The Particle Detectives

SEARCHING FOR THE UNIVERSE'S MOST ELUSIVE MATTER
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Cover image by Daniel Dominguez courtesy of CERN

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I AM OFTEN ASKED THE QUESTIONS: WHAT MAKES SYRACUSE University distinctive? How will you build upon these strengths in the execution of a new strategic vision? Many of the answers are found in the pages of this magazine. There's the student-run firm at the Whitman School of Management, where students learn to embrace change and drive entrepreneurship. There are new piggeries in Uganda, where students help create income opportunities in the poorest parts of the world. Also fascinating is the most sophisticated science laboratory on Earth, where the Big Bang theory is not just TV entertainment. In these pages, you will find reasons to be proud and to be excited about the future of your University.

The Fall/Winter issue of Syracuse University Magazine is filled with fascinating stories of discovery, wonder, and achievement. It highlights the many ways the work of the University—the work of students, faculty, and alumni—touches our lives, our communities, and the world.

From the sciences to the arts to collaborations spanning the disciplines, scholarly activity at Syracuse takes on many dimensions. I encourage you to read about the work of faculty from a dozen departments who together will redefine what it means to grow older through the University’s Aging Studies Institute. Certainly, their collaborative work will touch every single one of us during our lifetime and is critically important to policy makers, health care providers, businesses, and others.

Also, think about the implications for a team of lawyers, engineers, computer scientists, economists, and others who are driving advances in cybersecurity. We have seen far too many dangerous vulnerabilities and damaging lapses in security in our deeply interconnected world. Imagine how brilliant minds at your University can strengthen security and make us all safer.

Tucked in the pages of this magazine are inspiring stories of artists, musicians, educators, conservationists, and human rights advocates who have pursued their passions through their studies and shared their gifts with the world. They are my sources of inspiration and optimism. They create the energy that is the spirit and vision of Syracuse University.

Our University is incredibly blessed to have deep and wide-ranging strengths across the liberal arts, sciences, humanities, and professional studies. Our students and faculty are engaging together to find solutions to the world’s urgent challenges, better understand the universe, or stir our hearts and minds through the arts.

These are just a few of the diverse types of scholarship that define a great international research university. They span the disciplines. They spawn discovery. And they touch and enhance our lives in important and wondrous ways.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
OK, FIRST OFF, I CAN’T SING TO SAVE MY life. I was an elementary school chorus dropout in fourth grade and never got on track. Even during the singing of the National Anthem at countless events, I’m committed to not getting overly enthusiastic in a crowd and exposing my inability to hit any note with any kind of regularity.

That, however, has never hindered my appreciation for folks with fantastic chops. In this issue, you’ll learn about the celebrated choral ensembles that perform under the guidance of the Setnor School of Music’s choral activities program in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA). There’s also a profile of drama major Austin Holmes ’16, a talented singer and actor who performed in Syracuse Stage’s *Hairspray* and has an album to his credit.

Of course one’s voice extends beyond the realm of song. We give voice to issues and voice personal opinions. There’s also the process of discovery among writers, artists, and others that’s often called “finding your voice.” For some, this signature of individual expression comes naturally. For others, it requires tinkering, experimentation, and hard work. The trick is to strip away the false starts, razzmatazz, posturing, and pontificating and uncover the authentic voice in residence, the one that may initially be shy, begging to be left alone, or sluggish because it’s never been dusted off for a good workout. Once that voice finds its footing and comes into its own, you can only hope its creator recognizes it, seizes it, nurtures it, and develops it to full potential.

One voice can make a world of difference—not only for its creator and those who may relish the message, but also for those who are left outraged or flabbergasted by it. Either way, the voice connects creator and audience, giving life to an idea from, perhaps, a previously unconsidered perspective.

This exchange of perspectives is what keeps things interesting and flowing in our lives, personally and professionally. In offering advice to young artists and other professionals, VPA alumnus Chris Renaud ’89, executive producer of the wildly successful *Minions*, says it’s important to keep your perspective, your voice. “What you have to say and how you say it is the one thing that makes you different,” he says. “Stay true to that, because at the end of the day, that’s the only thing that makes you unique in a sea of very talented people.”

Who can argue with that career advice? Develop that voice and let it be heard.
THE WHITMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT recently launched a new experiential learning venture that aims to change the course of business education. Consurtio, a student-run firm, is Whitman’s response to the premium employers are placing on practical preparation of students. “Experiential learning has long been an underpinning of the Whitman School, but Consurtio was conceived from the notion that we can go further in preparing students,” Whitman Dean Ken Kavajecz says. “Through Consurtio, students will not only perform the responsibilities of their chosen career path, they will make real business decisions for real clients and for the firm itself. Empowering students in this way will create a unique and exceedingly valuable experience.”

The venture’s backbone of directors, staff, and faculty is in place to perform business development and HR functions, but Kavajecz contends students are in the driver seat. “There is no set plan for how Consurtio will evolve,” he says. “The course of the company is for the students to set.”

Student participation in Consurtio is highly competitive and comes in one of two forms—internal operations (accounting, marketing, etc.) or client project work within one of the company’s initial external divisions (consulting, turnaround, nonprofit, innovation index, and business accelerator). Juniors, seniors, and master’s students are eligible to apply, and academic credits are awarded for participation. MBA students may lead undergraduates on project teams and have the opportunity to rotate through different executive-level roles, gaining experience across a range of business areas.

Consurtio CEO Terry Brown, who also leads Whitman’s Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship, believes Consurtio experience will put students years ahead of their peers. “The ability our students will gain to recognize, communicate, and manage change will mean early and evident value for future employers,” Brown says.

Kavajecz cites donor gifts as the primary source of financial support for Consurtio. Non-financial shares unofficially recognized by the Securities and Exchange Commission and officially recognized as gifts by the IRS will be issued to donors to create a sense of ownership and continued engagement. One share will be given to each Whitman graduate who participates in the firm. The University has earmarked a portion of its endowment to help finance Consurtio operational costs. Chancellor Kent Syverud himself was an early client. He sponsored a pilot project and saw firsthand the value of Consurtio both to students and clients.

“Consurtio was conceived from the notion that we can go further in preparing students.”
—KEN KAVAJECZ, dean, Whitman School

“The work of the Whitman students on a business plan for the Minnowbrook Conference Center rivaled some of the best I have seen,” he says.

Goldman Sachs Vice President Mike Kenworthy shared similar sentiments about the students who completed a pilot project for his firm involving Madison Square Garden (MSG). The students were asked to review a potential breakup of MSG’s sports, entertainment, and media segments into separate companies and present their findings and recommendations. “I could not have been more impressed with the depth of analysis, thoroughly developed recommendations, and hard work the students put forth,” he says.

Whitman finance professor Jim Seward served as faculty mentor for the Goldman project. “From the start, Professor Seward’s message was to make our proposal our own, stand by it, and be confident with our recommendations,” says Dylan Weinberger ’16, one of four finance majors selected for the team. “He guided us in formulating a clear and concise story and prepared us for potential questions and roadblocks we might encounter while presenting. The industry knowledge and universally applicable skills we developed truly illustrate the value of experiential learning.”

The name Consurtio was derived from the Latin word meaning partnership, and Kavajecz says that is the essence of the venture. “It brings together a number of partners to create a transformative learning opportunity,” he says. “Students are better prepared, professors are able to marry curriculum with practical experience, and companies get problems solved and employees who make an immediate impact. Everybody wins in this construct.”

—Alison Kessler
RESIDENTS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF OYAM IN NORTHERN UGANDA were at first unsure about Alexandra Schmidt ‘16 and her fellow interns with Nourish International. Working in partnership with Global Health Network (Uganda), the students from the Syracuse University chapter of Nourish traveled to the east African nation in May for six weeks to help with health projects and livelihood initiatives. The area is recovering from a long civil war that, along with the loss of life and devastation, disrupted the livelihoods of the residents. Often there can be skepticism about the intention of Westerners bringing their own values or just giving handouts, Schmidt says. “Throughout the six weeks, we were able to work with them, live in their homes, and be part of their families. We were there as equals,” Schmidt says. “Several residents told us, ‘We realized even though we may be different in appearance, we have the same blood, and we’re still family and everyone can work together.’ That was one of the most rewarding things for me, to give that sense of hope, build those relationships, and possibly work with them in the future.”

Schmidt, who joined Nourish last fall, was the project leader for the student group, which also included Makayla Dearborn ’17, Kelsey Modica ’15, Jessie Ringiewicz ’16, Olivia Sage ’16, Karla Vera ’18, Brad White ’17, and Lynsey Cooper ’16, who were selected to participate in the trip after applying. The student chapter, which was organized two years ago, works with Nourish International, based out of North Carolina with chapters throughout the country, to select a chapter partner. This is the second year of a two-year partnership with Global Health Network (Uganda) (GHN(U)).

GHN(U) provided information on the community’s needs to the students, who then planned for three initiatives—establishment of three piggeries that would house pigs to generate income, health education, and a sewing project to help the women create reusable cloth sanitary pads. “In general, we were helping to promote holistic health, hygiene, and sanitation through education and livelihood initiatives,” Modica says.

After arriving in the country, students traveled to the city of Loro. They stayed in a guest house and then later lived with host families. “I developed such a close relationship with my family and an extreme admiration for their resilience,” Modica says. The students underwent orientation through members of GHN(U), who gave them information about understanding and adapting to the culture before beginning their projects. Along with the work, it was the simple joys of sharing a meal and activities with the residents that made a huge impact. “Once we went to the homestay, it was great to come back after a day of work and get an insight of what life was like for our host families,” Schmidt says.

Modica, who graduated with bachelor’s degrees in French and international relations, plans to take what she’s learned from the experience and pursue a career working for the government, the United Nations, or a nonprofit organization. It also validated Schmidt’s life goals. “This is what I really want to do with my life,” says Schmidt, who is studying supply chain management and management. “I can work with an organization that helps people with sustainable projects on a larger scale and really make an impact on people’s lives.”

—I developed such a close relationship with my family and an extreme admiration for their resilience.”
—KELSEY MODICA ’15

“I developed such a close relationship with my family and an extreme admiration for their resilience.”

—KELSEY MODICA ’15

—Kathleen Haley
FIFTY ALUMNI OF THE S.I. NEWHOUSE School of Public Communications—accomplished professionals from all areas of the media industry—were honored at the school’s “50Forward” gala celebration in New York City in October. Attendees at the event marked 50 years of leadership in communications education and celebrated the strength of the school as it moves into the next half century.

Sportscaster and Newhouse alumnus Mike Tirico ’88 emceed the fundraising event, which was held at Guastavino’s in midtown Manhattan. Among the 50 honorees, special tribute was paid to five: Bob Costas ’74, sportscaster with NBC; Larry Kramer ’72, former president and publisher of USA Today and an SU Trustee (see page 57); Rob Light ’78, head of music, partner, and managing director at Creative Artists Agency; Kitty Lun G’80, chairman and CEO of Lowe China; and Tonia O’Connor ’91, president of content distribution and corporate business development with Univision Communications. (For a full list of the 50 honorees, see 50forward.syr.edu.)

“Nowhere is the strength of the Newhouse brand more evident than among our network of prestigious alumni, who have dominated the media industry for 50 years,” says Newhouse Dean Lorraine E. Branham. “We celebrate our strong heritage of legendary alumni, and we also celebrate their legacy—today’s alumni leaders who, like their predecessors, continue to push the envelope, embrace the entrepreneurial spirit, and rise to the top, even as the industry moves beneath their feet. We chose these honorees because they represent the kind of forward thinking for which our graduates have always been known.”

Among the well-wishers at the gala were SU Honorary Trustee Donald Newhouse ’51, president of Advance Publications, and members of the Newhouse family. It was Newhouse’s father, Advance founder Samuel I. Newhouse, whose gift to Syracuse University led to the opening of Newhouse 1 in 1964 and the eventual naming of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications in 1971. Since then, with continued support from the Newhouse family and the S.I. Newhouse Foundation, the school has become what is widely regarded as the nation’s leading school of communications. Facilities were expanded and enhanced with the opening of Newhouse 2 in 1974, the opening of Newhouse 3 in 2007, and the renovation of Newhouse 2 in 2014, which resulted in the Newhouse Studio and Innovation Center. The cutting-edge facility includes Dick Clark Studios and the Alan Gerry Center for Media Innovation.

The school also grew academically with the establishment of new programs, centers, and initiatives. The Military Visual Journalism program, which provides active-duty military personnel with training in photojournalism and motion media, was launched in 1964. One of the first chapters of the Public Relations Student Society of America was established at Newhouse in 1968. The school’s first distance-learning program—an executive master’s degree in communications management for mid-career professionals—was established in 1995. The first graduate program in arts journalism at an accredited school began at Newhouse in 2005. In 2006, the school saw the opening of the Tully Center for Free Speech and the launch of the Mirror Awards for excellence in media industry reporting. Satellite campus programs were established in Los Angeles and New York City in 2009 and 2014. The Center for Digital Media Entrepreneurship was founded in 2011, and the Peter A. Horvitz Endowed Chair in Journalism Innovation and the W2O Center for Social Commerce were established in 2012. “Mr. Newhouse had a vision that this school would become the leading center for the study of communications,” Branham says. “Fifty years later, that vision is a reality.”

Proceeds from the event went to support future students through the Newhouse Scholarship Fund. “We want to keep the pipeline of talent flowing,” Branham says.
HIGH-PROFILE CYBER ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. TARGETS escalated in 2013, when information began to be “vacu-umed up” from such companies as Anthem, eBay, Home Depot, Sony Pictures, and Target. An April 2015 cyber breach of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management compromised the personal data of more than 21 million individuals. Hacks of corporate news wires so far have netted insider traders more than $100 million. The Pentagon now reports more than 10 million “garden-variety” cyber incidents per day.

But the next wave of cyber attacks likely will target computers controlling physical objects. In July, “white hat” hackers infiltrated a Jeep Cherokee’s electronic controls, taking command of locks, brakes, and steering. “Thanks to the Internet of Things, computer systems are everywhere,” says cybersecurity expert Shiu-Kai Chin ’75, G’78, G’86, an electrical engineering and computer science professor in the College of Engineering and Computer Science (E&CS). “There’s now a significant ability to access the physical world through virtual networks.” But how these abilities are used and regulated depends less upon what engineers make possible, and more upon what people will allow, Chin says. “It’s society’s norms, laws, policies, and incentives that shape what we do with our capabilities.”

Chin has a multidisciplinary outlook toward cybersecurity that is shared by a cross-campus team of professors—from law, computer science, economics, public policy, and information systems—working together to research and teach cyber topics. In June, the SU team was joined by prominent experts from around the world at Controlling Economic Cyber Espionage, an international workshop co-sponsored by the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) at SU and the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. Along with Internet crime, financial intelligence, and critical infrastructure, the participants tackled the reform of often outdated laws that govern the Internet. In October, a follow-up workshop in Tallinn, Estonia, examined human rights in cyberspace.

It’s clear to Chin why computer engineers must work with lawyers, policy analysts, and others on cybersecurity solutions. “An engineer’s role, we tell students, is to support society, and for computer engineers, that means ensuring the safety, security, and integrity of computer systems,” he says. “At the same time they should know what boundaries and laws there are. Our first instinct is to fix a broken thing, but these days that might mean breaking a chain of computer crime evidence.”

In a broader sense, cybersecurity solutions must balance consumer expectations of unhindered networks, with legal protections on privacy and free speech, and with surveillance requirements of law enforcement, all while allowing trade and communication to occur instantaneously across national borders 24/7.

The possibility that a cyber attack—perpetrated via smart appliances—could take out the nation’s electrical supply is the subject of Smart Grid: Security, Privacy, and Economics, a graduate course team-taught by Chin and fellow E&CS professors Steve Chapin and Prasanta Ghosh; INSCT assistant director Keli Perrin G’L’04; and Professor Peter Wilcoxen, director of the Center for Environmental Policy and Administration at the Maxwell School. Exemplifying SU’s multidisciplinary approach to cybersecurity, this course teaches methods to secure the smart grid while balancing personal privacy and providing maximum market flexibility. No small task.

From an engineer’s perspective, a more secure Internet is easy to imagine. “What we need is for every command sent from every computer to be authenticated and authorized,” Chin says. But “authorization” means different things in different contexts. “And contexts are based on a society’s laws and policies,” he adds. “Small changes in context can drive big changes in engineering.”

—Martin Walls
Ambassadors Enhance Professional Development

BEFORE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNUS
Janak Khilnani G’15 started his volunteer position as a Student Ambassador for Syracuse University Career Services in fall 2014, he described himself as a shy person. After volunteering at Career Services for a year, he boosted his communication skills and confidence, which helped him navigate through a phone interview with IBM during job hunting and obtain a position as a global security consultant there.

Career Services established the Student Ambassador program in fall 2013 to raise awareness among students of its various programs, such as resume writing, networking, career fairs, and employer information sessions. “The ambassador program is designed to be a give-and-take,” says Susan Call G’92, associate director of employer relations at Career Services.

“Students volunteer to be our eyes and ears with other students on campus, and we hope to give them professional development skills at the same time.”

—SUSAN CALL G’92, associate director of employer relations at Career Services

Khilnani says his favorite part of being an ambassador was helping out with career fairs and company information sessions. During these events, he lined up information desks for the employers and directed them to their spots. “You need to give equal importance to every employer so that they will come back again in the future,” he says.

At the same time, Khilnani bridged the gap between students and company representatives. Since not all students were comfortable with directly approaching employers during these events, they usually turned to the ambassadors for information about the companies and details about job positions. “As Student Ambassadors, we ensure that both employers and students are balanced and everybody is satisfied,” Khilnani says.

Khilnani also learned how to focus on the main points of long conversations with students and employers participating in Career Services events and interact with them in appropriate ways. “By meeting people from different backgrounds and countries and with different skill sets during these events, I have developed strong communication skills,” he says.

Current Student Ambassador Ankit Sharma G’16, an MBA student in the Whitman School of Management, leads the program’s research team. Besides volunteering during Career Services events, he will analyze data they are collecting about students and employers who attend the events and send out surveys that will help Career Services evaluate its offerings. Since most student participants in the career fairs are international, Sharma plans to recommend Career Services invite more companies interested in hiring international students.

For students seeking jobs, Sharma says Career Services’ range of programs offers them invaluable tools for transitioning from college to the professional world, and he encourages students to take advantage of them.

“Everything we do is about students,” says Mike Cahill G’87, director of Career Services. “And the more we can get students involved in the work we do, the better it is for students, employers, and us.”

—Jessie Shi
BEFORE HER DAY HITS ITS USUAL HECTIC PACE, Catherine Kellman likes to take a moment in the morning and reflect on something she’s thankful for. It’s a simple technique she learned last spring at a lunch-hour presentation on gratitude and it helps her start her day with a positive outlook. “In this busy world we live in, I think we forget about those things and don’t take time to reflect on them,” says Kellman, assistant director for the Office of Residence Life on South Campus.

Jennifer McLaughlin, associate director, benefits planning and administration, for Human Resources, credits a Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction class she took last spring with helping her to learn breathing techniques, meditation, and yoga as a way to effectively manage stress. “What a journey this class was for me!” she says. “I felt a true life shift. I walked away with great tools to live a more peaceful and ‘present’ life.”

