22 Wall Street Ready
The Whitman School’s Orange Value Fund immerses students in the world of finance and teaches them how to capitalize on the experience.

28 Winning Support
The Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising guides students in competing for prestigious scholarships, helping them achieve academic and career success.

36 Resounding Tradition
For 125 years, students have rung the Crouse Chimes, providing a sonorous soundtrack for the University community.

40 Commencement 2014
Photographs and highlights of Syracuse University’s 160th Commencement.

ON THE COVER:
Inside the Crouse College tower, Alex Ganes ’15 performs a song on the Crouse Chimes, carrying on a 125-year-old tradition.
PHOTO BY STEVE SARTORI
DEPARTMENTS

2 Chancellor’s Message
3 Opening Remarks
4 Orange Matters
   » The Beatles Class
   » Relay for Life
   » Architecture
   » Forensic Science
   » Research Snapshot
   » Student Entrepreneurship
   » Newsmakers
   » Orange Women’s Lacrosse
   » Student Support

16 SU People

42 Alumni Journal
HIGHLIGHTS
PROFILES:
   Chris Licht ’93
   Ann Neidenbach ’84
   Oswaldo Ortega ’05
   Ujwala Samant G’90, G’95
Q&A: Bob Mankoff ’66
PULITZER HONOR: Eli Saslow ’04
TRADITIONS: Archbold Gymnasium
SU HISTORY: LBJ’s Momentous Speech
FAST FORWARD TO EXCELLENCE

I HAVE BEEN USING THE TIME SINCE COMMENCEMENT TO LISTEN TO MANY of your ideas of how we can make Syracuse University even better than it is today. Toward that end, I recently launched Fast Forward Syracuse, a framework for how we will get better by embracing change and prioritizing students as the primary focus of all we do. With input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other constituencies, this initiative will propel us to new levels of excellence and position us strongly to meet the challenges ahead.

The initiative’s name was inspired by the student competition of the same name that was part of Inauguration activities in April. Working in teams, students presented ideas on how we can make Syracuse better. The results were innovative and inspiring. They demonstrated the great possibilities that flow from an entrepreneurial vision and collaborative mindset.

Fast Forward Syracuse embraces that same spirit of innovation and opportunity. It includes three interrelated components that will be developed and implemented with participation by students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders. These three components are:

- A Strategic Plan, centered on academics, that lays out a shared vision for the University and identifies clear priorities needed to achieve it.
- A Campus Master Plan to guide decisions about the University’s strategic infrastructure needs.
- An Operational Excellence Program to help the University be more effective, achieve efficiencies, and create opportunities to fund investment in the Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan.

This initiative is not just about the inevitable changes that come with leadership transition. These are extraordinary times for higher education. Technology is changing the way we learn and do just about everything; access, affordability, and return-on-investment are growing concerns. Debates simmer over whether colleges and universities should be professional training schools, liberal arts schools, think tanks, research powerhouses, economic engines for communities, or all of these at once. These are big challenges that go to the heart of all we do and why we do it.

Fast Forward Syracuse will help formulate a vision to meet these and other challenges and propel Syracuse forward to new levels of excellence. It will build on our strengths and identify opportunities for even greater things. It will call on us to change and to take risks. It will require us to be nimble and move fast, and we are. Committees for each of the three groups have already begun their work.

While progress inevitably means change, one thing will remain constant: our institutional commitment to prioritize students in everything we do. They are the lifeblood of the University, and their experiences here will inform their character and shape their prospects for a lifetime.

Nobody knows that better than you. As alumni, you can speak firsthand to the impact your Syracuse University education has had on your own life. I hope you will add your own thoughts on how we can make it even more impactful for future generations. You can follow our progress or contribute to the dialogue by visiting our dedicated website at fastforward.syr.edu.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
EVERY SUMMER, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING what sprouts from my vegetable garden. Like anything, it has its share of rewards, disappointments, and surprises. Not to mention more weeding than I can ever keep up with. Several years ago, I gloated over a bumper crop of green chile peppers, thinking I’d reap such bountiful harvests for years to come. Not so. A year or two later, the green chiles were dismal, few and far between. And last summer, an apparently mislabeled package of bush green beans turned out to be pole beans, and I scrambled with stakes and string to help them with their vertical ascent. No matter how they grew, they still tasted great.

My challenges with gardening come to mind as I think about how Syracuse University students make their way through their college years. It is a time of fun and hard work, failure and success, and the discovery of new knowledge, interests, and ways to pursue a meaningful life. As our celebratory photos in this issue attest, Commencement is a proud and wondrous moment for graduates. Just look at those smiles. They have had experiences here they will never forget and have forged friendships that will last a lifetime. Whether it was a class that caught their attention, a professor who sparked their intellect in a previously unexplored discipline, a classmate who encouraged them to join an organization, or an event that launched them in a new career direction, these students, more often than not, enjoyed an exceptional journey. Combing through this issue, you’ll see several examples of students hitting their stride, from Anthony DiMare ’14 creating a portable catamaran that he envisions transforming the sailing community to cancer survivor Katherine Frega ’16 involving herself in the local community and working toward her goal of becoming a doctor.

Now, as members of the Class of 2018 prepare to begin their first semester on the Hill, I wonder how they will take to their time here. Great scholars, student-athletes, activists, artists, scientists, and entrepreneurs will sprout up among them—and it’s only a matter of time before they emerge, showing us how they have found the right road to travel. Naturally, we are a restless lot. But the beauty of college for students is the opportunity to expand personal horizons, take on new challenges, explore a variety of interests, and focus on what captivates them most. There will be days filled with ups and downs, but the rewards of the journey will be well worth it.
THE BEATLES CLASS »
FAB FOUR LORE

HALF A CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE THE BEATLES released their first album, Please Please Me (1963), but to Chris Freeman ’16, a Bandier major in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the legacy of the Liverpool lads is as vibrant as ever. “I just feel learning about things from the past is as important as things today,” says Freeman, who was one of about 100 students enrolled in the course, The Beatles, offered this spring semester. “And the business of The Beatles applies to a lot of music nowadays.”

For the past four years, Professor David Rezak, director of the Bandier Program for Music and the Entertainment Industries, has been teaching students about the relevance of The Beatles’ business model, their cultural and sociopolitical effect on society, their recording techniques, and the musicians’ personal stories. “The Beatles are the ultimate case study in the music business, not just because they became the most important rock or pop band in history—which they did—but because they had these blatant moments of brilliance from a business standpoint as well as tragic moments of lunacy and mismanagement,” he says. “And we’re a music business program.”

A Beatles fan himself, Rezak attended John Lennon’s reception when he visited the Everson Museum of Art in 1971 for the opening of Yoko Ono’s first major exhibition, This is Not Here. The music icon was supposed to perform with Ringo Starr, George Harrison, and blues guitarist Eric Clapton, but the museum canceled the show due to lack of space. At the time, Rezak managed a band called Oats, which was scheduled to open for the rock stars. “We were heartbroken,” he says. “My band was just crushed.”

To enhance the class experience and give students a taste of The Beatles’ era, Rezak brings to SU several guest speakers who worked closely with the Fab Four. One of the speakers was British performer, manager, and producer Peter Asher, who gave a guest lecture on St. Patrick’s Day. Asher used to be head of artists and repertoire (A&R) at The Beatles’ record company, Apple Records, until he moved to the United States in the early 1970s. “It was really interesting because you think that you know Asher, but there are so many other things that he’s done,” says Erin Singleton ’17, a Bandier major.

The course also features experts like Newhouse professor Douglas Quin, a sound master who introduces students to The Beatles’ recording technology and techniques. “They pushed the boundaries,” he says. “They leveraged a lot of techniques that had come out of the European avant-garde tradition—using things like tape collage—and brought them into pop music.” The Beatles’ recording technology, however, was Jurassic compared with today’s offerings, Quin says. Although he believes The Beatles’ music alone could be the focus of its own class, Quin says The Beatles course is effective because it analyzes the band’s importance through many lenses. “The brilliance of this course is that Professor Rezak has really structured an experience where students can take a number of different viewpoints about The Beatles’ cultural relevance over time and their enduring legacy,” he says.

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
RELAY FOR LIFE » HEALING WALK

ELIZABETH LAFONTAINE ’14 KNOWS WHAT CANCER can do to a family. As a child, she lost her grandmoth- er to lung cancer. And she has an uncle who’s now in remission. “Cancer is not something that affects just the people who have it,” says Lafontaine, a retail management major. “It affects the whole community around them.”

To raise awareness of the disease, Lafontaine be- came involved as a first-year student with the Relay for Life of SU, a campus get-together aimed at raising funds for cancer research that’s part of a nationwide effort coordinated by the American Cancer Society. As co-chair of the SU planning committee, Lafontaine helped organize one of the University’s largest stu- dent-run events, which drew roughly 2,000 students and raised more than $80,000 in its 12th edition this spring. “It’s a great way to get everybody from Syra- cuse involved in one cause,” she says.

At the overnight event, teams of students walked around the turf in the Carrier Dome for 12 straight hours—from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.—as a symbol of their commitment to the fight against cancer. When they weren’t walking, students mingled on the field and participated in numerous games and activities, such as water-pong contests or Zumba lessons. Some set up tents to spend the night. And until 2 in the morn- ing, student music and theater groups took the stage at one end of the football field. Khari Walser ’17, a fash- ion design major, performed with First Year Players, a musical theater organization for non-drama students, singing two songs from the rock musical Rent. But Re- lay for Life's most emblematic attraction was the lumi- naria ceremony, where paper-bag lanterns were lit in remembrance of those who died of cancer, creating a bond among participants and organizers. Danielle Kiejdan ’17, a television, radio, film major, attended Relay for Life with her Phi Sigma Sigma soror- ity sisters. Although it was her first relay at SU, Kiejdan says she’d participated in similar events before. “I did it at my high school,” she says. Seeing one of his high school friends lose the battle to cancer inspired Nick Palmateer ’15, a biotechnology major, to take a stand and join the Relay for Life planning committee. Jamie Goldfarb ’15, a public health major, followed the path of her sister, who was part of the organization during her time at SU. “She graduated a year before I came, so I took over her role,” she says.

For her part, Lafontaine describes Relay for Life as a joyful gathering that brings students together for a common purpose. “It’s a really fun event,” she says. “But it also has a great message.”

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro

Cancer survivors, wearing white sashes, join together in a walk around the Carrier Dome as part of the Relay for Life of SU, an annual fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.
FIRST CAME THE IDEA: DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE, technology-rich creative environment for architecture education. Next came the process: embark on a careful and collaborative contemplation of the questions, “What is it we do as designers, and what kinds of spaces do we need for that?” Then came the splendid result: the Einhorn 21st Century Studio, a prototype for design education that opened its doors in Slocum Hall to School of Architecture students in fall 2013. “Our design process was a participatory one,” says Kathleen Brandt, a faculty member in the Department of Design at the College of Visual and Performing Arts, who co-designed the Einhorn Studio with architecture faculty member Brian Lonsway. The husband-and-wife team are principals of KBL Studio and co-directors of SU’s Thinklab, a collaborative research laboratory. “We spent a semester [spring 2013] working with students, faculty, and others—collecting data, doing workshops, inviting various thoughts and solutions, and making sure everyone’s voices were heard,” Brandt says. “We took all of those different considerations to then pull together a design that would be flexible, changeable, and work for a lot of different stakeholders.”

Intended to accommodate varied teaching styles and rapidly changing technologies, the new space shifts away from the traditional studio model—a big room filled with drafting tables—to one that mirrors the flexibility of a theater stage. “Because stages are built to change, you can transform everything overnight, in a snap,” Brandt says. “That’s essentially what we did here.” The studio’s easily reconfigurable spaces and mobile furnishings support both independent work and team-based learning, while such technologies as a 3D printer and scanner encourage iterative design thinking, enabling students to create models quickly and refine their designs with each output. Additional state-of-the-art features allow the projection of images onto a 20-foot seamless video wall, the floor, or table tops for digital markup and design critiques. “It’s nice to have so much technology readily
available,” says Rebecca Marsh, an architecture graduate student who participated in brainstorming sessions about the studio’s design. “And it is a much more open and collaborative environment than a traditional studio, which is about separate, individual spaces.”

The renovation was made possible by a gift from SU Trustee and School of Architecture advisory board member Steven Einhorn ’67 and his wife, Sherry Einhorn ’65, a School of Education alumna. Their gift also supports development of a new website for the school, and established the Einhorn Lecture, an annual event devoted to entrepreneurship in architecture. “We wanted to do something for the architecture school that would affect the teaching and learning process,” says Steven Einhorn, a leader in developing professional service business enterprises and CEO of Stardog Consulting. “The studio is amazing and fascinating, and we’re both super proud of it.”

His enthusiasm is echoed by Dean Michael Speaks, who says the transformed studio provides an opportunity to “dramatically rethink how we teach” at the School of Architecture. “Using this studio as a test bed and expanding its results to our other locations, particularly at the Fisher Center in New York City, we have the opportunity to develop innovative models that will expand our education offerings domestically and abroad,” he says. “We’re deeply appreciative.”

—Amy Speach

The new studio’s state-of-the-art technologies include a 3D printer and scanner, and a 20-foot seamless video wall.
MOST COLLEGE STUDENTS RELEASE THEIR END-OF-SEMESTER STRESS BY playing a pickup game of basketball or partying with friends. But students in Professor Anita Zannin’s bloodstain pattern analysis course take out their aggression on poor Spatter Head—a plaster-based, hollow human head reproduction filled with sheep blood that they beat with a variety of blunt instruments to analyze the size, shape, and distribution of the resulting blood stains to determine what kind of event occurred. “By analyzing bloodstain patterns you can determine whether it was a beating, a stomping, or a shooting,” says Zannin G’11, a faculty member in the Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute in the College of Arts and Sciences. “And you can establish the minimum number of blows that were struck and if the attacker was also injured.”

Analyzing bloodstain patterns to solve crimes is nothing new. In fact, the technique was used informally in Europe in the 1800s. But it didn’t become popular in the Western Hemisphere until the 1970s when Herbert MacDonell from Corning, New York, applied the modern scientific principles of biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics to boost it to a higher level, and it is now an accepted scientific discipline. “Bloodstain pattern analysis is an important law enforcement tool because it can help solve crimes by guiding the investigation in the early stages before other lab results are back,” says Zannin, who earned undergraduate degrees in forensic science and criminal justice at Buffalo State College. “And later, once you have DNA evidence, it can help put specific people in specific places.”

Unfortunately, not all bloodstain pattern analysts are created equal, and caution must be taken to ensure that an “expert witness” has the appropriate credentials and training. Syracuse University is one of only two institutions in the country—the other is Baylor University in Texas—approved by the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA) to offer a sanctioned 40-hour course in the field. IABPA recognition is significant because it gives students the opportunity to apply for membership in the organization at a provisional level, and then after a year qualify for full membership. “When you go to court you are always asked to what professional associations you belong,” says Zannin, who has a medical background and holds a graduate degree in forensic science from Syracuse University. “It shows you are keeping current with your field.”

Students attending “Blood School,” as Zannin’s course is affectionately called, learn how to use microscopy and chemical tests to investigate crime scenes, conduct hands-on experiments to reconstruct incidents and criminal investigations, and evaluate statements from witnesses and suspects. Undergraduates taking the three-credit course come from a variety of academic disciplines. “My favorite part was being able to go over cases and see how to use the techniques we were learning in real-life scenarios,” says Danielle Lindgren ’14, a chemistry major and an integrated learning major in forensic science. “Overall, the course gave me a significantly better understanding of bloodstains and how they apply to other laws of science, such as physics.”

Graduate students enrolled in the course are studying for a forensic science degree, and there also is a non-credit option for mid-career professionals in forensic science, law, health, and medicine. Krystyna Rotella ’10, a Madison County (N.Y.) deputy sheriff, completed the course as an undergraduate biology major and is now studying for her graduate degree in forensic science. “I gained a wealth of knowledge from Professor Zannin’s course that I will use in law enforcement and, eventually, in criminal forensics,” Rotella says. “It was a real blast.”

By analyzing bloodstain patterns you can determine whether it was a beating, a stomping, or a shooting.”

—PROFESSOR ANITA ZANNIN
PROJECT: Works of Late Chosŏn Dynasty Korea

INVESTIGATOR: George Kallander

DEPARTMENT: History

SPONSOR: Academy of Korean Studies

AMOUNT AWARDED: $290,000 (2013-16)

BACKGROUND: This project introduces English-language readers to Korea’s early modern era through the translation and annotation of important works from the 17th to the 19th centuries. As project director, Professor Kallander oversees three other North American scholars. Each will translate, annotate, and write a scholarly introduction for a primary source written in literary Chinese, the script of the educated elite during Korea’s premodern era, resulting in four books in this series.

Professor Kallander is working on Pyŏngjarok, or Record of the Year 1636, a diary by Na Man’gap (1592-1642), an elite scholar and government official, which records the second Manchu attack on Korea. The Manchu invasion of 1636 was a key date in Korean history, as it served as the dividing line for the Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910). While many scholars identify the Japanese invasion (1592-1598) as the break between early and late Chosŏn, it can also be argued that the Manchu attacks and their aftermath resulted in major developments that marked the start of Korea’s early modern era. During the 1592 invasion, Korea was unified in the face of Japanese aggression and did not experience the same political dissention or reconsideration of its identity that followed the Manchu period. Upon the Manchu attack of 1636, Korean leaders were divided on the issue of accepting the Manchu or continuing their support of Ming dynasty China. While the invasion and its aftermath was an extremely difficult time when many Koreans suffered tremendously, the dynasty recovered and began to rebuild following the Manchu defeat of the Chinese a decade later.

IMPACT: The project will result in four books that undermine stereotypes of Korea that persist today. Each work challenges the misunderstanding that Korea’s Chosŏn dynasty was “stagnant,” an imitator of China, or served merely as transmitter of Chinese culture to Japan. Indeed, the texts reflect the complex and vibrant nature of Korean society, a time of realignment of Korean identity in the aftermath of the Manchu conquests of Northeast Asia in 1644, followed by economic, social, bureaucratic, and artistic developments over two centuries of growth and steady change. In particular, Pyŏngjarok, the diary of the 1636 invasion, provides insight into the threat the nation faced, the challenges that the royal court addressed, and the decisions political and military leaders struggled to make in times of national crisis. Pyŏngjarok offers insight into the complex debates over such issues as loyalty, Confucian statecraft, military decision-making, and identity politics in 17th-century Korea. These annotated translations, and the scholarly studies that will accompany them, will allow the English-language world access to historical and artistic developments in Korea long before the country became familiar to the West. They will provide readers with insight into late Chosŏn dynasty thought, politics, society, and culture, while making available compelling translations of important source materials, translated here into English for the first time, that can be taught in a wide variety of courses on Korean, East Asian, and world history.

