEW) is an entertainment lawyer and assistant chair of the music/business management department at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He developed the first free online course to focus on music. Introduction to the Music Business, offered through edX, a consortium founded by Harvard and MIT that offers free online study from leading universities and colleges around the world.

David J. Noonan L’72 (LAW), a partner in the Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge law firm in San Diego, was selected for inclusion on The Best Lawyers in America 2014 list, and named a 2014 Southern California Super Lawyer and a Top 50: San Diego Super Lawyer.

Jack Rudnick L’73 (LAW) was named director of the Technology Commercialization Law Program at the Syracuse University College of Law.

Joseph Fahey L’75 (LAW) is a judge in the New York State Unified Court System and an adjunct law professor at SU. He wrote James K. McGuire: Boy Mayor and Irish Nationalist (SU Press), a book about the life of a prominent businessman and leading Irish American nationalist who, in 1894, became the youngest mayor of Syracuse at age 26.

Robert P. Mitchell G’75 (NEW), assistant dean for diversity relations and communications, Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, received the Service to Quinnciap Award from Quinnciap University, which is presented biennially to an alumna or alumnus who devotes much of their time to the continued excellence of Quinnciap’s Alumni Association program. Mitchell is also a member of the SU Alumni Association Board and the SU Boston Regional Council.


Salvatore Torquato ’75 (E&CS), a professor of chemistry at Princeton University, published a paper describing a possible new state of matter in Physical Review E, a journal for research in statistical, nonlinear, and soft-matter physics.

Molly Keim Morrison G’76 (NEW), a noted conservation strategist, was honored with the eighth annual Rebecca Lukens Award by the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville, Pa.


Scott Pitoniak ’77 (NEW) co-wrote The Buffalo Bills: My Life on a Special Team (Sports Publishing), a memoir by former Bills’ wide receiver Steve Tasker.

Melissa Bennett ’78 (ARC) is the building services group leader in the Boston office of Dewberry, a leading professional services firm that provides architecture, engineering, and management and consulting services to a variety of public- and private-sector clients.

Dawne Chandler’78, G’00 (WSM) of Auburn, Calif., earned a Ph.D. degree in organization and management with a specialization in project management from Capella University. After retiring as vice president, operations, for DST Output communications solutions, Chandler is an adjunct professor and consultant with Chandler Consulting Group.

Randa Awl Handler ’78, G’79 (NEW) wrote and illustrated The Boy Who Spoke to God (Premier Digital Publishing), a fairy tale that addresses children’s basic questions about God. Set in a time long ago, the fairy tale takes place in a magical kingdom where Greek, Chinese, Zulu, and Mayan tribes live happily together.
IN 2003, THE YEAR BEFORE my 50th college reunion and my official retirement from nearly as many years of teaching, I published Guest Appearances and Other Travels in Time and Space, a book of essays that included “Once an Orangeman...” In that story, I reflected on my time at Syracuse and how a naïve freshman who started out at Skytop, hoping more than anything to become a professional skier, soon found there were other things in life worth pursuing.

This past fall, I shared a fuller portrait of my life as a sociologist, ethnographer, writer, and travel journalist in Postmonitions of a Peripatetic Professor (Levellers Press). There again, I paid homage to my alma mater. But what I failed to do was to say much about some of the faculty members who most influenced me, especially three men to whom I will forever be indebted.

The first was anthropologist Douglas Haring. He had spent much of his early life in Japan, the subject of his best-known work. It was a society I would get to know—and write about—many years later. I first went there as a Fulbright professor and taught a course that reflected much that was in the title of one of his most important publications, “Racial Differences and Human Resemblances.” As I wrote in the preface to Postmonitions, “For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated by ethnic differences and cultural responses to common human needs, wants, and fears.” Haring was the guy who first encouraged me to follow this interest in a systematic way.

The second was Nathan Goldman, my undergraduate advisor in the department of sociology and anthropology. Originally a clinical psychologist, he had practiced in Boston and as a naval officer in World War II, but his experiences with people from many walks of life led him to change fields. After the war, he studied for his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago. I took every course he offered at SU and, through him, became imbued with “Chicago sociology”—a combination of urban anthropology, ethnic studies, and human ecology. In addition to my fascination with race and ethnicity, I was intrigued by differences between those “on top” and others. Goldman’s doctoral thesis, “Differential Selection of Juveniles for Court Appearance,” starkly revealed the power of often unearned privilege and the different consequences of criminal acts committed by those having privilege in contrast to those without it.

The third was Michael O. Sawyer, an instructor of a Maxwell course required of all first-year students. Under his guidance, we discussed several challenging events in then-recent American history: the Sacco and Vanzetti case; the relocation and incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans in 1942; and the riots that took place in Peekskill, New York, in 1949 when the African American singer, actor, and activist Paul Robeson returned to the United States after receiving the Lenin Peace Prize from the Soviets.

If Doug Haring and Nate Goldman were mentors, Mike Sawyer was more of a model. What I admired most about him was his dedication to teaching and the skill with which he helped us to broaden our horizons, think outside the box, and carefully listen to the arguments of those with whom we fervently disagreed.

As many Syracusans know, Sawyer rose through the ranks, eventually becoming vice chancellor. I last saw him around 25 years ago when I was invited back to SU to give the Chancellor’s Lecture. It turned out that because Chancellor Melvin Eggers was away, Sawyer was asked to introduce me. (I’m sure the planners had no idea how much that meant to me.) After his generous introduction, I turned to the audience and said several things about my memories of a young Mike Sawyer, including the fact that in my time he was the only Republican on the Maxwell faculty. Mike interrupted me and said, sotto voce, “I still am.”

There were a number of others with whom I studied and also admired, but none—save perhaps for ski coach and architecture professor George Earle, who urged me to realize there was a wide world beyond the slopes—were as memorable or as important to me as these three.

Peter Rose ’54, the Sophia Smith Professor Emeritus and Senior Fellow of the Kahn Liberal Arts Institute at Smith College, is the author of many books, including most recently Postmonitions of a Peripatetic Professor (2013) and They and We (seventh—and 50th anniversary—edition, 2014).
Tim Wendel ’78 (NEW) of Vienna, Va., wrote Down to the Last Pitch: How the 1991 Minnesota Twins and Atlanta Braves Gave Us the Best World Series of All Time (Da Capo Press). A founding editor of USA Today Baseball Weekly, Wendel is an exhibit advisor to the Baseball Hall of Fame and a writer-in-residence at Johns Hopkins University.