Both classes were part of the Syracuse University Wellness Initiative (SUWI), which was relaunched in fall 2014. “We’re trying to provide learning and educational opportunities in the area of health and wellness for faculty and staff that cover a broad range of topics—whether it’s a physical activity, nutrition, stress reduction, or just general learning in terms of wellness topics,” says Gail Grozalis, executive director of the Wellness Initiative. As an example, she cites a couple activities held this fall: a webinar on mindful eating, and a Massive Open Online Course on “The Science of Happiness.” SUWI is also collaborating with Weight Watchers to offer campus, community, and online options for its program, providing a 50 percent subsidy for benefit eligible faculty and staff. And last spring, SUWI began offering free smoking cessation classes as part of the University becoming a tobacco- and smoke-free campus in July.

The initiative also partners with Recreation Services, the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion (which sponsors Healthy Mondays), and other campus organizations to promote healthy lifestyle activities, such as Walktober, which encourages people to head outdoors for a walk. “A balanced healthy lifestyle means different things to different people; however, making healthy food choices as often as we can, engaging in some sort of physical activity that brings enjoyment, and being aware of stress levels and identifying coping skills that work for us are basic components that will help us feel our best,” says Grozalis, a registered dietitian. “A healthy lifestyle is about long-term behaviors rather than a quick fix.”

To spread the gospel, Grozalis regularly posts information on the SUWI website (wellness.syr.edu) and distributes fliers. She also created the Wellness Champion Network, calling on volunteers from across campus to engage their colleagues in activities. Shannon Nanda G’07, assistant director of graduate admissions at the Whitman School of Management, collaborates with several staffers there on a host of activities, including a wellness newsletter. “I want to help my colleagues who either need the extra nudge or a partner to get them on a path to wellness,” she says. Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer Michael Patsos echoes that sentiment. He started a DPS wellness program five years ago and says participating in running events and other activities together builds camaraderie. “When they laid out everything involved with the Wellness Champions, I thought it was a great opportunity,” he says. “It gave me ideas to take back to the department.”

For Grozalis, such enthusiasm can be contagious, motivating others to consider their health and take steps to improve it. She recommends setting achievable goals and then building on them. “Remember that old cliché that small steps add up to big achievements,” she says. “They truly do.”

—JAY COX

“...I walked away with great tools to live a more peaceful and ‘present’ life.”

—JENNIFER McLAUGHLIN, associate director, Human Resources
PROJECT: Using Public Deliberation to Define Patient Roles in Reducing Diagnostic Error

BACKGROUND: Diagnostic error, or diagnoses that are wrong, missed, or delayed, is a serious problem in both inpatient and outpatient settings in the United States. It occurs in 5 to 15 percent of all cases and causes 40,000 to 80,000 deaths annually. Unfortunately, diagnostic error is under-recognized, under-studied, and seldom integrated into quality assurance measures or activities. Moreover, most proposals to reduce diagnostic error focus on physicians and health care systems; few seek to enlist health care consumers in helping to reduce the risk of harm from diagnostic error. Thus, health care consumers represent a large, untapped, and critically important resource for influencing and improving the quality of diagnoses, and may be the key to making rapid and significant gains in diagnostic safety. Simply put, the health field requires patient-focused strategies to reduce diagnostic error, improve patient safety and health care delivery, and ultimately ensure better quality health outcomes.

IMPACT: This project is engaging health care consumers here in Onondaga County, New York, to develop informed and practical patient-focused strategies for reducing diagnostic error. Its goals are twofold: first, to assess the value of public deliberation in creating health policy; and second, to develop a set of recommendations that any health care consumer can use to help improve diagnostic quality. The project uses a randomized and controlled experimental design that involves a diverse and demographically representative set of participants who were randomly assigned into a control group, an education-only group, or one of two deliberation groups. The first deliberative group is working to address three interrelated questions: (1) What roles are patients willing and able to play in preventing, identifying, and reporting diagnostic error? (2) What strategies should be pursued to enable patients to play those roles? (3) What systems and structures should be in place to allow patients to assume these roles? This group will develop a set of patient-centered recommendations, which will be tested with a second deliberation group that will rank and prioritize the recommendations and assess their value to average health care consumers. Once the recommendations are finalized, the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine—a nonprofit organization whose membership includes patients, clinicians, researchers, educators, insurers, and health care professionals—will use them to develop strategic plans, policy statements, and research agendas about patient engagement in reducing diagnostic error, as well as to create a patient engagement “toolkit” for health care systems, providers, and consumers that more closely reflects the patient experience. Thus, the project will address an important problem in patient-centered care and has the potential to significantly impact diagnostic quality, patient safety, health care delivery, and health outcomes.

INVESTIGATOR: Tina Nabatchi

DEPARTMENT: Public Administration and International Affairs, Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration, Maxwell School

SPONSOR: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AMOUNT AWARDED: $365,430 (September 2014-September 2016)
Connecting Overseas with High School Students

AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HO CHI MINH City and the Ho Chi Minh City-American Academy in Vietnam, qualified high school students are taking college courses in calculus, academic writing, economics, biology, public affairs, web design, and creative nonfiction writing through Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA). Since many of the Vietnamese students hope to attend U.S. colleges and universities, this is an opportunity for them to gain course credit and confidence, as well as get a taste of American culture. “There’s a college readiness aspect to offering concurrent enrollment courses because many students are seeing what a real university syllabus looks like and what it takes to be successful in college,” says Christina Parish G’06, director of Project Advance. “In Vietnamese culture, students tend to be reluctant to ask questions and are used to lecture-based courses, so working with our more interactive and inquiry-based educational approach prepares them for our academic culture in the United States.”

In operation since 1973, Project Advance has grown steadily over the past 42 years, partnering with more than 800 teachers serving 11,000 students in 240 schools both here and abroad. Joshua Davis G’10, communications manager for Project Advance, says although they are not marketing the program abroad, word of mouth continues to increase its popularity overseas. “In 2012, we began offering courses in Dubai and Vietnam to help smooth students’ transition from high school to college, and from one culture to the other,” he says. “Growth is not our goal, but we are currently exploring new opportunities with schools overseas that have expressed an interest in SUPA. Before we enter into a partnership, we must make sure there’s a good fit and that our academic standards are not compromised.”

Along with the other high school teachers who participate in SUPA, teachers from Vietnam attend a one- or two-week professional development institute on campus led by SU faculty who prepare them to teach regular first-year courses offered by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Maxwell School, and the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The visit to campus is also a good way for the teachers to become familiar with the University in general. “The direct connection with campus is important for the high school teachers because they have an opportunity to learn from and be mentored by SU faculty, as well as interact with their peers,” Parish says.

Heather Carreiro, deputy head of school and writing and textual studies instructor at the Ho Chi Minh City-American Academy (HCMC-AA), says teaching SUPA courses in Vietnam has been an amazing experience. For one of her class assignments, she required students to read scholarly articles about the concept of “contested space” and how to analyze the spaces they encounter. They then had to do original research and write an analytical essay about a space of their choosing, such as the student lounge or traffic patterns on a bridge. “I love it when students think critically and deeply about the world around them,” Carreiro says. “This is a skill set that will not only help them in college, but in anything they do in life.”

Participating Vietnamese high school students can earn up to 17 college credits, which are transferable to most U.S. colleges and universities. In the past three years, many have received scholarships and admittance to such universities as Northeastern, American University, and Georgia Tech. “What I enjoyed most about taking SUPA classes is that they gave me challenging educational experiences,” says Truong, a 2015 HCMC-AA graduate. “The teachers were fun, friendly, and professional, and with the small class sizes, I got to talk to the instructors as often as I liked. I would prefer to struggle in high school so I can enter university feeling fearless and confident.” —Christine Yackel

“In Vietnamese culture, students tend to be reluctant to ask questions and are used to lecture-based courses, so working with our more interactive and inquiry-based educational approach prepares them for our academic culture in the United States.” —CHRISTINA PARISH G’06, director of Project Advance
IN ONE MAGICAL ORANGE weekend in November, the Syracuse men’s cross country team and the field hockey team won NCAA championship titles. On November 21 in Louisville, Coach Chris Fox’s runners claimed three spots in the top 10 and knocked off two-time defending champion Colorado (82 to 91) to give the Orange cross country team its first national crown since 1951. A day later, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Coach Ange Bradley’s field hockey squad completed the Orange title sweep, defeating ACC rival North Carolina, 4-2, in the NCAA final. With the victory, Syracuse collected its first ever national title in a women’s sport. “I’ve been chasing this dream for 25 years,” Bradley told Cuse.com. “I’m so proud of these women who have worked so hard.”

For the Orange women (21-1), it was the finishing touch on a sensational fall that saw them complete the regular season undefeated (16-0) and capture the ACC regular season title. Despite a 2-1 overtime loss in the ACC tourney final to North Carolina, Syracuse received the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA tournament and then lived up to expectations. After posting early-round wins over Massachusetts and Princeton, the Orange women ousted defending champion UConn, 3-1, in the semifinals, and then topped North Carolina to avenge their only loss of the season. It was SU’s second straight trip to the NCAA title game and third Final Four appearance in four years. Goalkeeper Jess Jecko ’16 and midfielders Alyssa Manley ’16, Alma Fenne ’16, and Zoe Wilson ’19 were named to the NCAA All-Tournament team. Forward Emma Russell ’16, who tallied the opening goal for ‘Cuse in the title game, became Syracuse’s all-time points leader.

Like the field hockey team, the men’s cross country team was a force to reckon with all season as well. En route to the NCAA championship, the Orange won its second straight Wisconsin Adidas Invitational, claimed its fourth-straight conference title (third ACC), and its third straight NCAA Northeast Regional Championship. In the NCAA meet, SU was powered by the hard-charging trio of Justyn Knight ’18, Colin Bennie ’18, and Martin Hehir ’15, G’16, just as it was all season. Knight crossed the finish line in fourth, covering the 10-kilometer course in 29:46.1, followed by Bennie in eighth (29:55.9), and Hehir in ninth (29:59.5). Phil Germano ’18 (39th) and Joel Hubbard ’17 (47th) capped off SU’s scoring, with Dan Lennon ’16 (65th) and Joe Kush ’16 (123rd) also competing. Knight, Bennie, Hehir, and Germano earned All-America honors for their performances. “They ran like men. They took control at the beginning and never let it go,” Fox told Cuse.com. “They put themselves in a dominant position and said come get me. It was an incredible day...”

—Jay Cox
You plan your career.
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An award-winning professor of architecture, Harry der Boghosian ’54 inspired countless students with his passion for structure and design. Now, a gift from his estate—given in his honor by his sister, Paula—will offer early-career architects the opportunity to follow in his footsteps. Thanks to the Harry der Boghosian Endowed Fellowship, SU architecture students will learn from the best up-and-coming professionals.

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Hear about Harry der Boghosian—his love of art, architecture, and deep connections to Syracuse at changealife.syr.edu/derBoghosian.

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COMMITS TO COMMUNITY HEALTH

DR. CYNTHIA MORROW
LERNER CHAIR
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

A SINGLE FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH graces Dr. Cynthia Morrow’s tidy office in the Center for Policy Research in Eggers Hall. The picture is of her father, international health pioneer Richard Morrow. Although he passed away two years ago, his example continues to inspire Morrow, a professor of practice in the Maxwell School Department of Public Administration and International Affairs and the former commissioner of health for the Onondaga County Health Department. She is also the inaugural Lerner Chair at the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion. “I was fortunate to be born to parents who spent their lives dedicated to improving the health of others,” says Morrow, whose mother, Helga, is a nurse practitioner who established nursing programs in several developing countries. “I grew up in Africa and Europe and the U.S., and was exposed to wonderful cultures and to family values that put education and health at the forefront. I could see my parents’ passion for their work translate into tremendous benefit to the communities in which they worked. It was a very easy path for me to follow.”

One important milestone along the way was her decision to spend time in a remote village in Gambia before entering medical school. “While I was there, I was saddened by people’s acceptance of what we would consider premature mortality,” says Morrow, who earned a bachelor’s degree at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and a medical degree and a master’s degree in public health at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. “That was a determining period for me, and it pushed me to follow in my father’s footsteps—not because I was his daughter, but because it was what I, as an individual, needed to do. I became committed not only to medicine, but to public health.”

While in medical school, Morrow met her husband, a military doctor whose assignments took the couple and their growing family to South Carolina, Guam, and Florida. “In all those places, because of the short nature of our time there, I was able to experience different parts of the medical system, including clinical work, long-term care, and private practice,” she says. After her husband accepted a position at Upstate Medical University, she began working at the Onondaga County Health Department and continued there for 14 years, the last nine of which were in the position of commissioner of health, before coming to SU in 2014.

As Lerner Chair, Morrow upholds the Lerner Center’s mission to improve community health through such collaborative efforts as Healthy Mondays and its partnership with Syracuse’s Near Westside neighborhood. She’s especially proud of the part the center played in the University’s establishment as a tobacco- and smoke-free campus—a significant effort in promoting well-being. “It’s a wonderful environment here, and I’m grateful to be surrounded by so many people doing really good, important work,” she says.

She also enjoys teaching two graduate-level courses at Maxwell that allow her to share her experiences as the county health commissioner and “hopefully inspire others” to improve health in their communities. “At the end of the day, if we’re not healthy, we can’t achieve our full potential,” says Morrow, who is also a faculty member at Upstate and serves on several community boards. “Of course I am tremendously biased, but I believe that health is the cornerstone on which we build all our success.”

—Amy Speach

Photo by Steve Sartori
TIMOTHY K. EATMAN IS THE SECOND GENERATION OF HIS FAMILY TO BE BORN AND RAISED IN HARLEM. His father taught in public schools before completing seminary and being called to a church, where he and his wife helped establish a small, nonprofit college prep school called Mt. Pleasant Christian Academy. It was only natural for Eatman to attend the academy, which is now in its 33rd year. “Seeing that institution grow and develop over the years had a great influence on my decision to be an educator,” says Eatman, professor of higher education in the School of Education and faculty co-director of Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, a national consortium based at SU. “My focus is on how we can provide educational opportunities for young people that are equitable.”

Eatman was fascinated with human development and how best to capture the gifts and talents of all students, so he pursued a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Pace University with an eye toward teaching. But when it came time to student-teach, Eatman realized he is much better at educational theory and lesson planning than he is in the classroom. “I talk about myself as an educational sociologist,” says Eatman, who went on to earn a master’s degree in college student affairs at Howard University and a Ph.D. degree in educational policy studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

It was when Eatman was doing post-doctoral work at the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education at the University of Michigan that he first learned about Imagining America (IA), which was headquartered there. As IA’s first director of research, he helped establish and lead the Tenure Team Initiative on Public Scholarship, a major study on faculty rewards. When IA headquarters moved to SU in 2007, Eatman was invited to apply for a faculty position in the School of Education and continue as IA’s director of research. In 2012, he was appointed faculty co-director of IA with Cornell professor Scott Peters. “Imagining America creates spaces in higher education where spirits and hearts meet minds for deep, impactful, and sustained knowledge-making and healing,” Eatman says. “We do work at the nexus of community engagement and the arts, humanities, and design.”

As faculty co-director of Imagining America, Eatman works with a team of scholars around the country on a multidimensional effort to ensure that publicly engaged scholarship is recognized as an important part of the academic promotion and reward system. “Writing a book is not the only way knowledge is made at universities,” says Eatman, who does faculty development workshops all over the world and is an honorary professor at the University of South Africa. “The continuum of scholarship is expansive enough for us to value the work of bench chemists as well as chemists who work with students and community partners to address problems with lead paint in older homes. Many institutions have used our reports as a way to start conversations and actually change tenure policy, including at SU.” In October, the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation’s oldest and most widely known academic honor society, presented Imagining America with its Key of Excellence award in recognition of innovative programs that demonstrate the range and relevance of the arts and sciences to their communities.

An artist as well as a scholar, Eatman is a pianist and songwriter who has sung in and directed choirs, plays the piano at Bethany Church, composes music for community theater productions, and writes songs for such special moments as his wedding, his parents’ 50th wedding anniversary, and for his two daughters, Jasmin and Jamila. “We’re all interdisciplinary beings, and that’s an important reason why artists and scholars in public life matter,” he says. “I am really blessed.”

—Christine Yackel
SUPEOPLE

AUSTIN HOLMES ‘16 HAD AN AGONIZING—if enviable—decision to make. The drama major in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) had just won his dream role as super-cool Seaweed J. Stubbs in the 2014-15 Syracuse Stage production of *Hairspray*. But he had also made it through three rounds of auditions for *American Idol*, and was invited to continue in the competition. Given the amount of time each option demanded for rehearsals and performances, he couldn’t do both.

After a great deal of soul-searching—and more than one change of heart—he decided to pass on Idol and take the part in *Hairspray*. “At first, I had regrets about not doing *American Idol*—it’s one of my favorite TV shows,” says Holmes, the winner of the 2012 *Syracuse Idol* competition. “But being in *Hairspray* was one of the best experiences in my life. At SU, I’ve learned that everything happens for a reason—I was meant to stay in school and finish my training.”

In the spring, Holmes will have the chance to fine-tune his craft as a student in the Tepper Semester, VPA’s rigorous artistic immersion program in the heart of New York City’s theater district. With his sights set on a career in music, television, and commercials, the Maryland native has already reached a number of milestones, including performing on BET’s *Apollo Live!* competition at the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem, launching his YouTube site, AustinHolmesMusic (www.youtube.com/user/AustinHMusic), and signing with Syracuse University Recordings, the University’s student recording label. Holmes’s first album, *Drive*, a mix of pop/hip hop and R&B, is dedicated to his late grandfather, who helped finance his college education.

Originally wait-listed to Syracuse, Holmes was surprised to receive an email congratulating him on being accepted to the drama program. “When my mom and I visited SU, we were told the drama department accepts only about 25 students each year,” he says. “So when I got here, I was scared to death to go up against all the kids in my class. Everybody is so talented. My confidence just wasn’t there, and I wondered how I could do this.” The turning point was his *Syracuse Idol* win, and the opportunity to perform a solo during an “After Hours” event in Hendricks Chapel, sponsored by the a cappella groups on campus. “At the end of my song, everyone stood up and applauded,” he says. “It was a moment of satisfaction for me.”

Holmes finds inspiration—and encouragement—following in the footsteps of such noted SU alumni as Vanessa Williams ’85 and Taye Diggs ’93. “When I think of them being in the same classes I’m taking, sitting in the seats I’m sitting in now, it makes me believe anything is possible,” he says. For this aspiring singer/actor, the University is a place of opportunity for anyone who wants to pursue their dreams. “If you take advantage of everything SU has to offer, it will set you up for life,” he says. “A lot of things happen when you don’t stay in your room and collect dust.”