Photos, clockwise from top left:

Pyŏngjarok, the diary by Na Man’gap (1592-1642) of the 1636 Manchu invasion.

Namhan sansŏng, or Mountain Fortress South of the Capital, is located a little more than 20 miles southeast of Seoul. The Korean king and his supporters retreated to this well-defended fortress during the 1636 Manchu invasion, as narrated in Pyŏngjarok and other sources.

Hyŏnjŏlsa, or Shrine to Conspicuous Loyalty, at Namhan sansŏng, is a temple dedicated in 1688 to patriots who opposed surrender to the Manchu during the 1636 invasion.

Photos courtesy of George Kallander
ANTHONY DIMARE ’14 WAS REVVED UP to get out on the water. For months he had been anxiously waiting for the local waters to thaw and open up, so he could set sail for the first time in a prototype of the catamaran sailboat that he and a team of student entrepreneurs had been painstakingly developing for more than a year. On a Sunday afternoon in early April, DiMare pushed off the shore of Jamesville Reservoir, several miles south of campus, and took a ride, sail aloft and twin hulls cutting through the water. “It went marvelous,” he says.

For DiMare, it was an epic step in the unfolding entrepreneurial quest of Regattable, a startup he founded to create a portable, performance catamaran—one that can be packed and stored in two suitcases and conveniently hauled to water, where it can be easily assembled and set sail. “The three major problems with boating are transportation, storage, and general cost,” he says. “Our goal is to eventually eliminate all three and get to the point where we make sailing accessible, especially for people in highly urbanized areas. The idea is that no longer are you shaping your lifestyle around the boat—your boat can adapt to whatever your lifestyle is.”

DiMare took to sailing as a teenager and worked during his high school years at the state park boathouse in his hometown of Hopkinton, Massachusetts. The concept for the Regattable catamaran first materialized on a summer 2012 trip to New York City. He wanted to rent a sailboat and take a friend out on the Hudson River, but the rentals were “absurdly expensive,” he says. No luck that day, but the incident inspired him to think about building his own portable sailboat.

One day in November 2012, the mechanical engineering major had his Eureka moment. He grabbed some paper, tinkered with fold patterns, transferred them to sheets of cardboard and, with assistance from duct tape, came up with a folding model that opened into a sturdy hull. “At that point, it was me just talking to everyone about this crazy idea and everyone thought, ‘This guy’s nuts,’” he says.

Feeding his obsession, DiMare became fully engaged in the University’s entrepreneur community, taking courses, participating in events, and adding a minor in information technology, design, and startups. He wrestled with computer-assisted design software to create the prototype, and pulled together a team that now includes marketing and business specialist Sebastian Benkert G’13, G’14, graphic designer and front-end developer Chelsea Lorenz ’14, and co-founder Nicholas Poorman. With a business plan in place, Regattable won $7,000 in seed funding in SU’s Raymond von Dran IDEA Award competition, landed a space last summer in the Student Sandbox at the Technology Garden downtown, and was a finalist in the $150,000 Syracuse Startup Labs competition. John Liddy G’03, entrepreneur-in-residence at the Tech Garden and director of the Student Sandbox, considers DiMare’s commitment to the idea a strong asset. “With
Anthony, while there is a good market there, it was really quite personal for him,” Liddy says. “He has a love for the sport and a real desire that he leveraged to make this happen.”

Call it contagious enthusiasm—after all, that’s what sold Benkert on the concept. A German Fulbright Scholar who earned dual master’s degrees from the Whitman (M.B.A.) and Newhouse (new media management) schools, Benkert first met DiMare at a startup event and later joined him after a student venture he was working with closed up shop. Benkert had never been sailing, but was drawn to DiMare’s vision. “Anthony is probably the most inspiring and passionate person I’ve ever met,” he says. “From hearing him pitch the idea for the first time to actually playing a part in helping him realize his dream is the reason I wanted to join the team and why I enjoy working with him so much. He makes you as excited about it as he is and that is one of the biggest key factors when you do something like this, because it’s not always easy—you hit a lot of roadblocks and have to climb a lot of walls. If you can’t be 100 percent passionate about what you think this is going to be, then you won’t have the strength to follow through.”

Liddy believes that passion drives the Regattable team, keeping it buoyant and moving forward. “A lot of other people would have quit,” he says. “They didn’t, and I think that was based on their desire to see this through.”

Along with market research, polishing the idea, networking, and developing an Internet presence, the Regattable team raised enough funding to get its alpha prototype built in collaboration with Persak & Wurmfeld (www.persakwurmfeld.com), a naval architecture firm in Brooklyn. But that seems to be just the beginning. Since then, Regattable has made vast improvements in the concept and has a revised beta prototype in development. “We added a whole new layer of excitement to the product and have included hydrofoiling into the portability concept,” DiMare says. “Together with an innovative stabilization system, we will democratize foiling, making this otherwise very difficult feat easy even for beginners. Our boat will allow you to literally fly across the water.”

This summer, the company moved to New York City to be closer to its R&D partners and is on the hunt for investors looking to be part of a new movement. “We need additional capital for the beta development and are working on a Kickstarter campaign through our website [regattable.com] to win first customers and grow our community,” DiMare says.

For DiMare and the Regattable team, it’s a challenging adventure, but one they hope catches wind and leads to a modern sailing community. In fact, they believe “community” is a key aspect of the business and vision, creating excitement through a shared experience. “Sailing can be so much more for everyone,” DiMare says. “On a beautiful summer day when the wind is kicking, there is nothing like going out with a friend in a small sailboat.”

—Jay Cox
Art history professor Wayne Franits was awarded a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society. Franits is an expert on 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art.

Chemistry professor James Dabrowiak was presented with the International Precious Metals Institute Henry J. Albert Award, a lifetime achievement honor for his contributions to the science and technology of precious metals. His work has helped bring precious-metal compounds and their medical applications to the attention of the scientific and medical communities.

Pramod Varshney, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, received an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from Drexel University. He was recognized for his pioneering research on distributed detection theory and data fusion methods that have fostered advancement of sensor networks and sensing.

David Bennett '56, professor emeritus of history, wrote Bill Clinton: Building a Bridge to the New Millennium (Routledge), a new biography of the 42nd U.S. president. The book traces Clinton’s life from his Arkansas roots to his becoming one of the master politicians of his time.

Biology professor Katharine Lewis is part of an intercontinental research team that was awarded a 2014 program grant from the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization. Lewis was also awarded a $1.6 million research grant from the National Institutes of Health. Her research interests include the specification and patterning of spinal cord interneurons, the formation of functional neuronal circuitry, and the evolution of spinal cord patterning and function.

The School of Information Studies was ranked No. 1 among best online graduate degree programs in computer information technology for military veterans by U.S. News & World Report.

College of Visual and Performing Arts alumna Jessie Mueller ’05 was honored with a 2014 Tony Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical for her work in Beautiful—The Carole King Musical. Other alumni who received Tonys included Stacey Mindich ’86, producer, Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Best Revival of a Musical); and Daryl Roth ’66, and The Araca Group (Mike Rego ’90 and Hank Unger ’90), producers, A Raisin in the Sun (Best Revival of a Play).

English professor George Saunders G’88 and M. Cristina Marchetti, the William R. Kenan Professor of Physics, were elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

David Bennett ‘56, professor emeritus of history, wrote Bill Clinton: Building a Bridge to the New Millennium (Routledge), a new biography of the 42nd U.S. president. The book traces Clinton’s life from his Arkansas roots to his becoming one of the master politicians of his time.

Biology professor Katharine Lewis is part of an intercontinental research team that was awarded a 2014 program grant from the International Human Frontier Science Program Organization. Lewis was also awarded a $1.6 million research grant from the National Institutes of Health. Her research interests include the specification and patterning of spinal cord interneurons, the formation of functional neuronal circuitry, and the evolution of spinal cord patterning and function.

The School of Information Studies was ranked No. 1 among best online graduate degree programs in computer information technology for military veterans by U.S. News & World Report.

Orange point guard Tyler Ennis ’17 was a first-round selection in the 2014 NBA Draft, going 18th overall to the Phoenix Suns. Forward Jerami Grant ’16 was chosen in the second round (39th pick) by the Philadelphia 76ers.

Former Orange basketball star Michael Carter-Williams was named the NBA’s Rookie of the Year. Carter-Williams is a point guard for the Philadelphia 76ers.

The U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) recognized five members of the SU men’s lacrosse team with 2014 All-America honors. Attackman Kevin Rice ’15 and defenseman Brandon Mullins ’15 were named to the second team, while the trio of attackman Dylan Donahue ’15, defenseman Matt Harris ’14, and midfielder Billy Ward ’14 earned honorable mention status. Ward, a co-captain who majored in health and exercise science, was also named to the 2014 USILA Scholar All-America Team. He is the fifth player in school history to receive the honor.

Younes Limam, a former assistant coach at Rice University, has been named head coach of the Orange women’s tennis program.

Syracuse distance runner Sarah Pagano ’14 earned All-America status after finishing seventh in the women’s 10,000-meter run at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon. Pagano clocked a personal best of 33:00.06.

SU rower Georgia Hamilton ’15 was named to the 2014 Pocock All-America Second Team by the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA). She was also named a CRCA National Scholar Athlete.
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S lacrosse team advanced to the NCAA tournament final for the second time in three years, but missed its shot at the national title, falling to top-ranked Maryland, 15-12, on May 25 at Johnny Unitas Stadium in Towson, Maryland, before a record crowd of 10,311. “Unfortunately, we came up short today,” Syracuse head coach Gary Gait ’90 said in the post-game press conference. “[We] played hard to the end. We’ll go back to the drawing board next year.”

In a game marked by scoring swings, the second-ranked Orange battled back from a 5-0 opening deficit and a seven-point one in the second half, but was never able to take command from the Terrapins. “It’s a game of runs and unfortunately their runs were a little too large and too many at once—made it tough for us,” Gait said.

Trailing 15-8 with just over 11 minutes remaining in the game, the Orange unleashed its potent offense with four unanswered goals—just as it had in the first half to erase Maryland’s 5-0 lead. Attack Alyssa Murray ’14 scored on an unassisted shot with 4:21 left to pull Syracuse within three, 15-12. “We were just going and going hard and I think we caught Maryland on their heels a little, not expecting us to go at them like we did,” Murray said. “But, unfortunately, we ran out of time.”

The Orange women moved into the championship game with tourney victories over Stony Brook (13-6), Boston College (11-9), and Virginia (16-8), which marked their third straight NCAA Final Four appearance and fifth since 2008. Murray, attack Kayla Treanor ’16, and defender Natalie Glanell ’14 were named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team. Gait’s squad completed the season with a 21-3 record, with Maryland accounting for all three Orange losses, including one in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) tournament title game. “It’s kind of frustrating that we just lost to Maryland three times,” said midfielder Katie Webster ’14, who, along with Murray, netted three goals in the NCAA final. “But just the fact that we beat everybody else is great and I’m proud of everyone.”

For good reason. En route to being the nation’s highest scoring team in 2014, the Orange set a school record for victories and collected a share of the ACC regular-season title. Treanor and Murray led the nation in individual scoring, collecting 117 and 110 points, respectively. The duo was also named finalists for the Tewaaraton Award—which recognizes the nation’s most outstanding player—and received All-America First Team honors from the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA). Murray is the second player in school history to earn IWLCA first-team recognition three times in a career, while Treanor, the ACC Offensive Player of the Year, earned All-America First-Team honors for the second straight season. Defender Kasey Mock ’14, who anchored the Syracuse defense, earned a spot on the All-America Second Team. WomensLax.com also named the trio to its All-America team, with Treanor receiving Player of the Year honors.

“This was a heck of a season,” Murray said. “We made history at Syracuse. We definitely left our mark as a class. We definitely showed the underclassmen the Syracuse way.”

—Jay Cox
LIBERE NDACAYISABA ’15 LIKENS his experience as a first-generation college student to that of someone attempting to build a complex engineering system without a model. “You don’t have a foundation,” says Ndacayisaba, a biotechnology major who grew up in Burundi and has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2008. “You don’t have something to look at and compare with. You have nothing to mirror. And that’s hard.”

For Ndacayisaba, those challenges have been eased by his participation in SU First—a mentoring, leadership, and peer connection program for students who are the first in their families to attend college. Offered by the Office of First-Year and Transfer Programs (FYTP), the initiative provides a supportive, close-knit environment for students and connects them to a wealth of resources and relationships to ensure their success at SU. “To me, this is very important,” Ndacayisaba says. “When you’re doing something you don’t know how to do, it is like being on uncharted waters, and sometimes you need support. You need someone to be there for you.”

Originally called the Story Project, SU First was launched four years ago to provide a space for dialogue and community building among first-generation students, encouraging members to share their stories with each other and to chronicle their SU experiences through journal writing. The group’s story has also been told in video form as a means of inviting other students to join in. (See orientation.syr.edu/first-generation/StoryProject.html.) “SU First is a unique initiative,” says FYTP director Carrie Grogan Abbott. “Along with our pre-orientation program, it is part of a broader effort to partner with departments across campus to provide support and advocacy for first-generation students—generally 11 percent of each year’s incoming class—and make sure they have the resources they need to succeed.”

Throughout the academic year, SU First members meet weekly with the group’s advisor, Colette Montgomery. Conversations often begin with students sharing a high and low point from their week, with ideas for upcoming sessions arising out of the specific needs and interests they articulate. “One Friday they spoke about having trouble with time management skills,” says Montgomery, a second-year graduate student in the School of Education. “So the following week we had someone from the higher education program come in and do a time management workshop with them.” Other sessions included a Career Services workshop on social media and networking skills, one focused on graduate school as an option for first-generation students, and a group activity and buddy system to keep students inspired and motivated during the stressful weeks leading up to finals and graduation.

According to Ndacayisaba, who will serve as the group’s chair in the upcoming academic year, plans are in the works to expand the reach of SU First. For example, during Syracuse Welcome, members will join the Goon Squad, helping with move-in as a way to meet new first-generation students as soon as they arrive on campus. “We’re trying to make it more active and get more people involved,” says Ndacayisaba, who also hopes to introduce the group to such informal social activities as dinner get-togethers or a movie night. “I want to have all possible people come and join us, because I know from personal experience it’s very helpful. This group has become like my family here.” —Amy Speach
You plan your day. 
You plan your vacation. 
Now plan to change a life.

Literacy educator Allen Berger ’57, G’66 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.

At Syracuse University, extraordinary teachers changed Allen Berger’s life. Meet him and hear how he’s making that experience possible for future students at changealife.syr.edu/berger.

To create your personal Syracuse University gift plan, call 888.352.9535 or email giftplan@syr.edu. It’s sure to be one of the most meaningful plans you’ll ever make.
TO ILLUSTRATE FOR STUDENTS HIS VISION FOR THE ROLE of art educators in contemporary society, Professor James Haywood Rolling Jr. G’91 sometimes draws on the unlikely symbol of Kung Fu Panda—an animated film about a panda who dreams of becoming a kung fu master. “Art education is about passing along the arts practices and the disciplines connected with that in a way that is a catalyst for others’ creativity,” says Rolling, chair of art education and a dual faculty member in the School of Education and College of Visual and Performing Arts. “So in talking to students, I often make the kung fu analogy in terms of the visual arts and design practices. The notion is you have folks who have mastered an art, in this case the martial arts, and they have to pass along the baton to those who will perpetuate these practices. And if the baton doesn’t get passed by them, it doesn’t get passed at all. No one else is going to do it.”

Rolling took up that baton with gusto in 2007, leaving a faculty position at Penn State University to return to his alma mater to lead SU’s art education program and enhance its national visibility and standing. “That struck me as a great challenge and a unique opportunity,” says Rolling, who earned an M.F.A. degree in studio arts research at Syracuse as a graduate fellow in the Department of African American Studies. His wife, Me’Shaé Brooks-Rolling, is director of special events and conferences for SU’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families. “I was also attracted by the concept of exploring what happens when arts-related scholarship is brought outside of the classroom,” he says. “What happens when we use it to activate other kinds of social spaces, bringing the arts into different venues that we might not have thought about? How do we rethink art education, basically, is what I came here with the intent to do.”

One important move toward making the program more visible was a literal one, relocating it from a small space on South Campus to a wing in the Comstock Art Facility. “This tripled our square footage and increased our capacity to serve students and the community,” Rolling says. He points to expansions to the Saturday Art Workshops for Young People, a more than 50-year-old tradition of community enrichment classes for ages 5 to 15 taught by art education students. The new facility allowed for an enrollment increase from 80 to nearly 200 kids a semester. Plans are also underway to offer summer workshops and, in partnership with the Talent Agency, a nonprofit arts organization founded by SU faculty, to open the program to high school students.

A visual artist who specializes in mixed media and portraiture, Rolling is also a prolific writer whose most recent book, Swarm Intelligence: What Nature Teaches Us About Shaping Creative Leadership (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), argues for the importance of creativity and collaboration in the nation’s classrooms and workplaces. “I’m interested in how we change the societal paradigm that undervalues the arts and does not recognize how crucial they are to student learning and achievement, and to the collective achievement that grows civilization and develops humanity,” he says.

His professional contributions were recently recognized by the National Art Education Association, which named him the 2014 Art Educator of the Year for significant achievement in higher education. “That means a great deal to me,” he says. “It’s an acknowledgment of the work I’m doing in service to our profession. And it means we’re on track in terms of making Syracuse University visible, known, and valued in the field of art education.”

—Amy Speach

Photo by Steve Sartoii
ANGELA LAFRANCE EMBRACES LIFE WITH GUSTO. ON most weekday mornings, this petite grandmother of five is up before dawn, goes for a run with her dog, Lilly, and is at her desk on the second floor of the Women’s Building by 7:30 a.m. “I’m almost always the first one at work because I love my job, I love Syracuse University, and I’m so committed to what I do,” says LaFrance, director of alumni and donor records in the Office of Development. “I’m a high-energy person—my husband says I make him nervous because I move too fast.”

LaFrance was born in Albania to an Italian father and Italian American mother, who had left their home in Italy to find work. They returned to Italy when World War II erupted and later settled in Syracuse in search of a better life. She credits much of her personal and professional success to her hardworking parents, Isabella and Gaetano Pisciarino, who taught her self-discipline and a strong work ethic.