Christopher Kerr ’79 (A&S), a litigation attorney for Jeffrey Freedman Attorneys at Law in Buffalo, was named to the 2013 Super Lawyers list.

Mark P. Salsbury ’79 (UTICA) wrote Human Capital Management: Leveraging Your Workforce for a Competitive Advantage (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform), a book that offers a roadmap for leaders and managers who seek to optimize their human capital (www.salsburyhm.com).

Denis P. Sweeney ’79 (NEW) of Corning, N.Y., owns Sweeney Enterprises, a consulting firm that specializes in a full range of marketing, public relations, and video production services. He also is the voice of high school football and basketball in New York’s Southern Tier for radio stations NEWS TALK 1230, WENY-AM 1450, and GEM-FM 98.7.

Bruce E. Machlica G’80 (NEW) of Victor, N.Y., is president and CEO of the global sports marketing and entertainment representation firm Chatham Communications Corporation, which has been retained by the estate of Babe Ruth as its exclusive business manager. He also spoke recently to Newhouse public relations classes on celebrity damage control and crisis intervention.

Kevin M. Young ’80 (A&S), an attorney at the Tucker Ellis & West law firm in Cleveland, was named an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2014.

Bill Janocha ’81 (VPA), a freelance illustrator and Mort Walker’s studio assistant on the Beetle Bailey comic strip, was commissioned by the No Greater Love organization to create artwork to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. With permission from the JFK Library, Janocha created a sepia illustration of President Kennedy walking away, as if in serious contemplation, inscribed with Kennedy’s quotation, “God’s work must truly be our own.” The artwork was placed within a memorial wreath garnished with roses that matched those presented to the First Lady early that fateful day in Dallas. The wreath was then marched on November 22 by a U.S. Navy Seal Guard team to a special spot in a televised public ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. The wreath was permanently donated to the JFK Library.

Valerie Ann Leeds G’81 (A&S) is an independent curator who organized the exhibition and accompanying catalog for Southwestern Allure: The Art of the Santa Fe Art Colony at the Boca Museum of Art in Boca Raton, Fla. The exhibition features more than 40 outstanding artworks selected from leading public and private collections that present a thorough picture of which artists went to Santa Fe, what they found compelling about the environment, the work they produced, and the prevailing artistic trends, from realism to modernism, which they applied to Southwestern subject matter.

Maura McEnaney G’82 (NEW) wrote Willard Garvey: An Epic Life (LibertyTree Press), a biography of the late Wichita tycoon whose “every man a homeowner” vision to build affordable homes in developing countries eventually provided thousands of families, from South America to Asia, the opportunity to ascend the economic ladder.

Hugh Johnston ’83 (WSM) of Greenwich, Conn., was inducted as an inaugural member of the Christian Brothers Academy Hall of Fame in Syracuse.

Ann Giacobbe Neidenbach ’84 (WSM) of New York City is senior vice president and head of market systems at Nasdaq OMX. She was named one of 2013’s “Elite 8” technology executives by Wall Street & Technology.

Joseph Zawistowski G’84 (WSM), a chartered financial analyst, is the Hudson branch manager for Wells Fargo Advisors Northeast Ohio market.

Sandy Caron ’86 (FALK), professor of family studies and human sexuality at the University of Maine, Orono, wrote The Sex Lives of College Students: Two Decades of Attitudes and Behaviors (Maine College Press). Based on 20 years of research, the book offers insight into the differences between college men and women, as well as interesting trends in students’ attitudes and behaviors since 1990.

Craig Borten ’87 (A&S) was nominated for an Academy Award for his original screenplay for Dallas Buyers Club, which was also nominated for Best Picture. Borten first interviewed Ron Woodroof, the movie’s real-life main character in 1992, but it took 20 years to get the AIDS drama made. Finally, it was filmed in 2012 with Matthew McConaughey as its star. Borten also wrote Looking for Jimmy (2002) and The 33, which is scheduled to come out this year.

Marianne Pilla Cushing ’87 (VPA), wrote Mahalasane, a novel inspired by her stay in a cottage on Maine’s rocky shoreline. Cushing is a copy editor with Soma Intimates, a women’s lingerie retailer based in Fort Myers, Fla., where she lives with her husband, daughter, and three “fur babies.”

Joseph Kasouf ’87, G’90 (VPA), L’90 (LAW) is general counsel at Counsel Financial in Buffalo, N.Y.

Harris G. Siegel ’87 (NEW) of Havre de Grace, Md., won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of News Design at the annual convention in Louisville, Ky. He was recognized for groundbreaking work, particularly in sports and features design at the Asbury Park Press.

Linda D’Antonio G’89 (E&C) of Webster, N.Y., is a triathlete competing in the Coeur d’Alene Ironman competition in Idaho in June—13 years after she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). D’Antonio also is participating in the Race to Finish MS—a unique program with the goal of creating a world free of MS. This fundraising platform offers athletes of all types the chance to help find a cure for MS while pushing their own personal endurance limits. Her “Iron for MS” team is open to anyone who seeks to train for an endurance event while raising awareness and funds for the MS cause.

Chris Renaud ’89 (VPA) co-directed Despicable Me 2, which received an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature Film. He also lends his voice to the minions, the bad guy’s little yellow helpers. Earlier in his career, Renaud worked as a story artist on such films as Robots; Ice Age: The Meltdown; and Horton Hears a Who! In 2006, he was nominated for an Academy Award for No Time for Nuts, an animated short he wrote and co-directed.

Jeff Speck G’89 (A&S), an award-winning city planner and urban designer, wrote Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2012). The book looks at how walkability, combined with smart growth and sustainable design, can help reinvigorate American cities.

Eric H. Weitz ’89 (NEW) is chairman of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Julie Dennehy ’90 (NEW), president of Dennehy Public Relations, is incoming president of the Boston chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). She has held numerous leadership roles in public relations, including serving on PRSA’s Universal Accreditation Board, and as co-founder and administrator of the Boston Independent Practitioners Network, past president of the Publicity Club of New England, and former director of the International Special Events Society’s New England chapter.