—Paula Meseroll
VIEWING DIFFERENCES

KIMBERLY DAVIDSON’S INTEREST IN ISSUES OF RACE, ethnicity, and cultural identity in early childhood emanated from personal experience. When she was a child, her older sister married a man who is African American. “I grew up in Tennessee, and we lived in a rural town where there is still a lot of racism. So their marriage was a controversial thing at that time,” says Davidson, a doctoral student in the Falk College Department of Child and Family Studies. “I was very young when they married, so my brother-in-law has been a part of my family for a long time. And I think that helped expand my worldview—recognizing where racism does still exist—whereas a lot of people want to believe it’s not a problem.”

Her interest in early development was triggered by observing her two nieces as they navigated the complexities of growing up biracial in a culture that she views as still largely characterized by two distinct groups: one black, one white. “I wondered, when do they start to recognize that they are different from their classmates, and how do they feel about that,” she says. “I started thinking about what factors go into their identity development, and that got me really interested in what we’re teaching young children about it.”

Her quest for answers led to her doctoral studies at SU, where her dissertation research project explores how preschoolers learn about race and ethnicity. To support that work, she received a $25,000 Head Start Research Scholars grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, one of only six grants awarded nationally. Working with Jaipaul Roopnarine, the Jack Reilly Professor of Child and Family Studies and director of the Reilly Institute for Early Childhood and Provider Education, Davidson collaborates with area Head Start centers to study the ways that home environment, neighborhood, and child care programs influence the racial and ethnic socialization of young kids. “We are asking parents or caregivers, as well as Head Start teachers, the same sets of questions about what they teach young children about their racial and ethnic background or about other racial and ethnic groups,” says Davidson, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Tennessee. “We’ll then compare what happens at home with what happens in the Head Start classroom, and see if those differences or similarities have effects on the children’s academic outcomes.”

Participants’ responses reveal a range of attitudes regarding how to teach young children about race and ethnicity, including questioning whether it is necessary or helpful to do so at all. “It’s interesting, because some people will say, ‘You want me to talk to my 3-year-old about race?’” Davidson says. “But other families say it’s very important, and they do try to slowly introduce topics about discrimination, cultural differences, and the contributions of different ethnic groups.”

Davidson is excited about the study’s potential influence on Head Start policy related to multicultural curriculum, teacher professional development, and parent involvement strategies. Most of all, she hopes the project will encourage conversation between parents and teachers about incorporating diverse cultural values into preschool classrooms. “Even at this young age, children are recognizing that people are different and are starting to assign meaning to those differences,” she says. “We’re at the beginning of a long process, but hopefully we can start discussions that lead to change.”

—Amy Speach
IN AN AMAZING ADVENTURE OF modern science, a group of Syracuse physicists is providing breakthroughs on some of the most mysterious particles of the universe

BY ROB ENSLIN
SOME 2,000 YEARS AGO, JULIUS CAESAR BUILT a 19-mile rampart from Lake Geneva to the Jura Mountains to fend off hordes of Gallic attackers, thus laying the groundwork for the Swiss city of Geneva. Today, the same stretch of land boasts another marvel of engineering, almost as long—17 miles in circumference—and mostly underground. Locals agree the edifice has a futuristic, if not vaguely mysterious, quality about it. But what goes on there is of cosmic proportions.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research—or CERN, an acronym derived from the first letters of its original French name—lies north of Geneva, in the shadow of the Swiss Alps. With its labyrinth of tunnels, the facility is home to the aptly named Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s biggest, most powerful particle accelerator. Included is an enormous, state-of-the-art vacuum system, guided by powerful superconducting electromagnets that, in turn, are cooled by liquid helium. The accelerator hurtles beams of protons, in opposing directions, through miles of vacuum, until they collide with one another. The result is a blinding flash of energy that some say is brighter than a thousand suns. This subatomic collision course is not just the stuff of spy-techno thrillers—it is physics’ present and future.

Founded after World War II, at the dawn of international collaboration, CERN is as much an interdisciplinary research organization as it is the most sophisticated science laboratory on Earth. Thousands of scientists and engineers annually flock there, hoping to better understand the physical makeup of the universe—or, as some say, peer into the “mind of God.” Chief among them is a team of physicists from Syracuse University, led by Distinguished Professor Sheldon Stone. “This is more than just pushing the boundaries of physics,” he says during a recent meeting in his book-lined office on campus. “We want to know what really happened after the Big Bang, 13.7 billion years ago, that has allowed matter to survive and build the universe we inhabit today.”
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Stone oversees the efforts of some 20 people at CERN, including four other professors, two research assistant professors, and a swath of graduate students and undergraduates from the Department of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences. To say several of them—Stone, along with professors Tomasz Skwarnicki, Marina Artuso, and Steven Blusk—are rock stars in the high-stakes field of particle physics is to flirt with understatement. Case in point: Since spring 2014, all four have garnered international attention for their groundbreaking work in new physics—that is, physics beyond the Standard Model, a decades-old theory used to describe the fundamental forces and particles that make up the universe. (see sidebar, facing page)

Blueprint for Existence
Since time immemorial, people have sought to explain the birth of the universe. “Who are we?” “Where do we come from?” These questions are at the heart of ancient creation myths and modern scientific theories, not to mention countless philosophical and theological debates. To describe the very early universe, physicists generally rely on the Big Bang Theory, which posits that part of the universe visible today was originally a few millimeters long. In fact, everything associated with physics—fundamental

WHAT’S THE MATTER?
Most of the matter around us is made from protons and neutrons, both of which are composed of quarks. There are six kinds of quarks, but they are usually thought of in pairs: up/down, charm/strange, and top/bottom. Whereas protons and electrons have integer charge values of +1 and -1, respectively, quarks have fractional charges of +2/3 (e.g., up, charm, and top quarks) or -1/3 (e.g., down, strange, and bottom quarks). All quarks have an intrinsic angular momentum called spin, with a value equal to 1/2.

Quarks are like social creatures, in that they exist in groups with other quarks, and are never found alone. Composite particles made up of quarks are called hadrons, which are divided into baryons (usually containing three quarks) and mesons (usually a quark and an antiquark).

According to the Standard Model, there are two fundamental classes of particles: fermions and bosons. Fermions have half integral spin, and include quarks, protons, neutrons, and electrons. Bosons are force-carrier particles with integral spin (including zero), and include photons, gluons, and the Higgs boson.

The LHCb experiment’s powerful magnet helps scientists identify particles after protons are smashed together. Particles normally travel in straight lines, but the presence of a magnetic field causes the paths of charged particles to curve, with positive and negative particles moving in opposite directions. By examining the path’s curvature, scientists can calculate the momentum of a particle and thus establish its identity.
Syracuse’s High-Energy Experimental Physics Group has advanced the field of “new physics” with its discoveries. Following is a look at the group’s recent accomplishments at CERN:

**JULY 2015:** Tomasz Skwarnicki and Sheldon Stone—along with doctoral student Nathan Jurik G’16 and Liming Zhang, a former Syracuse research associate who is now a professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing—virtually break the Internet, with news of their discovery of two rare pentaquark states. Their finding puts to rest a 51-year-old mystery, in which American physicists Murray Gell-Mann and George Zweig independently proposed that all baryonic matter is made of either three quarks, or four quarks plus an antiquark that’s called a pentaquark. While many three-quark baryons have been found, the pentaquark sighting is a first.

**JULY 2015:** Marina Artuso addresses the European Physical Society Conference on High-Energy Physics in Vienna, showing that baryonic decays, containing beauty (b) quarks, are consistent with being “left-handed.” Her talk focuses on the decay of a particular Lambda baryon into a proton, as well as a muon and a neutrino. (A muon is charged like an electron, but with more mass. A neutrino has no charge and very little mass, and, thus, is hard to find.) Until now, this decay has never been seen.

**NOVEMBER 2014:** Steven Blusk identifies two never-before-seen baryons with three quarks and large masses, while sifting through CERN data that is several years old. Thanks to heavyweight b quarks, each particle is six times more massive than a proton.

**APRIL 2014:** Stone and Zhang suggest that a particle called f0(980)—widely thought to be “exotic” and have four quarks—has only two quarks (i.e., a quark and an antiquark). Their finding stems from a theoretical model of their own design that determines the particle’s composition. This work supports their primary objective, which is to analyze the charge-parity (CP) violation in the decay of a Bs meson, in an attempt to explain the absence of matter in the universe. “Without CP violation, equal numbers of protons and antiprotons would form and then instantly annihilate each other, resulting in no net-creation of matter,” Stone says. “Right after the Big Bang, antimatter disappeared, leaving behind matter to form everything around us, from stars and galaxies to life on Earth.”

**APRIL 2014:** Three weeks earlier, Skwarnicki is the lead author of a paper confirming the existence of a particle with two quarks and two antiquarks, known as a tetraquark. Dubbed Z(4430), the state was discovered by the Belle Collaboration in Japan in 2007, only to be disputed by the BABAR experiment at Stanford. Belle responds a few years later with even more rigorous analysis of the same data set. Drawing on Belle’s and BABAR’s analysis techniques, Skwarnicki and company comb over their own particle data from CERN and confirm that Z(4430) is, indeed, real.

Particles, stars, galaxies, even space and time—was packed so tightly into one spot that it built up tremendous energy and heat. Scientists put the surrounding nascent temperature at 10 billion degrees Fahrenheit.

No one really knows why, but in a billionth of a billionth of a billionth of a second, the point suddenly expanded and began to cool, and has been doing so ever since. Thus, the Big Bang was not as much of a “bang,” as it was an unprecedented inflation, with all the galaxies functioning like points on the surface of the balloon. Remnants of those first few moments still persist in radiation left over from primordial gravitational waves.

Physicists have determined that, for one-trillionth of a second after the Big Bang, the universe was roughly the size of a baseball. Within it, particles formed, collided, and disintegrated trillions of times over, until they stabilized into elements of hydrogen, helium, or lithium. Interactions of these elements and some 90 others became the blueprint for existence.

It is the Big Bang that informs much of what goes on at CERN and, by extension, in Syracuse’s High-Energy Experimental Physics Group. Fresh from a two-year upgrade, the $7 billion LHC was built by CERN from 1998 to 2008, in collaboration with 10,000-plus scientists from more than 100 countries. Stone chuckles at the irony of using the world’s biggest machine to pinpoint the universe’s smallest fragments. “We’re recreating the first millionth of a second of creation,” says Stone, a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS). “By flinging particles together to see what happens, we’re focusing energy on an awesome scale. It’s pretty amazing, really.”

With its ring-shaped tunnel straddling the Franco-Swiss border, the LHC circulates beams of protons in opposite directions.
The faster the beams, the more energy they generate upon impact. The result? “Energy is sometimes converted into heavy particles that are not normally found in nature,” says Skwarnicki, also an APS Fellow. “By examining debris from these high-energy collisions, we learn more about the building blocks of matter and the forces controlling them.”

The LHC came into public view in 2012, when scientists proved the existence of the Higgs boson, the so-called “God Particle” that is 100 times more massive than the proton, and is able to transmit forces. (Until then, the Higgs boson was the only fundamental particle predicted by the Standard Model that had not been observed.) Skwarnicki says that, immediately after the Big Bang, the universe’s four known fundamental forces—strong, electromagnetic, weak, and gravitational—emerged, along with the Higgs boson and its associated field. “The LHC enables us to study exotic particles, such as the Higgs and tetraquarks and pentaquarks, to see how these forces work,” he says.

LHC experiments also search for new heavier particles that may explain physics beyond what is already known. One such theory, supersymmetry, stipulates that every particle in the Standard Model has a heavier twin with vastly different properties, such as different spins and electrical charges. These experiments may provide alternate explanations of such concepts by finding additional spatial dimensions.

Tetraquarks and pentaquarks are currently on the minds of physicists everywhere. Guy Wilkinson—who heads up CERN’s Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) experiment, where Team Syracuse is based—considers the University an important ally. “Syracuse has been a valued participant of LHCb for many years, well before the LHC delivered its first collisions in 2009,” says Wilkinson, also a physics professor at Oxford University (UK). “Professors Artuso, Blusk, Stone, and Skwarnicki have an exceedingly strong track record in producing important, high-profile publications, of which the pentaquark discovery analysis is the most recent example. The scientific output of the experiment would have been much weaker, without their unstinting efforts.”

Wilkinson goes on to say that Syracuse’s findings not only explain how protons and neutrons are bound together, but also how matter is constituted. “This has profound consequences, for example, on what happens to stars at the end of their lives,” he says. “As stars collapse, having burnt all their fuel, the nature of hadrons [composite particles made of quarks] also changes. Tetraquarks and pentaquarks could play an important role in this process.”

John Rennie, editorial director of McGraw-Hill Education’s AccessScience online platform and former editor-in-chief of Scientific American magazine, echoes these sentiments. “These are some of the most fascinating and important results coming out of experimental physics today,” he says, regarding tetraquarks and pentaquarks. “These particles force physicists to rethink theories about how atomic nuclei behave under the most extreme conditions, like during the super-dense earliest universe and inside neutron stars. That may not have much day-to-day significance for most of us, but it could have big implications for our understanding of how stars evolve at the end of their lives.”

What Particles Tell Us
CERN is home to many projects, but probably none more innovative than LHCb. It involves approximately 800 scientists from 16 countries, seeking to explain why the universe is made up of matter, instead of antimatter. The “b” stands for “beauty quark,” or “bottom quark,” but “b quark” is just fine, thank you very much.

While absent in today’s universe, b quarks were prevalent after the Big Bang, and have been generated by the LHC in the billions. Integral to this process is LHCb’s 5,600-ton detector, which is located 330 feet below the French village of Ferney-Voltaire, and is in the throes of a multiyear upgrade. “We use a series of subdetectors to detect particles, which are thrown forward in one di-
rection, during a collision,” says Stone, who spends an average of three months a year at CERN, working on LHCb. “A lot of different quarks are created by the LHC, before they fall apart or decay into other forms. Our goal is to catch these b quarks, which are usually part of some baryon or meson, and analyze their decays.”

To appreciate LHCb, one must understand quarks, which make up most of the matter in the universe. Based on a nonsensical word in James Joyce’s Finnegans Wake (“Three quarks for Muster Mark”), quarks come in different types, or flavors: up, down, charm, strange, top, and bottom. Up and down quarks are the most common and stable in the universe. The rest are heavier and less stable, and are produced only during high-energy collisions.

That quarks are bound together by a short-range force is of vital importance. The theory describing this force is quantum chromodynamics (QCD). Rennie says Syracuse’s findings have huge repercussions for the study of QCD. “This is the model that aims to describe precisely how quarks interact inside particles, like the proton,” he adds. “QCD’s predictions are now often only roughly accurate, but physicists may learn things from the study of pentaquarks that could refine QCD’s math.”

Murray Gell-Mann, a Distinguished Fellow at the Santa Fe Institute, as well as the Robert Andrews Millikan Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology, is proud to see his iconic work come full circle. “This is part of a long process of discovery of particle states,” he says, regarding pentaquarks. “Every baryon is composed mostly of three quarks. Also, part of the time, it’s three quarks and a pair. What they [seem to have found] here is a particle that is, part of the time, made of three quarks and a pair, and not just three quarks, which would be conventional.”

The recipient of the 1969 Nobel Prize in Physics, Gell-Mann is hopeful that more particles await discovery. “There is even the possibility of a particle made of gluons and no quarks,” he says, pointing out that gluons, which keep protons and neutrons intact, carry the strong force.

Doctoral student Nathan Jurik G’16, for one, is not lost on the significance of his involvement with LHCb. Of all the theories governing the four fundamental forces, QCD, he says, is probably the least understood. “We have a long way to go to understand what particles are telling us,” Jurik says. “Just because we know that five quarks can form a particle doesn’t mean we know how it happens. We’re at the stage where a lot of questions are being raised, in hopes of finding answers to some pretty fundamental questions. To do this, we need to perform more sensitive studies of pentaquarks, as well as discover new pentaquarks and tetraquarks. The whole thing is pretty surreal.”

**An Unfolding Journey**

Syracuse’s high-energy research group operates like a well-oiled machine. While their expertise overlaps, each member brings specific skills to the table. Stone, a driving force behind LHCb, does a lot of physics analysis, as do Artuso, Skwarnicki, and Blusk. Artuso is also in charge of the Upstream Tracker (UT) Project, which recently received a $5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to build an inner tracking device. Professor Matthew Rudolph, who specializes in precision measurements, joined the Syracuse group in August. “I guess you can say that Syracuse has outsized its role at LHCb,” Stone says, leaning forward in his chair. “Of the 250 papers that the collaboration has published so far, our group [at Syracuse] has written about 50 of them. That’s more than 20 percent. Pretty impressive, if you figure that we account for less than 2 percent of the size of the entire collaboration.”

Under Artuso’s direction, the UT is scheduled to be installed in 2019, and, with the rest of the upgrade, will increase the amount of data that LHCb can handle by factors of five to 10. She also extracts fundamental constants—numbers and values that dictate the strengths of forces, such as gravity and the masses of elementary particles—from LHCb data. An APS Fellow, as well as an advisor to the U.S. Department of Energy and NSF, Artuso is a highly respected leader in the development, design, and construction of detectors for elementary particle physics experiments. She says the UT will help explain things that the Standard Model cannot, such as the relationship between matter and antimatter, the properties of invisible dark matter, and the values of the masses of quarks and leptons (subatomic particles not affected by strong interactions). “The new detector will substantially increase the luminosity that LHCb can handle, providing more accurate measurements of fundamental particles and enabling observations of rare processes that occur below the current sensitivity level,” says Artuso, who, several years ago, founded a group of LHCb scientists, dedicated to studying the semileptonic decay of hadrons. “Just as importantly, the NSF grant will enable students to participate in the construction and testing of the detector at Syracuse.”

Faculty cannot overstate the importance of students and postdocs to LHCb. In fact, Skwarnicki says it was former SU research associate Liming Zhang, along with Jurik, who instigated the pentaquark project and wrote the code for the analysis. “All four of us cross-checked the data results with one another, from beginning to end, and then quickly got the paper out,” recalls Zhang, who presented the group’s findings at CERN in July. “I am proud to have come up with a model that was able to be proven, mathematically, and was essential to the project.”

Blusk, who oversees UT’s test-beam studies program, considers training the next generation of particle physicists as mission-critical. “The test-beam program, in many ways, mimics a scaled-down version of the detector we plan to install, so our students get a broad view of the complexities of planning and building an experiment,” he says. “This is vital to the overall LHCb upgrade, and is essential for the collaboration to continue producing cutting-edge physics results.”

Wilkinson applauds the Syracuse physicists’ contributions to advancing fundamental science, and looks forward to their continuing efforts. “LHCb is one the great adventures of modern science,” he says.

Stone agrees: “It’s said that physics is one of humanity’s great success stories. But it’s one that is far from over.”
EXPLORATIONS IN AGING

The SU Aging Studies Institute takes a multidisciplinary approach to the ever-evolving issues confronting older citizens

| BY AMY SPEACH
With aging populations in the United States and around the world larger than ever, policy makers and practitioners across disciplines face an evolving set of concerns. What are the social, cultural, health, and economic implications of this demographic shift, and how will they be addressed? How does the aging experience vary by race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexual orientation? Are people living longer and in better health, or are those extra years just years of disability? In what ways are younger and older generations important to one another and interdependent?