After marrying and raising four children, LaFrance began working as a key punch operator at Syracuse University in 1978. Back then, everything was stored on index cards. “I did data entry and processed checks manually,” she recalls. “I knew all of the account numbers by heart. I slept with them and thought about them all night. Now data entry is all done on computers.”

During her 36 years on the Hill, LaFrance has relied on her boundless energy and can-do spirit to get through three data entry conversions—from 3x5 cards, to microfiche, to computers—when not all of the transitions went smoothly or according to plan. “Something went wrong when we converted to a new computerized database system in the ’90s,” she says. “So we had to decide whether to scrap the whole project or correct the problem. I said, ‘Let’s move forward,’ so we went through 10,000 records manually and made corrections.”

Today, LaFrance oversees a nine-person staff of data, biographical, and gift specialists. She is responsible for processing all charitable donations, maintaining biographical records for more than 300,000 alumni and friends of SU, and ensuring that all allocations in the system correspond with the University’s policies and procedures. She also mentors work-study students. “I always hire first-year students so I can train them and work with them for four years,” she says. “I’m demanding of myself, so I’m demanding of my students because they represent Syracuse University, and I want perfection. The students are like my children, and I still keep in touch with many of them after they graduate.”

According to Dona Schuman, senior director of advancement services, LaFrance treats all donors and alumni with great respect. “The University received a substantial gift from one donor because Angela had taken the time to listen to his needs and they became good friends,” says Schuman, who supervises LaFrance and her staff. “Angela also is our matching gifts administrator, and she works very hard to get as much revenue for Syracuse University as she can.”

Although she never intended to work at Syracuse for more than three decades, LaFrance says she has stayed on all these years because she enjoys the variety of her work and the opportunity to learn new things and touch people’s lives. “As someone who came from another country, I’m so thankful to have a job I love and take such pride in,” she says. “Syracuse University is a great place to work, and I cherish every moment.”

—Christine Yackel
CHRISTOPHER COFER IS COMMITTED TO EMPOWERING personal growth through experiential education. He first discovered his passion for this work when he was a ski instructor in Park City, Utah, and later solidified it when he served as a director of outdoor adventure programs and team challenge facilitator at a summer camp in the Catskill Mountains. “I see myself as an agent of change,” says Cofer, director of Summer@Syracuse. “Helping individuals grow and build confidence through experiential education is very rewarding.”

Despite his love for the outdoors, and with a bachelor’s degree in creative writing and American literature from Northern Arizona University in hand, Cofer decided teaching English was a more practical career path. So he and his wife, Anne, a fine artist from England, sold all of their belongings, packed a camper van, and with their 3-month-old daughter, left Utah and headed east, where he was to begin graduate school at SUNY New Paltz after giving up his spot at Columbia University due to the high cost. But everything fell apart shortly after they arrived in the Catskills for one last summer at camp. “First the van died. Then we realized living in New Paltz was seriously expensive, and the student loans weren’t going to cut it,” Cofer says. “We left Utah to pursue our dreams in higher education, and the math was not adding up.”

This temporary career setback turned out to be life-changing for Cofer when out of necessity he spent a year teaching middle school students in Brooklyn. “It was a real eye-opening experience for me,” he says. “I was able to see what the educational system is like for the majority of American children. For the first time in my life I saw the disparity firsthand, and from then on I wanted to find ways to enact real change in individuals’ lives through experiential education and access to higher education.”

Cofer went on to earn a master’s degree in recreation and leisure studies at SUNY Cortland with a concentration in outdoor and environmental education. After a stint as program director at the Jewish Community Center in Syracuse, in 2007 he assumed the position of director of Summer College at SU, an academic program for high school students. Four years later, he became director of Summer@Syracuse, a division of University College that offers a variety of credit and non-credit summer courses and programs.

As director of Summer@Syracuse, Cofer is responsible for the general direction of Summer Sessions; oversight of such specialized programs as Summer College, SummerStart, and Syracuse SUccess Initiative; and working with academic departments across the University to provide guidance, training, and supervision of residential staff for academic summer programs for minors. He also manages the Innovative Summer Program Development Fund, which provides financial support to encourage faculty and academic departments to design, develop, and deliver new summer courses and programs with little to no financial risk. “One of the main reasons I came to SU is because of the availability of financial aid for students in summer programs and the extensive support services provided for students year-round,” says Cofer, Northeast regional vice president of the North American Association of Summer Sessions and a member of the Association of University Summer Sessions. “I see Summer@Syracuse as a playground of opportunity where faculty and students are able to explore beyond the confines of fall and spring.”

Today, this father of four, ages 2 to 15, says he will continue to pursue his passions while helping others do the same through innovative summer programs on the Hill. “Our family motto is ‘Never Stop Exploring,’ he says, “and I know we never will.”

—Christine Yackel
KATHERINE FREGA '16 HAS LOVED Syracuse University lacrosse since childhood, a devotion instilled in her by her late father, Mark '85. "Even though we are from New Jersey, we would come to the Dome to watch games, and we'd always go watch when Syracuse played Rutgers or Princeton," says the College of Arts and Sciences biology and policy studies pre-med major, who was a standout lacrosse player in high school. "My goal was to play lacrosse for Syracuse. It was all I wanted to do. I was so close to doing it, and then I got sick in my junior year of high school."

Frega was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma—cancer of the lymphatic system—and spent three years in treatment. During the months of hospitalization, she was inspired to consider a career in health care, perhaps as a nurse, or a social worker. "My father said, 'Why don’t you become a doctor—you’re smart enough,'" she says. "I thought about it and decided I wanted to work in a pediatric specialty. I’m leaning toward oncology, because I know it so well."

Since her first year at Syracuse, Frega’s had the opportunity to explore a medical career by working as an undergraduate research assistant at SUNY Upstate Medical University. This summer, as part of a clinical research program, she is volunteering in Upstate’s emergency department. Her policy studies in the Maxwell School also focus on health care, including ways to develop government action in addressing public health issues. The public policy major requires 35 hours of community service, and to meet that goal, Frega has volunteered at after-school programs for third-graders in Dr. Weeks Elementary School, and at the Syracuse Northeast Community Center, conducting open gym for teens. "It’s pretty cool that I get to do these things and get credit, too," she says.

A person who enjoys having a wide social circle, Frega is a founding member of the newly re-chartered Delta Phi Epsilon sorority and in the fall will serve as the organization’s philanthropy chair. She’s also a member of the University’s club lacrosse team and credits the game with playing an important role in her recovery. “It’s called a healing game, but it’s so much more than that,” she says. “For Native Americans, it’s very spiritual, and I felt that, too. I always had a Native American stick with me when I was in treatment.”

Planning her Syracuse University experience helped Frega through that difficult time, as well. “I spent my entire treatment thinking about what I wanted to do when I got here,” she says. “I wanted it so much, and was afraid it might not be as great as I imagined. But it was everything I had hoped for, and more.”

When she first arrived on campus, Frega hesitated to tell anyone about the cancer, but then decided it would be hiding too much of her life experience. “Instead, I chose to be an advocate for people with the disease and raise awareness of it,” she says. “Having cancer changed my entire outlook on life. I don’t stress over little things any more. If I’m having a bad day, I think about what I’ve been through, and try to look at the big picture.”

That resilient attitude has helped her cope not only with the disease, but also with the unexpected death of her father in March. “My dad met my mom, Christina Clair [’85], when they were seniors at Syracuse,” she says. “I grew up loving this place because of him and the Orange pride he instilled in me. If I go to a lacrosse game or to the Varsity for pizza, I feel like a part of him is here, too.”

—Paula Meseroll
NATALIE RUSSO WAS JUST 11 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE READ the book that inspired her devotion to children with developmental disabilities and pointed her toward a career in school psychology. The book, *Somebody Else’s Kids*, recounts author Torey Hayden’s experiences in the ‘70s teaching “the left-overs”—four children whose exceptional learning requirements couldn’t be met in inclusive or special needs classes. “She tells the story of how she works with them and what they are like, and how she helps them grow through the course of the academic year,” says Russo, a psychology professor in the College of Arts and Sciences who recently received a $2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study autism spectrum disorders—a group of developmental disorders that affects one out of every 88 children. “After I read it, I remember going up to my parents and saying, ‘I want to work with these kids for the rest of my life.’ And I never changed my mind.”

Now an expert diagnostician of children with autism who is also a neuroscientist, Russo describes her research as “far afield” from the typical work of a school psychologist. Rather than directly focusing on interventions to help children with learning or behavioral issues, she says her work is “firmly entrenched” in the basic neurosciences. Specifically, she uses electrophysiology, placing electrodes on kids’ heads to measure their brain activity while they do such simple tasks as looking at flashes and listening to beeps. “I look at kids with autism and the way they process and integrate sensory information,” says Russo, a Montreal native who holds a doctoral degree in school/applied child psychology from the city’s McGill University. “So, what does your brain do if you have a sound, versus if you have a sound and a flash? In the typical brain, you get this extra boost of processing when the two things happen at once, and in autism that’s not necessarily the case. I’m trying to understand why that is, and how it impacts everyday life.”

At the heart of Russo’s research is a strength-based approach to data interpretation and research design—a focus she first encountered in the TEACCH special education program during her clinical internship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. TEACCH emphasizes a structured and predictable learning environment and the use of visual learning, which is a strength of many people with autism. “Generally, when you study disability, you are often saying, ‘These kids can’t do this or they can’t do that as well as others,’” says Russo, who completed postdoctoral training with the electrophysiology and multisensory integration experts at New York’s Albert Einstein College of Medicine. “In the TEACCH approach, you use kids’ strengths to help mitigate their weaknesses, working with parents to teach them how children with autism view the world so they can better communicate with their child. I think a lot of parents resonate with the strength-based approach, because they’ve spent years being told what their child can’t do.”

Russo says she is “truly honored” for the opportunity afforded by the NIH grant to better understand autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and the ways individuals with an ASD experience the world. “My hopes are that we can shed some positive light on autism and the things that people with autism can do,” she says. “I hope my research will be beneficial to the kids and families who have been so kind as to share their time with us.” —Amy Speach
GERARDO MARTINEZ ‘15 ARRIVED IN SYRACUSE from his Inglewood, California, home with only one travel bag, an open mind, and a plan to explore whatever opportunities came his way. He didn’t know a single person, but was ready to make the most of his time here. “I figured if I wanted to actually go get a college experience, I should just go far,” says Martinez, a civil engineering major with a focus in environmental engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. “Now this is my second home. Every summer since I graduated from high school, I’ve been here. I really love it here—it’s just a different environment for me.”

So far, so good for Martinez’s exploration of life on the Hill. Like many students, he’s attended his share of Orange sports events, played intramural soccer, and joined a fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi. But, most important, he’s discovered a deep interest in environmental research—and has found a home in the research laboratory of Charles T. Driscoll Jr., University Professor of Environmental Systems Engineering and Distinguished Professor. “It’s one of the best experiences I’ve had,” Martinez says. “Professor Driscoll has been lots of help and has always given me the proper guidance. Even when he knows the answers, he wants you to figure it out, and I feel that’s what research is all about. It’s great how he works.”

Under Driscoll’s guidance and with support from the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program and the Syracuse Center of Excellence (COE), Martinez has conducted research since summer 2012 on a constructed wetland in nearby Madison County. The wetland is designed to naturally process waste runoff from an agricultural operation there, preventing contaminants from running into a stream that feeds into the Chenango River. To evaluate its effectiveness, Martinez has collected monthly samples from the wetlands’ four filter cells—similar to ponds—and analyzed them for contaminants, focusing on nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and trace metals like zinc. “Gerardo has found that, in general, the facility effectively removes contaminants from the waste stream, although the removal is better in the summer than the winter,” Driscoll says. “He is passionate about his research and does an effective job communicating his findings to audiences.”

Martinez collected second-place honors for research presentations he made at conferences hosted by the COE and the New York Water Environmental Association. In January, he was awarded third place for his presentation at the National Collegiate Research Conference, an annual event held at Harvard that draws top undergraduate researchers from around the country. “When I started here, I wanted to go into structural engineering and build bridges, buildings, and roads,” says Martinez, an Our Time Has Come Scholar. “But I was open minded and let myself go to see what else I was interested in and that has changed my whole outlook. Now I want to work with water resources and water filtration.”

For Martinez, this path of discovery has been well worth the effort. With a love for math and science, he credits his physics teacher at Mira Costa High School for initially pointing him toward engineering—and he plans to pursue graduate studies in environmental engineering. When he graduates from Syracuse, it will be a big moment for his family. His parents speak only Spanish, and he’s the first in the family to graduate high school and head off to college. “I’m trying to pave the road for my little brother and sister,” he says.

In the meantime, he wants to continue pursuing water-related research and see where it takes him in the future—perhaps to a developing country where he can make a difference. “There’s so much going on with water, so many water-borne diseases and problems, not just in the U.S., but in other countries,” Martinez says. “I want to fix water problems, and helping out in a third-world country is something I’ve always wanted to do.”

—Jay Cox
They are impeccably dressed in dark gray suits contrasted with white shirts and orange and pink ties. Wristwatches abound. Their shoes shine. Standing erect in front of their peers with a PowerPoint presentation projected behind them, the students are peppered by their professor with questions and comments: How did you get NAV [net asset value]? Why are they selling assets in spin offs? Remember, qualitative factors are as or more important than quantitative factors. What price would an investment bank give them in a fairness opinion? How much debt do they have? Is there anything that can be written down? Goodwill? Put this company on the watch list.

These Martin J. Whitman School of Management undergraduates are participants in the school’s Orange Value Fund program, which immerses them in the world of finance as managers of the fund’s portfolio. On this day, they are presenting and defending the company research and analysis that has taken them weeks to prepare. “Good job, guys,” says Fernando Diz, Martin J. Whitman Professor of Finance and director of the Ballentine Investment Institute, reassuring the students when he’s satisfied with their responses. Relieved, they take seats among their fellow students in the Ballentine Investment Center, located on the first floor of the Whitman School and a component of the Ballentine Investment Institute.

Made possible through the support of Martin J. Whitman ’49, H’08, founder and chairman of the board of Third Avenue Management, and SU Life Trustee Steve Ballentine ’83, president and CEO of Ballentine Capital Manage-

“The Orange Value Fund is a wonderful device for training students.”

MARTIN J. WHITMAN ’49, H’08
SU Honorary Trustee
Martin J. Whitman School of Management undergraduates are participants in the school's Orange Value Fund program, which immerses them in the world of finance as managers of the fund’s portfolio.

The program was created to ensure its graduates would be sought after by the industry’s best financial services firms.

On completion, students are prepared to hit the ground running as equity analysts, credit analysts, money managers, and investment bankers.
“Financial institutions are able to put our students to work immediately. They don’t need employers to teach them things they already know how to do.”

FERNANDO DIZ (pictured above right), Martin J. Whitman Professor of Finance and director of the Ballentine Investment Institute

ment, along with other investing members, the Orange Value Fund was launched in 2006 with $1 million in assets. Since then, the program has prospered, also benefiting from a strong alumni network and guidance from such Whitman graduates as SU Life Trustee Michael Dritz ’59, chair of Dritz Enterprises, and SU Trustee Darlene DeRemer ’77, G’79, partner in Grail Partners. “Alumni involvement is key to the success of the program,” Diz says. “They share their professional expertise, and act as mentors, sponsors, and advocates for the program and its students. Many of them have become investors in the fund as well. Without the unwavering support of our alumni, we could not have realized the success we have achieved.”

Building on the reputation of the Whitman School, the Orange Value Fund (OVF) was created with one purpose in mind: to ensure that any graduate of the program would be highly sought after for employment by the best financial services firms in the industry. With graduates now working as analysts, vice presidents, investment officers, and managing partners for such companies as BlackRock, Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., Ernst & Young, and Goldman Sachs, the proof of the program’s success “is in the pudding,” according to Diz, who also serves as managing director of the fund.

“The Orange Value Fund is a wonderful device for training students,” says Whitman, an SU Honorary Trustee. Students who manage the $1.8 million in current fund assets participate in a rigorous, two-year program designed to make them competent in corporate finance, financial modeling, mergers and acquisitions, distress investing, control investing, value investing, and credit analysis, as well as the hands-on management of a real portfolio of securities. The students take courses that have been specifically designed for the program, perform intensive research on potential investments, write professional research reports, network with investment professionals, and manage the Orange Value Fund LLC portfolio. On completion of the program, they are prepared to hit the ground running as equity analysts, credit analysts, money managers, and investment bankers.

Invaluable Experience

Joe Morgan ’15, a senior analyst on the OVF, transferred to the Whitman School from another New York college after he heard his finance professor discuss investment bank-
ing in a course he was taking. “It resonated with me,” he says. Approaching the profes-
sor after class, she told him that if he wanted to pursue investment banking, he might
want to transfer to Syracuse University because its program was more highly regarded
and the professional networks to which he would be exposed carried a lot of weight.
When he later learned of the OVF program through the Whitman School’s Career Cen-
ter and a Career Madness Day, Morgan knew it was just what he was seeking. “It’s not
your typical investment club,” says Morgan, who is doing an internship in sales and
trading with BNP Paribas in New York City this summer. “Students bridge what they
learn in their classes with the professional role. You apply what you learn by analyzing
real firms and use that to make sound decisions. You don’t get an opportunity to do that
anywhere else.”

Students participating in the OVF are Whitman juniors and seniors majoring in fi-
nance and/or accounting. They must have excellent academic records and a passion
for finance. Throughout the program, they use a wealth of resources, including Securi-
ties and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, credit agreements, news releases, analyst
reports, and interviews with industry professionals to analyze companies. In the Ballen-
tine Investment Center, they have access to Bloomberg equity and fixed income training
modules that allow them to employ the same tools professional analysts use to conduct
company and market research, as well as to receive Bloomberg certification. Students
also develop a professional network through on-campus lectures and “road shows” to
Wall Street and Stamford, Connecticut, where they present their research to investment
professionals. OVF alumni often help set up these meetings and coach students on pre-
sentation and interviewing skills.

William Cass ’08, vice president of Needham & Company, a full-service investment
bank in New York City, where he is responsible for recruiting, agrees that the experi-
ence the OVF students gain preparing and presenting reports is invaluable. “It is really
amazing when you are interviewing someone and they hand you a report that we would
have put together ourselves,” says Cass, an OVF alumnus. “It is a tough program. It is
certainly rigorous. There is a lot of demand. But, if you are serious about a career on Wall Street, there is no better thing you can do than join the OVF.”

When Sarah Rudolph ’13 came to Syracuse University as a first-year student, she had
no clear academic or career path. She took a number of courses in several schools on

“It is a tough program.
It is certainly rigorous.
There is a lot of
demand. But, if you
are serious about a
career on Wall Street,
there is no better thing
you can do than join
the OVF.”