Rosemary Hennessy G’90 (A&S) is the L.H. Favrot Professor of Humanities, professor of English, and director of the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University in Houston. She wrote Fires on the Border: The Passionate Politics of Labor Organizing on the Mexican Frontera (University of Minnesota Press), which examines the issues of labor and community organizing on Mexico’s northern border from the early 1970s to the present day (www. upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/fires-on-the-border).

James Mackey ’90 (ARC) passed the Architect Registration Exam and is now a licensed architect in the state of Massachusetts.
WJPZ Radio

‘Greatest Media Classroom’ documents 40 years of student-run station’s history

By Amy Speach

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED OF A LIVELY group of communications professionals who are jazzed up about radio, the alumni of WJPZ (Z89) have lots of colorful ways of talking about the student-run station that rocked their SU experience and top-40’ed their careers. Some describe the station as remarkable, legendary, and audacious. Others say it provides a sanctuary in an often hypercompetitive media world. Many remember it as the first time they found other people like themselves; the first place they felt like they belonged. And without exception, they speak of each other as valued colleagues and lifelong friends—as family. Above all, generations of WJPZ alumni express gratitude for what they consider the most comprehensive media classroom they’ve ever encountered.

“People who have been or are members of WJPZ will tell you it is a life-changing experience,” says Scott MacFarlane ’98, who was a disc jockey and station news director during his years as a Newhouse student. “And that’s a strange thing to say about a radio station that’s in a small studio on a college campus. You know from the second you walk in that there is something distinctive about it. There’s a culture and energy and passion that the people have and the station fosters. It’s not just a student activity—it’s a joy.”

Now an investigative television reporter at an NBC affiliate in Washington, D.C., MacFarlane recently had the pleasure of helping share and celebrate WJPZ’s legendary story as producer of Greatest Media Classroom, a documentary film chronicling the station’s history. Initiated and funded by the WJPZ Alumni Association to commemorate the station’s 40th anniversary, the project documents WJPZ’s growth, challenges, and achievements from its founding in 1973 to its recent studio expansion in Watson Hall. The film, edited by Oklahoma-based SVP Media, includes audio clips, photos, and mementos depicting the station through four decades, as well as commentary and reminiscences by WJPZ alumni, so many of whom have gone on to become communications industry leaders. Also featured is footage of the station’s dynamic sports coverage and news programming, as well as video clips of campus life through the years. “What drove the documentary was the remarkable story about WJPZ’s origins and key moments along the way,” says MacFarlane, who spent two years researching, writing, editing, and producing the 30-minute film. “We got a lot of help from our alumni who foraged through their documents and photos—and from the resources in SU Archives—helping us piece together the station’s history.”

Among the film’s highlights is the story of WJPZ’s humble beginnings. Co-founded by Craig Fox ’75 and Bill Bleyle ’76 with “begged and borrowed” equipment, a hand-built antenna atop Day Hall, and a radio signal less powerful than a light bulb, WJPZ AM came into the world as a nonstop-rock commercial radio station—“serving the universe from the top, top, top of Mount Olympus,” according to one of the documentary’s audio clips. “There was a desire among us to create a real-world experience for students,” says Bleyle, now Onondaga County commissioner of emergency communications. “With Syracuse University having one of the premier communications schools and a lot of people training to go into the commercial world, we really saw a need to have an experience that reflected the mainstream of radio broadcasting at the time.”

The station’s founders called on Newhouse professor Roosevelt “Rick” Wright Jr. G’93 to serve as faculty advisor and mentor of the student-run enterprise, a role he held for most of the station’s 40 years, earning him the affection and gratitude of generations of alumni and a place of honor among the inaugural members of the WJPZ Hall of Fame. “If there is any glue that held this whole thing together over the years, it wasn’t just the belief of students wanting to make this a real-life working experience, but also Rick Wright, who knew the business and carried a lot of excitement with him,” Bleyle says. “The world we were trying to emulate—cutting-edge, commercial, and competitive—that was his world.”

Other milestones portrayed in the documentary include the station’s historic move to the FM dial in 1985—the first student-owned and operated station to be granted a license by the FCC—and its comprehensive coverage of the December 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. One of the film’s most poignant moments features a sound clip of then general manager Scott Meach ‘90 signing off the air temporarily to mark, with silence, the day’s solemnity. “Pan Am 103 was obviously a solemnity. “Pan Am 103 was obviously a life-changing moment, and we all knew that immediately,” says Meach, founder
and CEO of Atlanta-based SecondTicket, a sports and entertainment ticket marketplace, and former WJPZ Alumni Association president. “But there were a lot of individuals at the station who rose above the fear and the pure emotion and acted so professionally to help communicate information to people on campus. We became a call center with live DJs in the studio 24/7 to serve that immediate need for news in a way that wasn’t easy to do back then. We basically became a real-life Twitter.”

Throughout the station’s history, financial difficulties often arose, sometimes threatening to put a stop to the whole enterprise. But a period of astonishing prosperity in the early ’90s stands in shining contrast to those ongoing challenges. “We were a bunch of kids just trying to learn to do this for real, but we were a force to be reckoned with,” says WJPZ alumnus Matt Friedman ’94, a partner with Tanner Friedman Communications in Detroit. “We competed in the Central New York market in every way that a radio station could. We were breaking news stories, getting new music on the air first, and doing promotions that professional stations emulated—giving away cars and vacation packages. We had more than 10 percent of the audience listening to us at certain times of the day. And at the time, we were 100 percent supported by sponsorship, so we were also competitive in that way.”

Friedman hopes alumni of all interests will check out the film, which premiered in Syracuse on March 1 in conjunction with the WJPZ Alumni Association’s 29th reunion banquet and fifth hall of fame induction ceremony, and for the premiere screening of Greatest Media Classroom.

Listen to Steve Simpson, Jeff Silverblatt, and ‘Hot Shot Scott’ doing liners for the early station IDs. http://boffoyuxdudes.bandcamp.com/track/wjpz-hot-hits-top-of-the-hour-ids
David Sewell McCann ’90 (VPA) of Charlotte, VT, launched the media business Sparkle Stories, an online resource for original, high-quality audio children’s stories for subscribers around the world (www.sparklestories.com). Sparkle Stories continues to be the No. 1 iTunes Kids and Families podcast.

Allison Slater Ofansky ’90 (NEW), a children’s book author, wrote New Moon, New Month, the fifth book in her Nature in Israel series about Jewish holidays and their connection to natural cycles. She also released Patchwork Torah. Both children’s books were published by KarBen/Lerner.