The Syracuse University Aging Studies Institute (ASI) welcomes opportunities to explore and answer such questions, bringing together expert faculty who team up to develop insightful and practical solutions through multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach. A collaborative initiative of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, the ASI comprises more than 40 faculty affiliates from a dozen departments. Established in 2011 and housed in Lyman Hall, it builds on the work and reputation of the University’s Gerontology Center, which was founded in 1972 as one of the nation’s first programs specifically targeted at researching aging issues.

The institute provides education and training to undergraduates through a minor in gerontology, to graduate students through courses and assistantships, and to faculty through its seminars, conferences, and summer workshops. Its outreach activities include disseminating research findings, training gerontology educators, and working with age-related nonprofit organizations. “At the ASI, we use the term ‘aging’ very broadly,” says sociology professor Janet Wilmoth, the institute’s director. “We’re not just studying ‘old folks.’ We’re interested in aging across the whole life course.”

In June, the ASI hosted an international conference on aging families, highlighting the contributions of older citizens. It drew to campus more than 120 people representing 21 countries and featuring some 75 presentations of scholarly research. The biggest event organized by the institute since its establishment, the conference helped solidify ASI’s reputation as a national and international leader on aging studies. Wilmoth is confident the institute will continue to be recognized for its outstanding scholarship. “As director, I’m working to sustain our areas of traditional strength, while also trying to cultivate new areas of expertise,” she says. “It’s exciting to see people from disciplines that do not typically think about these sorts of issues increasingly around the table with each other, talking about the possibilities in terms of their own research and in terms of training students.”

According to social work professor Eric Kingson, who received the 2015 Donald P. Kent Award from The Gerontological Society of America for exemplary teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to society, the University has long had “a great group of people” working in the field of aging. “The institute helps recognize and formalize what already existed, increases its reach, and creates a certain synergy for increased contributions to the field,” he says. “It’s extremely important, and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

A representative look at the diverse work of faculty affiliated with the ASI follows.
Contemporary Grandmothers

SOCIOMETRY PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR MADONNA HARRINGTON

Meyer, former director of SU’s Gerontology Center, focuses her research on aging, gender, and social policy. Her book, Grandmothers at Work: Juggling Families and Jobs (NYU Press, 2014), examines the experiences of the growing number of grandmothers who are both actively employed and significantly contributing to caring for their grandchildren. Harrington Meyer spoke with Syracuse University Magazine about the book, which was recognized with the 2014 Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award from The Gerontological Society of America.

How did your interest in this topic come about?
The early part of my career focused mostly on policy. I was mainly doing work on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. But during the last eight years, I’ve become obsessed with grandmothers! People have this image that grandma is retired, and maybe wearing an apron with a rolling pin in her hand. And that’s not really what most grandmothers are doing. The proportion of women in their 50s and 60s who are employed is the highest it’s ever been. And by age 50, half of all American women are grandmothers. As a country, we don’t have many federal policies that help working families. So who is to help families juggle work and family? Often a grandmother, who may also be juggling work and family. That’s what this book is about. I analyzed a national data set, the Health and Retirement Survey 2010, and I interviewed 48 working grandmothers.

What did your research reveal?
The book starts with a chapter called “Joy.” It may be the happiest chapter ever written in sociology, about the incredible joy the grandmothers I interviewed reported when caring for their grandchildren. But then the story grows more difficult. The next chapters talk about how intensive caring for grandchildren can be for many working grandmothers. Many were changing their work hours and using sick days and paid time off to take care of grandchildren. A lot of the grandmothers were providing a great deal of financial subsidization for younger generations, which sometimes meant going into debt. And the health implications were mixed. Some reported that they were more active and careful about their health, feeling energized by caring for grandchildren, while others were exhausted by it. One woman said her best friend was her bed.

What impact do you hope your work will have?
As researchers, we always hope other scholars will find our work useful in broadening their understandings, and that they might assign it to their students. Beyond that, there’s the hope that our work will impact public policy. If we’re concerned about working grandmothers, particularly those who are physically and financially depleted, the best way to help them may be to provide their adult children with better resources, so they don’t have so much difficulty juggling their own jobs and children. Federally guaranteed paid vacation, sick days, and parental leaves, for example, might help relieve pressure on parents, and therefore, on many working grandmothers.

Your next book is about grandparents who care for children with disabilities. Could you say something about the relationship between the work of the Aging Studies Institute and the field of disability studies?
I think it is a priority for the ASI to expand the sorts of research and projects we’re working on that involve disability, and I’m very happy for this next book to play a part. All of us share a concern and a commitment about inclusivity, and that can take a lot of different forms. The old-fashioned way to think about disability was to “fix” the person with the disability. The way to think about disability now is to fix the environment to accommodate all of us. And that’s a much more beneficial and fruitful way of thinking.
Early Help for Age-Related Hearing Loss

KAREN DOHERTY IS A COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS PROFESSOR and department chair in the College of Arts and Sciences whose current research examines the early stages of age-related hearing loss, focusing on people in their mid-40s through early 60s. She explains that the problem with age-related hearing loss, or presbycusis, is it happens so gradually that people are often unaware it’s creating communication problems for them. “It’s easy to not recognize gradual hearing loss as a problem and to think it is more related to the speaker or the conditions and environment in which you are trying to listen,” says Doherty (pictured below).

That factor, coupled with the stigma often associated with the idea of wearing a hearing aid, can prevent people from getting the help that’s available. In fact, according to Doherty, the average time lag between when someone begins to recognize they have trouble hearing and when they get a hearing aid is 10 years. That delay can result in early decline of cognitive abilities, difficulties in social and professional situations, and even depression. In her recent studies, Doherty has shown that hearing aids worn during the early stages of an age-related hearing loss can improve a person’s performance on auditory working memory tests, and reduce their listening effort in background noise. She’s working on getting the word out about the benefits of early detection and treatment of age-related hearing loss.

“In the old days, a hearing aid was just an amplifier that made everything louder. We now have digital hearing aids that are finely tuned to the specific individual’s hearing loss,” she says. “So technology has come a long way, but still only 20 percent of people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wear one. That statistic is even lower in the middle-age population: Only 15 percent of people in their 50s who could benefit from a hearing aid are wearing one.”

Doherty says the Aging Studies Institute supports her work by providing opportunities to interact and collaborate with colleagues who share her interest in people who are aging, but who have a different focus, approach, and area of expertise. For example, she was invited by law professor Mary Helen McNeal, director of the Elder Law Clinic at the College of Law, to provide feedback on a legal paper related to hearing aids. “People at ASI are so collaborative and supportive. It brings to the same table people who want to share ideas, which is a benefit to have right on campus,” Doherty says. “We can share our own expertise to strengthen each other’s research. And I always feel like it’s a great place for me to get excited about my own research at a different level.”
**Enriching Lives through Design**

MARJORIE DRINAN G’16 LOOKED AT A lot of graduate programs before finding exactly what she wanted in the new collaborative design master’s degree program at the School of Design in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “It interested me because the projects were centered on disability and aging, and that’s personal for me,” says Drinan, who worked at various nonprofit organizations for nine years before entering the program’s inaugural class in fall 2014. “I have a loved one who deals with a psychosocial disability, so I view design as a way to help people like him. And my grandma had dementia—I actually took some time off as an undergrad to take care of her.”

Industrial and interaction design professor Donald Carr, coordinator of the collaborative design graduate program, says the program was built on creating strategic alliances with the inherent strengths of the University. “The master’s degree in collaborative design is about applying user-centered research methodologies and an iterative process that goes into solving any design problem,” says Carr, an ASI faculty affiliate. “For us, aligning ourselves with the Aging Studies Institute is a great way to bring a complementary academic focus to the program.”

Last spring, collaborative design students met with elders in the community to learn about their living situations and discern various concerns that could be addressed. “They spent several weeks establishing trust and understanding needs,” Carr says. “Students also learned about elders’ patterns of communication with friends and family, as well as how they obtain services and manage their lives on a daily basis. By taking an empathic approach to research, it’s inevitable that multiple ideas emerge as to how to enrich their lives.”

Drinan’s project grew from her conversations with elders at a senior residence in Syracuse. “I noticed the issue of lack of control kept coming up, and some fear about speaking up for themselves,” she says. In response, Drinan designed a board game, Words from the Wise, as a vehicle that allows discussion about difficult issues to be role-played in game form and, hopefully, helps break down barriers and improve communication.

At semester’s end, Drinan and her fellow students in the program presented their projects at the ASI. “That was a wonderful opportunity for our students to present their ideas,” Carr says. “In essence they had the perfect audience—a range of experts who are knowledgeable about multiple facets of what the students were presenting.”

This semester, the program’s focus shifted to adaptive design, another area with strong links to ASI and SU’s many experts in the field of disability studies. For Drinan, it’s further affirmation that she’s in the right place. “I really like that our program is geared toward designing for the greater good,” she says. “We’re not just mindlessly pumping out another object that might end up in a landfill. We’re looking at improving people’s lives. That’s the most valuable component for me.”

**Photo credits**

Top photo courtesy of VPA; photo left by Susan Kahn

Conversations with elders at a local senior residence inspired Marjorie Drinan G’16 to design a board game as part of her work in the collaborative design program.
Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Life Course Topics

Faculty affiliated with the Aging Studies Institute (ASI) are experts in such disciplines as anthropology, economics, engineering, law, neuroscience, psychology, policy studies, public administration, social work, sociology, and more. Their research interests define ASI’s five overarching thematic areas:

**Age-Based Public Policy and Well-Being** addresses issues related to federal, state, and local policy. Among faculty doing research in this area is economics professor Gary Engelhardt, the Melvin A. Eggers Faculty Scholar in the Maxwell School, a national expert in the economics of aging whose research focuses on the impact of Social Security on economic well-being in retirement, the impact of health and cognition on housing decisions in old age, and the role of financial literacy in saving behavior.

Sociology professor Jennifer Karas Montez, who studies growing inequalities in adult mortality across education levels and geographic areas within the United States, recently participated in a Capitol Hill briefing on the topic of education and mortality, in addition to being invited by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to participate in an expert panel meeting on women’s health and longevity.

Alejandro Garcia, the Jocelyn Falk Professor of Social Work, has been widely recognized for his distinguished career contributions related to social policy and elderly Latinos, including receiving the Life Achievement Award from the Association of Latina and Latino Social Work Educators, being named Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers, and receiving a Special Recognition Award for “outstanding leadership and advocacy on behalf of older adults” from the National Hispanic Council on Aging.

Social work professor Eric Kingson is one of the country’s foremost authorities on Social Security. His most recent book, co-written with Nancy Altman, is *Social Security Works! Why Social Security Isn’t Going Broke and How Expanding It Will Help Us All* (The New Press, 2015).

**Population Aging** considers the causes and consequences of a changing population age structure in the United States and worldwide. Douglas Wolf, the Gerald B. Cramer Professor of Aging Studies, is among the faculty doing leading research in this area. A demographer and policy analyst who studies aging and long-term care, he is on the steering committee of the National Health and Aging Trends Study, tracking trends in disability of older people. He also directs the Center for Aging and Policy Studies.

Sociology professors Andrew London and Janet Wilmoth are research partners exploring the ways military service affects people’s lives over time, including the health trajectories of older male veterans. Both are senior fellows in the University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families.

**Family Dynamics, Care Work, and Intergenerational Support** examines the nature of older adults’ family relationships and the flow of support across generations. Among faculty conducting research within this theme is Merrill Silverstein, the inaugural Marjorie Cantor Professor in Aging. An internationally recognized scholar on aging families, he does work that includes collaboration on the Longitudinal Study of Generations, tracking multi-generational families in California for four decades with a focus on family dynamics and mental health. He recently received two grants to investigate religious engagement in later life, including a $1.49 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Social Work professor Deborah Monahan has been a research investigator on projects related to the efficacy of support groups, community alternatives to long-term care, family caregiving, and kinship caregiving.

**Health and Functioning** addresses topics related to health across the life course, including cognitive functioning, hearing loss, and disability. Biology professor Donna Korol is among the faculty working in this realm. Her research focuses on the shifts in the brain across the lifespan and seeks to understand the molecular and cellular processes that contribute to healthy aging and to pathological brain aging, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. She also collaborates with the ASI in developing the Movement for Healthy Aging initiative.

Social work professor Maria Brown G’05, G’10 is a social gerontologist who uses the life course perspective to research the later-life experiences of socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, women, and racial and ethnic minorities. Her work also examines the long-term care experiences of cognitively disabled older adults and their caregivers.

**Aging Design, Engineering, and Technology** focuses on design issues related to aging, including inclusive design and medical devices. Among faculty doing research in this area are biomedical and chemical engineering professors Jürgen Babirad and Jay Henderson. Babirad is a specialist in rehabilitative and regenerative engineering whose work includes engaging undergraduates in hands-on projects, including vehicle modification for people with disabilities. In his research, Henderson explores the use of polymers in bone regeneration.
PERFECT HARMONY

Syracuse University’s choirs, choruses, and vocal ensembles raise their voices in the universal language of song

BY CHRISTINE YACKEL

Nick Godzak ’16 clearly remembers his first rehearsal with the University Singers. Everyone was congratulating him because he’d been admitted to SU’s most prestigious choral group as a first-year student. “I didn’t know what to say because I didn’t have a clue what it was,” says Godzak, a music education major in the Rose, Jules R., and Stanford S. Setnor School of Music. “But then we sang a beautiful Latin text, and nothing in my life prepared me for the sound that came out of a group of singers reading a piece of music for the first time. When I heard the last chord dissipate, I realized I was a part of something really special.”

The University Singers are just one of six outstanding ensembles offered for credit by Setnor’s choral activities program that are open to all students regardless of major. Participation in these groups—Hendricks Chapel Choir, Oratorio Society, University Singers, Women’s Choir, Concert Choir, and Windjammer vocal jazz ensemble—gives music students the opportunity to hone their skills to the highest artistic level, while non-music majors experience the pure joy of harmonious fellowship. “Our primary mission is to teach and train music students, but I believe there should be a choir for every student who wants to sing,” says John F. Warren, professor of music and director of choral activities at Setnor.

University Singers

Being a new member of the University Singers, which requires an annual audition, can be a humbling experience. In high school, the students were most likely featured soloists, but in college, they soon learn that nearly everyone is at the same level of musicality. “I quickly discovered I’m not the only one who can hit the high notes,” says Godzak, who sings tenor. “In choir, everyone has their own job to do, and finding your role is the most difficult part because everyone wants to be a leader. I had to take a step back and realize I didn’t have to be the showstopper.”

Conducted by Warren, the University Singers are a highly select, 35-member ensemble that performs the great choral repertoire of the last five centuries. For the first time, the group performed abroad last
spring, thanks to a one-time anonymous donation that made it possible for them to travel to France to compete in the 44th Grand Prix of the International Choral Competition—Florilège Vocal De Tours 2015. In addition to the competition, the students gave several concerts at various venues throughout the region. “Our first concert in a gorgeous 19th-century church in Paris wasn’t up to our high standards because we were jet lagged, exhausted from sightseeing, and distracted by being in a foreign country,” says music education major Rachel Heyman ’16. “I’ll never forget the talk Dr. Warren gave us after the concert. It was the turning point, because all of us realized we needed to get it together and refocus.”

At the competition in Tours, France, the University Singers competed with choirs from Finland, Hungary, Macedonia, and Sweden. Rising to the occasion, they gave three powerful performances of a cappella choral works, including pieces by Haydn and Duruflé, and African American spirituals to win the top honor. “When the awards were announced the translation lagged behind, so we didn’t realize we’d won first place,” Godzak says. “Then we all lost our minds crying and screaming—we couldn’t help it.”

Warren says he always dreamed of taking the choir overseas, but winning the grand prize was far beyond his expectations. Now it is on to Varna, Bulgaria, where the University Singers will compete in the European Choral Grand Prix in May, along with the individual winners from 2015. “We have to be there because only six choirs in the world are invited,” Warren says. “Chancellor Syverud, a choral singer himself, describes this as the ‘Final Four of Choral Competitions.’ I think it’s a wonderful metaphor that connects with a lot of people.”

Competing in the European Choral Grand Prix is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Godzak and Heyman, but so is their college graduation, which will be held on the same weekend next spring. Godzak says his mother is OK with him missing graduation because she knows he has his heart set on going to Bulgaria—as does Heyman. “This time we’ll be competing with a completely different mindset,” she says. “Now we know what it takes to win.”

**Oratorio Society**

Gail Van Dusen drove 84 miles round-trip from Cortland to Syracuse every Monday night for 16 years to attend Oratorio Society rehearsals on the top floor of Crouse College. “I hadn’t done anything other than sing in a church choir since graduating from Ithaca College School of Music, and I really wanted to sing in this semi-professional group that has always had a
great reputation,” Van Dusen says. “I drove through a lot of ‘interesting’ weather, but I did it because singing with others who were serious about performing great musical works was fun for me in spite of the commute.”

The Oratorio Society is SU’s largest choral ensemble, with approximately 30 students and 100 staff, faculty, and community members of all ages and professions. The audition-only, mixed ensemble was formed in 1975 when the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra (SSO) needed a chorus for a performance of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Under the baton of internationally renowned conductors, the Oratorio Society has performed such major choral repertoire as the Mozart and Verdi requiems, Mendelssohn’s oratorio Elijah, Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony, and the Sea Symphony by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Soule Leiter ‘66, G’76, who sang in the Hendricks Chapel Choir as an undergraduate and was a member of the Oratorio Society for 18 years, says during performances there can be a magical moment when everything comes together. “In an instant, the conductor, orchestra, and singers become one, and it touches your soul,” Leiter says.

Warren became the fourth conductor of the group in 2011, soon after the SSO filed for bankruptcy. “It’s been challenging at times,” he says. “Our membership dipped at first since the group was created to perform large choral works with orchestra, but it was good for us to do some different things, especially a cappella pieces that helped hone our listening and intonation skills. But I feel good about where we are today because we’re continuing to perform major choral pieces at a high level with the Syracuse University Symphony Orchestra and Symphoria, the area’s newest professional orchestra.” During the 2015-16 season, the group is scheduled to present the Fauré and Brahms requiems, Handel’s Messiah, and the premiere of Credo, a choral piece composed by Setnor professor Joe Downing for the Oratorio Society and the combined choirs of six local churches.

Linda Saul, senior project manager for the Department of Enterprise Process Support at SU, is in her 31st year as an Oratorio member. “I know inside what it means to me to sing with this group, but it’s difficult to put into words,” she says. “The unity and teamwork required to produce such beautiful music and depth of feeling is thrilling. And I’ve gotten to know some really interesting students. I’m so grateful to the University for continuing to support Oratorio because it means so much to the members of the chorus and community.”

**Hendricks Chapel Choir**

John Matthews ’83 auditioned for the Hendricks Chapel Choir after hearing the group sing at his freshman Convocation. A broadcast journalism major, he managed to find time in his busy schedule to practice two nights a week and sing at the service each Sunday morning. “For me, the choir was akin to being in a fraternity,” he says. “It was very much a combination
Concert Choir
The Concert Choir is a mixed, non-auditioned choir open to any student or staff member who loves to sing. Directed by Setnor professor Elisa Dekaney, the choir performs every year at Family Weekend and prepares at least two major concerts during the academic year. The repertoire consists of music from such historical periods as Baroque, Classical, and Romantic, with particular emphasis on music from global cultures.