WILLIAM CASS ’08,
Vice President of Needham &
Company
The OVF is a fantastic example of experiential learning at its finest. While in school, students actually execute the roles, jobs, and responsibilities that they are seeking after graduation.

KENNETH KAVAJECZ, Dean of the Whitman School

...campus, eventually deciding the Whitman School was where she wanted to be. After taking an introductory finance course as part of the Whitman core curriculum, she realized that a job in the financial markets was her career target. Graduating with a double major in finance and accounting, she was a student in the OVF program and is now an analyst with BlackRock in San Francisco, where she had served as an intern. Rudolph says the OVF gave her great exposure to fundamental finance through financial modeling classes and learning how to glean information from SEC filings, such as 10-Ks (annual reports). “Getting that on-the-ground experience was incredibly valuable,” she says. “Those hard skills can push you ahead and show your employer that you’re interested in what you are about to do because you’ve already taken the time to learn it.”

Rudolph also credits the OVF with helping her gain the skills needed to work in a team and manage her time—skills she also put to use in her first full-time job. “We all had to learn how to get things done and work under deadlines,” she says. “We learned how to juggle many different things and how to delegate to other people.”

Professional Pipeline

...The pipeline to most full-time investment positions on Wall Street is the internship, says Diz. OVF students participate in internships between their junior and senior years. “Wall Street is using the internship as a screening device for permanent employment,” he says. “Once you obtain an internship, if you perform at the level at which they expect you to perform, it often leads to a permanent offer. Getting the right internship is the quickest way to getting a very good job and knowing from your junior year that you have a permanent position upon graduation.”

According to Diz, 70 percent of OVF students are employed where they interned, though some companies don’t hire interns with the view to employ them on a permanent basis. Still, he says, OVF students have a 100 percent placement record in obtaining internships and being employed upon graduation. Diz also contends that OVF graduates are extremely competitive with the Ivy League students with whom they may vie for jobs. “Our students tell us that they are as prepared or better prepared than others,” he says. “Financial institutions are able to put our students to work immediately. They don’t need employers to teach them things they already know how to do.”

Whitman also acknowledges the program’s success in preparing students for the world of finance. “I don’t think there is any other university that even comes close to what is being done at the OVF,” says Whitman, whose value investing philosophy is the model most often used in managing the fund. The fund focuses on identifying investment opportunities through comprehensive research of individual companies and doesn’t typically focus on general market conditions and other macro factors. It seeks investment in the securities of companies whose industries are believed to be temporarily depressed, that pose a minimum investment risk, and are “cheap” relative to their readily identifiable net asset value. The OVF’s investment philosophy has resulted in two books co-authored by Whitman and Diz: Modern Security Analysis: Understanding Wall Street Fundamentals (Wiley, 2013) and Distress Investing: Principles and Techniques (Wiley, 2009).

Ballentine, the Whitman School alumnus for whom the Ballentine Investment Institute is named, founded Ballentine Capital Management Inc. in 1989. “Little real-time financial information was available when I was a student in the early 1980s,” he recalls. “We studied securities, markets, and analyzed stocks with computer tapes that were based on things that happened many, many years before.” Committed to bringing students the resources and tools that professional investors have available to them, he established the Ballentine Investment Institute in 1992 with a gift to the Whitman School.

Does he wish the Ballentine Investment Institute had been available when he was a student? “Oh boy, do I,” he replies. “It would have been phenomenal. As someone who was really focused and trying to learn as much as I could, it would have been unbelievable to have the Bloomberg terminals and to have a real portfolio to be working on.”

Kenneth Kavajecz, dean of the Whitman School, believes the future of business education will be focused on experiential learning, such as that employed in the OVF program. “Experiential learning blends and reinforces theory and practice and equips...
students to make significant and immediate contributions throughout their careers,” Kavajecz says. “The OVF is a fantastic example of experiential learning at its finest. While in school, students actually execute the roles, jobs, and responsibilities that they are seeking after graduation.”

Cass also cites the significance of the experiential learning gained through the program. “There is no better preparer of college students than the Orange Value Fund,” says Cass, who has been promoted twice since joining Needham & Company as an entry-level analyst after graduating from Whitman. Reflecting on how the OVF benefited him when beginning his first job, he says, “The OVF taught me how to understand companies, read financial documents, and go through a company’s disclosures. I knew the critical questions to ask when I got there. I had experience going through the documents and public disclosures that any security analyst on Wall Street would use. Most important, was the ability to put together a presentation that synthesized the data that I had gone through. The work done in the OVF was the exact work I would be doing as an equity research analyst, on the buy or sell side, or as an investment banker.”

The OVF is more than a line on a résumé, Rudolph says. “If you don’t love it, it is not going to be worth your time. It’s really a labor of love. If you love it, it doesn’t seem like work. But, if you don’t, you may be miserable. It is a huge time commitment.” In addition to the hard skills learned in the program, Rudolph makes a point to mention the soft skills acquired, such as supporting other students. “Sometimes we would be up against each other for the same internship or a job opportunity,” she says. “Rather than being cut throat, we’d help each other with our interview skills or give feedback on presentations and reports. As part of the OVF, you develop a group of friends that you will work with for the next two years and probably be in touch with for the rest of your professional life.”

The day the Orange Value Fund students presented their company research and showcased their skills to Professor Diz, they also unknowingly exhibited the soft skills cited by Rudolph. When the presentations concluded, one of the students, Kevin Kettell ’14, rounded up his fellow OVF colleagues to have them sign an Administrative Professionals Day card thanking Betty Ross, administrator and program coordinator of the OVF. Such thoughtfulness is certain to serve these future financial professionals—and Wall Street—well. 

“"You apply what you learn by analyzing real firms and use that to make sound decisions. You don’t get an opportunity to do that anywhere else.”

JOE MORGAN ’15, OVF senior analyst
Winning Support

The Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising guides students in competing for prestigious scholarships, helping them achieve academic and career success

BY AMY SPEACH
“THANK YOU FOR WORKING very hard, doing important work for the institution, and represent- ing us very well,” he said, com- mending students not only for their academic achievements, but also for taking advantage of all Syracuse University has to offer, in and out of the classroom. He went on to acknowledge faculty and staff who were present at the event, which was hosted by the Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising, thanking them for sup- porting student success through their considerable efforts as teachers, mentors, coaches, and advisors. “That’s what makes Syracuse a great institution,” said Spina (pictured above). “It’s a ho- listic environment in which stu- dents can really begin to achieve their dreams and aspirations.”

Working together to uphold and encourage student achieve- ment is the overarching goal of the Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising (CFSA). Established in 2012, it pro- vides information, mentoring, and support for students and alumni interested in applying for national scholarships and fellowships, including such re- nowned awards as the Fulbright, Rhodes, and Truman, as well as a wealth of other opportunities offered by private foundations and government agencies in diverse fields and countries. Co-directed by Kate Hanson and Judith O’Rourke ’75, G’10, CFSA offers information sessions, writing workshops, and one-on- one consultations throughout the academic year. The center also collaborates with some 50 staff and faculty mentors across campus to get the word out about scholarships and fellow- ships, match students with the opportunities that best meet their goals and capabilities, and guide them through the applica- tion process. “It’s important to emphasize the role of faculty in this process,” says Hanson, assistant director of scholarship and fellowship preparation in the Renée Crown University Honors Program. “They are the ones who mentor students and direct their research and make sure they are aware of the big and small op- portunities. So they play a critical role in preparing students to be successful in their applications.”

Faculty also help identify the University’s shining stars and hidden gems, including excep- tional students like John Giam- matteo ’11, SU’s first recipient of the highly selective Marshall Scholarship. His volunteer experience with a refugee family during the summer before his sophomore year at SU ignited a passionate interest in forced migration and led him to study abroad in India, collabora- tive research in Thailand, and, eventually, graduate studies in global migration and Southeast Asia studies in London. He urges other students to seek out op- portunities through the CFSA. “Preparing for these scholar- ships is instrumental and is a means rather than an end,” says Giammatteo (pictured below), who begins law studies at Yale University in September. O’Rourke, too, affirms the value of the application pro- cess, even in those cases when students aren’t selected to win awards. “Applying for these scholarships can be a culmination of a stu- dent’s academic program and a stepping stone to the next phase, whether in another academic area, such as a master’s or Ph.D. degree, or a job,” says O’Rourke, director of undergraduate studies. As an example, she points to Natascha Trellinger ’13, a College of Engineering and Computer Science graduate. Al- though Trellinger wasn’t award- ed the Fulbright she sought, the application process helped clarify her goals and contributed
What inspired you to enter the engineering field?
I was originally an industrial design major at SU and loved it. But after my first year, I went on a church mission trip for two years and served in some areas in Nevada that were impoverished. I saw a lot of poor living conditions, and seeing those situations just changed me. I started to worry that the foundation I was getting didn’t have enough science, math, and technical background for me to really make the change in the world I wanted to make. So when I came back I decided to switch to engineering and focus on the energy field. That felt like the right thing for me. And it’s been good.

What did the Astronaut Scholarship mean for you and how has it helped you?
The scholarship supports undergraduate researchers so they have the funding and desire to keep going forward. And that’s been true for me. I’m getting ready to start Ph.D. work here at Syracuse in the fall. But there have been times I’ve wondered, “Do I really want to continue going to school?” I have a family. I have a wife and daughter, and another baby on the way. It’s crazy trying to balance schedules. It would be so much easier to just go to work and come home at 5 o’clock every night and be done. But I believe that I got the chance to do this and I’m go-
ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR AND GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

Luke Strauskulage ’15, a biotechnology major in the College of Arts and Sciences and a student in the Renée Crown University Honors Program, was awarded both a 2014 Astronaut Scholarship and a Goldwater Scholarship.

The Goldwater is a prestigious national award of up to $7,500 per year for one to two years, presented to outstanding students pursuing research careers in mathematics, natural sciences, or engineering.

Your goal is to pursue a Ph.D. degree in molecular biology. Was that your focus when you arrived at SU?

No, I came in as a dual biology and science education major, thinking I’d either like to teach or do something like vet school or med school. But when I met Dr. Ramesh Raina [biology department chair] during Freshman Forum, he encouraged everyone who was in science to get into a research lab. He was nice enough to take me into his lab, and has been encouraging me to pursue research as a career ever since. Having that experience, and his support, has changed my perspective about what I want to do. I wasn’t really aware of the possibility of a research career before I came here.

Describe the research you’re working on.

In Dr. Raina’s lab, we work with plant defense, looking at what sort of genes are related to keeping plants healthy when threatened with pathogens, like bacteria or fungus. We work with a model plant system, not actual crops, working out which genes are related to keeping the plant healthy on its own and asking if we could potentially manipulate that to keep the plant healthier in the long run. If we could prevent crop loss to disease and pathogens, then in theory there should not be a food shortage in the world. That’s what this research would go toward: keeping crops healthy, which not only saves money and feeds people, but could also be good for the environment, because if you have a crop that is healthier and more resistant on its own, fewer pesticides would need to be used.

What helped your application for the Goldwater Scholarship stand out among others?

One thing that may have helped was my work as a freshman in Dr. Jon Zubieta’s chemistry research lab studying solid state coordination chemistry. I was able to generate several novel crystal structures, and my work from the lab has been published. There was also my time in Dr. Raina’s lab, where I began working last summer through the Ruth Meyer Undergraduate Research Scholars program [in the College of Arts and Sciences]. I would say that my extracurricular activities helped, too. I am part of the SU Club Quidditch Team—a new sport based on the game in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series and focused on gender inclusion in athletics. I am also a part of the undergraduate Mock Trial Team in A&S, which is something I wrote about in my application, describing how it helped me learn about problem solving from a different perspective. These activities are somewhat unique for a science student, and may have helped make my application memorable.
FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP SCHOLAR

Jennifer-Lee Nieves Álvarez ’13, a College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School graduate who begins master’s degree studies at the Maxwell School in the fall, received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to live and work in South Korea this past academic year. The Fulbright ETA is an aspect of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, which provides grants for individually designed study and research projects abroad and facilitates international cultural exchange.

Why was the Fulbright ETA a good fit for you?
As an international relations major, I have always been interested in other languages and cross-cultural exchange. In 2012, I visited Korea as part of an exchange program between the U.S. Congress and the Korean National Assembly and learned about U.S.-Korea foreign relations and Korean politics and culture. The Fulbright ETA gave me the opportunity to return to Korea to share my own culture and immerse myself in the Korean culture while living with a host family, teaching at an elementary school, studying the language, and volunteering as a tutor.

Describe a memorable time during your stay in South Korea.
One memory that stands out was the first time I met North Korean defectors at a Hana Center [government resettlement center] where Fulbright ETAs tutor. We ate one of my favorite dishes, bibimbap, a mix of rice, vegetables, and meat. Although there was a language barrier—my knowledge of Korean was very basic and the students didn’t speak any English—through simple Korean sentences we were able to talk about Korean pop culture, their favorite singers, actors, and dramas. Often foreigners and even South Koreans have an idea of how North Koreans should look or behave; however, through our conversation—and after months of tutoring them and even celebrating Christmas together—I learned they are like any other teenagers or young adults.

What did you do for fun and relaxation?
I traveled whenever I had the opportunity. I visited many cities in Korea, attended festivals, such as the Busan International Film Festival, and traveled abroad in the region. Since coffee culture is big in Korea, I liked to go to a café and have some green tea or enjoy the sunny weather while eating patbingsu, Korean shaved ice with red beans and fruits. Koreans enjoy the outdoors and love hiking. Even though I’m not very athletic, I went hiking a couple of times and enjoyed the beautiful landscape, rivers, and temples around the mountains. I also met a Korean lady who offered cooking classes with whom I exchanged recipes. I learned how to make some traditional Korean food, while she learned how to make Puerto Rican rice and some French recipes.
GILMAN SCHOLAR
Ivan Zhivkov ’15 is a history and international relations major in the College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School from New York City who was born in Bulgaria. He received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to spend the fall 2013 semester in Istanbul, Turkey, through SU Abroad. Gilman Scholarships, which are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State for U.S. citizens receiving federal financial aid, award up to $8,000 to students traditionally underrepresented in study abroad programs.

What did you do in Turkey?
Besides taking classes, I connected with a center in Istanbul that catered to Syrian and African refugees—providing basic services and a community where they could talk about what they were experiencing and receive some instruction. I got to interview some of the families who were there with the help of my companion who spoke a little bit of Arabic. And I spoke with the people running the shelter—an American religious organization—about why they decided to help out, why some families are coming to them, and what problems they are facing. That got me in touch with more than just the regular day-to-day things about my life in Turkey to meet people who just arrived and don’t have strong roots in the country and to try to help them out as best I could.

Describe someone interesting you met during your stay.
The Gilman Scholarship provided me the opportunity to meet and interact with the U.S. consulate general of Istanbul, who was a Foreign Service officer. He invited the Gilman students to Thanksgiving dinner at his residence. It was a great experience. I spoke with him in regard to his travel in the Foreign Service and he said you not only get to learn about different cultures, but you pick up languages and establish connections. And I would definitely like to do something similar after graduate school, something in the Foreign Service that involves traveling and interacting with others.

What was one of the most meaningful experiences of your trip?
One time in my first few weeks, in one of my classes I was the only non-Turkish student and the professor made introductions and asked me a bunch of questions. And after the class some people approached me and we became quick friends. They took me around to some historical museums and to some of their favorite places that were not touristy destinations, kind of giving me an inside feel for the city. So it was amazing, just making friends with them. We still keep in contact, and a few of the friends I met over there studied here at SU this semester. They didn’t want to go back at the end. It was a little bit sad when they left, but I’m just so glad they came.
FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP SCHOLAR

Stephanie Claytor ’10 is a Newhouse and College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School alumna who is a multimedia journalist at KTAL, the NBC affiliate in Shreveport, Louisiana. She received a 2010 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to live and work in Colombia.

What did it mean to you to receive the Fulbright ETA?

It meant the world to me. At the time, I knew I did not want to enter the workforce, and instead wanted to travel and explore the world. After studying in the Dominican Republic in 2008, I felt I had some unfinished business in Latin America. I was fascinated with it and wanted to live abroad for a year instead of just a semester. So to receive that opportunity was phenomenal. While there, I was surrounded by many intellectuals, Colombians and Americans. Many of them I am still friends with today. I say now it was the best job ever.

What did you do in Colombia?

I worked at La Universidad de la Sabana, where I led English conversation classes, taught an intermediate English class, tutored master’s students, proctored exams, and ran an English radio show. In my spare time I blogged in Spanish for “Afrocolombianidad,” a blog hosted by the leading newspaper in Bogota. I also gave black history presentations around the country on behalf of the U.S. Embassy. My side project was creating videos about Afro-Colombian culture.

What mentors or experiences at SU were especially helpful to you?

While studying at Syracuse, I had many experiences and influential people enter my life that led me to securing a Fulbright. My first roommate was Dominican. She helped me with my Spanish. I was a member of the Raices Dance Troupe, an experience that helped me learn various types of Latin dances, a huge asset in Colombia. I studied abroad in the Dominican Republic. My host sister introduced me to the Fulbright program because she was applying for one to go to the United States. She also wrote my recommendation letter. While taking the Afro-Latin America class at Syracuse, my professor enlightened me about Colombia’s black population. A combination of these experiences inspired me to apply for a Fulbright.

How did your experience contribute to your career goals?

Being a Fulbright alum helped me become fluent in Spanish. While living there, I dreamed and thought in Spanish. My Spanish-speaking abilities have been an enormous asset in my ability to get television reporter jobs. Also, since I was teaching English, it made me more cognizant of my own English speaking habits and helped me polish my English.
Fulbright Scholar

Robert Clines G’14 is a Maxwell School graduate with a doctoral degree in history who begins a faculty position at Western Carolina University this fall. As a 2012-13 recipient of the highly competitive U.S. Fulbright grant, he spent nine months in Italy conducting research for his dissertation.

Describe your research in Italy.
My research work was on Catholic missions to the Middle East between 1550 and 1650. Those archival sources are located in Rome, so I worked in several archives there, reading 16th- and 17th-century manuscripts and writing my dissertation. The manuscripts are all handwritten. They are original documents—letters written in the 1560s and ’70s in a variety of languages. I worked primarily in Italian.

How did your interest in the topic originate?
As an undergraduate I went to John Carroll University, a small private school in Ohio run by Jesuit priests, where I got interested in Jesuit history. The Jesuits are known for their educational skills. They’re teachers. That’s what they do. So then I did a master’s degree at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. My master’s thesis was on Jesuit education in a church in Rome, and I stumbled upon a bunch of sources relating to Jesuit missions to the Middle East. It was fascinating to read. I found there was way more than I could use for my master’s thesis, so that became my dissertation topic. I also had a personal interest in the topic because my mother’s parents—my grandparents—are Lebanese.