Tim Robb ’90 (A&S) is general counsel of National Financial Partners Corporation, a leading provider of benefits, insurance, and wealth management services, located in New York City.

Davita Smith Carpenter ’91 (A&S), author, speaker, trainer, and coach, is president of Career & Life Balance Management in Aberdeen, Md. Under the pen name Davita Nicole, she wrote Woman to Woman (Tate Publishing), a book about one woman’s self-reflections and tribulations as she journeys through life.

Jeffery M. Fuller ’91 (ARC) is president of CSDA Design Group, an internationally recognized architecture and engineering firm. Fuller is based in CSDA’s Los Angeles office.

Greg Hamilton ’91 (ARC), an architect specializing in hospital design, launched Chemo Cozy, a company that provides clothing for cancer patients during chemotherapy treatments. As an outgrowth of his experience undergoing chemotherapy, Hamilton and his wife, Ellen, designed warm and comfortable clothing that allows easy access to oncology patients’ ports, PICC lines, or other infusion sites without disrobing. Their second product line will be geared toward children (www.chemocozy.com). Part of the profits from Chemo Cozy will be dedicated to funding cancer research.

Candida Hoeberichs ’91 (FALK/VPA) is a director of investor relations at AEW Capital Management, an international real estate investment management firm. Based in San Francisco, she is responsible for developing and maintaining client and consultant relationships in the western United States.

Brad Wiz ’91 (WSM), creator of Gone Reading (GoneReading.com), a philanthropic e-commerce site that sells book-themed products to benefit reading-related charities, was featured in a Huffington Post story about ways to help build libraries in developing countries (www.huffingtonpost.com/kate-schmie/spread-the-magic-of-reading_b_4457128.html).

David Kelley G’92 (EDU) presented a workshop, Corporate Sponsorships in High School Athletics, at the 44th National Athletic Directors Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in December. The conference, sponsored by the National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, provided an educational in-service program for interscholastic athletic administrators.

David R. Lucas ’94 (A&S) is the principal of Lucas Law Group (www.LucasGroupLLC.com), a law firm in Melrose, Mass.

Jen Reeder ’94 (A&S), who at age 39 donated a kidney to her husband, Bryan Frykland ’94 (A&S), in 2012, founded the nonprofit organization Rock 1 Kidney to provide information and inspiration for others who are considering becoming donors. Kidney donors are invited to share their stories online at www.rock1kidney.org.

Amma Tanksley-West ’95 (A&S), G’01 (MAX) is vice president-strategy and secretary to the corporation at the United Negro College Fund in Washington, D.C.

Keisha-Gaye Anderson ’96 (A&S/NEW) is a poet, author, screenwriter, and former journalist whose work has appeared in the Killens Review of Arts and Letters; Small Axe Salon; The Mom Egg: Aрафеет Journal; Poems on the Road to Peace: A Collective Tribute to Dr. King; Sometimes Rhythm, Sometimes Blues (Seal Press); and Streetnotes: Cross Cultural Poetics. Her television work includes documentary production for CBS, PBS, and Japanese television, and her feature articles have appeared in Psychology Today, Black Enterprise, Honey, and Teen People. Anderson lives in Brooklyn and teaches African American literature at CUNY (www.keishagaye.com).

Ephraim J. Fink ’96 (NEW) is an equity member of the general practice law firm Maya Murphy PC in Westport, Conn. He and his wife, Michele Haiken ’96 (EDU), a teacher at Rye Middle School in Rye, N.Y., created the Twitter blog The Teaching Factor. They live in Stamford, Conn., with their two children.

John Guerriero ’96 (A&S/NEW) is an associate in the Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney law firm in New York City.

Erin Henderson Oxenham ’96 (FALK) and her husband, Shawn Oxenham ’96 (NEW), of San Francisco, announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Ellery, who joins big sister Olivia.

Julie Guerasave ’97 (VPA) launched LAIKA, New York City’s first magazine to offer a modern guide to vegan living.

Melanie Atkinson Metzger ’98, G’99 (IST) is assistant director at the Albany (N.Y.) Public Library.

Melanie Barns Simmons ’98 (NEW), director of advancement at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women in Rochester, N.Y., is president of the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Association of Fund-Raising Professionals.

Michael Alper ’99 (A&S/NEW) married Melissa Hanisch in July 2013 in Chicago. He is a probation officer with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.


Emily Apel G’00 (NEW) earned a law degree from Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Ore., and was admitted to the Oregon bar in October. She is an attorney with the Umpqua Valley Public Defender in Roseburg, Ore., where she represents indigent criminal defendants.

Karen Fox G’00 (MAX), a psychic, medium, and medical intuitive and director of the Denver-based Aspen Program for Psychic Development, wrote Build Your Psychic Skills: The 90-Day Plan (Schiffer Publishing).

Elizabeth Gebler Griswold ’00 (NEW), graphic design director and project leader in the branded environments market at MSA Architects in Cincinnati, has been named an associate at the firm.

Sarah Leadbetter ’01 (VPA) of Amesbury, Mass., was recognized by the Massachusetts Technology Education Engineering Collaborative as the 2013 Technology Engineering Teacher of the Year “for outstanding educational leadership in the promotion of technology and engineering education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Melissa Buckley Kaule ’02 (NEW) of Langhorne, Pa., is national executive director at Thirty-One Gifts, one of the nation’s fastest-growing direct sales companies.

John Raiti G’02 (E&CS), a robotics software and web developer at Brown University in Providence, R.I., is a member of Robots for Humanity, a collaborative robotic learning research group that explores new aspects of how robots can learn and interact with humans and help people with severe disabilities better navigate the world. The team’s work was filmed at TEDx MidAtlantic (www.ted.com/talks/henry_evans_and_chad_jenkins_meet_the_robots_for_humany.html).

Tito Bottitta ’03 (IST), Jared Noack ’06 (VPA), and Mike Swartz ’08 (FALK) are co-owners of Upstatement, an international firm based in Boston that designs large-scale news and magazine websites. Three of the firm’s sites won Editor & Publisher Awards, including Best Overall Website Design for GlobalNews.ca, Best Daily Newspaper Website for BostonGlobe.com, and Best College/University Newspaper Website for DailyOrange.com, which the firm created pro bono in 2012.