Women’s Choir
The Women’s Choir offers SU women who love to sing an opportunity to study and perform a diverse choral repertoire and enjoy an active performance schedule, including an annual festival with distinguished guest conductors. Under the direction of Barbara M. Tagg ’69, G’70, G’97 since 1996, the choir, which does not require an audition, has become known for its innovative and versatile programming, drawing on music from various historical periods and contemporary compositions representing many different styles and cultures.

Windjammer
Windjammer is Syracuse University’s vocal jazz ensemble. Established in 1981, this audition-only group performs several styles of jazz, including swing, bop, contemporary, Latin, and blues, with an emphasis on vocal improvisation. Under the direction of Setnor professor Jeff Welcher, the 16 voices of Windjammer perform literature from the most current catalogs of vocal jazz writers and arrangers. The ensemble has shared the stage with an impressive list of performing artists and jazz educators and has performed in a variety of venues.
“The Hendricks Chapel Choir is the most diverse of all the student choral groups…. they're in it because they want to be, and engaging with people outside of their majors keeps all of the students in touch with their humanity.” –PROFESSOR PEPPIE CALVAR

Professor Peppie Calvar, assistant director of choral activities at the Setnor School of Music, conducts the Hendricks Chapel Choir at the annual Holidays at Hendricks concert (top).

Alumni of the Hendricks Chapel Choir rehearse a hymn with student choir members in preparation for the Sunday service during Orange Central 2015.

of enjoying the music, while also forming real friendships with my choir mates. Whether it was throwing on a choir robe over my T-shirt and jeans on Sunday mornings, going to the Varsity after rehearsals, or singing Christmas carols as part of the annual holiday concert, all are very special memories.”

When Hendricks Chapel opened its doors in fall 1930, a notice was placed in The Daily Orange inviting students to try out for the newly formed chapel choir. Under the direction of Arthur Poister, who arrived on campus in 1948, the choir grew into a musical organization of high stature. Today, the choir is an auditioned ensemble of students representing a broad spectrum of academic majors. In fact, of the 37 choir members, half are non-music majors. “The Hendricks Chapel Choir is the most diverse of all the student choral groups,” says Professor Peppie Calvar, assistant director of choral activities and conductor of the choir for the past three years. “I like that. Since the choir doesn’t fulfill any requirements for music majors, they’re in it because they want to be, and engaging with people outside of their majors keeps all of the students in touch with their humanity.”

The Hendricks Chapel Choir requires the largest time commitment of any of the student choral ensembles, and members can earn one hour of revolving course credit through the College of Visual and Performing Arts. One of the great campus choral traditions, the choir provides music for the Sunday morning United Methodist Ecumenical Campus Ministry service, as well as for such special events as the annual Holidays at Hendricks—the group’s biggest artistic endeavor. “The choir is a sanctuary for me,” says Veronica Ortiz-Calderon ’16, a television, radio, film major in the Newhouse School who hails from Puerto Rico. “Taking a break from my high-stress, day-to-day commitments to sing together is really a blessing. Once you become a member of the choir, you’re family for life, and that’s how we like to treat each other—with love and acceptance always.”

Those who have sung in the choir remain extremely loyal alumni because many say it helped shape their lives. Each year, former members come back during Orange Central to join the choir in singing the last hymn and final blessing at the Sunday service. “This is my ninth semester in the choir, so I have worked with many students and conductors over the years, yet the one thing that remains constant is the love that exists amongst this group,” says Sara Morey ’14, G’16, the choir’s graduate teaching assistant. “The Hendricks Chapel Choir will forever be one of the most prominent and meaningful memories of my time at SU.”
In revealing a long-hidden family secret, an alumna author sheds light on her grandfather’s influential role in the covert operation to assassinate the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide

BY MARIAN MESROBIAN MACCURDY
FOR THE FIRST SIX YEARS OF MY LIFE, my parents, brother, and I lived in my maternal grandparents’ house near Elmwood Park in Syracuse. The six of us were crammed into a small early 20th-century frame house with a front porch and tiny back study that served as my bedroom with an enticingly flat roof outside its window that looked out onto our grape arbor, fruit trees, and strawberry patch where my grandmother caught the thieving bunny she spanked and sent on its way.

Aaron Sachaklian, my grandfather, spent most of his days in the red leather chair near the wooden radio he listened to every day, silently smoking his Camels with shaking fingers, perhaps from undiagnosed Parkinson’s that would, years later, steal my mother’s smile and cause her shuffling gait. But when I was a young child, this quiet man who wore a three-piece suit nearly every day of his life, bounced me on his foreleg, carried me through the doorways on his shoulders like a coronated queen, and took me outside at dusk to survey the peach, pear, and apple trees beyond our back door. When my grandmother, Eliza, and I made our weekly trip to Abajian Cleaners three blocks down on South Avenue, I was the one to carry his wool coat, hugging it to my chest, saying, “I love my medz-hairig (grandfather). I wish he would live forever.” My grandfather lived to 84, the last few years in mental and visual darkness, his eyesight failing, his prodigious brain’s neurons deadened from a series of strokes. Thinking me his wife as a young woman, he called me Eliza, took my hand in his, stroked it, and held it to his cheek. No one in our family knew until close to 25 years after his death in 1964 that my grandfather was the financial and logistical leader of the covert operation—known as Operation Nemesis—to assassinate the architects of the Armenian genocide of 1915. My paternal grandmother ran from her home with her infant daughter to the American mission to escape the Turks’ scimitars, knives, and shovels, while her husband fled his workplace in town to hide in the woods, escaping on a freighter bound for the United States. They were separated for more than 10 years. My maternal grandmother, Eliza, and her family survived two atrocities: They hid on their roof to evade the Hamidian massacres of 1894-96 in which up to 300,000 Armenians were killed, and survived the Adana massacres of 1909 that killed 30,000 by fighting back when the Turks held their town, Dortyol, under siege. My maternal grandfather, Aaron Sachaklian, narrowly escaped death during the massacres of 1894-96 while making his way out of Turkey to the United States. In 1908, after the Constitution was restored briefly allowing travel, he returned to Turkey to see his family. While there, the 1909 massacres in Adana erupted, and Aaron, now a U.S. citizen, implored the foreign consul officials to intercede with the Turks and lift the Dortyol siege, and foreign intervention saved the lives of the Armenians in Dortyol. Eliza’s brother, Mihran, one of the resistance leaders, was imprisoned for his bravery in

Aaron Sachaklian, the author’s grandfather

In an October 30, 1921, letter written to the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Central Committee in Boston (above), Soghomon Tehlirian, who had killed Talat Pasha in Berlin that March, states in oblique terms that other ARF operatives are actively pursuing targets. In London at the time, he was using the alias Saro Melikian, and writes that he may have trouble getting a visa to stay in England and asks that money be sent to him via a church there.

All photos (except where noted) and letter are courtesy of Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy, author of Sacred Justice: The Voices and Legacy of the Armenian Operation Nemesis (Transaction, 2015)
sneaking past Turkish guns to break up the dam the Turks built in the creek that supplied the town’s water, saving citizens’ lives. When asked why he resisted, he said, “Even a dumb animal will try to protect itself. You attacked us and we resorted to arms to protect ourselves.” As my grandmother wrote in her memoirs, “They silenced him with their beatings.” My grandmother said her mother washed her son’s bloody underwear sent home by his jailors with her tears. When my grandmother exhorted me to eat every last pea on my plate, saying, “remember the starving Armenians,” it had more than rhetorical power. I was raised on my grandmother’s stories of resistance, but my grandfather never spoke of those days, and I, unconsciously respecting his silence, never asked.

These massacres prefigured the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23 that so shocked the world that a charity was formed in 1915, under the leadership of James L. Barton and Cleveland H. Dodge, to provide humanitarian relief. First known as The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief and later renamed the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, this charity created refugee camps, orphanages, hospitals, and vocational training programs that saved the lives of 132,000 orphans from Yerevan and Constantinople to Damascus and Beirut. In 1930, the organization, renamed the Near East Foundation, expanded its reach to include North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the larger Middle East. Then, in 2010, the foundation moved its headquarters to Syracuse, where it has partnered with Syracuse University to engage students and faculty in international development work.

My family would have been proud and happy to learn of this partnership. Aaron Sachaklian, one of the first CPAs in Connecticut, moved to Syracuse in 1919 to work for the accounting firm Hopstein, Olney & Company and lived there the rest of his life. His three children graduated from Syracuse University, and his youngest daughter, my mother, Arpena Mesrobian, who also earned a master’s degree from the Maxwell School in 1993, became the director of Syracuse University Press. My brother, William Mesrobian ‘67, and I are SU graduates, and I earned my doctorate in the humanities from SU in 1980.

DISCOVERING THE OPERATION NEMESIS LETTERS

In 1990 after my grandmother died, my family found a large collection of letters in my grandfather’s upstairs study, the room I slept in as a child. The letters were written by Armen Garo, Shahan Natalie, Soghomon Tehlirian, and others involved in Operation Nemesis. My grandfather had never spoken of Nemesis to anyone in his family, including his wife. My mother, knowing immediately what she had discovered, took the letters to her house. Her mother’s memoirs were safely stored in her second-floor study, but these letters, perhaps seen as too radioactive to be allowed upstairs, sat in boxes on the damp cement floor in her basement, their contents carefully catalogued and summarized (for which I am thankful to this day), waiting for the next flood to wipe out the faint ink. By the time I pulled the letters out of the basement, some were still damp, others were dry but with running ink, and others thankfully had escaped the water unscathed. I opened up their wet or crackling pages one by one with shaking hands and laid the damp ones on the kitchen table to dry in the sunlight they had not seen in close to 88 years.

The voices of these extraordinary men demonstrated poignantly and powerfully the danger, complexity, and importance of this work. The three leaders were Armen Garo, the soul of Nemesis, Armenian ambassador to the United States; Shahan Natalie, the heart, the humanist, poet, and actor, whose intensity and fervor are imprinted onto every page he wrote; and Aaron Sachaklian, the head, the careful, cerebral anchor who figured out how to fund and organize this massive effort. Also in his file I found the list, in Shahan Natalie’s handwriting, of 100 Turkish perpetrators of the genocide and nearly 65 photographs of them—a few actual portraits and most clipped from newspapers. These photographs were sent to the assassins in the field to ensure that the targets were accurately identified. The prime directive for Operation Nemesis—which was followed to the letter—was injure no innocent people. What motivated these men, some of whom had families, to assume such risk?
SEEKING JUSTICE

Between 1915 and 1923 about a million and a half Armenians were slaughtered by the Turks, hundreds of thousands more were destitute and starving, and the lucky few who had found passage out of Turkey were struggling to survive in new lands with as yet unknown languages and terrain. Then on the night of November 2-3, 1918, Talaat Pasha and other Ottoman leaders responsible for the genocide escaped from Turkey on a torpedo boat across the Black Sea. They had been convicted in Turkish tribunals of capital crimes for their leadership roles in the Armenian Genocide, but the political will to extradite them was lacking. It is against this backdrop that we place the work of Operation Nemesis. These Armenians could not go on with their post-genocide lives without seeking justice for the deaths of their family, friends, and community members, especially when it became clear that the perpetrators remained free to continue their genocidal actions.

The three leaders of Operation Nemesis were well educated, spoke multiple languages, and were single-minded in their dedication to their mission. The field operators were survivors, relatives, and/or friends of those who had perished and had experience either fighting in the Caucasus with Armenian military leaders or acting as underground couriers and escorts for fleeing Armenians. The work they engaged in had benefits and costs: The work of Nemesis was virtually the only justice the Armenians have had in the nearly 100 years since the genocide. The costs are equally definitive: While the letters demonstrate the strength, resilience, and dedication necessary for these men to succeed in their mission, also clear is the emotional and psychological pain and stress they endured every day, in silence, for many years speaking of their efforts only to each other. In a letter dated March 17, 1921, two days after the assassination of Talaat Pasha, Armen Garo wrote: “The situation in the homeland is hopeless as far as the famine is concerned…. During these heavy days when our people again are convulsing in the claws of death…Shahan’s success is the only consoling event.”

I could understand my mother’s reticence regarding what to do with these Nemesis materials. My grandfather was the quiet, careful patriarch of the Armenian community, the last person one would associate with Operation Nemesis. I was also fascinated by exactly that point: How did it happen that my gentle grandfather was a leader of a plot to assassinate anyone, even these mass murderers? His most intense punishment when I misbehaved as a child was a stern look or a squeeze of my arm. How could his family know noth-
ing? His small children had played under the dining room table where these men met and planned. But, of course, silence was crucial. To give some idea of the secrecy involved, one of the letters is in code: It reads like gibberish, but when a cut-out template is placed on top of the letter, the actual message, written by Soghomon Tehlirian, who killed Talaat Pasha, is revealed. The letter was written to Hamo Paraghamian, the agent assigned to facilitate Tehlirian’s mission. I remember Hamo, a close family friend, as a huge, jolly Santa Claus figure who scooped up young children in his arms, myself included, and played jokes on them— not one I would have guessed to move large sums of money to assassins. In his coded letter Tehlirian states that he will wait in Geneva until he receives his assignment. These men were determined to succeed in their mission, and succeed they did. Between 1920 and 1922 at least eight Turkish leaders and three Armenian traitors were killed. The men of Operation Nemesis saw this as “a sacred work of justice” as Shahan Natalie described it.

The most important “work of justice” was Tehlirian’s assassination of Talaat Pasha, the primary architect of the genocide, on March 15, 1921, on a Berlin street. Immediately after Tehlirian’s arrest, the police began looking for accomplices, but none were found, and the defense attorney was able to sustain the fiction that this was not a premeditated murder. The Germans did little to dislodge this concept, given their possible culpability in the genocide.

Tehlirian was aided by a large network of talented members of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), a political organization formed in 1890 to advocate for reform against human rights abuses in Turkey. Armenians were third-class citizens, subject to high taxes, repeated massacres, loss of their homes, sexual assaults of their women, and lack of recourse in the courts. My grandfather, Aaron, had met with Simon Zavarian, an ARF founder, when he went back
A CONTINUING THREAT

Today, parts of the Middle East continue to be under extreme threat, especially in Iraq and Syria where many descendants of the Armenians who escaped the genocide are again under siege from Muslim extremists, and genocides still occur in the world in spite of the promise of “never again.” However, some progress toward recognition of the Armenian Genocide has been made: Forty-three states in the United States have recognized it, as has most of Europe, even if the U.S. government cannot quite bring itself to use the term “genocide.” Equally important, 100 years later, Turkish society is shifting—the June 7, 2015 election brought three Armenians to the Turkish Parliament, and now some Turks are asking important questions about what happened in 1915. In the past, just to speak of the Armenian Genocide was to risk imprisonment. The Kurds and the Armenians are burying old hurts and supporting human rights. But the biggest change has been the re-emergence in 1991 of an independent Armenia. Though poor and isolated, it is a democracy making slow but steady economic progress, with support from a grateful diaspora.

My grandfather is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, down the street from Syracuse University. A picture of his tombstone and the location of the cemetery are posted on a Nemesis website. I am not sure he would approve of the publicity. He served the church he helped build as its financial manager for many years; he and his wife provided homes for many displaced Armenian families after World War II; he wrote countless letters to governments, churches, and prominent leaders on behalf of his people and penned a play that was performed in Syracuse. But his most difficult, dangerous, and significant work no one, not even his family, knew about until after his death. At the end of his life my grandmother heard him say, “I could have done more.”

This article is based on Mariam Mesrobian MacCurdy’s book, Sacred Justice: The Voices and Legacy of the Armenian Operation Nemesis (Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2015). A retired professor and chair of the Department of Writing at Ithaca College, Mesrobian MacCurdy ’66, G’72, G’80 is currently visiting professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and blogs for the Huffington Post. She is also the co-editor of Writing and Healing: Toward an Informed Practice (NCTE, 2000) and the author of The Mind’s Eye: Image and Memory in Writing About Trauma (UMass Amherst, 2007).
TWISTS AND TWIRLS

SINCE 1947, ORANGE GIRLS HAVE WOWED FANS WITH THEIR BATON WIZARDRY

BY CHRISTINE YACKEL

A SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY TRADITION WAS BORN ON A CRISP AUTUMN AFTERNOON in 1947 when Jessie Ann Harp ‘48 entered Archbold Stadium on horseback, twirling her batons alongside the SU Marching Band (SUMB) at the Syracuse-Niagara football game. At that time, the SUMB, which was formed in 1925, was all-male. With the addition of Harp, the band soon became known as “100 Men and a Girl,” and from that day forward, 23 “Orange Girls” have twirled their way into the hearts and history of Syracuse University.

Dottie Grover ’53 took up the baton next, earning renown for her twirling theatrics. Her farewell performance with the band was at SU’s first-ever Orange Bowl game on New Year’s Day, 1953. Grover handed the baton twirling duties to SU’s third Orange Girl, Alta Burg ’57, who led the band onto the field at the 1957 Cotton Bowl. From 1957 to 1961, Orange Girl Janet Kay Smith ’61, an international baton twirling champion, dazzled the crowds in Archbold by twirling fire batons. “When the announcers introduced me before a game, they would say, ‘Take it away Janet Kay,’” she says. “Then I would throw my baton over the goal posts and off we went. It was so exciting.”

The 100 Men and a Girl moniker stuck until 1966, when female instrumentalists were finally allowed to play in the marching band. Yet the Orange Girl tradition lives on today with every twist and twirl performed by Meghan Sinisi ’17, a communication sciences and disorders major in the College of Arts and Sciences from Altoona, Pennsylvania. In addition to leading the SUMB onto the football field in the Carrier Dome, Sinisi often performs solo at basketball games and other events in the community, entertaining her audiences by twirling up to three fire batons at once. “I’ve always dreamed of being the sole feature twirler for a major university,” she says. “I enjoy being in the spotlight and showing my Syracuse pride and school spirit by doing what I love.”

At an Orange Girl reunion during Orange Central in October, Sinisi had an opportunity to get together with some of her predecessors, including Janet Kay (Smith) Dean and her husband, John Dean ’59, a former band member. Both depended on scholarship aid to complete their college educations and know firsthand how important financial assistance is to fulfilling dreams. That’s why they established the Janet Kay Smith Feature Twirler Scholarship to support the Orange Girls of the future, and ensure this time-honored tradition will continue for generations to come. “I’m so happy the Deans’ scholarship benefits baton twirlers,” Sinisi says. “It really adds to the prestige of the position, and that’s so cool.”
“When the announcers introduced me before a game, they would say, ‘Take it away Janet Kay.’ Then I would throw my baton over the goal posts and off we went. It was so exciting.”