What was your experience like living in Rome?
I’ve lived in Rome off and on for 10 years now, so in many ways it was like going home. I have a lot of friends there, both English language ex-pats who are tour guides and work in pubs, and also Italians and other historians. It’s a great place to live. The food is fantastic. And if they get the sense you’re not a tourist, they’re very friendly, especially if you know some Italian. It can be difficult though. It’s a large city, and not the most efficient city in the world. In July it’s extremely hot and there’s not a lot of air conditioning. There are a lot of traffic strikes and transit strikes. So that’s always a good excuse to not go to the archive and go to the beach instead.

What advice would you offer to other students interested in applying for a nationally competitive scholarship?
It’s all about fostering relationships with people who can put you in a position to win one. That’s key. It’s important to know what you want to do in advance—if the application due date is in October, you should be thinking about it in June. And one other thing: The best way to ensure you never win an award is to not apply. So just try. «
FOR 125 YEARS, students have rung the Crouse Chimes, providing a sonorous soundtrack for the University community

By Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
First installed in 1889, the Crouse Chimes are rung up to three times a day and on special occasions. For decades, members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity held the honor of ringing the bells. The Chimesmasters took over the bell-keeping duties in 1989. Chimesmaster Alex Ganes ’15 (top left and facing page) helps carry on the tradition today.

Above: A student from years past poses in the largest bell, nicknamed “Big John,” which weighs about 3,000 pounds.

As often as his schedule allows, Alex Ganes ’15 climbs up Crouse College’s bell tower to toll more than 10,500 pounds of tin and copper. Using his hands and feet, he shoves himself against the wooden levers that make the 10 Crouse Chimes sing, performing tunes as old as the “Alma Mater” and as new as Miley Cyrus’s “Wrecking Ball.” After 15 minutes of physical madness, Ganes returns to his life as a music composition major while the last notes of “Westminster Quarters” vanish in the Syracuse air. “It’s a nice chest workout,” he says, joking.

For the last three years, Ganes has lived a secret life as a member of the Chimesmasters, a student society that’s been in charge of playing the campus bells since 1989. With him as its chair, the eight-person group rings the Crouse Chimes three times a day during the school week—morning, lunchtime, and evening—and for special events. For the bells’ 125th anniversary this year, the Chimesmasters played a concert for the local community, reenacting the first time the chimes resounded at the University on the evening of June 3, 1889. “The chimes are part of the culture of Syracuse University,” says Professor Patrick M. Jones, director of the Setnor School of Music. “They create an aura.”

Music students and faculty founded the Chimesmasters society after the brothers of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the original bell ringers, gave up the chore when they left campus in 1985. Although multiple people used to play the bells together, today the Chimesmasters tend to do the job in the solitude of the tower. “You used to not be able to do it by yourself because it was considered to be too dangerous,” Ganes says. Cellphones have made playing alone possible. But it’s understandable why students couldn’t do it in the past.

To access the chimes, the bell keepers can only en-
ter the tower through a door in a corner of a room in Crouse College. Then, they must climb a 70-foot ladder to reach the platform where the levers are—the hard work happens here. An old stairway connects this level with the area above holding the bells. There’s also an extra floor where the Chimesmasters have their lounge: the very top of the Crouse needle.

Since the early days of Crouse College, the bells have been looking over the SU campus. Toward the end of the 19th century, John Crouse, the building’s benefactor and a University Trustee at the time, bought the first nine chimes—weighing from 375 to 3,000 pounds—from Clinton H. Meneely Bell Foundry of Troy, New York, for roughly $5,000. Crouse never saw his building finished, but he did hear the bells before his death in summer 1889. He passed away 24 days after the chimes first thundered “Carol Sweetly Carol” on the Hill. This is how a local newspaper narrated the inauguration of the Crouse Chimes: “Last night, as twilight began to fall and the heavens to shake out their sable ropes of night, here pealed forth upon the air from the college on University Hill the sweet, harmonious tones of the first chime of bells that ever greeted the ear of Syracuse.” The bells’ original notes constituted a C-major scale from C to C with B-flat. In 1937, a 10th chime, high D above high C, was added.

For decades, the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon were responsible for ringing the Crouse Chimes, except during World War II, when the Alpha Phi sorority took on the duty. John B. Churchill ’59 was the brotherhood’s pledge master when he was studying at SU. Back then, the fraternity had about 50 members. Despite being a psychology major, Churchill played piano by ear and taught numerous brothers how to ring the chimes. “All the pledges had the assignment to play the bells at one time or another,” he says. “The playing of the bells was fun because you had a variety of simple tunes you could ring. But the bells were heavy, so you really had to work hard to get them to function.”

In their century and a quarter of history, the Crouse Chimes have seldom been silent. They stopped ringing in 1981-82 for repairs and when the Delta Kappa Epsilon brothers stepped down as official bell keepers a few years later. Through tradition, the chimes have laced a bond between Crouse College and the rest of the campus. “The chimes and the bell tower are a constant source of fascination and delight for those who visit Crouse College and one of the reasons I love working in the building,” says Ann Clarke, dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “But whether the chimes ring in times of joy or sadness, generations of students and alumni will forever remember them as part of their Syracuse University experience.”

Like an old rock, the inner walls of the Crouse tower have layers of history, represented through the graffiti and signatures of those who played the chimes. Legend says that the late radio and television personality Dick Clark ’51, a Delta Kappa Epsilon brother, etched his name on the surface. For the past 20-something years, an old, yellowed notebook has kept record of all visitors to the tower. One of the most recent names is Rebekah Timerman ’17, a music industry major who joined the Chimesmasters this spring. Timerman remembers her first experience ringing the bells as nerve-racking. “It was absolutely terrifying,” she says. “I was really worried that people were listening and they would think it was terrible.”

New members of the society play the chimes accompanied by another Chimesmaster during their first semester as bell ringers. “You’re scheduled with some-
“one else every time,” says Timerman, who also plays the clarinet. Timerman joined the Chimesmasters with her Setnor School friend Jesse Wilhelm ’17, so they usually went up the tower together in the spring.

As a Chimesmaster, one of Timerman’s responsibilities is adding two songs every month to the ever-growing collection of bell-arranged tunes the society keeps. For example, she’s arranged “Call Me in the Afternoon” by Half Moon Run and “Say Something” by A Great Big World. As a personal trademark, each Chimesmaster also plays a unique five-note rhythm during every bell-ringing session. “We play the ‘Westminster Quarters’ first, just to mark what hour it is, and then we play our rhythms, so if there happens to be a Chimesmaster who’s listening they can know who it is,” Timerman says.

Alex Ganes, the chair of the Chimesmasters, was Timerman’s gateway into the organization. Working as a teaching assistant in an ear training course, Ganes saw talent in Timerman and Wilhelm and took them up the Crouse tower at the end of the fall semester to show them around. “I just happened to be at the right place at the right time,” Timerman says. How Ganes became involved with the group as a first-year student was serendipitous, too. It all started when he accidentally heard an across-the-hallway conversation between two members of the society. “I just heard two people whispering ‘Chimesmasters,’ and I knew it was my moment,” he says. Ganes tries to keep that aura of mystery around the society he felt when he entered SU. “Some people think it’s automated, some people think the piano tuner does it,” Ganes says. “It’s interesting. It’s like, ‘Who’s ringing the bells?’ That’s the mystery of it.”

For Timerman, the new Chimesmaster, the beauty of anonymously sharing a song that echoes across the Hill lies in knowing that she’s giving listeners a soundtrack to their day. “I like the idea that I’m playing,” she says, “and I can do something for the community, but they don’t know it’s me.”

To play, bell ringers push levers connected by cables to the bells, as demonstrated by Walter Pfeiffer (foreground) and Jim Potts G’69.
HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 160TH COMMENCEMENT of Syracuse University and the 117th Commencement of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, held jointly on May 11 in the Carrier Dome:

2014 COMMENCEMENT
DEGREES CONFERRED:
SU, 5,155; ESF, 575

CLASS MARSHALS:
Stephen Rathbun, Falk College; Leo Wong, Newhouse School

STUDENT SPEAKER:
Molly Linhorst, College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School

HONORARY DOCTORAL RECIPIENTS:
Bruce M. Alberts, professor of biochemistry and biophysics, University of California, San Francisco, former president of National Academy of Sciences (Doctor of Science); David Remnick, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and editor of The New Yorker (Doctor of Humane Letters); Roy Simmons Jr. ’59, former head coach of SU men’s lacrosse team, artist and sculptor (Doctor of Fine Arts).

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: David Remnick

QUOTING REMNICK: I said I wanted to speak of the demands on you of vision. What I mean is that the rate and the way the world advances is dependent on us and now most definitely, as of this day, on you. Nothing is inevitable. If this day means anything, it means that you are now in the contingent of the responsible. You must be kind, yes, but you must also look beyond your own house. We’re depending on you for your efforts and your vision. We are depending on your eye and your imagination to identify what wrongs exist and persist, and on your hands, your backs, your efforts to right them.

There was no shortage of cheers and celebrations from the Class of 2014 at Commencement. The graduates heard from New Yorker editor David Remnick (left, facing page), and many took time for the traditional photo with the Chancellor on the steps of Hendricks Chapel (top right, Chancellor Kent Syverud and his wife, Dr. Ruth Chen, pose with a graduate).
THE SPEECH HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson came to Syracuse University to dedicate Newhouse 1—a day that unexpectedly became a pivotal moment in global history

BY BOB WOODS

“This is an hour to which we have looked forward for a long time. It is an important occasion not only for the City of Syracuse and the University, but for the nation and the world.” When Syracuse University Chancellor William Tolley spoke those words, shortly after 11 a.m. on August 5, 1964, he had no idea just how prophetic and profound they were about to become.

I was there that auspicious day, when President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) came to town. A 10-year-old Syracuse native, I piled into my mom’s Ford Falcon station wagon with several siblings for the short drive to campus to join in the city’s highlight of the summer.

A half century later, fuzzy recollections of the event reside in the adolescent vault of my memory bank, though the day’s fascinating—if almost accidental—place in history allows for a vivid recreation. It’s compiled from more consequential eyewitnesses, as well as a public record, albeit still controversial, surrounding what became infamously known as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident and the advent of America’s deeper entrenchment in the Vietnam War.

This occurred a little more than eight months after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (JFK)—in Dallas on November 22, 1963—and Johnson’s swearing-in aboard Air Force One that same horrible day. Johnson was now campaigning for his own election and dealing with the controversy swirling around the U.S. military’s nascent actions in Vietnam. While Syracusans were thrilled to welcome the popular LBJ, we couldn’t imagine that he was about to talk about an enemy attack on our Navy there and the rapid retaliation that would soon push the nation much further into the war.

Johnson’s long-anticipated visit headlined the dedication of Newhouse 1, the first of three buildings that today comprise the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, named for its benefactor, Samuel Newhouse, one of America’s original media moguls, whose vast print and broadcasting empire included Syracuse’s two daily newspapers, The Post-Standard and The Herald-Journal/Herald-American. The $3.9 million concrete-and-glass edifice, designed by renowned architect I.M. Pei, featured an expansive plaza on which a dais was erected that hot and sunny Wednesday morning.

Tolley delivered his speech from there, facing a sizable portion of the estimated 100,000 Syracusans who turned out citywide that day. Invited guests, many dressed in their Sunday best, sat in folding chairs, while the general public crowded onto the grassy knoll leading to the top of Piety Hill and the Hall of Languages. Alongside the cap-and-gowned Tolley was seated an assemblage of academic and political dignitaries, most notably LBJ, whom the Chancellor introduced by saying, “The president had a long and tiring day yesterday, and it was not easy for him to be with us.”

Indeed. Tolley, the University, and all of Syracuse had expected LBJ’s appearance to be his last campaign trip before the upcoming Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, where he would officially become the party’s presidential candidate and in November defeat the Republican nominee, Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, in a landslide election.

On the limousine ride from Syracuse’s Hancock International Airport, Johnson, the consummate politician, had reportedly pressed Newhouse for endorsements from his newspapers (some of which he ultimately received, including from both Syracuse papers). Yet weighing much more heavily on his mind—and the crux of the fatigue and unease Tolley referenced—was the game-changing substance of the president’s hastily scheduled, live television address to the nation a little more than 12 hours earlier.

In the days leading up to LBJ’s arrival at SU, his speechwriters most likely had prepared an innocuous paean to his hosts and the state-of-the-art journalism center, as well as mention of the landmark Civil Rights Bill he’d shepherded to Congressional passage in April. They’d probably thrown in a few jabs at Goldwater, too, contrasting his warmonger image to that of
President Lyndon B. Johnson attends the Newhouse 1 dedication, August 5, 1964, where he delivered the Gulf of Tonkin Speech, a reiteration of his televised talk to the nation the previous night. Two days later, the House and Senate passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, allowing the president to escalate U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

Facing Page: LBJ and Lady Bird Johnson are greeted at Hancock International Airport by Chancellor Tolley (left) and Samuel and Mitzi Newhouse.

of ongoing U.S. military involvement in South Vietnam, beginning with President Eisenhower, continuing with President Kennedy, and inherited by Johnson, to contain the communist insurgency from the north.

By then, there were approximately 16,000 American troops, euphemized as “advisors,” assisting South Vietnamese and other international forces. But following those two attacks, the ante was going up, sternly warned the 6-foot-4-inch Texan, standing draped in a custom-made, size-44 silk doctoral robe in preparation for receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree. “I say this: There is no threat to any peaceful power from the United States of America. But there can be no peace by aggression and no immunity from reply. That is what is meant by the actions that we took yesterday.”

A CRITICAL TIME

Two days after returning to Washington, Johnson presented both houses of Congress with a resolution asking for sweeping authorization to wage war in Southeast Asia, primarily Vietnam. On August 7, the Tonkin Gulf Resolution passed the House unanimously, 416–0, and the Senate, 88–2, with 10 senators not voting and the only dissenting votes cast by Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska. Just like that, the administration was handed essentially a blank check to “take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression,” the resolution stated.

August 5, 1964, cannot compare to “a date which will live in infamy”—as President Franklin Roosevelt declared of December 7, 1941, the day of Japan’s surprise attack on Pearl Harbor—but the confluence of geopolitical, military, and personal forces mark it as epochal, especially among some who were on campus that day. “That particular year, at that particular moment, it was particularly dramatic,” says David Bennett ’56, then a “very junior faculty member” at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and currently professor emeritus of history, whose specialties include presidential politics and military history. “It was the year after [President Kennedy’s] assassination, and I remember enormous security precautions.” Besides black-clad Secret Service agents and swarms of police officers on the streets, there was no mistaking the uniformed riflemen on rooftops surrounding Newhouse 1, including the center tower of the Hall of Languages.

Bennett cites candidate Johnson’s per-
sona as the liberal activist who’d pledged to usher in the Great Society. “That was the vision,” he says, “but there was this other thing, this crisis in Southeast Asia.”

As it turns out, even before his arrival in Syracuse, Johnson’s inner circle of “best and brightest” advisors inherited from JFK—principally Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, and Special Assistant for National Security Affairs McGeorge Bundy—was already plotting to widen the war half a world away, as it would be learned during Senate hearings in 1966. “In May [1964], they decided that part of the process would be that you’d need to get a resolution from Congress,” says Clemson University history professor Edwin E. Moïse, author of the 1996 book Tonkin Gulf and the Escalation of the Vietnam War.

Although Johnson was squarely focused on his domestic agenda, according to Moïse, his foreign policy wonks envisioned the war as pivotal in preventing the domino theory, based on the belief that the fall of South Vietnam to communism would trigger a repercussive toppling of neighboring nations. They prepared explicit, if not imminent, plans for escalating the war, “but if something should come along that would make a good excuse, they could go ahead with the resolution,” Moïse says.

Along came the Gulf of Tonkin attacks on the eve of Johnson’s trip to Syracuse, the potential smoking gun. Or was it? “It was hard to know, standing there listening to the speech, what the implications were,” Bennett says. “We didn’t know whether or not those American destroyers had been attacked in international waters, or that what he was saying was simply what any American president would say, that we can’t tolerate that, and we would respond. We didn’t know that would become the raison d’être for American military power being used on the ground there.”

In fact, Moïse claims, there is now widespread consensus that while the August 2 attack on the Maddox did occur, the August 4 attacks on the Maddox and a second U.S. destroyer, the Turner Joy, did not. “I am extremely sure about both of those,” Moïse asserts, adding that he interviewed a North Vietnamese officer aboard one of the PT boats that attacked the Maddox on August 2.

The 2001 book Reaching for Glory, exposing secret White House tapes President Johnson made in 1964 and 1965, revealed that the August 4 incident probably never happened. “When we got through with all the firing,” Johnson told McNamara, who had ordered the bombing, “we concluded maybe they hadn’t fired at all.” Though not on those tapes, LBJ was also quoted as saying, “For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there,” referring to the Maddox crew’s reports of torpedo sightings in the water.

**THE PRESIDENT’S WARNING**

Nonetheless, the Gulf of Tonkin Speech was well received in Syracuse. “A standing audience of many thousands replied with applause after nearly every sentence of the president’s warning,” The New York Times noted the following morning.

Among the local press corps was Peter Moller ’65, then an SU student working part-time for WAER, the campus radio station. “The day before, news director Bob Feldman asked me to cover the dedication because he couldn’t,” Moller says. “I said, ‘Oh, all right.’”

The accidental reporter lugged a suitcase-size Ampex 601 reel-to-reel tape recorder, a microphone, and a headset to the event, and set up on the media tables spread out along University Place in front of the dais. “I knew I had a hot story afterward, so I ran back to the station near the Quad to get it ready for the 6 p.m. newscast,” says Moller, a Newhouse professor emeritus who taught in the television, radio, film department from 1980 to 2012. “By that time, news people were calling from all over the country to find out if we had anything that other stations might not.”

One of the Herald-Journal reporters covering the dedication was 29-year-old Dick Case ’56. “I had a telephone and a typewriter, because I was on deadline,” he says, remembering too that he was sitting next to CBS newsman Dan Rather. Case had already written most of his story, figuring he’d fill in details before filing it in time for the afternoon paper’s edition. His plans changed, however, when a city cop, Bob Busch, approached Case and said the president needed a typewriter. “I gave him my Royal office model—and never saw it again,” says Case, who had to phone in his story.