Lisa Kelly ’03 (EDU) and Michael Lombardi ’03, G’12 (WSM) of White Plains, N.Y., announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Geemes Kelly-Lombardi. Lisa is an attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, and Michael is an account director at Ogilvy.
FROM BROADWAY WITH LOVE

VAN DEAN BRINGS BROADWAY SHOWS to life. As a producer, he finds the material or someone to create the material, hires personnel, brings financial backers together, and manages all aspects of the business end of the production. And in the nearly nine years since starting his producing career, Dean has received five Tony Award nominations, a Grammy Award nomination, and won a 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical for The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess. “My initial plan had been to write for theater and producing wasn’t even on my radar,” Dean says, “but a friend offered me an opportunity to get involved behind the scenes in an Off-Broadway musical, and one thing led to another.”

A Broadway show can cost $2.5 million to $16 million to produce, so to lessen the financial risk, Dean launched the Broadway Consortium in 2011. Because the investors own a piece of all of the shows produced by the consortium, they aren’t betting on any one show’s fortune. Dean also co-founded Broadway Records, which releases cast albums of Broadway shows and live performances by such Broadway stars as Patti LuPone and Bebe Neuwirth.

“I owe much of my success as a producer to the freedom I had at SU to take a wide variety of courses that have all contributed to what I’m doing now,” says Dean, who graduated from Newhouse with a bachelor’s degree in TV and film production. “In addition to my communications courses, I took classes in entrepreneurship, musical theater, music composition, and music industry, all of which gave me the confidence I needed to start my own business.”

Winning a Tony Award in June 2012 propelled Dean to the top of the theater world, but as the year drew to a close, he was called upon to use his skill and experience as a producer to offer support to the residents of Newtown, Connecticut, following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. “I wanted to do something to help, but didn’t know what I could do,” says Dean, who grew up in nearby Trumbull, Connecticut. “Then a friend suggested maybe we should do a benefit concert. I put the word out to ask, ‘Who is with me?’ and within two hours I had 100 volunteers signed up. At that point I knew we were on to something that could be really meaningful.”

From Broadway with Love: A Benefit Concert for Sandy Hook took place in January 2013 at the Palace Theatre in Waterbury, Connecticut. The concert brought together a 42-piece orchestra, more than 100 Broadway stars, and 300 young performers from local dance groups, the Sandy Hook Elementary School third and fourth grades, and the Newtown High School Chamber Choir. The benefit concert, which was broadcast on PBS last July and re-broadcast on the first anniversary of the tragedy, is now available on CD, DVD, and Blu-ray. “We wanted the concert to be uplifting and an outlet for the kids to express themselves,” Dean says. “It was such a life-changing experience that we decided to do a show with the children of Newtown the following summer.”

As promised, Dean helped recruit a team of Broadway professionals who donated their time to work with 86 kids from Newtown, ages 5 to 18, and one Broadway star to present Seussical—a musical written by Lynn Ahrens ’70 and Stephen Flaherty based on children’s books by Dr. Seuss—at the Newtown High School last August. The four sold-out performances struck a chord in the community and received national coverage. “It was magical and better than many Broadway shows—you could feel the joy,” Dean says. “We’re hoping to do a big show every summer and maybe have smaller programs throughout the year while we help raise money for a new performing arts center in Newtown.”

Dean says he has always wanted to find ways of giving back, and the Newtown productions have had the most impact on him of anything he has ever done. “Some of the parents told us how much the shows helped their children smile again and find their way back to being kids,” Dean says. “This is a lifelong commitment for me. I’ve become very close with the community—I feel like Newtown is my hometown now.”

—Christine Yackel
Suzanne Butler G’01

SPIRITED SUPPORT

AFTER EARNING AN M.B.A. DEGREE FROM the Whitman School of Management, Suzanne Butler set out for Atlanta with few job prospects and contacts—but the certainty that she wouldn’t miss an opportunity to succeed in this new beginning. “I’ve always felt that I never want to be at the end of my life and say, ‘If only,’” she says. Today, more than a decade later and based in Chicago, Butler oversees Kmart’s online efforts as its digital marketing guru. If you cruise the Internet, you’ve probably come across several of the hilarious videos that are part of the company’s digital marketing strategy, such as last year’s “Big Gas Savings,” “Ship My Pants,” and “Show Your Joe,” which together share close to 50 million views on YouTube.

Butler, a Syracuse native, believes going to SU was the key to her success in combination with her tenacity. Her love for the school drove her to become president of the SU Alumni Club of Atlanta first, and later the SU Alumni Club of Chicago. “I got to where I am today because of Syracuse University,” she says.

The youngest of four, Butler is the only one in her family to attend college, earning a B.A. degree in communication from the University at Buffalo in 1994. But Butler believed graduate school was essential to progress in her career. After two years as a part-time student and one as a full-time, Butler completed her M.B.A. degree in marketing and landed in Atlanta, where she supervised the Delta Airlines-Coca-Cola marketing partnership as senior account manager for the flight carrier. During that time, Butler started to engage with SU alumni, looking to bring to Georgia’s biggest city the spirit of bonding and mutual support of her time at SU. “Within a couple years of living in Atlanta, I heard about the SU alumni club and wanted to get involved,” she says. “I missed that Syracuse camaraderie.”

In 2006, looking for a change in venue and career growth, Butler moved to Chicago, attracted by its urban spirit. And the move paid off. Two years ago, Butler was promoted to her current job, revolutionizing Kmart’s marketing strategies by using social media platforms and humor. “I’ve been able to lead Kmart in different directions than they’ve taken in the past,” Butler says. “A couple of years ago, we weren’t doing the kind of boundary-pushing digital work we are now.”

Butler has directed the SU Alumni Club of Chicago for about the same time she’s worked with Kmart. As club president, Butler organizes all sorts of events—game-watching get-togethers, architecture cruises, talks with professors—to reconnect the alumni population in the Windy City to SU. Last year, the club brought in Otto the Orange for an SU-Georgetown men’s basketball game. Otto also visited in March to attend another game-watching gathering. But Butler says the alumni club isn’t just about sports. “It’s exciting that there are so many people across the United States who have an affinity for Syracuse,” she says. “And we try to help re-engage those people so they don’t lose that connection. Our job is to be that bridge.”