—Orange Girl Janet Kay Smith ’61

Orange Girl Meghan Sinisi ’17 (above) carries on a twirling legacy that includes Alta Burg ’57 (top right), Dottie Grover ’53 (left), and Janet Kay Smith ’61 (facing page).
Forever Orange

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU who joined us on campus for Orange Central Homecoming in October. The weekend was an extraordinary celebration of the more than 250,000 members of our Orange family. On behalf of all alumni, I would like to extend my congratulations to Eggers Award recipients Molly Corbett Broad ‘62, H’09 and Harriette Line Thompson ’47; Arents Award recipients Erica Branch-Ridley ’87, Eric Mower ’66, G’68, Donna Shalala G’70, H’87, and Brandon Steiner ’81; and Generation Orange Award recipient Muss Akram ’10.

I enjoyed meeting so many of you! If you were not able to make it to campus, perhaps you participated on social media. By liking Syracuse University Alumni on Facebook, following @SUAlums on Twitter and Instagram, or joining the Syracuse University Alumni Network Group on LinkedIn, you’ll stay connected to campus even when you’re hundreds or thousands of miles away.

I am constantly reminded of the power of our Orange alumni network. One 2014 graduate recently shared a story of how, when she moved to a new country, she used LinkedIn to connect with a 1980 SU graduate. They met for lunch—3,600 miles from the campus that created their bond. The shared Syracuse University experience unites us all.

During my term as president of the Syracuse University Alumni Association (SUAA), the board will focus on uncovering and sharing more of these stories, as well as on increasing the percentage of alumni who contribute to Syracuse University. Tuition and fees cover only about 85 percent of the cost of a Syracuse University education. Your contributions help to close that gap. As you consider giving, I encourage you to reflect on your years at SU. What are you most passionate about?

Additionally, our board will focus on connecting with SU’s incredible students—our future alumni—through campus speaking engagements, immersion experiences, internship opportunities, and more.

All of you can count on the SUAA to support the best interests and traditions of our beloved alma mater. We will continue to work closely with the Office of Alumni Engagement, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators as we help you to remain Forever Orange.

Go Orange!

Mark Verone ‘95
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association

CLASSNOTES
NEWS from SU ALUMNI »

SEND US NEWS OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
To submit information for Class Notes via the Internet, go to alumni.syr.edu and register with the SU Alumni Online Community. Items will appear in the magazine and in the Class Notes section of the online community. Items can also be sent to Alumni Editor, Syracuse University Magazine; 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308; Syracuse, NY 13244-5040.

40s

Gloria Mitchell Lagergren ‘46 (VPA) is a retired artist whose career included establishing her own needlepoint design business, and a 50-year relationship with the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur (Delaware) Museum as an artist and guide specialist. In March 2014, her paintings of pansies were exhibited in the Hall Gallery at Stonegate Retirement Community in Greenville, Del., where she resides.

James H. Abbott ‘49 (A&S), G’50 (MAX) of Syracuse, a retired hospital administrator, was honored at Upstate University Hospital in June as its first CEO. The hospital’s lobby was named for Abbott, who was hospital administrator at Upstate from 1964 to 1971, having served as an administrator at Good Shepherd Hospital at SU (now Huntington Hall) before that.

60s

Sorrell Chesin G’60 (EDU), who retired last year after more than 45 years in administrative positions at the University at Albany, SUNY (UAlbany), is president of the UAlbany Emeritus Center, an association that serves some 700 retired faculty, administrators, and professionals with emeritus status. He was also appointed to the Governance Council of the UAlbany Senate.

Sidney Tarrow ’60 (A&S), professor emeritus of government and visiting professor of law at Cornell University, wrote War, States, and Contention: A Comparative Historical Study (Cornell University Press), an examination of how social movements and contentious politics in general influence war-making.

Howard A. Palley G’63 (MAX), a professor emeritus and distinguished fellow at the Institute for Human Services Policy in the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, co-edited Comparative Health Care Federalism (Ashgate Publishing), an examination of health care federalism within a competitive global context, and co-wrote two chapters in the book, as well as its conclusion.
Bill McDonald ’64 (A&S) of Woodstock, Vt., participated in a 3,000-mile transcontinental bike ride from Astoria, Ore., to Niagara Falls in 39 days last summer.

Leo V. Kanawada Jr. G’65 (MAX) of Hicksville, N.Y., wrote Captain, Infantry (AuthorHouse), a first-person account of his active duty assignment as a U.S. Army ROTC infantry officer in South Korea and South Vietnam in the mid-1960s.

Michael Morgan ’65 (A&S), professor emeritus at Indiana University, is the Grafstein Chair in Philosophy and Jewish Studies at University of Toronto. He published his 19th book, Rethinking the Messianic Idea in Judaism (Indiana University Press), in fall 2014.

Edward Susman ’67 (A&S) of West Palm Beach, Fla., is featured in the documentary Enquiring Minds: The Untold Story of the Man Behind The National Enquirer. An internationally published freelance medical writer and the author of four books, he worked for the tabloid newspaper for 18 years.

Mark S. Harvey ’68 (A&S), a musician, minister, and educator teaching at MIT, was named the 2015 Boston Jazz Hero by the Jazz Journalists Association, which recognized 24 activists/advocates nationally who made significant contributions to their communities. He also published a historical essay as part of the compilation recording The Boston Creative Jazz Scene 1970-1983 (Cultures of Soul Recordings), which includes a selection by his own ensemble.

Peter Klein ’68 (WSM), founder of PK Associates growth management consultancy in Rye Brook, N.Y., co-wrote Think to Win: Unleashing the Power of Strategic Thinking (McGraw-Hill Education), which demystifies the strategic thinking process and provides a straightforward blueprint for success (www.thinktowin.net).

Gary W. Porcelli G’70, G’93, G’01 (EDU) is president of the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer (N.Y.) Cooperative Board of Education.

Shirin N. Velji G’70 (MAX) received the Western College (Ohio) Alumnae Association 2015 Service Award at her 50th reunion in June, recognizing her lifetime commitment to education, civic engagement, and humanitarian public service. Now retired, she worked with the World Bank from 1973 to 1997, followed by human services work with a private firm in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika. She and her husband have since relocated to Kirkland, Wash., to be near family, including their four grandchildren.

Thomas Croswell ’71 (A&S), president and chief operating officer of Tufts Health Plan in Watertown, Mass., is board chair of the Alzheimer’s Association of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Warren Schultz ’71 (A&S) of New York City is executive editor at Modern Farmer magazine. In September, he left for Senegal on a Peace Corps assignment as an urban agriculture specialist.

Toni Sullivan ’71 (A&S) of West Sacramento, Calif., spent 13 years on the island of Crete in Greece, where she also climbed Psiloriti, the island’s highest mountain at 8,057 feet. A retired chef, she still loves to cook for fun.

Linda Wentz Nash ’72 (NEW) wrote Dear Dead Dad (Amazon Digital Services), a novel exploring the death of a horseman named Dan, told from the perspective of his daughters.

David J. Noonan L’72 (LAW), a partner at Kirby Noonan Lance & Hoge law firm in San Diego, was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 and was honored for his 20th anniversary on the list of notable attorneys.

Howard Sholkin ’72 (NEW), a marketing communication writing instructor at Boston University and Lasell College in Newton, Mass., is chair of the Public Relations Society of America’s Investment Committee. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Newton Festival of the Arts.

Peter H. Weinberger ’72 (A&S), managing partner of the Cleveland-based law firm Spangenberg, Shibley & Liber, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016.

Louis P. DiLorenzo ’73 (A&S), a managing member of the Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm New York City office, was named one of the top 20 practitioners in the area of traditional labor and employment law in a survey published in Human Resource Executive magazine in June. He was also selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016.

John G. McCowan ’73 (A&S), L’81 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016. He was also recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Seryl Friedner Strich ’73 (FALK/ESF) is president of the Orange County (Calif.) Podiatric Medical Association, the first woman president in the association’s history.

Barry R. Kogut ’74 (A&S), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016. He was also recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Donald P. Sanford G’75 (NEW) of Madison, Wis., wrote On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota (Commodore’s Press), the story of the people, places, and events that shaped the shoreline of Madison’s greatest lake (www.LakeMendotaHistory.com).


Cynthia Weixel ’76 (A&S/NEW) and Frank Surette ’77 (NEW) celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in May with a trip to Sicily. Cynthia is a staff attorney at the Social Security Administration in Falls Church, Va., and Frank is a financial advisor at Mass Mutual in Vienna, Va. They have two daughters and live in McLean, Va., with summers in Cape Cod.

Richard Ehrlickman G’77 (E&CS) co-founded TransactionsIP, an intellectual property brokerage and consulting firm in Boca Raton, Fla.

Thomas Fensch G’77 (NEW) wrote The Sordid Hypocrisy of To Protect and To Serve (New Century Books), his 33rd nonfiction book, described as “a savage indictment of the worst police practices in America.”
Thank You, Uncle Sam
BY GEORGE MAROTTA

WITH $900 IN MY SAVINGS account, I started college at Syracuse University in September 1944 during World War II. I selected Syracuse because I had a free railroad pass (my father worked on the New York Central Railroad) and I could travel frequently by train between my hometown of Albany, New York, and Syracuse. Because I had been student president of Schuyler High School in Albany, and with the help of my campaign manager George Archer ’49, I ran for freshman president at SU. However, I lost to Duane Truex ’47, a returning wounded veteran. In December, I completed one semester and had $300 left. Then, in January 1945, I was drafted into the U.S. Army and served two years as an infantryman in the Philippines and Japan.

When I returned to Syracuse in January 1947, I had the advantage of the GI Bill, which paid for one month of college for each of the 24 months of my military service. With that benefit, I was able to get a degree in political science, and it also paid for half of my master’s degree in public administration at the Maxwell School. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, known informally as the GI Bill, gave 2.2 million veterans the benefit of a college education. This huge educational benefit was a shot in the arm for the U.S. economy, which after a short downturn, advanced and greatly increased the standard of living of many Americans.

When I returned from military service, it was difficult to purchase a car because none were made during the war and cars were scarce. However, I found a 1929 Dodge Brothers’ car that was in excellent shape. A widow in Albany had it up on blocks in her garage. There was a crack in the glass of the rear taillight. When I asked her if the light worked, she replied she did not know as they drove it only on Sunday afternoons!

My large four-door Dodge Brothers’ car was very attention-getting. It had white wooden-spoke wheels, tasseled shades on the rear windows, and large shiny chromed headlights. However, there were problems. It had split rims that made it difficult to change tubes and tires. Also, the old tires had dried out and they no longer made tires of that size. So I made frequent visits to car junkyards. In the cold winters of Syracuse, getting the motor going required using the push-button starter and a crank.

To help meet expenses in college, I waited on tables in a coed dorm (Sims). Bettina Lestoque ’49, one of my coworkers, invited me to a dance at her residence where I met and later married June Mortlock, a sophisticated coed from the New York City area, after she graduated in 1948.

There were three or four times as many students at Syracuse University after the war than before, and housing was very scarce. June and I rented a trailer from the University for the huge sum of $25 a month! The Tecumseh Trailer Park was in a former apple orchard out on Nottingham Road adjacent to the beautiful Drumlins Country Club, and was very pleasant during the summer time. It was difficult in the winter, however, because the trailer was heated by kerosene and the bathroom was across the street.

All of the residents of the trailer park were students and we were a very cooperative community. I was in charge of the summer outdoor movies. We saved old newspapers and sold them to a recycling company. With the proceeds, we rented films to show at our weekly motion picture socials.

If we didn’t have the GI Bill, I would have gone back to college anyway, but it was much easier with it. After graduating, I easily passed the federal government oral and written entrance exams because of the training I had received at the Maxwell School. I served for 25 years as a career civil servant in the U.S. government. Thank you, again, Uncle Sam!

George Marotta ’50, G’S1 lives in Palo Alto, California. In addition to his distinguished career in government service, he is a longtime research fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution, specializing in international finance.
Melissa Killeen ’77 (VPA) is owner of Melissa Killeen Recovery Coaching in Laurel Springs, N.J., and author of Recovery Coaching: A Guide to Coaching People in Recovery from Addictions (CreateSpace, 2013). In July, she received the Vernon Johnson Award from Faces and Voices of Recovery at the America Honors Recovery gala, an annual event that celebrates and honors the nation’s most influential recovery community leaders and organizations.

Tracy Kaplan Leenman ’77 (A&S), G’83 (EDU/VPA) owns Musical Innovations, a school music retailer based in Greenville, S.C. The company was named to the National Association of Music Merchants list of the Top 100 Music Dealers in the World for the third consecutive year in May.

Bradley D. Myerson ’77 (A&S), an attorney at Myerson Law Offices in Manchester Center, Vt., was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016. This is the eighth year he has been listed.

Steven A. Paquette ’77 (NEW), L’79 (LAW), a member of the Syracuse law firm Bousquet Holstein, was recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Billy Sternberg ’77 (NEW) published two articles in the New York Observer that explore the 1930 disappearance of New York Supreme Court Judge Joseph Crater and its potential relationship to the 1929 death of Sternberg’s grandfather, New York State Assembly Member Maurice Bloch, a confidante of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Robin Cohen Westmiller ’77 (NEW) is N2 Publishing’s area director in Oxnard, Calif., and publisher of River Ridge Living, a social magazine for residents of River Ridge communities. She has also published several books under the pen name Raven West, including the romantic mystery First Class Male (CreateSpace, 2014).

Ann Tyler G’78, G’88 (EDU) is associate dean at the Western Michigan University College of Health and Human Services, where she is chair and professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Mark Roberts G’79 (A&S), a poet, fiction writer, and lyricist living in Los Angeles, released a music CD, Villanelle, under the pen name B.D. Love, in collaboration with singer-songwriter Maura Kennedy. The CD is nominated for a 2016 Grammy Award in the folk category.

Laurence G. Bousquet L’80 (LAW), a member of the Syracuse law firm Bousquet Holstein, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016.

James Vallone ’80 (WSM) is executive vice president and general auditor at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in New York City.

Douglas W. Whitney ’80 (ARC) is an architect who is CEO of WBRC Architects Engineers, a firm with offices in Maine and Florida. In August, he was inducted into the Francis Crowe Society at the University of Maine, an honor usually reserved for engineers. He is also a board member of SU’s SunCoast Alumni Club in Florida.

Kevin Young ’80 (A&S), an attorney at Tucker Ellis law firm in Cleveland, co-wrote the 2015 edition of the reference text Ohio Insurance Coverage (Thomson Reuters). He was also selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016.

Rose Federbach ’81 (NUR) and her husband, William Federbach ’83, G’90 (E&CS), of Raleigh, N.C., celebrates their 35th wedding anniversary in October. Rose served as a critical care nurse for most of her career, and is currently a peripera- tive nurse at Rex Hospital. She also played an active role with FEMA disaster relief. William recently retired from his position as vice president of engineering at Qualcomm Inc., where he led a team in development of the Snapdragon processor.

Edwin J. Kelley Jr. L’81 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016. He was also recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Miguel Lopez ’81 (NEW), a painter and sculptor whose work has been exhibited extensively in Bogotá, Colombia, was featured in Masters of the Imagination: The Latin American Fine Art Exhibition in September and October at the Agora Gallery in Chelsea, N.Y.

Kevin McLaughlin G’81 (NEW) completed five years of work on a documentary, The Week that Changed the World: The Newark Riots (weekthatchangedtheworld.com). The film explores race relations through the decades and includes interviews with every Newark mayor since the 1967 riots and recollections from numerous first-responders and citizens. Three of McLaughlin’s favorite singer-songwriters contributed to the project, including Garland Jeffreys ’65 (A&S).

Erick Weiss ’81 (VPA), president of Honeysweet Productions Inc. in Los Angeles, served as chief operating officer and executive producer of the 2015 Federation of International Lacrosse World Indoor Lacrosse Championships, held in Syracuse and the Onondaga Nation in September (www.wiik2015.com).

Gilbert M. Hoffman L’82 (LAW), a member of the Syracuse law firm in Syracuse, is co-chair of the Committee on Title and Transfer of the New York State Bar Association, Real Property Law Section.

Bridget Maloney Bush ’83 (A&S/NEW) serves on an eight-member commission to study the creation of a National Women’s History Museum in Washington, D.C. She practices law and writes a column for The Courier-Journal in Louisville.

Anne McGinness Kearse ’83 (FALK), a member attorney at Bousquet Holstein law firm in Syracuse, is co-chair of the Committee on Title and Transfer of the New York State Bar Association, Real Property Law Section.

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Chris Renaud '89

Fun at Work

ANIMATED FILM DIRECTOR
Chris Renaud has been intrigued by comic bad guys since childhood—long before supervillain and jelly manufacturer Felonius Gru, protagonist of the beloved Despicable Me movies, rallied his delightfully inept crew of Minions and unveiled his dastardly plan to steal the moon. Now a grownup who describes his job as “cool,” Renaud is co-director of the Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment films Despicable Me and Despicable Me 2, for which he received an Oscar nomination, and executive producer of Minions, the billion-dollar grossing prequel released in July. He finds it "hugely gratifying" that so many people have wholeheartedly embraced the films' characters. “As a kid, I loved things like comic books and Star Wars movies and The Pink Panther films my dad took me to,” says Renaud, who earned a B.F.A. degree in illustration from the College of Visual and Performing Arts and now lives and works in Paris. “It’s fun for me to be able to work on films that people are having a positive response to, similar to how I felt about the stories and characters that influenced me when I was younger.”

The path of Renaud’s career, which he characterizes as “a little bit convoluted,” began in New York City, where he worked as a graphic designer in the sports entertainment industry before getting his “first big break” drawing and writing comic books with DC Comics. He then moved into the world of children’s television as production designer on the Disney Channel’s The Book of Pooh, followed by his work with Blue Sky Studios as a story artist on such films as Robots, Ice Age: The Meltdown, and Horton Hears a Who! He also wrote and co-directed the animated short No Time for Nuts, which received an Annie Award and a 2007 Oscar nomination.

Now at Illumination Entertainment, where upcoming projects include The Secret Life of Pets, Despicable Me 3, and a remake of Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Renaud likens making an animated movie to trying to build an airplane while flying it. “A lot of my day is going from department to department, reviewing where we are at different stages of the process, and bouncing ideas around—what are the gags? How does the camera move?” says Renaud, who also lends his voice to Minion characters. “It’s a huge team, usually about 200 people or so on a film. So it’s a collaborative, iterative process. I'm lucky to work with a very talented team here, and good ideas come from all corners, which is great.”

Reflecting on his time at Syracuse, Renaud is grateful for the people he met and befriended as a student, as well as the exposure to disciplines and perspectives beyond the arts program in which he was enrolled. As an expression of that appreciation, he and his wife established the Chris and Lauren Renaud Fund for Illustration in the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 2012, supporting student travel expenses for the purpose of learning industry practices connected to their course of study.

He also offers up this piece of helpful advice to support young artists and other professionals as they enter their fields of choice. “You have to constantly be prepared to reinvent yourself and your skill set, while also maintaining your perspective, your voice,” he says. “What you have to say and how you say it is the one thing that makes you different. Stay true to that, because at the end of the day, that’s the only thing that makes you unique in a sea of very talented people.”