The whereabouts of that typewriter remain a mystery—SU reference archivist Mary O’Brien says it’s not in the University Archives—but Case went on to a distinguished, 53-year career with the Syracuse Newspapers.

Whether Johnson himself used Case’s typewriter is unknown as well, but the aftermath of LBJ’s Gulf of Tonkin Speech is etched in American history. Four months after the election, he ordered Operation Rolling Thunder, the relentless bombing of North Vietnam that stretched from March 1965 until November 1968, coupled with a huge buildup of ground troops. At the Vietnam War’s peak, the United States had 543,400 boots on the ground. By the time the war ended in 1973, unsuccessfully, 58,220 Americans had died and 153,303 had been wounded.

Every other year, Bennett still teaches a course on U.S. history, from 1963 to the present. He makes it a point that his students understand the significance of August 5, 1964. “I lay out that this dramatic event occurred on their own campus, just a few feet from the Maxwell Auditorium.” It remains an unforgettable day.

Bob Woods ’75 is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Madison, Connecticut.
ELI SASLOW ’04 WAS WAITING FOR A HOME-bound train at New York City’s Pennsylvania Sta-
tion when his phone rang with the big news. As he hung up, the symptoms of the flu that had strick-
en him began to fade. A Newhouse newspaper graduate and Washington Post reporter, Saslow
just learned he had won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting for his extensive work
on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, reaching the Mt. Olympus of the jour-
nalism profession. “I was really excited and, of course, honored,” says Saslow, who was returning
home to the Washington, D.C., area, after traveling north to receive the George Polk Award
for National Reporting, which also recognized his food stamp series.

But Saslow hopes his recognition will especially help direct the public eye to the people he writes
about and the difficulties they face. “I want readers to pay attention to the sto-
ries and to the people in the stories,” he says, “who very often are not having enough
attention paid to them.”

In the award-winning six-piece se-
ries, Saslow portrays the struggles
of families from all over the United
States who rely on food stamps to
survive and those who are familiar
with their plight. A single mother
of six from Washington, D.C., and
a 9-year-old from Texas with cholesterol problems are
among the individuals in his articles that give a face to the 47 million people enrolled in the government program.

“These big problems in the country, they’re not confined
to one kind of person and one place,” Saslow says. “Food
stamps sustain one in every seven Americans.”

Looking to draw readers’ attention to the nation’s nutri-
tion problems, Saslow focuses on how the politics of Capi-
tol Hill affect people’s lives, using examples to illustrate
their powerful impact. “If you’re able to write about people
in ways where they’re not just stereotypes or stock char-
acters,” he says, “if you can make people feel real, then
hopefully when readers finish a story they feel like they
know somebody and they understand what it’s like to be
in that situation in a different way.” To do so, Saslow must
spend days with the people he features, getting to know
them. “I try to spend enough time in their lives that I can
write about them in a complete and empathetic way in the
paper,” he says.

As a first-year SU student, Saslow started forging his writing
skills at The Daily Orange, covering sports. “It taught me
how to write on deadline, and how to write quickly, and how
to think about choosing and assigning stories—and it was
also a tremendous amount of fun,” he says. After gradu-
a tion, he became a reporter for The Buffalo News, then The
Star-Ledger in New Jersey, and eventually The Washington
Post in 2005. “Story after story, slowly over the years, I start-
ed writing longer and more ambitious stories and eventually
writing about things other than sports,” says Saslow, who
was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing.

From his experience reporting the food stamp issue,
Saslow says he came away with two valuable lessons.
“What I learned is that people are so trusting, and if you
spend the time to listen to them and take the time to get
to know them, they’re usually so good, and their hearts are
often in the right places,” he says. “The enduring lesson for
me is to try to go into every reporting situation with an open
mind and compassion at the center of what I’m trying to do.”

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
FOR MANY OF US, A relaxing summer is something we look forward to all year. But, for the Syracuse University Alumni Association (SUAA), summer is actually one of our busiest times. During these few months, we welcome thousands of new alumni into the SUAA.

For our newest alumni, summer began at May Commencement. When I spoke to the Class of 2014, I encouraged them to celebrate their relationship with SU as one that lasts a lifetime. Although we are students for a definitive period of time, we are Syracuse alumni forever. Many have taken these words to heart and have been participating in summer networking events coordinated by the SUAA and local alumni clubs throughout the country. These programs provide our newest alumni with the forum to interact with established alumni—alumni who offer professional and personal advice through networking activities. At each of these events (known as SUccess in the City in many regions), we are growing our professional Orange Network, one connection at a time.

Later this summer, our alumni clubs will host New Student Send-Offs to welcome incoming first-year students into the Syracuse University family. At these events, new students and their families learn more about the University and what to expect their first year. It is also a fantastic time for us to let these new students know they are embarking on a lifelong relationship with SU.

There are so many ways for all of us to stay connected and engaged with SU. You can keep updated on news and events by visiting alumni.syr.edu or following us on social media. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities, and we look forward to seeing you on campus or at one of our club events.

Go Orange!

Laurie Taishoff ’84
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association
@SUAAPresident

P.S. This year, Orange Central will be held October 9-12. For more details about that weekend, please visit alumni.syr.edu.

40s

Beverly Mach Geller ’47 (NUR) of Hightstown, N.J., became a writer after careers in nursing and interior design. Her poems for adults and children have been published in many literary journals and anthologies. Her latest books are My Family and Me (Briendel Publishing), a book of children’s poetry, and Daily Bread (Finishing Line Press), a chapbook of adult poetry (bgellersam5@aol.com).

60s

Marian Lief Palley ’60 (A&S), G’63 (MAX) and her husband, Howard A. Palley G’63 (MAX), of Newark, Del., co-wrote The Politics of Women’s Health Care in the United States (Palgrave Macmillan). Marian is professor emerita of political science and international relations at the University of Delaware. Howard is professor emeritus of social policy at the School of Social Work and Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for Human Services Policy at the University of Maryland.

50s


Hall Groat Sr. ’59 (VPA), an Impressionist painter from Manlius, N.Y., and his son, Hall Groat II, professor and chair of art and design at SUNY Broome County Community College in Binghamton, N.Y., held a joint exhibition of their oil paintings at the Beard Gallery in Cortland, N.Y. The exhibition, Well Worth the Struggle, explored the formal and conceptual relationships between the work of father-and-son artists.

Barbara Kane Kligergerman ’61 (SDA), G’62 (EDU) and her husband, Jack Kligergerman ’60, G’62 (A&S), won the Cornstone Award presented by the Bozeman, Mont., public library in honor of their outstanding service to the library and literary arts in their community. It was the first time a couple has received the award.

Jerome J. Maggan G’61 (A&S) is an English professor at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He is a newly elected member of the American Philosophical Society, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of “promoting useful knowledge.”

Tom Collins ’67 (ARC) of Burlington, Vt., is a retired architect pursuing his lifelong passion for painting and photography. He has won 18 national photography competition awards from the American Institute of Architects.

Eileen Brady ’69 (A&S) wrote Muzzled, A Kate D.V.M. Mystery (Poisoned Pen Press), a novel about a veterinarian who, while making her rounds, discovers a bloody scene of bodies and 27 blue-ribbon dogs running wild.
Police suspect a murder-suicide, but when Dr. Kate proves the famous best-in-show champion is missing, a darker reality intrudes.

70s

Todd Flaherty ’70 (A&S), president and CEO of the College Crusade of Rhode Island, received the Paul W. Crowley Award from the Rhode Island School Superintendents’ Association. The award is given each year to a Rhode Island citizen who, in his or her professional and personal capacity, has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to improving the quality of education for the state’s children.

Peter H. Stockmann G’70, G’73 (E&C&S) joined Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm’s intellectual property and technology practice in Syracuse.

David Champoux G’72 (NEW) of Bluffton, S.C., is an associate dean emeritus of Herkimer County Community College in Herkimer, N.Y. He was one of three individuals selected by Herkimer College to receive the 2014 Torchbearer Award, which recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to the college’s development.

Lawrence V. Starkey G’72 (MAX) wrote The Inheritance (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform), a suspense novel about how great wealth can strain family relationships.

Louis P. Dilorenzo ’73 (A&S), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, is included in the 2014 Chambers and Partners International Guide to the Legal Profession, which lists the top lawyers in 175 countries. Dilorenzo has practiced labor and employment law for more than 30 years and is a managing member of the firm’s New York City office.

Greg Ahlgren ’74 (A&S) is a criminal defense lawyer in Manchester, N.H. His historical military novel, Fisher (Amazon Digital Services), details the four-day battle between the Union Army and Navy and Confederate forces at Fort Fisher, N.C., in 1865. It is available in e-format.

Anne P. Dunne ’74 (A&S) is director of the radiology residency program at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa. In April, she was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology, one of the highest honors the college bestows on a radiologist, radiation oncologist, or medical physicist.

Barry R. Kogut ’74 (A&S), an attorney at the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm in Syracuse, is included in the 2014 Chambers and Partners International Guide to the Legal Profession, which lists the top lawyers in 175 countries. Kogut focuses his practice in the area of environmental law.

Morgan Broman ’75 (A&S/NEW) is chief of staff in the office of U.S. Congressman Carolyn McCarthy, who represents New York’s 4th District.

Judith Leibensperger O’Rourke ’75 (A&S), G’10 (MAX) was inducted into the Order of the British Empire (OBE) on February 12, 2014. She was recognized for her work over the past 25 years to develop and strengthen the bonds between Lockerbie, Scotland, and Syracuse in honor of the SU students and all those killed in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988.

Mariliou Parsons Ryder ’75 (EDU), associate professor, EDD Organizational Leadership at Brandman University in Irvine, Calif., wrote Rules of the Game: How to Win a Job in Educational Leadership (Delmar Publishing) and 92 Tips from the Trenches: How to Stay in the Game as an Educational Leader.

Ernesto De Nardin ’76 (A&S), professor at the schools of medicine and dentistry at the University at Buffalo, is associate editor for the journal Immunological Investigations. He and a colleague wrote the textbook Contemporary Clinical Immunology and Serology.

Judy Douglas ’77 (A&S), G’81 (MAX), client industry executive at HP Enterprise Services, in Herndon, Va., is a member of the select commission of the Arthur S. Flemming Awards, which recognize exemplary federal service in leadership and management; legal achievement; social science, clinical trials, and translational research; applied science and engineering; and basic science.

Jeffrey Hoffman ’77 (VPA) of Marblehead, Mass., co-created TeamImpel Marketing, which provides strategy and production services across multiple platforms, including brand development and advertising, website design and production, video production, and content development.

Paul Nunes L77 (LAW) of Fairport, N.Y., is celebrating his 25th year as a partner at Underberg & Kessler law firm. He was named one of the top 50 Super Lawyers of Upstate New York for the second year in a row. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Brent Marchant ’78 (A&S/NEW) published his second book, Consciously Created Cinema: The Movie Lover’s Guide to the Law of Attraction (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform), available in paperback and e-book formats. This new title is a follow-up to his previous work, Get the Picture: Conscious Creation Goes to the Movies (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform), both of which examine how movies illustrate the principles of conscious creation—also known as the law of attraction (info@BrentMarchant.com).

Mark Grimm G’79 (NEW) is an Albany-area public relations specialist whose article, “Tell the Truth Well: How to Be Prepared for Your Next Communications Crisis,” appears in PR News’ Crisis Management Guidebook. He also spoke on “Communication Clarity” at the Financial Planning Association of Northeastern New York Symposium in Troy, N.Y., in May.

80s

JoAnn Laing ’80 (WSM), chair of Information Strategies in Ridgefield, N.J., was named a Leader Among Harvard Business School Alumnae, and one of New Jersey’s 2013 Best 50 Women in Business presented by Wells Fargo bank.
HERE’S AN EASY TRIVIA QUESTION FOR YOU: NAME a Syracuse University building that virtually burned to the ground, rose up out of its ashes, was rebuilt, still contains the entrance to a secret walled-up tunnel, and yet finds itself in massive use today? The answer isn’t hard if you’ve read this story’s headline or looked at the accompanying photos.

But here’s a tougher one for you: How many departmental offices are included in SU’s fabled Archbold Gymnasium? The surprising answer: More than 150 offices are spread throughout the building, providing space for Recreation Services, Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, the Bursar’s Office, Math Department, Physical Plant, Scholarship Programs, Enrollment Management, Exercise Science, and Financial Aid. Archbold also features one fitness center (located on what was formerly two basketball courts), one full-length basketball court, one swimming pool, two multiuse exercise rooms, one fencing room, two rowing tanks, the offices for the men’s and women’s intercollegiate rowing teams, as well as men’s and women’s locker rooms and accompanying facilities. In addition, there are three classrooms in the nearly 88,000-square-foot building, a facility open for business 350 days of the year and one that actively serviced nearly half-a-million users in the 2013-14 academic year.

Christopher Weiss ’84, G’93, senior academic counsel or and tutor coordinator for Student Support Services, is a longtime Archbold inhabitant. While he remembers registering for classes in the gym as a freshman in 1980, using “those old-school, huge computer punch cards,” he has been a regular at the noon pickup basketball games on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays since 1982. Through the years, he’s played with undergraduates, graduate students, administrators, faculty, and staff from nearly every corner of campus. “While I’ve grown and changed over time, the constant for me has always been ‘noon ball,’” Weiss says. “Pickup basketball is a culture here at SU. The noon game has always been inclusive and caters to those of us wishing to get as much exercise as we can during our lunch hour. In a nutshell, pickup basketball has enhanced my work week and put a little bounce in my life.”

Providing a setting for a good workout is standard for a building that in its storied history has hosted such varsity sports as basketball, gymnastics, and swimming, plus weekend-long dance marathons, annual course registration, and numerous other University functions, many tied to Commencement. But these details paint only a patchwork picture of the enormous gift given to Syracuse at the turn of the 20th century by John Dustin Archbold, the self-made oil executive and philanthropist who chaired the SU Board of Trustees from 1893 to 1916. And while Archbold’s colossal football stadium was torn down in 1978 and replaced by the 50,000-seat Carrier Dome in 1980, his combined gift of a football stadium and gymnasium, first initiated in 1905, changed Syracuse forever.

Archbold Gym opened in December 1908—the year after Archbold Stadium was unveiled. At the time, the rectangular brick and limestone-trimmed building contained a multipurpose gymnasium, swimming pool, rowing tank, baseball cage, indoor track (measuring 12 laps to the mile) and, by fall 1911, a bowling alley. It also held the infamous “equipment/laundry cage” (renovated into the current lobby in 1988) and locker rooms where the football team changed before charging down a lengthy concrete tunnel into the Orange’s open-air stadium.

Sturdy as the stone gymnasium appeared, it was nearly destroyed by a raging fire in January 1947. “It was devastating,” says Tom McLaughlin ’51, a football letterman in 1948 and 1949. “We worked out in Archbold. Did weights and calisthenics for football. I can still remember how upset the guys were. I had some of my stuff burned in there. We really
didn’t know how things were going to turn out.”

After the blaze, most of the old super-structure still standing was demolished, except for the north wing, which escaped fatal damage. The north wing was ultimately reconstructed and remodeled starting in spring 1948. By February 1949, the athletic department returned to the refurbished building, however, the reconstructed rear section of Archbold was not completed until 1952.

Interestingly, Archbold also served as the home to the SU men's basketball team up to 1955 when Orange games were moved to the Syracuse War Memorial (1955-62). But it wasn’t uncommon to see future Basketball Hall of Famers Dave Bing ’66 and Jim Boeheim ’66, G’73 playing pickup games in the gym during the off-season.

Today, Archbold—located at the elbow of Hendricks Chapel, the Physics Building, and the Dome—and its satellite arm, Flanagan Gym (built in 1989), still serve the recreational and physical fitness activities of students, but Archbold can’t hide its age. “An incredible number of students, faculty, and staff utilize the many healthy opportunities available in Archbold Gym on a daily basis,” says Joseph Lore, director of the Department of Recreation Services.

According to Lore, Archbold and Flanagan gymnasiums allow for myriad healthy choices, including a 10,000-square-foot fitness center, squash and racquetball courts, basketball and volleyball courts, swimming pool, space for group exercise classes and personal training, meditation, and stretching, intramural and sports club activities, an indoor ropes course, and open, drop-in basketball and volleyball.

Is the end in sight for old Archbold, which has welcomed many generations of students for workouts? Hardly. In fact, it’s possible the brick building that has so nobly withstood Syracuse’s chilly winters and blazing summers for more than a century—and is one of SU’s 15 oldest still-active buildings—will continue to get more use than ever, Lore says, “because of the commitment to health and wellness by the University community.” That’s no small feat, especially for a building that is in constant use and is often overshadowed by a sprawling stadium that has always stood guard to its immediate west.«

Rick Burton ’80 is the David B. Falk Professor of Sport Management in the Falk College. He wrote about John Archbold’s legacy and the creation of Archbold Stadium in the Spring 2011 issue, and is the author of the historical thriller The Darkest Mission (2011).
YEARS OF JOY
BY N. LESTER STODDARD

IN 1945, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY INFORMED ME I had been accepted under the GI Bill. After serving three years in North Africa and Italy, and receiving a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, I was most excited. I was first sent to University College and then to the engineering school, but I did not do well with courses like Differential Calculus, so I was asked to take a three-day aptitude test. The result was high in art.

One of my Phi Kappa Tau fraternity brothers suggested I meet the dean of Crouse Hall, where he was taking interior design. She asked to see my portfolio, and, of course, I had none. She then enrolled me in four classes during the Summer Session. I am forever grateful to her as I received three A’s and a B—which I’ll come back to later.

In my junior year at Crouse, I was talking to my roommate’s girlfriend, Ginny, when the most beautiful girl I ever saw came down the stairs. It was Elaine Kingsley, who had graduated from Schenectady High School with me. With the help of Ginny and her sorority sisters, I got my first date with Elaine. I picked her up at Zeta Tau Alpha in the used car I had bought with my Army pay. We drove off to the theater in downtown Syracuse—the start of 59 wonderful years together.

Elaine was very active on campus. She sang at many dances and was featured on the campus radio station with her classmate, Dick Clark ’51. As I was getting my commission in the ROTC program, I was proud that Elaine was selected ROTC queen. A talented painter, Elaine took a job as curator at the Albany Institute of History and Art after our graduation in 1950. She went on to teach in the Schenectady School System and returned to Syracuse 10 years later to earn a master’s degree in art education. When New York State adopted a program for gifted and talented students, Elaine was asked to serve as chair. She presented the program to schools across the state and later introduced it to American schools abroad in Milan and Athens.