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, WHILE BONING UP ON Spanish in preparation for a trip to South America, Jesse Pickard discovered something about himself that was a little hard to admit: He was a terrible student. “I hadn’t studied Spanish since high school, so to get back into it I hired a tutor,” he says. “But I would forget to do my homework, show up late to class, or even not go at all. It was a big mess.” At the same time, Pickard realized he had no trouble whatsoever devoting his undivided attention to a completely different activity: playing games on his phone. “So I just figured, why not combine this thing that I loved and was addicted to—playing games—with this thing that I was really struggling with, which was learning a language,” he says.

That bright idea led to the 2010 creation of MindSnacks, a San Francisco-based company that creates interactive educational game apps in a range of subjects for learners of all ages. Pickard is co-founder and CEO of the innovative startup, which began out of a small-business incubator in Philadelphia and developed its first product, a game app for Spanish learners, in just 90 days. “When we got it out, people seemed to really like it,” says Pickard, a graduate of the Department of Art in the College of Visual and Performing Arts from Albany, New York. “They would say that, for the first time, they were really enjoying language learning, where in the past they felt like it was a big chore.”

MindSnacks quickly gained popularity and praise, earning Apple’s Education App of the Year award and Pickard a place on the Forbes magazine “30 Under 30: Games & Apps” list in 2011. In just four years, the company has grown from four employees to a staff of 25—an inventive and fun-loving group of engineers, artists, educators, and inventors—and now offers learning games for several languages and in such subject areas as vocabulary and U.S. geography, as well as an app for high school students preparing to take the SAT. Plans are underway for continued expansion into additional subject areas. “To create these games, we have an interdisciplinary unit that includes a game designer, an artist or animator, a game developer, and someone from our educational content team,” Pickard says. “The educational content team identifies the key skills we need to build within any specific subject. So, with geography, maybe we decide being able to read a map is important—understanding that a star means a capital and a dot means a secondary city. We’ll create a game around that, with those four people sitting in a room together until it’s built out. It’s very collaborative, and a lot of fun.”

Pickard enjoys sharing his experiences as a CEO with SU students, and regularly meets with iSchool students during the school’s annual Spring Break in Silicon Valley (pictured above). “It’s really inspiring to be around them,” he says. One thing he tries to get across to students is they shouldn’t fear starting their own businesses, something he learned from personal experience, and from growing up in an entrepreneurial family. He also cautions them not to enter into entrepreneurship for the wrong reasons. “I try to give them the sense that you shouldn’t do it just because startups are the cool thing to do right now,” he says. “You should do it because there’s a thing in the world that doesn’t exist yet that you cannot live without seeing come to life. And that’s really the only reason you should be starting a company.”

—Amy Speach
WHEN HE WAS JUST 4 YEARS OLD, THE unthinkable happened to Eyal Sherman. After surgery for a lesion on his brain stem, he suffered a stroke, leaving him a quadriplegic and vent dependent. His mind, however, was still intact. Eyal was the same bright, curious boy who had been wheeled into an operating room just days before. The year was 1986.

Eyal’s parents, Rabbi Charles and Leah Sherman of Syracuse, were determined to help create the best life possible for their young son. A key component of that mission was making it possible for Eyal to pursue his education, no matter the obstacles. Twenty-three years later, Eyal graduated from SU, earning a bachelor’s degree in fine arts.

Charles Sherman writes of his journey with Eyal in *The Broken and the Whole, Discovering Joy after Heartbreak: Lessons from a Life of Faith* (Scribner). Using his personal experience as a springboard, Sherman explores universal questions about doubt and faith, and the slow, gradual process of moving from anger to acceptance, from sorrow to joy. The book, which was published in March, has received early, critical acclaim. *Kirkus Review* called it “A meaningful portrayal of how tragedy affected and transformed one family and especially one religious leader. Deeply moving, extraordinarily thought-provoking and entirely humane.”

Sherman also shares with readers Eyal’s love of learning and his determination to attend and succeed at Syracuse University. “We’d started off just happy that he was alive,” says Sherman, referring to those early dark days following Eyal’s stroke. After some 18 months in hospitals, Eyal was able to come home. He had missed years of school. “Then we started using the word ‘if,’” Sherman says. “What if Eyal could go to a school a few hours a week? When he finished elementary school, what if he could continue on to middle school, to high school?”

When Eyal graduated from Nottingham High School in the Syracuse City School District, the family began talking about college. “What kind of message would we be sending to Eyal if his four siblings could go to college and he couldn’t?” Sherman says. The family sat down with Nancy Rothschild ’76, G’84, associate dean of admissions at SU, who encouraged Eyal. “The University was able to look at the total person,” Sherman says. “They made a commitment to help Eyal have this experience.” Some of that involved pure logistics, such as ensuring that paths leading to academic buildings were cleared of snow. But just as important was allowing Eyal to explore different academic areas with professors and fellow students welcoming him, as well as his mother and a nurse who both accompanied him to classes.

Admitted to the College of Arts and Sciences, Eyal pursued his studies through University College (UC), which provided more flexibility in his coursework. The Shermans worked closely with UC Dean Bea Gonzalez G’04 and academic advisor Emileen Butler ’00. After close to a decade of study, Eyal graduated to a standing ovation and the cheers of family and friends. While a student at UC, Eyal blossomed as an artist, painting with a brush held in his mouth. “What I appreciated as a parent was that no one at SU ever told us, ‘It can’t be done,’” Sherman recalls. “That’s unusual for an institution. What everybody said was ‘What can we do to make this happen?’ The real beauty of it is that people treated him as a student, as a regular kind of kid. That’s what most people want to be.” —Kathleen Curtis
TANYA FORREST HALL THOUGHT SHE wanted to be a doctor, but at Syracuse University she began a journey of exploration that sent her down a dramatically different career path when she discovered the world of business. Today, she is an accomplished marketing professional with more than 15 years of experience in marketing/media strategy, account management, business development, brand messaging, and event and broadcast production. “I started learning about what interested me, instead of what was expected of me,” says Forrest Hall, executive sales director for the Southeast region of American Urban Radio Networks (AURN) in Atlanta.