—Amy Speach

What you have to say and how you say it is the one thing that makes you different. Stay true to that..."
Collin O’Mara G’06  
Wildlife Conservationist

SYRACUSE NATIVE COLLIN O’MARA HAS FOND MEMORIES of growing up amid the beautiful lakes, streams, and woodlands of Central New York. He spent many happy hours playing outdoors as a devotee of Ranger Rick, a publication that fosters a love of nature in children. Today, O’Mara is president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF)—the very organization that publishes his favorite children’s magazine. “I was a Ranger Rick kid and had a lot of fun doing the activities with my mom,” he says. “I think Ranger Rick changed my life as well as the lives of a great number of good people across the country who care deeply about our natural resources and want to do more to conserve them.”

In July 2014, O’Mara took the helm of the NWF after serving five years as cabinet secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Although he was the youngest state cabinet official in the nation, he brought a wealth of experience to the job. After graduating from Dartmouth College, O’Mara worked with the mayor of Syracuse to develop the SyraStat initiative, a computer-based efficiency program that helped save $14 million in city spending in 2002 and 2003, he says. Then it was on to England, where he delved into environmental economics at Oxford University, followed by a return to Syracuse to study for a master’s degree in public administration as a University Fellow at the Maxwell School. “The pragmatic and interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum combined with truly amazing faculty makes Maxwell the best preparation for public policy work in the country,” says O’Mara, who comes back to campus to give lectures and meet with classes. “I can’t overstate the impact professors Van Slyke, Rubenstein, Yinger, and Kersh have had on the way I think about how to implement change, because they taught me to look for ways to create public/private relationships that go beyond the typical tools of laws and government regulations.”

After Maxwell, O’Mara went to work as a clean-tech strategist for the mayor of San Jose, California—a career move that led to his cabinet position in Delaware and the NWF presidency. As CEO of the NWF—a six-million member wildlife conservation and education organization founded in 1936—O’Mara wants to secure the future of America’s wildlife and ensure that every American has the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. And data clearly show that healthy natural resources, abundant wildlife, and recreational areas spur economic growth. “When you destroy wildlife habitat, you may get a short-term economic bump, but the long-term consequences are quite damaging,” he says. “My goal is to build a conservation army with people from all walks of life, political persuasions, and regions of the country who might not agree on anything else, but agree on the need to have healthy wildlife populations and great outdoor experiences for everyone.”

O’Mara says one of his top priorities at the NWF is to inspire the children of today—including his 3-year-old daughter Riley—to become the outdoor enthusiasts and environmental stewards of tomorrow. He hopes to accomplish this by involving them in more outdoor activities, such as the NWF’s initiative to save pollinators and the monarch butterfly, whose populations have plummeted by more than 90 percent due to loss of habitat. Working with the White House and dozens of other public and private organizations, O’Mara has issued a call to action to help save the majestic monarch by creating a million pollinator gardens featuring milkweed and other native plants that will support their annual migration. “The National Wildlife Federation is an amazing organization that leads the big conservation campaigns, offers educational programs to millions of schoolchildren, and encourages hundreds of thousands of average citizens to create certified backyard wildlife habitats,” O’Mara says. “In terms of breadth and depth, we’re trying to mobilize enough outdoor enthusiasts—from hunters and anglers to birders and gardeners—to advance wildlife conservation in every corner of the nation. We’re headed in the right direction, but we still have a ways to go.”

—Christine Yackel
BEAR ESSENTIALS

IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR BLACK BEAR STORIES, wildlife ecologist Rachel Mazur G’96 has collected plenty of them: the darted bear that escaped capture, dozed off on a family’s tent, and snored through the night; the 450-pounder that stealthily moved through a crowded campground, unnoticed as it checked for food; and then there’s the overdosed bear thought dead, but revived by CPR only to sneeze all over its savior. Some of the stories are hilarious, and some have even led to great advancements in managing bears, but others make her cringe—such as the bear-in-the-trash tales that “are so frustrating because they are so preventable and often lead to a dead bear,” Mazur says.

As part of her ongoing quest to protect black bears and educate the general public about them, Mazur wrote Speaking of Bears: The Bear Crisis and a Tale of Rewilding from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Other National Parks (Falcon Guides, 2015). To research the topic, Mazur—who holds a master’s degree in environmental and forest biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and an M.P.A. degree from the Maxwell School, as well as a doctorate in ecology from University of California, Davis—interviewed more than 100 bear experts, sifted through mounds of research, and explored the history of bear-proof inventions with the goal of compiling a comprehensive history of lessons learned and proven solutions for managing the wily bruins.

Mazur has logged more than a quarter century with the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. Included in that time, from 2000 to 2009, she oversaw the black bear management program at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Mazur is currently the branch chief of wildlife, visitor use, and social science at Yosemite National Park. In addition to Speaking of Bears, she is the author of the children’s book If You Were a Bear (Sequoia Natural History Association, 2008). Mazur spoke with Syracuse University Magazine editor Jay Cox from her home in El Portal, California.

What’s the most important thing to know about black bears?

It’s absolutely critical to keep food and trash away from them. They are hungry and curious, plus they have all these incredible adaptations to find and obtain food. They are also what we call “one-trial learners.” Once they learn it, they’ve got it, and we’ve all got a problem.

They’re all very smart, aren’t they?

They are. And much of that intelligence is directed toward finding food.

How did your interest in bears develop?

When I was a kid, our family [her dad, Allan, is a Maxwell public affairs professor] would go camping in the Adirondacks and get great views of bears, although unfortunately, it was usually at a dump. When I got to the Sierra, I’d be out hiking and see what was more like a big furry flash disappearing into the woods. How can you not be drawn to that?

What was it like running the bear management project?

It was exhausting. And exhilarating. I spent a ton of time talking to visitors, recruiting volunteers, raising funds, and chasing bears. I also spent a lot of time knee-deep in dumpsters moving trash around to make more room for more trash, which is not what I envisioned when I became an ecologist.

Can you describe the concept of “rewilding” bears?

Everybody wants to be able to take a bear that is already food-conditioned and somehow change it back to a wild bear. It’s very difficult for people to believe and accept that is almost impossible. Think of a child who has never had candy and then goes to a Halloween party and gets a whole bag of it—how are you going to take that experience away? You can’t. You can rewild a population of bears by keeping new ones from becoming conditioned to human food, but the chances of rewilding individual bears that are highly conditioned to that food are low.

FOR MORE OF THE INTERVIEW, visit sumagazine.syr.edu.
FOR SU ALUMNI SEEKING CAREERS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT industry, Los Angeles is often an ideal choice after graduation. However, since many people are looking for opportunities in the city, it is hard for those who are new there to catch the attention of acting and film executives. To overcome this obstacle, 22 alumni from the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) and the Newhouse School created the Syracuse University Drama Alumni Showcase in LA. Together, they demonstrated their diverse talents as producers, actors, writers, and film crew in a summer showcase that featured six short films and five staged live scenes.

Alex Alcheh ’11, the showcase creator, director, and actor, originally pitched the idea for the showcase to Professor Ralph Zito, chair of the drama department, and VPA Dean Ann Clarke. Zito and Clarke encouraged Alcheh to launch the showcase. Showcase co-producer Mary Ann Pianka ’13 says the college, as well as families and friends of the participants, contributed to their fundraising.

The collaboration in organizing the showcase was challenging, but an incredible experience for the team members. They produced the filmed scenes with 26 pages of dialogue in two days last June. “It’s an unrealistically tight schedule,” Pianka says. “But if you have to make it work, it will work. Being from SU, everybody was on board to make it a success.”

Showcase writer Robert Axelrod ’14 says the hardest part was finding out what the actors really wanted in a scene. He sifted through tons of information from the actors, figured out what told the story, and synthesized it into scenes that lasted four to five minutes. He says he kept asking himself questions during the teamwork and made changes in the scripts if necessary. “For me, the questions are: What’s the immediacy of the scene? What’s going on right now? What is the current issue at stake? What is the current need?” he says.

Photography director Stephen Darby ’13 says his favorite moment in the project was sharing common Syracuse bonds with other alumni. “Everybody knows what we mean when we are talking about things like Marshall Street,” Darby says. “The whole project was a lot of fun with jokes all around.”

After finishing the filmed scenes, the team spent the rest of its time rehearsing the live ones until August 25, when they displayed their talents to guests from the entertainment industry at the ACME Comedy Theatre. According to Alcheh, an agent who attended the showcase said that it was the most entertaining showcase he had ever been to and one of the best in general.

For the alumni, the project has facilitated the transition from college to the real world and helped them expand their professional networks. Some team members have since signed contracts with companies or gone through interviews. “You really need to be willing to put in your hours and start from the bottom,” Darby says. “I wasn’t expecting somebody to throw me a contract right away. You cannot expect that everything will happen on the next day. It’s a process.”

—Jessie Shi
IN 1850, A YOUNG SLAVE NAMED Susan was sent to the post office in Eastville, Virginia, with a folded letter marked “Sent girl Susan” on the front. In those days, it was a common practice to have slaves carry mail since there was no home delivery or pick up of mail yet. “The notation served as a travel pass for Susan,” says Daniel Piazza G’04, chief curator of philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. “She was most likely illiterate and probably had no idea that the contents of the letter discussed her impending sale to a slave dealer in Richmond.”

The letter is among 125 objects featured in the exhibition Freedom Just Around the Corner: Black America from Civil War to Civil Rights at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The exhibition, which runs through February 15, 2016, marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and abolition of slavery, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and the March on Selma (to view items, see www.postalmuseum.si.edu/freedom). “It’s the first time that African American history has been interpreted through philatelic objects by the use of covers, three-dimensional objects, and a variety of stamps—revenue stamps, postage stamps, stamp art,” says Calvin Mitchell G’73, assistant curator of philately at the museum. “It gives a rather panoramic view of African American history from the Antebellum period all the way up to the civil rights period of the ’60s.”

Piazza and Mitchell, both Maxwell School alumni, worked on the exhibition for three years, drawing from the museum’s extensive collection as well as other Smithsonian holdings and many other sources. They were joined in their collaboration by Christine Lefebvre ’05, a College of Visual and Performing Arts alumna who designed the exhibition space and catalog and also created a special cancellation that can be stamped at the museum’s post office. “I am a bit of a stamp-collecting nerd,” Lefebvre says, “so it was a thrill to design my first postal cancel.”

The exhibition also features works by Richard Sheaff G’77, who designed or art-directed more than 300 U.S. postage stamps. Among those is a Mitchell favorite: one of opera singer Marian Anderson based on an oil portrait by Canadian artist Albert Slark. “Without a doubt, it’s one of the most attractive portrait pieces used for stamp design,” Mitchell says. It’s a highlight of the exhibition’s section on the U.S. Postal Service Black Heritage stamp series. Lefebvre devoted a tremendous amount of time to designing the section, which showcases original U.S. stamp artwork from the Postmaster General’s Collection that never before has been exhibited. “I looked at these images so often and all of the artwork is gorgeous,” she says. “Even though it was a lot of work, it was pleasant work.”

As the exhibition sweeps chronologically through the years, it offers both a celebration of African American culture and an unflinching look at the ominous history of slavery, segregation, and racism. Mitchell, for instance, cites the use of a Ku Klux Klan skull-and-crossbones postmark as a reflection of the Klan’s influence, particularly in the North. Piazza points to an extremely rare slave dealer advertising envelope, as well as a mail carrier’s bag from 1896 that contains separate compartments for “white” and “colored” mail. Other items represent forgotten pieces of the past, such as a U.S. military V-mail microfilm strip from World War II.
EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

The exhibition has drawn a great deal of interest, and Piazza, Mitchell, and Lefebvre hosted an event for an SU in DC alumni group, organized by the Greenberg House, in September. “We can approach very familiar topics in an unusual way that most people have not seen before—and that is, exploring them through stamps and mail,” Piazza says. “Even if you’re very familiar with the subject or the topic, it’s a new way of looking at it.”

—Jay Cox

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

“Sent girl Susan” stampless folded letter April 16, 1850

5¢ Emancipation Proclamation concept stamp art by Georg Olden, c. 1963

Portraiture:
22¢ Jean Baptiste Point du Sable approved stamp art by Thomas Blackshear II, c. 1987

37¢ Marian Anderson approved stamp art by Albert Slark, c. 2005

10¢ Booker T. Washington, 1940

33¢ Martin Luther King Jr. approved stamp art by Keith Birdsong, c. 1999

Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech was commemorated in the Postal Service’s Celebrate the Century stamp series issued at the end of the 20th century.

LOOKING AHEAD:
Postal Museum assistant curator Calvin Mitchell and designer Christine Lefebvre are collaborating on an exhibition titled New York City: A Portrait Through Stamp Art, which opens December 9 and runs through February 2017.
When Dean and Elizabeth Wolcott established a scholarship at Syracuse University, little did they realize just how big their impact would be. For Arianna Clark, the opportunity to pursue her dreams, interests, and passions at SU is “one of the greatest gifts I could ever receive.”

You can create those kinds of opportunities, too, by giving to Syracuse University. Whether you choose to establish a scholarship or support another part of SU that’s especially meaningful to you, you can serve as an inspiration for students who, like Arianna, strive to do their best every day.

Learn how easy it is to make a life-changing impact in the life of a student. Call us at 315.443.1848 or visit giving.syr.edu.

BE AN INSPIRATION.

Jerry Leo ’88 (NEW) is executive vice president of program strategy, lifestyle networks, and production at Bravo Media in New York City.

Lexie Shabel ’89 (VPA) is founder and executive director of Breast Wishes Fund (www.breastwishesfund.org), a nonprofit organization based in New Mexico that supports individuals diagnosed with breast cancer and their families, offering treatment alternatives and prevention and wellness education.

Patty Enrado G’90 (A&S) wrote A Village in the Fields (Eastwind Books of Berkeley), a historical novel about Filipino-American farm workers during the Delano Grape Strikes of the 1960s and ’70s in California. The book’s cover was designed by Melody dos Santos Shah ’95 (VPA).

Beth Mowins G’90 (NEW), a play-by-play commentator and sports journalist at ESPN, received the Newhouse School’s Marty Glickman Award for Leadership in Sports Media in July.

Brian J. Butler ’91 (A&S), L’96 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, was recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

George R. McGuire ’91 (E&CS), L’96 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016. He was also recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Eileen Moeller G’91 (A&S) published Firefly, Brightly Burning (Grayson Books), her first book of poetry, which is described by one reviewer as an exploration of “all the complexities of a woman’s ordinary life in order to find the moments of grace and transcendence that save us.”

Amy Altshuler ’92 (A&S) is the business transactions practice group leader at Lewis Roca Rothgerber law firm in Denver.

Craig Ettinger ’92 (WSM) launched the startup Josar Media Inc., creator of the Tastebud mobile application that enables people to share recommendations on movies, music, books, TV shows, podcasts, and apps (tastebudapp.co or follow @tastebudapp).

Eric J. Stockel ’92 (A&S) is a founding partner at SBSB Law’s office in Boca Raton, Fla. He and his wife, Michele A. Stockel ’92 (A&S), recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, Bari and Hanna, and live in Weston, Fla.

Zahra Wright ’92 (FALK) is a project officer in the Government of Australia Department of Finance in Canberra, Australia.

Sara Millett Au ’93 (NEW), a parenting journalist living in Orlando, Fla., co-wrote Stress Free Discipline: Simple Strategies for Handling Common Behavior Problems (AMACOM Books), the second in a series of parenting books. A blogger at PsychologyToday.com, she also administers a business development program with Orange County Public Schools.

Erin Frankel ’93 (VPA) and Paula Heaphy ’93 (FALK/VPA) collaborated on Nobody! (Free Spirit Publishing), the fourth book in a series on overcoming bullying. Frankel, a teacher and writer living in Pittsburgh, wrote the books, and Heaphy, a designer and illustrator living in Brooklyn, illustrated them.

Jessica C. Pirro ’93, G’96 (SWK) is chief executive officer at Crisis Services in Buffalo, N.Y., an agency that provides suicide intervention services, programs for suicide prevention and emergency mental health, and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Jan Klodowski ’94 (WSM), vice president of Agri-Services Agency (ASA) in East Syracuse, N.Y., and head of the ASA workers’ compensation department, serves on the Vermont Captive Insurance Association board of directors. ASA is a subsidiary of Dairy Farmers of America.

Stephanie Rankin Herriott G’95 (EDU) is manager, employee services, at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus.

Dane Lopes ’95 (E&CS) is U.S. head of sales and distribution at Everest Re insurance company in New York City.


Christine Woodcock Dettor L’96 (LAW), a member of the Syracuse law firm Bousquet Holstein, was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016. She was also recognized in the 2015 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Charles Cobb ’97 (A&S) is an attorney at William Mattar Law Offices in Buffalo, N.Y.

Deanna Durante ’97 (NEW) and Timothy Swan ’97, G’99 (IST) announce the birth of their daughter, Mattax McQuain Swan, who joins big sister Maya. They reside in Flourtown, Pa.

Beth Monaghan ’97 (NEW) is principal and co-founder of InkHouse, a Massachusetts-based public relations firm that was named one of the state’s top 100 women-led businesses by The Globe Magazine and the Commonwealth Institute in 2013, a Boston Business Journal “Best Places to Work” in 2015, and a Boston Business Journal “Pacesetter” for the past five years.

Holmes Osborne ’98 (WSM), a principal with Holmes Osborne Global Investors in Kansas City, Mo., was a featured financial advisor in The Wall Street Journal in November 2014. He and his wife, Jennifer, announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Cleo.
The oldest of six kids, Arianna Clark '16 felt incredibly fortunate when the Elizabeth G. Wolcott Scholarship made it possible for her to attend Syracuse University—the only school where she truly felt at home. After meeting Dean Wolcott, the man who, together with his late wife, created the scholarship, she felt not only lucky, but inspired by their generosity. Now she pushes herself “to the limit and beyond in all that I do, to prove that their gift is making a difference.”

How can you make that kind of difference in the life of an SU student? It’s easier than you think. Learn more at changealife.syr.edu/arianna or call 315.443.1848.
1. The 2015 Arents Award recipients, recognized for excellence in their professions: Erica Branch-Ridley ’87 (media and education), Brandon Steiner ’81 (sports marketing), Donna Shalala G’70, H’87 (public service and education), and Eric Mower ’66, G’68 (advertising and public relations).

2. Chancellor Kent Syverud congratulates Generation Orange Award recipient Muss Akram ’10 as SU Alumni Association President Mark Verone ’95 looks on.

3. Melvin A. Eggers Senior Alumni Award recipients Harriette Line Thompson ’47 (left) and Molly Corbett Broad ’62, H’09.

4. Alumni join the festivities at the Orange Central welcome registration.

5. In a discussion and book signing, members of the Syracuse 8 reflect on the spring 1970 football practice boycott and its impact on their life journeys. They share their story in Leveling the Playing Field: The Story of the Syracuse 8 (Syracuse University Press). Pictured, from left: Greg Allen ’73 (standing), A. Alif Muhammad ’71, John Lobon ’73, Dana Harrell ’72, G’73, Ron Womack ’71, Clarence “Bucky” McGill ’72, and author David Marc.