As for me, I had my own interior design business in Schenectady and then Florida. It was 50 years of pure joy. In 1958, I was elected president of the Schenectady Junior Chamber of Commerce. I was later elected president of the New York State and Ontario, Canada, Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers and then served on the society’s national board of directors. In this capacity, I met and talked to many well-known people, including Pope Pius XII and Pat and Richard Nixon (when he was vice president), and had dinners with Colonel Sanders, Celeste Holm, Beverly Sills, Jim Brown ’57, and Sidney Poitier. Syracuse opened a whole new world for us.

Elaine and I were blessed to have one daughter, Alyson. In high school she excelled in art and painting and received many awards and scholarships, which brought her to Syracuse University, where she graduated in 1973. For 35 years, Alyson has had her own painting studio in Hampstead, New Hampshire, where she also teaches painting to students of all ages.

In 2007, Elaine passed away at our home in Florida. I now live with Alyson and her husband. I have three grandchildren and a great-grandchild, Summer Kingsley Thompson. She is the perfect image of Elaine, thus the middle name.

Now, about that course I took back in the summer of 1946: For years, my daughter kept my 10 “B” watercolors in her garage. I framed and matted those 10 paintings, now more than 60 years old, for the “Artist of the Month” program at my golf club in Florida. Would you believe—five of them sold!

N. Lester Stoddard ’50 lives in Hampstead, New Hampshire.

Left: Retired U.S. Senator Robert Dole and Lester Stoddard at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 2008. Both were wounded in Italy a day apart in April 1945.
Ed Katz ’81 (NEW/WSM), managing principal of Katnip Marketing in Westport, Conn., moderated a panel discussion on marketing at the Connecticut Business Expo in Hartford. In addition to working with clients in the fields of health care, entertainment, digital marketing, luxury homebuilding, and politics, Katz is on the producing team for the play, The King’s Speech, set to tour the United Kingdom later this year.

David Karwick ’82 (A&S), an executive in the key investment services at KeyBank in Lewiston, N.Y., was named Citizen of the Year by the Town of Niagara Business and Professional Association for his dedication to volunteer service.

Gerianne Wright Downs ’83 (NEW), assistant director for public relations and publications at SUNY Plattsburgh, wrote “Educational Opportunity Program: A Place Called Home,” for the Spring 2013 issue of Plattsburgh Magazine. Her article received the Best of Category Award from the SUNY Council for University Advancement.

Jill Kremins ’83 (FALK/WSM) is chief marketing officer at Boston-based American Student Assistance, a nonprofit leader in engaging students and alumni in responsible student loan borrowing and repayment.

Susan Buelhe ’84 (NEW), executive vice president at Bellevue Communications Group in Philadelphia, serves on the Philly Ad Club Board of Governors.

Molly English ’84 (A&S/NEW) is communications director at Syracuse-based Service Employees International Union Local 200 United.

Peggy Huther Combs ’85 (A&S) is the 11th commanding general of the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the 85th to take command of Fort Knox—the first female commander in the history of each organization.

Ilene Kobert ’85 (A&S) was named a shareholder at the Miami office of the Greenberg Traurig international law firm.

Jeff McCormick ’85 (A&S), G’86 (WSM), managing partner, Saturn Management, Boston, is an independent candidate for Massachusetts governor.

John H. Buhrmaster ’86 (WSM), president of 1st National Bank of Scotia (N.Y.), is chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Russell Ford ’86 (E&CS), vice president and general service leader—drinking water infrastructure at CH2M Hill based in Parsippany, N.J.—received the Pioneer Award at the 2014 BEYA (Black Engineer of the Year Awards) STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Conference in Washington, D.C.

Jack Douros ’87 (VPA), a freelance designer in Winston-Salem, N.C., won the 28th annual Carolina Blues Festival poster design contest sponsored by the Piedmont Blues Preservation Society.

Jim Charmatz ’88 (VPA) creates special effects for film, television, and commercials for Legacy Effects, a special effects studio specializing in creature design, prosthetic make-up, animatronics, and specialty suits. His job includes concept design, photography, sculpting, painting, web design, and graphic design.

Kathy Orr ’88 (NEW/WSM), chief meteorologist for KYW-TV and WPSG-TV, the CBS-owned stations in Philadelphia, was named to the Hall of Fame by the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia in recognition of her impressive body of work in the market.

Randi Davenport G’89, G’91 (A&S) of Chapel Hill, N.C., wrote The End of Always (Twelve, Hachette Book Group), a novel about a courageous young woman’s struggle to rise above her family legacy of violence to take charge of her own life.

E. Martin Hinchliff G’89 (WSM) was inducted into the Dresser-Rand Engineering Fellowship Program, which honors individuals who have attained the highest level of distinction through significant engineering achievements that have made a global impact on the company.

Eric Lynch ’89 (A&S) is a new member of the litigation practice of Polsinelli law firm in Phoenix. He has more than 20 years of experience as a litigator, advisor, and trial attorney working with clients in the construction, mining, real estate, banking and finance, insurance, utilities, technology, and manufacturing industries.

Joseph Urso ’92 (A&S) of Bangkok, Thailand, is director of corporate development within General Motors International Operations.

Donald F. Garber G’93 (ARC) of Glenside, Pa., is senior health care manager at the Francis Cauffman architecture firm, with offices in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. He is an award-winning architect with more than 30 years of experience in the design and project management of health care facilities improvement projects.

Suzanne Sheets Colilla ’95 (NUR), a geriatric nurse practitioner with the University of Pittsburgh Division of Geriatric Medicine, earned a doctor of nursing practice degree from Carlow University in May. She received the Anne DeNardo McGowan DNP Leadership Award, which recognizes academic achievement and contribution of scholarly work to the nursing evidence base.

Ken DeLeon ’95 (VPA) is president and creative director of DeLeon Group, a New York City-based advertising agency that for the past eight years has worked with such clients as Comcast (Xfinity), Pirelli Tires, YMCA, and Villanova University. The agency works in media, creating TV and radio commercials, handling social media, creating websites, and developing print and outdoor advertising.

Gregg Hartvigsen G’95 (A&S), professor of biology at SUNY Geneseo, wrote A Primer in Biological Data Analysis and Visualization Using R (Columbia University Press), a practical and lab-oriented introduction to R—the most widely used open-source statistical and programming environment for the analysis and visualization of biological data.

Heather Wightman ’95 (A&S/NEW) and her husband, Richard Koller ’95 (A&S), of Jersey City, N.J., announce the birth of their son, Harold Felix.

Janet Lewis Zelesnikar ’96 (NUR) of Endwell, N.Y., co-wrote and self-published Silly Nomads from Palmerston Close, the first of three children’s books in the Silly Nomads trilogy, which tell the tale of two Jamaican brothers who create their own exciting adventures based on what they learn from TV (www.mahollandlewis.com).
I love the Alex Gregory cartoon in How About Never. You know, the one where the one caveman says to the other: “Something’s just not right—our air is clean, our water is pure, we all get plenty of exercise, everything we eat is organic and free-range—

—and yet nobody lives past 30.” [Laughter] One of the main functions of satire is to have fun making fun of people. There’s a lot of silliness in the world, and, for my sake, I hope it never goes away.

In your memoir, you discuss the difference between “playful incongruity” and humor.

There are classic gag cartoons—you know, jokes for the sake of jokes. Then there are jokes for the sake of communicating that have value above and beyond the joke. With The New Yorker, I want a mix of
both. People often ask me what my most favorite cartoon is. I tell them it’s like trying to name your favorite Beatles song. It’s impossible because there are so many of them and your tastes change from moment to moment.

So context is important.

Something that might be funny in one context or with one type of reader might not be funny with another. When you communicate with your audience, you have to be thinking about who they are and what’s going through their minds.

At The New Yorker [which is a weekly publication], the next issue we work on is called the “A” issue. We select cartoons for the “A” issue about one or two weeks in advance. Some of the cartoons are topical and have a very short shelf life—maybe a week or two—while others have an evergreen quality. Occasionally, we have a cartoon that starts out being topical, but, for one reason or another, we don’t end up using it, but it can still work, when transposed to another issue.

You get approximately 500 submissions a week. They must add up after a while.

The New Yorker has a fairly large bank of purchased cartoons, from which we select 16, 17, or 18 per issue. Also, I’ve founded the online Cartoon Bank, which has every New Yorker cartoon since the magazine was founded in 1925.

The important thing is that our cartoons don’t promote or refer to anything in the magazine, itself. They live in a sort of parallel universe—one that informs and is informed by The New Yorker, while giving the layout some breathing room. The cartoons are also designed to lightly poke fun at our readers. We try to let them be in on the joke.

It sounds like you and David Remnick [editor of The New Yorker] are continually evaluating humor.

There’s a strong overlap between what David likes and what I like, but no two people have the same sense of humor. So there’s some discussion, some conflict, but mostly lots of fun.

An important aspect of my job is nurturing and mentoring the next generation of New Yorker cartoonists. When I was coming up, magazines such as The Saturday Evening Post were doing away with cartoons, so opportunities were already few and far between. It’s gotten worse since then.

How has your psychology training made you a better cartoonist?

Psychology and philosophy were the only classes at Syracuse University in which I got A’s. I like to think that my best cartoons are influenced by the reflective nature of these disciplines.

Syracuse University taught me that humor requires chutzpah—that you have to have the guts to do something, instead of just thinking about it. It also helped me develop my intellectual side. I went from studying psychology and philosophy to “cartoonology.” Looking back, my time at Syracuse University formed the core of whom I am today.

In addition to being well-educated, you’re a remarkable stipple artist—which you don’t see a lot in cartoons.

In high school, I became influenced by the Impressionist Georges Seurat, who painted in a style known as pointillism. Originally, I thought it was a crazy way to paint or draw, but when I enlarged photographs in magazines and newspapers, I saw that they, like Seurat’s paintings, were made up of tiny dots. So I started using dots to make my own distorted versions of photographs. Then I applied it to cartoons. Over the years, I’ve gone back and forth with stippling. Lately, I’ve returned to it because it forces me to be at the drawing board.

Stippling must have a Zen-like quality to it, having to make all those tiny dots.

It’s a nice contrast to emailing and tweeting people all the time. ... By the way, I never use emoticons, especially smiley faces. Either something is funny or it’s not. You don’t have to point it out to the reader.

Well, humor is serious business.

As a species, we’re always cooperating and competing with one another. It creates tension, with which we use humor to deal. Let’s face it, a lot of things in life aren’t too great. There are no good jokes about fun vacations and healthy marriages.

And laughter?

It’s important. Studies show that laughter helps us function better, especially when we’re trying to solve serious problems.

What’s the secret to winning the New Yorker Cartoon Caption Contest?

You’ve got to be in it to win it. Give it an hour, and write down your ideas. Start off by writing the worst captions you can. This will help you to free-associate because ideas come from ideas, even bad ones. ... Shorter is better. Put the punch line at the beginning. And please don’t put “LOL” or a smiley emoticon anywhere in your caption.

I always tell cartoonists to submit drawings in batches of 10 because in cartooning, as in life, nine out of 10 things never work out. All you need is one good idea. ☺️

“Bad news, Mr. Mankoff, this is the worst case of stippling I’ve ever seen.”

“Ah, can’t complain, but I do.”
THE REAL POWER OF SOLAR

BY DAVIDSTALLER

WITH MY CAR IN PARK AND AIR CONDITIONING on 3, I recited my elevator pitch over and over in the non-descript office complex four summers ago. It was a forgettable day. Two weeks prior to this interview I had been laid off from my job as a project manager with a photovoltaic (PV) installation contractor. Solar had always been something to carry me through the bad times—when architects stopped designing and contractors stopped building. Fifteen minutes, maintain eye contact, stay composed, and relax.

I didn’t get the job. But what was interesting was how the interviewer, an executive for a multinational contractor, held my solar experience with such obvious disdain. During my short career in PV, I had heard nothing but enthusiastic inquiries: How much can I fit on my house? Does it really work? Can I stop paying PECO? Yet now, post-interview, I was questioning my past. Was solar for real, or was it just a bunch of opportunistic hackers? It took some serious thought to stifle my anxiety, but I ultimately concluded that solar, like many forms of alternative energy, has not only a place in society, but also a purpose.

Energy conservation and efficiency are the most cost-effective approaches to reducing energy demand. Education is paramount to implementing conservation and efficiency programs, which often require lifestyle changes that we tend to resist. Electricity—what it is, how it works, and what’s involved in creating it—to most people is obscure, exotic, and taken for granted. Many Americans lack even a basic understanding of simple electrical systems, such as one found in a home. Start discussing loads, watts, and current with most homeowners and their eyes begin to glaze over. What solar can do is encourage home and business owners to understand basic electrical knowledge, for without this they could not appreciate their investment. After all, when people purchase a solar electric system, they purchase a power plant, and thus become its CEO, CFO, and COO! It is this penetration of energy awareness that will propel any cultural movement toward smarter thinking. And we can use PV, or solar thermal, as one tool to nudge us in that direction.

PV is a distributed type of power generation that requires local American businesses to sell, engineer, deliver, administer, install, and maintain. And despite the predominance of media attention on foreign (and domestic—ahem, Solyndra) module manufacturers, who hold a majority market share, many inverters, and most combiner boxes, monitoring equipment, wire, conduit, and other installation materials are made, assembled, and designed in the United States. These are technical jobs that demand decent compensation and are difficult to out-source. The correlation of increasing solar production and jobs is hard to ignore. After all, this is technology that was designed for the rooftops of our homes and businesses. It is quite literally a rooftop (or ground-mount) power plant that, again I’ll reinforce this point, requires a proportionate amount of administrative, accounting, legal, and managerial support that large utility-scale plants require. The point being, solar is no less a domestic power source than nuclear, coal, or hydro, and I would argue serves us, our towns, and our states in more profound ways.

Looking back on my interview, I now feel fortunate that things didn’t go as I had hoped. Today, I am four years into my career as a solar engineer and am proud to be part of this second wave of consumer interest. Unlike in the ’70s, and despite how much the industry has slowed, it looks like we’ve reached a tipping point and solar will be here to stay. It is my hope that everyone looks past the stereotypes, the urban legends, the fear-mongering, and focuses on the proven strengths of PV—the real power of solar.

Dave Staller ’05, who holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the College of Engineering and Computer Science, is a licensed professional engineer with United Management & Consultants of Lower Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, where he specializes in PV system design, testing, and maintenance. He rents in a solar-powered home in the Brewerytown neighborhood of Philadelphia that is currently running an energy surplus.
ON THE MORNING OF HER FIRST day of work at the Food Bank of South Jersey in February 2009, Ujwala Samant’s job title was “grant writer.” But by the time she went home to her husband and son that evening, she was the organization’s new director of programs and services—a department that didn’t yet exist. “In the afternoon the CEO asked me to create the department, and I told her I knew nothing about food banking,” says Samant, who earned a master’s degree in counselor education from the School of Education and a doctoral degree in social science from the Maxwell School. “She said, ‘I looked at your resume. You’ll do it.’”

And so she did. Five years later, Samant heads up what she calls “a really good set of programs and teams,” including the agency’s core Feed More program, which last year solicited 10 million pounds of surplus food for distribution to some 240 programs servicing more than 173,000 people in New Jersey communities. Other initiatives developed under her leadership include nutrition education activities, healthy cooking classes for families, and the establishment of Kids Café sites to alleviate childhood hunger. “The part I truly enjoy is when our programs create realistic and sustainable change,” says Samant, who met her husband, Pascal Herve G’89, at SU (pictured). “When I hear children wanting to eat kale chips, or teenagers saying they are drinking water instead of juice one year after they have taken a small six-week class, I think, ‘Yeah, we’re reaching someone somewhere.’ When I see the change, when I see people using what they’ve learned to better their lives, that’s the biggest victory. That’s where my work has meaning.”

Improving lives through education was also central to Samant’s role as executive director of Learning for Life, a London-based charity that serves impoverished communities in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan, focusing on schooling and teacher training for girls and women. “There, women and girls are hungry for change,” says Samant, who was born in Mumbai, India, and first came to the United States to pursue graduate studies. “In the North-West Frontier Province in Pakistan, where women’s literacy is in some places zero, we still managed to erect 80 schools, all with health units, and trained more than 100 women as teachers and health workers and to manage the schools with village education committees, parent-teacher associations, and grassroots networking.”

She joined Learning for Life in 2003, helping transform it from a struggling entity to a thriving one. Under her direction, the organization also supplied resources to primary schools in the United Kingdom to raise awareness about and challenge racial and ethnic stereotypes. “It was an intense time,” says Samant, who was recognized with Britain’s Asian Woman of Achievement Award for social and humanitarian work in 2007. “Now my attitude to everything is, ‘It can’t be worse than Afghanistan.’ If I can make a change there, I can work anywhere.”

In addition to her professional achievements, Samant has maintained a close connection with SU. While at Learning for Life, for example, she was active in SU London’s internship program, providing students with hands-on experience at the agency—something she and her colleagues enjoyed. She attributes her success and sense of fulfillment to the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of her education at the Maxwell School. “The only reason I can easily change jobs and specializations is because I have this interdisciplinary outlook on the world that Syracuse gave me,” she says. “You don’t realize what a gift it is until after you leave. It is rare to find.”

—Amy Speach
BEFORE AMERICA WAKES UP, CHRIS LICHT ALREADY KNOWS what’s going on in the world. Every morning at 5:30, the executive producer of CBS This Morning meets with colleagues and decides what will be news that day. After supervising the network’s morning show, Licht tends to his responsibilities as vice president of programming for CBS News until he returns home to his family by dinnertime. “One of the things that attracted me to go into CBS is that I can be an executive, but also still have a show—getting your hands dirty every day,” he says.

Despite his highly demanding work life, Licht isn’t the obsessively competitive producer he used to be. At age 38, Licht suffered from a brain hemorrhage that threatened his existence, enabling him to understand what really is important to him. “Any kind of baggage you have or anything that you’re worried about, if you’re not worried about it when you’re lying on a hospital bed, then it doesn’t matter,” says Licht, who chronicled the experience in his book What I Learned When I Almost Died: How a Maniac TV Producer Put Down His Blackberry and Started to Live His Life (Simon & Schuster, 2011). Along with his family, journalism was one of the few things that came to mind when he was hospitalized. “I really love what I do, and it’s a part of who I am,” he says.

Licht has wanted to work in news as early as he can recall. “My desk in school was in front of a world map, and I thought that’d be a perfect set,” he says. “I remember pretending to be Tom Brokaw.” Growing up in Connecticut, Licht had his first experience with radio when he was a high school student. He interned for the newscast at WINE and then became a disc jockey at WRKI, a rock-music station. As a radio intern, Licht met two Newhouse alumni who encouraged him to apply to Syracuse. “They got me really excited about it, and they wrote me recommendation letters,” he says.