“I can truly say that my SU experience expanded my mind academically and taught me much more about myself.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in retail management from the former College for Human Development and the Whitman School of Management, Forrest Hall entered the Bloomingdale’s Department Stores executive training program. During nearly five years there, she was promoted from manager to buyer. But she was looking for more and studied sports marketing and management at New York University. “I used my mix of retail, marketing, and sports management knowledge to transition to the sports industry,” says Forrest Hall, who has served on Falk College’s Sport Management Advisory Council.

Landing a position at Empire Sports and Entertainment, Forrest Hall worked with such clients as Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, Louis Harris and Associates (The Harris Poll), and the New Jersey Nets. From there, she moved on to Newark Sports and Entertainment, where she was responsible for developing and managing a multimillion-dollar operating budget and organizing community support for what is now the Prudential Center, a sports and entertainment arena. Forrest Hall then signed on with AURN in New York City, doing marketing and promotions until she married and relocated to Atlanta. Initially, she supervised multicultural marketing for the Atlanta Braves, but then returned to AURN, the largest African American-owned radio network, with more than 300 affiliates nationwide and an estimated 25 million listeners. She also is a marketing consultant for Vanguard Strategic Partners.

Forrest Hall describes her time at SU as some of the best years of her life and a coming-of-age personally and professionally. She gained an expanded worldview and started to envision what her life would be like after SU. “Professionally, Syracuse University has been my career path GPS because I’ve had amazing mentors, both professors and alumni, who have given me a great deal of guidance,” Forrest Hall says. “I bleed Orange, as do many of my fellow alums, and I think we all have that innate bond. So many SU alums are doing extraordinary things in their respective fields, and by staying connected with one another we continue to strengthen our network.” —Carri Prue
ARRON ROBINSON NEAL '03 (NEW) and her husband, ROBERT NEAL III '03 (VPA), of Los Angeles announce the birth of their son, Robert Eugene Neal IV.

KIMBERLY ROSS '04 (A&S) married ALEX KRAMER '07 (FALK) in January.

REBECCA ATWOOD '05 (VPA) is a talent manager at The Group Entertainment in New York City, representing a list of accomplished actors working in film, television, and Broadway theater.

CHRISTOPHER J. CUMMISSKEY L'05 (LAW) is a senior associate at the elder abuse law firm of Garcia, Artigliere & Schadrack in Long Beach, Calif.

MARISSA MCCRONE '05 (A&S/MAX) earned a master’s degree, with distinction, in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

JESSE PASKEVICH SAWBYS '05 (VPA) and her husband, ERICK SAWBY '05 (VPA), announce the birth of their son, Samuel Erickson. Jesse is a development coordinator at the Barnes Foundation, and Erick is the director of business development at Leadomics in Philadelphia.

MARISSA WARREN '05 (A&S), G'06 (VPA), an attorney in the Pedowitz & Meister law firm in New York, was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for the New York Metro area.

ASHLEY CONNORS '06 (A&S) and HANNAH LAVON '06 (VPA) are co-owners of Vs. Stuff (vssstuff.com), an online shop featuring colorful mittens, socks, and baby booties that double as wearable puppets and come in playful pairs of rivals—from cat vs. dog to dragon vs. unicorn. The company has been featured in several magazines, including InStyle and Reader’s Digest, and on websites for CNN Money, Metro NY, AOL Small Business, and others.

BROOKS NEAL '06 (VPA), director of business development at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky., was selected Kentucky Speedway’s 2013 Salesperson of the Year after generating a more than 80 percent increase in new and incremental business.


COURTNEY RAE KASPER G'07 (NEW) of Auburn, NY, is associate publisher of the Scotsman Media Group and editor-in-chief of Today’s CNY Woman.

JOSEPH M. MURPHY '07 (VPA) of Canastota, N.Y., is a freelance illustrator who had an art exhibition at Café Kubal on the SU Hill. Murphy’s show was a collection of work from his Syracuse University series Where the Vale of Onondaga Meets the Eastern Sky. The pieces on display were a mix of acrylic, watercolor, and pen and ink drawings, all of which depict various images of the SU campus (www.jimmurphyillustrator.com).

BRIAN HOLDEN '08 (VPA) is a principal at Holden & Mickey, his family’s financial services business located in Winston-Salem, N.C. Holden specializes in wealth management and income protection strategies, working with both individual and business clients (www.holdenmickey.com).

JEANINE KOWALSKI '08 (A&S) married SAM STANTON '10 (FALK) last December. Jeanine is administrative assistant to student services at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and Sam is assistant director of Northern California Golf Association Membership in Pebble Beach, Calif. They reside in Monterey.

CHELSEA M. PIZZI G'08 (NEW), public relations/social media specialist at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing, N.J., received the inaugural Rising Star Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 1 for her achievements, creativity, and potential for future success in the communications field.

EMILY DITOMO G’09 (NEW) is account manager to the vice president at Philadelphia-based Buchanan Public Relations firm. A seasoned public relations practitioner, she has developed and executed communications strategies on behalf of clients in the technology, financial services, health care, utility, retail, and arts industries.

MATTHEW NOJIRI ‘10 (NEW) is a reporter at the Reading Eagle newspaper in Reading, Pa. He reports on happenings in the area and also writes a weekly health feature about developments at local hospitals.

MITCHELL BERNSTEIN ‘12 (WSM) is manager of operations at MAXX Sports & Entertainment in New York City.

ALEC BURKIN ‘13 (WSM) participated in the Gift of Life campus bone marrow donor drive, resulting in a perfect match for a woman diagnosed with leukemia. He underwent the donation process to help save her life, and the two met for the first time at the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation’s Fourth Annual Walk for Life at Florida Atlantic University in February.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CREATING A SCHOLARSHIP AT SU. Visit giving.syr.edu/scholarship today or call 877.2GROWSU (877.782.5867).

BRING OPPORTUNITY TO YOUR HOMETOWN.

When DeWitt LeFevre ’25 established a scholarship at Syracuse University, he wanted most to help students from Lewis County, where he grew up, started his own business, and became an integral part of the community.

Like him, you can bring opportunity to your hometown by endowing a scholarship for students from your county or city, or even your former high school. It will be the greatest gift you can give to future generations—the chance to attend SU, gain an education, and live out their dreams.

Learn more about creating a scholarship at SU. Visit giving.syr.edu/scholarship today or call 877.2GROWSU (877.782.5867).
Growing up in the farm country of Croghan, New York, Caroline Spink ’16 dreamed of attending Syracuse University. A scholarship established in 1987 by fellow Lewis County resident DeWitt LeFevre ’25 helped give her that opportunity. Today, Caroline is majoring in social work and hopes to someday work with veterans struggling with substance abuse—a group that, in her words, “gave up so much in order to protect and serve.”