A broadcast journalism graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Licht says studying at the University was a transformative experience for him. While at SU, he served as president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, worked at local radio stations 570 WSYR and 95X, and was a bartender on Marshall Street. “Syracuse gave me the opportunity to just try everything,” he says. “You walked out of here with a pretty good microcosm of the country.” In February, Licht returned to Newhouse to share his views with students on the importance of network news. “When people need real, reliable news, it’s where the public turns,” he says.

Licht began his ascent to the summit of the journalism industry from the ground level, producing syndicated medical television news for a company in Allen-town, Pennsylvania. There he learned the craft of deadline-driven television and realized he needed to take risks to grow in his career. “You should never follow a defined path to get what you want,” he says. “You have to find your own way.” Determined to succeed, he moved to Los Angeles, where he worked at KNBC, and then relocated to San Francisco to continue working for the network. In 2007, Licht entered the national stage, helping to create MSNBC’s Morning Joe with television host Joe Scarborough and becoming the show’s executive producer.

Now at CBS, Licht puts into practice the knowledge he’s gained throughout his career. “That’s been the most gratifying thing,” he says. “I feel that CBS This Morning is the evolution of everything I’ve learned.” But Licht says his self-actualization experience is far from over and cites CBS News president David Rhodes and CBS News chairman and 60 Minutes executive producer Jeff Fager for introducing him to the traditional reporting values of the network. “I’ve been here for three years, and it’s been an incredible learning experience,” he says. “Our slogan is ‘Original Reporting,’ and that’s more than a slogan—that’s actually how we operate.”

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro
DAN STONE ’65 HAS FINE MEMORIES of his time at The Daily Orange. In his column “Millstones and Milestones,” he reflected on campus issues and documented Robert Kennedy’s race for the U.S. Senate in New York. Now, Stone’s work can be found online, thanks to the student newspaper’s digital archiving initiative that he’s helped fund. “I think every school in America would benefit from a day-to-day chronology of what was happening on its campus,” says Stone, a retired communications executive based in Chicago.

For the past couple of years, The Daily Orange (DO) has been digitizing its print archives (dailyorange.com/archives) to make its legacy available to young and old. A small committee of DO alumni and staff coordinates the initiative, trying to raise enough funds to include every single edition from the publication’s more than a century of history. SU Archives has supported the initiative, helping compile print copies of the DO. “The goal is to get every year, every paper, every semester,” says Meghan Delaney ’13, head of the archives committee and an education reporter for the Bradenton Herald in Bradenton, Florida. “We’re working on a project that will bring the rich and vibrant history of Syracuse University and The Daily Orange to life.”

Donors tend to sponsor the years they worked at the paper or attended SU. So far, almost 40 years of archival material have been made available. But the publication’s early years are the hardest to find sponsors for. “Unfortunately, many alumni who worked at the paper at that time are no longer living,” Delaney says.

Casey Fabris ’15, the DO’s editor in chief for this past school year, believes the archives are a great resource for both writers and readers. “For our staff, it’s important to have a knowledge of how things were reported in the past,” Fabris says. “It’s also great for readers who are interested in history about how things came together on the campus.”

Although the student newspaper wasn’t independent from the University at the time Stone wrote his column back in the ‘60s, he believes the DO’s mission has remained the same. “It’s an ideal training ground for future journalists,” he says. “It gives them a chance to look into issues more in depth and call students’ attention to them.”

—Pablo Mayo Cerqueiro

For more information on The Daily Orange archives project, call 315-443-2315, or visit dailyorange.com/donate.
IF OSWALDO ORTEGA HAD TO RELY on just one word to describe his life this past year, “new” would do nicely. He became a newly licensed architect in Maryland; partnered with a buddy from graduate school on a pro bono project to envision a new art and education center in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica; and relocated from Washington, D.C., to Chicago to take a new job at Gensler, a global architecture, design, and planning firm, where his work has a new focus on design—all of which has him feeling energized and grateful. “Honestly, I’m loving it all probably way too much,” says Ortega, who encountered even more new experiences on a recent business trip to Shanghai, including his first stay in a five-star hotel. “That’s the first time I’ve ever flown someplace where there was a guy waiting for me with a sign with my name on it. It was pretty great.”

An earlier first came for Ortega as a high school student in Brooklyn, where his love for architecture originated. That interest led him to pursue a bachelor’s degree at the School of Architecture, where his leadership roles included founding the Society of Multicultural Architects and Designers. Following completion of a master’s degree in urban design and architecture at Columbia University in 2006, he joined the Washington, D.C., office of HOK, one of the world’s largest design practices. While there, he served as project architect for various office buildings, a biotech laboratory facility, and conceptual design packages for international clients. “I attributed my employment at HOK to SU for two reasons,” says Ortega, who also earned an advanced studies certificate in leadership and organizational development at Johns Hopkins University. “The first was that I was properly prepared to enter the workforce. The second was that there’s a strong alumni base at HOK with a successful track record. The alumni helped ease my transition from academia to the workforce and served as excellent mentors.”

Ortega also values having the opportunity to mentor others, often making himself available to SU students as a way to give back and stay connected to the University. In both Washington and Chicago, he has been actively involved in the national ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) Mentoring Program, which seeks to inspire and encourage high school students to pursue careers in design and construction. Additionally, he volunteers for the Metropolitan Planning Council, a nonprofit organization that helps residents and communities in the Chicago region address the city’s planning and development challenges.

Among the most fulfilling projects he has been involved in was a collaboration with his friend, Jason Pugh, to design a new home for the Lil Ragamuffin summer camp in Jamaica. “We flew down there in June 2013 to meet with local town folks and come up with some ideas,” says Ortega, who has two siblings and a cousin who are also SU alumni. “We talked to them about how to think about what they want and then nail down a list of activities and functions they would like to have in their new building.” The result was the creation of a 40-page vision document that shares the story of the camp and proposes a design for building the Blue Mountain Art Institute—a 6,500-square-foot cultural and educational hub that incorporates eco-friendly concepts in energy usage, water conservation, and land impact. “It was an amazing experience,” he says. “The whole process—of trying to help people who want a space but don’t know how to make it happen—was inspiring. I hope to do more of it in the future.”

—Amy Speach
ANN GIACOBBE NEIDENBACH IS FEARLESS BY NATURE. Whether ski racing down the side of a mountain in her youth, or tackling technology and business challenges as head of NASDAQ OMX Market Systems, she always goes full bore. “From competitive ski racing I learned you must look ahead, anticipate, and be able to react quickly when things don’t turn out as you expected,” says Neidenbach, who was born and raised in Barneveld, a small town on the edge of the Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York. “When I think back on what has been the biggest influence on my career success, ski racing is at the top of the list.”

Like most first-year college students, Neidenbach didn’t know what she wanted to do with her life. She explored majoring in English or biology, but eventually got hooked on management information systems in the School of Business Administration (Whitman School). “I loved my systems analysis class, and that’s when I got really excited about a career in technology and designing systems,” says Neidenbach, who took full advantage of everything Syracuse University had to offer, including joining a sorority, serving as a residence advisor, cheering on the Orange sports teams, and studying abroad in London. “To this day, 30 years later, I remember that class vividly.”

Not long after graduation, Neidenbach found a job as a programmer at Children’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. Back then, hospitals were managed by big accounting firms, so Neidenbach received two years’ worth of technology training from Arthur Andersen, one of the country’s “Big Five” accounting firms at the time. “That was just dumb luck,” she says. “I was an employee of Children’s Hospital, but I really worked for a partner at Arthur Andersen, so I went through some of their training courses. And then a head hunter recruited me for a technology position at a company called the National Association of Securities Dealers, which is the regulator of the NASDAQ stock market, and I have been there for most of my career.”

At the same time Neidenbach’s career was growing, her family was growing as well. She got married and had two children while assuming ever greater responsibility at NASDAQ, including assignments in London and Stockholm. Now based in New York City, she leads NASDAQ OMX Market Systems and is senior vice president of NASDAQ OMX Group, where she is responsible for managing the strategic planning and development of global technology products and services for the company’s markets and commercial offerings, as well as for the delivery team serving market technology customers across the globe. “I never could have imagined I’d be doing this when I was in college, but I’m adventurous and not afraid to take risks or make tough decisions,” says Neidenbach, who was profiled in the October 2013 special Elite 8 edition of Wall Street & Technology as one of the top innovative technology leaders from the capital markets. “Looking back, it’s been an incredible career.”

Neidenbach would like to encourage more young women to enter the information technology field because it is flexible from a work-life balance perspective, and is a great pathway into the world of financial market exchanges. “Women are quite adept at working collaboratively, which is a necessary skill in today’s workplace,” she says. “But in order to move up into leadership positions, women must learn to be courageous and embrace opportunities when they arise. No one—including me—ever succeeded by playing it safe.”

—Christine Yackel
ALUMNI JOURNAL

ORCHESTRATE OPPORTUNITY.

Launched in 2013, the Baker Artists Program is creating incredible opportunities for our Setnor School students to connect with and learn from music professionals, on and off campus.

You can create these kinds of opportunities, too, with your gift to Syracuse University. Whether you establish a new program that's especially meaningful to you or support an existing initiative, you can make it possible for students like Angky Budiardjono to live out their dreams.

Learn how easy it is to make a lasting, life-changing impact. Call us at 315.443.1848 or visit giving.syr.edu.

Josh Bornstein '97 (NEW) is district supervisor of transition services at Union County Educational Services Commission in Westfield, N.J.

Sarah O'Connell Sullivan '97 (A&S) is the young adult librarian in the children's department at Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen, Mass.

Felix Brandon Lloyd '98 (A&S/NEW) is co-founder of Zoobean, a company that combines the perspective of educators and librarians with data science to make app and book selections for individual children. It also provides tools for families to collaborate with teachers to build their children's literacy (www.zoobean.com). Lloyd and his wife and co-founder, Jordan Lloyd Bokey, were featured on an episode of ABC's Shark Tank in April.

Jason Jedlinski '99 (NEW) is senior vice president of marketplace development at News Distribution Network in Atlanta.

00's

Myriam Bouchard '01 (WSM) is a certified business advisor at the Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center. A life-long entrepreneur, she is co-partner of The Suite Escape B&B in New Paltz, N.Y.

Matt Torok '01 (A&S) is head men's soccer coach at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark.

Allison Bellins Dennis '02 (NEW/MAX) and her husband, Keith Dennis, announce the birth of their identical twin daughters, Kate Elizabeth and Zoey Michelle. Allison serves as a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Michael Lundin '02 (VPA) married Audrey Krompholz in March. They live in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Benjamin L. Riemer '02 (A&S), an attorney at Bell Nunnally & Martin in Dallas, was named to the Texas Rising Stars list published by Super Lawyers, a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Amy Peterson-Berry '03 (A&S) and her husband, Brandon Berry '01 (VPA), of Miami, announce the birth of their son, Carson Robert Andrew, who joins big sister Hannah.

Mike Cardamone '04 (E&C) and his wife, Jacqueline Cerone '07 (VPA), started 21 Bundles, a service that sends baby-safe products to expecting and new parents every month (www.21bundles.com).

Todd Rubin '04 (ARC), vice president of the Republic of Tea company, was honored by San Francisco’s North Bay Business Journal as one of its Forty Under 40 outstanding young business and community leaders of 2014.

Trisha Bombardo '05 (VPA) is senior art director at Pinckney Hugo Group, a full-service marketing communications firm in Liverpool, N.Y.

Collin O'Mara G'06 (MAX) is president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, America’s oldest and largest wildlife conservation and education organization.

Sage Suppa '06 (VPA), an actor, writer, director, and YouTube vlogger, is working on preproduction for the web series 12, a parody of the popular television show 24 (distractedsage@gmail.com; youtube.com/sagesuppa).

Benjamin C. Steuerwalt '07 (EDU) married Jesika Pufnok in July 2013 on the lawn of the Wagner Winery in Lodi, N.Y. A physical education teacher and wellness coordinator at McKinley Brighton Elementary School in the Syracuse City School District, Steuerwalt was a panelist for the WRVO-1 NPR News Community Forum Series on “Childhood Nutrition and Physical Fitness,” which aired in May.

Geoffrey Korff L'08 (LAW) is president of Quaker City Castings located in Salem, Ohio.

Christopher J. Stevens '08 (A&S) is an associate attorney in the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm’s Albany office. He specializes in the areas of health, education and disability, white collar criminal, and evidence laws.

Samantha Aster '09 (A&S), a professional and product liability defense attorney, is an associate in the New York City office of Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley law firm.

Holly Caiello '09 (VPA) is campaign manager for the National MS Society Upstate New York Chapter in Syracuse. She is responsible for organizing Walk MS fundraising events in Syracuse, Mohawk Valley, Watertown, and Binghamton, N.Y.

Jeanine Kowalski '09 (NEW) married Samuel Staton '10 (FALK) last December. They reside in Monterey, Calif.
For baritone Angky Budiardjono G’15, the Setnor School of Music is a nurturing environment where he’s realizing his dream of being an opera singer. It’s also been an open door to an exciting opportunity. Thanks to the Baker Artists Program, established through a gift from the Dexter F. and Dorothy H. Baker Foundation, he was able to spend four weeks training and performing in an intensive summer program at California’s nationally acclaimed OperaWorks school.

Read more about Angky, hear him sing, and learn how you can make it possible for Syracuse University students to find their best voices. Visit changealife.syr.edu/angky or call 315.443.1848.
KAREN L. DECrow L’72

KAREN L. DECrow, A NATIONALLY recognized attorney, author, and advocate specializing in civil law, gender and age discrimination, and civil liberties, died at her home in Jamesville, New York, on June 6, 2014. She was 76. She devoted her life to writing articles, columns, and books on feminist issues and lecturing on reproductive rights, and using litigation as a tool for social change. DeCrow’s lifelong activism and commitment to promoting gender equality had a profound impact on the lives of women and men, both in the United States and abroad.

DeCrow joined the fledgling National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1967, at a time when the organization was pushing for equal pay for equal work—a concept that appealed to her, an overworked, underpaid employee in the publishing industry. In 1969, she decided to pursue a law degree; during her first year as an SU College of Law student, she became the first woman to run for mayor of Syracuse, the first woman to run for mayor in New York State, and one of only a handful of women running for office anywhere in the country.

From 1974 to 1977, DeCrow guided NOW as its national president. Under her leadership, efforts to advance gender equality included persuading NASA to recruit women; urging the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to investigate sex discrimination complaints; pressing the three national television networks to include women and minorities in front of and behind the camera; and influencing the male Ivy League schools to admit women.

In 1988, she co-founded World Woman Watch with the late Dr. Robert Seidenberg ’40, M.D. ’43, to urge world leaders not to use religion or culture to mask sex discrimination, and she campaigned tirelessly for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. According to the late New York Times columnist William Safire ’51, H ’78, DeCrow was the first person on record to use the phrase “politically correct.”

In recognition of her pioneering advocacy for gender equality, DeCrow was honored in 2009 by Syracuse University with the Arents Award and was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame—entering the ranks of the most celebrated women in U.S. history.
POWERUP ATLANTA
Leading by Example

CONNECTING AND EMPOWERING SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY women was the motivation behind PowerUp Atlanta, an alumni event held in March at the Georgia Aquarium in downtown Atlanta. Some 135 alumni and VIPs from the community turned out to hear a keynote address by political science professor Kristi Andersen, followed by a panel discussion with some of SU’s most successful businesswomen who call Atlanta home. “This was the largest event we’ve ever done in Atlanta outside of sports,” says Karen Spear, executive director of regional advancement. “The Atlanta Regional Council did a phenomenal job of creating a program that attracted a diverse group of alumnae—from young women just starting out to those at the top of their careers—and in all different sectors of the professional world.”

Andersen, Chapple Family Professor of Citizenship and Democracy at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, is an expert on women and politics, political parties, and American political history. She spoke about recent research that supports the importance of role models for young women and girls and how that changes their aspirations for themselves and their parents’ aspirations for them. “In politics and in business, seeing and learning about women leaders seems to motivate young women to vote at higher rates, make better decisions, and pursue more education,” Andersen says.

Next, a panel of four distinguished Syracuse alumnae at the top of their fields engaged in a lively discussion about how they addressed certain challenges in their careers and overcame obstacles at different stages of life. Panelists included Tracy Barash ’89, vice president of brand development at Cartoon Network; Christine Larsen G’84, SU Trustee and CEO of First Data; Angela Robinson ’78, president and CEO at A.R.C. Media; and Kathy Walters ’73, SU Trustee and executive vice president of the consumer products group at Georgia-Pacific.

Chairs were arranged in small groupings—not in rows—to encourage interaction among participants, and there was ample time during the evening for people to mingle. Attendees also had an opportunity to meet a number of community leaders, including CEOs, civic leaders, and the heads of nonprofit organizations. Walters noted she was very impressed with the research results shared at the start by Professor Andersen on the importance of women as role models, which led to a substantive conversation between participants and the panelists about how they’ve handled their individual life journeys. “We enjoyed having the opportunity to share our stories and how we each have navigated the difficult balance between our personal and professional lives,” she says. “The event was a wonderful opportunity for women of all ages to discuss how they can connect and empower each other in the workplace.”

PowerUp Atlanta was so successful that Spear says she hopes to plan similar events with Regional Council members in Chicago, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Boston to promote women’s empowerment by example. In fact, there is some talk that Washington, D.C., where some very successful alumnae live, will be the next stop. “It would be exciting to replicate this event in other areas of the country and provide a way for our alumnae to form a network,” she says. “Atlanta is one of the smallest of our regions and just the right size for a test market—it was a great place to start.”

—Christine Yackel
CLIMATE CHANGE GARDEN GROWS

HOW DOES YOUR RESEARCH GARDEN GROW? THAT’S A QUESTION Syracuse University biologists and students will explore in the Climate Change Garden, a unique outdoor laboratory next to the Life Sciences Complex. Biology professors Jason Fridley and Doug Frank, in collaboration with colleagues from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, developed the garden landscape—which features nearly three dozen species of trees and shrubs—as a way to study the impact of climate change on local forests, as well as species distributed to the south and west that may become better adapted to the changing conditions in Central New York. The scientists will monitor the trees and shrubs, gathering real-time data that will allow them to analyze the effects of changes in temperature, precipitation, soil, and other variables on the vitality of the trees. The information will be archived and made available on a website, providing the opportunity to compare conditions and the physiological state of the trees through the years. “This garden is going to benefit generations of SU students,” Frank says.

To watch a video about the garden, go to news.syr.edu/climate-change-garden-grows-38872/.
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!