You, too, can be the tipping point between high hope and real opportunity. To learn how, visit giving.syr.edu/caroline or call 877.2GROWSU.

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Mary Gilmore Smith ’29, G’38
Mary Gilmore Smith, a longtime advocate and counselor for women in higher education who maintained strong ties to SU for nearly 90 years, died in Syracuse on January 18. She was 106 years old. Devoted to lifelong learning, Smith earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SU, and was named the University’s first vocational counselor of women in 1938. She later served the University in several roles, including student dean counselor and academic counselor in the Women’s Center at University College, where she co-founded theEta Pi Upsilon Scholarship Program for women studying part time at SU. Thanks to her unwavering support of the program’s endowed fund, Smith had the longest giving history of any annual donor at SU, which honored her in 2007 for her philanthropic efforts. After retiring from SU in 1972, she served as a community activist and volunteer, including work as a literacy tutor. Among numerous honors, Smith was the recipient of a Chancellor’s Citation and the Melvin Eggers Senior Alumni Award. In 2004, she was inducted into the archives of the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. Predeceased by her husband, Edward Smith, an SU business law professor, and her son, Sheridan, she is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Smith Hakanson ’67, G’71 of Syracuse, two granddaughters, and generations of nieces and nephews.

Luke LaPorta ’48, G’50
Luke LaPorta, of Liverpool, New York, an educator and former chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors, died on November 19, 2013, at age 89. Born in Jamaica, New York, LaPorta was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and earned a master’s degree from the College of Arts and Sciences, a master’s degree from the University of Sarasota. A letter winner of the SU football team, LaPorta devoted much of his life to working with youth in sports. He is credited with introducing Little League baseball to Central New York and was a member of Little League International’s board from 1973 until his death, which included serving as board chairman from 1984 until 1997. LaPorta worked as a teacher, coach, and administrator for the Liverpool Central School District for 31 years, retiring in 1979 as athletic director. He then joined the development office at Syracuse University, where he worked as a senior director for 21 years. Honored as a National Athletic Director of the Year, LaPorta was a founder of the Empire State Games. He is survived by his wife, Marie Lubrano LaPorta ’50; three children, James LaPorta, Nancy Rogers, and Lisa Pesce ’87, G’91, and their families; a sister, Lorraine Brenner; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.
Waleed Abdalati ‘86

UNDERSTANDING EARTH FROM ABOVE

WALEED ABDALATI HAS TREASURED ALL THINGS NASA since he was a little kid who spent weekends painstakingly re-enacting the Apollo 11 moon landing with his best friend Matt. They’d start out drinking Tang in Matt’s kitchen and then take a slow-motion walk to the backyard shed, ceremoniously cradling their imaginary space helmets under one arm. “We’d get in, shut the door, do a countdown, and bang ourselves violently against the walls of the shed for a while,” says Abdalati, who earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from the College of Engineering and Computer Science (E&CS). “And then we’d stop, step out, and be on the moon, right there in Matt’s backyard.”

Decades later, during a two-year assignment as NASA’s chief scientist, Abdalati took part in—for real—another momentous event in spaceflight history: the successful Mars landing of the Curiosity rover in August 2012. “Watching that unfold—viewing the console room as the first images came down to the mission control team—was truly amazing,” he says. “It’s a story of blood, sweat, tears, triumph, failures along the way, and success—a really powerful one that illustrates the emotional and human element to all we do at NASA.”

The union of emotion and science holds great appeal for Abdalati, whose enthusiasm expanded from engineering to Earth science during graduate studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder (CU). He earned a doctoral degree at CU’s Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) in 1996, going on to work at NASA as a scientist for 12 years before returning to CIRES as a geography professor and director of the Earth Science and Observation Center. He took a temporary leave from CU from January 2011 to December 2012 to accept the chief scientist post at NASA, an assignment he refers to as “quite possibly the greatest job in the world,” allowing him “a front-row seat to some of society’s most fascinating technical and scientific achievements.” As chief scientist, Abdalati was principal science advisor to the NASA administrator, working to assure alignment among the priorities of NASA, the White House, Congress, and the scientific community. “What we really do at NASA is pursue answers to questions that are at the heart of the human spirit—the things people have wondered about since people have begun wondering,” he says. “From the time humans could stand upright and look upward, they wondered about the stars.”

Now director of CIRES—an academic institute with nearly 500 researchers, faculty, and administrative staff and close to 200 students, working in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Abdalati focuses his research on using satellite and airborne remote-sensing techniques to understand how the Earth’s glaciers and ice sheets are changing and how that affects sea level rise and climate. “I’m excited by this research, in part, because these regions of the Earth are so beautiful,” says Abdalati, who spoke to E&CS graduates at the college’s 2012 Convocation. “The first time I saw pictures of and was fortunate to do some work in the Arctic, I realized this is nature at its most magnificent.” Ultimately, though, what energizes Abdalati is the work’s importance and potential. “We’re trying to understand sea level rise, which is something that matters to hundreds of millions of people worldwide,” he says. “That’s the order of magnitude of the number of people who would be affected by a rise in the Earth’s oceans of three feet or more. That’s what speaks to me.”

—Amy Speach
CELEBRATING 144 YEARS

ON NATIONAL ORANGE DAY, March 24, members of the University community—on campus and far and wide—celebrated SU’s 144th birthday. Among the events was an evening gathering on the Shaw Quad, where Orange enthusiasts, equipped with glow sticks, joined with Otto and configured themselves into a “144.” For more on this special day, go to celebratesu.syr.edu.
Join us for Orange Central 2014—our signature homecoming and reunion weekend! Celebrate your greatest SU moments; make new memories with classmates, students, and special guests; relive some proud times in our history—and cheer on SU football at Saturday’s game against Florida State.

Are you a graduate of the past 10 years? Are you from the classes of 1964, 1984, or 1989? There are special reunions for all of you!

Visit orangecentral.syr.edu to stay in the know. And be sure you’re on our email list for the latest details. Update your contact information at alumniupdate.syr.edu.

Whether you were a student yesterday—or it just seems like yesterday—you’ll have the time of your life at Orange Central!