6. The Class of 1965 celebrates its 50th reunion.

FOR MORE ORANGE CENTRAL PHOTOS, visit orangecentral.syr.edu/gallery/index.html.
WHEN THE GANNETT COMPANY INVITED MEDIA industry veteran Larry Kramer to come out of semi-retirement to reinvigorate USA Today as president and publisher in 2012, he jumped at the chance. At the time, with 40 years’ experience encompassing such roles as reporter, editor, digital entrepreneur, venture capitalist, corporate executive, and author, Kramer was serving on several advisory boards and teaching at the Newhouse School. “I was on some great boards and giving advice I felt was valued. I also liked working with students, because they had great questions I could learn from and I could also help them. But it made me hunger a little bit for spending more time running a newsroom. Every once in a while I’d say to myself, ‘Yeah, I think I’ve got one more in me,’” says Kramer, an SU Trustee and chair of the Newhouse Advisory Board. “When the people at Gannett asked if I would come in to modernize USA Today, it was such a cool thing. It was like, ‘How would you like to help save journalism?’ I couldn’t not do it. And it was a blast helping to turn it around these past three years!”

Who better to lead the rejuvenation than Kramer, whose professional path is as storied, complex, and rich with change as journalism itself. For starters, he spent more than 20 years as a reporter and editor, notably at The Washington Post and San Francisco Examiner. Kramer then entered a new phase of his career as an entrepreneur, founding MarketWatch Inc. in 1995 and leading the financial information website until its sale to Dow Jones in 2005. From 2005 through 2007, it was back to media as the first president of CBS Digital Media, where he created a division comprising all new media operations for the network. “I thought after that it would be a great time to retire,” he says.

Well, not quite. Kramer then became a senior advisor to Polaris Venture Partners in 2008. He also wrote C-Scape: Conquer the Forces Changing Business Today (HarperCollins, 2010) before returning to the newspaper business at USA Today. Having accomplished his goals there around the same time he turned 65, he is trying out retirement again, but has transitioned on to the board of directors at Gannett (USA Today’s parent company) and joined the board of financial website TheStreet.com.

“I’ve been in media my whole life, but I’ve had about five different careers,” says Kramer, who earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and political science at SU and an MBA degree at Harvard.

With his roots in traditional journalism and expertise as a digital entrepreneur, he became the “perfect guy” to guide companies transitioning between the two worlds. “New media—interpreting journalism in these new and different storytelling platforms—is really fun for me,” he says.

One constant for Kramer has been his relationship with Newhouse and SU. “Throughout my career and my life as a journalist, I’ve felt connected to Syracuse,” says Kramer, a “crazed” Orange sports fan. “Newhouse also meant a lot to me from when I was a student. At every stop I’ve made in the business, I’ve leaned on the people and lessons I’ve learned there.”

He looks forward to helping advance the University, particularly in building relationships between education and business—an agenda that’s especially important as rapid change continues to redefine the media industry. “Journalism still has a heart and soul. It still means something important: fairness; and expectations on the part of the consumer that there’s objectivity. But that gets lost a little in this new world of communications,” says Kramer, who was among 50 leading alumni honored at Newhouse’s “50Forward” gala in New York City in October. “We’re a great journalism school, but we now have to be great at a lot of other things, too.”

—Amy Speach

A Newsman’s Odyssey in Digital Media

Larry Kramer ’72
Jan Strauss Raymond ’65

Inspiring Success in Education

JAN STRAUSS RAYMOND GREW UP IN A HOME where she was taught that all people should be treated fairly and equally. So when it came time for her to go to college, her father was happy she chose Syracuse University because he knew Chancellor William Tolley had stood up and defended faculty members who were targeted during the McCarthy era. “Growing up in one of the few Jewish families in Darien, Connecticut, I became aware of inequities in society,” Raymond says. “Social justice became a large part of my life.”

A whole new world opened up for Raymond during her first year at SU. In addition to taking the required courses to complete her English major, she delved into such diverse subject areas as comparative religion, the Bible as literature, history, and sociology. She also became actively involved in the civil rights movement. In October 1963, Raymond was among a group of students and faculty who were arrested in downtown Syracuse for protesting the demolition of low-income housing without plans to relocate residents. “My father always said he paid for my college courses, but he could have never paid for the many opportunities I had to grow in other ways,” says Raymond, who earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of Arts and Sciences and a master’s degree in sociology from NYU. “Syracuse helped me build a real philosophy of life that has stuck with me.”

Since her days on the Hill, Raymond has continued to be an advocate for equity and opportunity. As a volunteer college counselor at East Harlem High School, she realized the parents of her first-generation students were reluctant to visit the school to discuss higher education options for their children because they had never set foot on a college campus and had no idea what to ask. “I didn’t understand how we could expect these kids to be successful in college when they might as well be going to Mars as far as their families were concerned,” says Raymond, a longtime champion of NYC youth. “I came to believe that by changing how parents view higher education, they could play a critical role in helping their children make a smooth transition from high school to college and stay in school once they got there.”

In 1999, Raymond teamed up with her alma mater to launch Project Transition, a unique program that provides parents of low-income and first-generation students from the New York City area with an all-expense paid trip to campus for a Family Weekend filled with fun activities and informational meetings about life at SU (sumagazine.syr.edu/2010fall-winter/features/transitions.html). Project Transition’s strategy to boost parent power has proven successful, with participating students graduating at rates up to 94 percent—higher than the University’s overall average. “Project Transition is an outgrowth of what we were talking about during the civil rights movement,” says Raymond, who serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board and the School of Education Board of Visitors. “You can always find small ways to make people’s lives better, especially if you have a willing partner like SU to work with.”

In recognition of Raymond’s visionary leadership role in creating Project Transition, the School of Education honored her with the Tolley Medal for Distinguished Leadership in Lifelong Learning in June. “I hope people can see the tremendous effect SU has had on me throughout my life,” Raymond says. “My parents thought Syracuse would be a great place for me, and they were right.”

—Christine Yackel
Martin A. Schwab ’98 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2016.

Erin Anzalone ’99 (NEW), line producer for Tremendous! Entertainment, won a Daytime Emmy Award for her work on Rock the Park, an exploration of the country’s national parks. The series was named the 2015 Outstanding Travel Program and airs on ABC this fall (www.thoseparkguys.com/rock-the-park).

Scott M. Cohn ’99 (NEW) wrote Daddy Said a Word I Never Heard (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers), the second in his “Daddy” series of humorous children’s books. He is co-founder of the New York City ad agency, Night Agency, and lives on Long Island with his wife and two daughters.

Miles Grant ’99 (NEW) is director of communications at the National Wildlife Federation, based in Washington, D.C., working remotely from his home in Fairhaven, Mass.

Desiree Luszcz ’99 (VPA, EDU), G’01 (EDU) was elected 2015 Teacher of the Year at Manville (N.J.) High School, where she has taught visual arts for 14 years.

Shadra Strickland ’99 (VPA), an award-winning illustrator who teaches at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, illustrated Sunday Shopping (Lee & Low Books), a children’s book about an imaginative family tradition shared between a grandmother and granddaughter.

00s

Brian Eden ’00 (A&S/NEW) and his wife, Leah, announce the birth of their daughter, Hazel Isabella. Eden is a copywriter at Droga5 advertising network in New York City.

John Jiloy ’00 (NEW) is director of social media at Martin Davison Public Relations, based in the company’s Buffalo, N.Y., office.

Sam Okanter ’00 (WSM), competing for Ghana, won the gold medal in the men’s triple jump (ages 40-44) at the World Masters Athletics Outdoor Championships in Lyon, France, in August.

Matthew R. Piechota ’00 (NEW/WSM), a certified public accountant and the chief financial officer at the Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury, Conn., is a member of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants’ advisory council for the 2015-16 activity year, representing the not-for-profit organizations committee.

Neil Swaab ’00 (VPA), an illustrator based in Brooklyn, wrote The Secrets to Ruling School (Without Even Trying), a children’s book for middle-graders published by Amulet Books. Part narrative and part guidebook, the book includes comics and illustrations to help kids navigate the challenges of middle school.

Kathleen Farrell G’01 (MAX), G’03 (A&S), G’08 (MAX) is a professor of social sciences and education at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, N.H. She is a scholar in sociology, gender and sexuality studies, and popular culture and leads students in initiatives that support LGBT members of the college community.

Susan DeMar ’02 (A&S), an administrative assistant in the geography department at New Mexico State University (NMSU), received the Ralph B. Crouch Memorial Award in June, recognizing her contributions to NMSU.

Phil Carlucci ’03 (NEW) of Massapequa Park, N.Y., wrote Images of America: Long Island Golf (Arcadia Publishing), a photo-history. He is also founder of www.golfonlongisland.com, an Internet guide to regional public golf, and a freelance writer/editor for Zagat Survey.

Adam Hardgrove ’04 (NEW) is a fire captain/paramedic at Richland Fire and Emergency Services in Richland, Wash. He was selected to attend the two-year Managing Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md.

Darnell T. Parker ’04, G’05 (SWK) is associate vice president for student affairs and Title IX coordinator at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Nicholas L. Shiros ’04 (WSM) is a partner at Dannible & McKee Certified Public Accountants and Consultants in Syracuse.

Erin Butler ’05 (A&S) married Corey Reynolds ’05 (WSM) in September 2014. Erin is a physician assistant at NewYork-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Corey is a vice president at Macquarie Group financial services, both in New York City.

Martin J. Davis ’05 (A&S) is principal safety consultant at HazTek Inc., a provider of comprehensive safety management services in Medford, N.J.

Brian McClintock ’05 (NEW) of Philadelphia is senior director of communications at Little League Baseball and Softball, one of the largest youth sports organizations in the world.

Matthew J. Rogers G’05 (NEW) of Nashville is a staff songwriter at Ole Music. He co-wrote the song “We Went,” which was released in May by country music artist Randy Houser.

Brian J. Sturm ’05 (A&S) is an associate in the corporate practice group at Martin LLP, a law firm in Stamford, Conn.

Justin Robert Young ’05 (NEW) launched a new card game—The Contender: The Game of Political Debate—on Kickstarter in July and raised more than $45,000 from more than 1,000 backers to start printing and distribution. The game was developed by a four-person team that includes Meg Paradise ’06 (VPA), co-founder of the Guts & Glory design and branding studio in Oakland, Calif.

Elizabeth Knickerbocker ’06 (NEW) is an experiential learning outreach coordinator at the State University of New York at Oswego.

Brenna O’Leary ’06 (NEW) is a senior account executive at Morgan Marketing and Public Relations firm in Irvine, Calif.

Maximilian Osinski ’06 (VPA) collaborated with several peers in the entertainment industry to create Hollywood Hitmen (Luna Pictures Entertainment with Singh I Inc.), a 30-minute web comedy that presents an irreverent parody of Los Angeles and the entertainment industry (youtube.com/C/Hollywood-Hitmen). He co-stars in the series, which he co-wrote with Rafi Silver ’06 (VPA). Dan Newmark ’07 (VPA) is also featured.

Kristen Vaccariello Tozzo ’06 (A&S) and her husband, Vincent, announce the birth of their daughter, Sienna Rose, in White Plains, N.Y., in July.

Phillip Gregory Burke ’07 (VPA), an actor, playwright, and educator living in New York City, made his American debut as a playwright at The Classical Theatre of Harlem’s Playwrights Playground in June, when excerpts from his play, Flutters, were publicly read for the first time at The Dwyer Cultural Center. The play is the first in a three-play series that examines how members of the African Diaspora sociologically navigate and experience through deviant behavior occurring within society.

Antonio L. Diaz-Albertini L’07 (LAW) is a special counsel at Schulte Roth & Zabel in the law firm’s New York City office.

Jenna M. McKnight G’07 (NEW) of New York City is senior U.S. editor at Dezeen, an online publication focused on architecture and design. The media company is based in London and recently opened a New York office.

Jennifer Burgomaster Tarolli ’07 (A&S/NEW) and Christopher Tarolli ’07 (A&S) of Rochester, N.Y., announce the birth of their son, Jackson Christopher.

Emilee Lawson Hatch L’08 (LAW), a member of the Syracuse law firm Bousquet Holstein, was designated as an Upstate New York Super Lawyers 2015 Rising Star.

Christopher J. Stevens ’08 (A&S), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Albany, was designated as an Upstate New York Super Lawyers 2015 Rising Star.

Lindsey Wilson G’08 (NEW) is Dallas city editor at CultureMap, a Texas lifestyle website, covering arts and culture, fashion, food, and home and design.

Christine Sawatzke ’09 (ARC), an architect at SOSH Architects in the firm’s Atlantic City office, completed the Architect Registration Exam and earned a State of New Jersey architecture license.

Julie L. Shires ’09 (A&S/MAX) is a kindergarten teacher at the Military and Global Leadership Academy at Marie G. Davis Global Studies Magnet School in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District in North Carolina.
Bradley J. Anderson '51

BRAD ANDERSON, creator of the popular comic Marmaduke that was beloved around the globe, died on August 30, 2015. A longtime resident of Montgomery, Texas, he was 91. Anderson introduced the lovable and rambunctious Great Dane to the world in 1954 and continued to share the cartoon canine’s antics for more than 60 years. In recent years, his son Paul assisted him with the comic, which is syndicated by Universal Uclick and at its peak appeared in more than 600 newspapers in 20 countries. The big dog’s popularity led to a collection of more than 20,000 comics, two dozen books, an animated television show, and a 2010 movie.

Anderson was born in 1924 in Jamestown, New York, and took to drawing as a child, selling his first cartoon to an aviation magazine while he was still in high school and continuing to work as a freelance cartoonist, publishing in such magazines as Collier’s and the Saturday Evening Post. A World War II Navy veteran, he attended Syracuse University on the GI Bill, earned a B.F.A. degree in advertising design while he was still in high school and continuing to work as a freelance cartoonist, publishing in such magazines as Collier’s and the Saturday Evening Post. A World War II Navy veteran, he attended Syracuse University on the GI Bill, earned a B.F.A. degree in advertising design and communication, and worked as art director of the student magazine The Syracusean. In 1999, Anderson was recognized with the Arents Award, the University’s highest alumni honor. He received numerous awards throughout his career, including the National Cartoonists Society’s 1976 Reuben Award for Best Comic Panel and its 2012 Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award. Anderson also put Marmaduke to work in helping a number of charities.

In a 1995 interview with Syracuse University Magazine, he shared his enthusiasm for his life as a cartoonist. “I’m glad I can make a living at the thing I enjoy doing the most—drawing cartoons,” he said.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and their four children, six grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.
Joy Cho ’01 » Powered by Joy

WHEN JOY CHO RETURNED TO HER HOMETOWN OF Philadelphia from New York City in 2005, she found herself temporarily between jobs in her chosen field as a graphic designer. So she began doing two things that, delightfully, set her career in exciting new directions: offering design services as a freelancer and writing a blog about all the things she loves about design. “I’m a really driven person and I go after what I want, so I expected to find the next perfect job,” says Cho, a College of Visual and Performing Arts communications design major whose ad agency work in New York introduced her to the worlds of fashion and textile design. “But in the meantime, I needed to pay rent and make ends meet. So I started freelancing, and at the same time I started my blog as a personal hobby. It began to grow into something I used as an inspirational tool and as a way to share design work I was doing and to share about other designers whose work inspired me.”

As the blog gained popularity with a loyal readership and also expanded into a helpful marketing device, her freelance work evolved into a full-time design studio. Ten years later—now married, the mom of two little girls, and living on the West Coast—Cho is happily situated at the heart of her own monumentally successful business, Oh Joy! (www.ohjoy.com). The multifaceted Los Angeles-based company creates how-to lifestyle videos, books, and a daily blog, all with a cheerful focus on food, fashion, home decor, and merry moments from everyday life, as well as signature licensed product lines for Target, The Land of Nod, Band-Aid, and more. “I had no plans, ever, to start my own business, so this was all a happy accident for me,” says Cho, who, somewhat miraculously, does it all with a team of only four people, including herself. “It wasn’t easy, but it worked out. And I never looked back.”

With an expansive online presence that encompasses Pinterest (where she has a record 13 million followers), YouTube (where she presents DIY design tutorials), Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, Cho was featured in Time magazine last March as one of the 30 most influential people on the Internet. Her status as an accomplished entrepreneur who is also a young mother often invites opportunities to serve as a mentor and offer friendly advice to other busy moms—something she enjoys. “But for me, the creative aspect of my work is always going to be my favorite,” she says. “I love designing products and thinking about what we can make, coming up with new color palettes and patterns, and, in our editorial content, with ideas to inspire people.”

When asked the secret of her success, Cho says it essentially comes down to a willingness to work hard. That philosophy has served her well, even since her time as an SU student. “I have fond memories of late nights working in the studio and dragging my portfolio across two feet of snow to go to class,” she says. “Our program worked us hard and I felt challenged, which helped me develop a work ethic and prepared me for my first jobs in New York, which then prepared me for having my own company. There is so much I’ve learned, both in my personal life and my professional life. But being a go-getter is definitely one of the main things that’s helped. You are responsible for your own life, so you have to go after what you want.”

—Amy Speach
Emily Vacher G’95 G/L’97 ▶

Safety and Security Expert

EMILY VACHER SPENT 11 YEARS AS AN FBI SPECIAL AGENT, focusing on child abduction and exploitation cases. “It is the most important work there is,” she says. “Protecting children is the cause that’s nearest and dearest to my heart.” Today, Vacher brings her passion for and commitment to the safety of children to her job at Facebook, where she manages Trust and Safety.

In January 2015, she spearheaded Facebook’s partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to send AMBER Alerts to Facebook users in the geographic area where a child has gone missing. Vacher announced the initiative on Good Morning America, alongside America’s Most Wanted host John Walsh, whose son was abducted and murdered in 1981. The Facebook program has already been credited with helping bring safely home a 2-year-old boy who had been abducted in the state of Washington. “When a child goes missing, somebody saw something,” Vacher says. “Those first few hours are critical.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in human development from Cornell University, Vacher came to Syracuse University, earning a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from the School of Education and then law and M.P.A. degrees through the dual degree program offered by the College of Law and the Maxwell School. “I love school,” Vacher laughs. In each discipline, she gained knowledge and skills that she still applies daily. “In counseling, you learn how to talk to people and to listen,” she says. That proved enormously helpful when she became an FBI agent. She was also fascinated with her law school classes, loved reading cases, and found the training helped her approach issues and problems in a fresh way. “It does change the way you think,” she says. “You can think with your ‘lawyer brain,’ which is really good, no matter what you do.”

Vacher went on to work for Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, focusing on education law, and then came back to campus, serving two years as director of judicial affairs. At the law firm, she met an investigator who was a retired FBI agent. “One day, I asked him about his work for the FBI,” Vacher says. “He just lit up. He told me story after story. I realized that’s what I wanted to do.”

In 2006, Vacher became a member of the FBI’s CARD (Child Abduction Rapid Deployment) team, made up of 60 agents who travel to sites where there is a high-risk abduction. Based in Syracuse, she also worked on child exploitation and human trafficking cases. “It’s the most rewarding work,” she says. “They have a lot of license to be creative. But by interviewing real agents as part of the process, they get a true flavor of what it’s like.”

Vacher moved to California for a year when she joined Facebook in 2011, but missed her native East Coast. She divides her time now between Washington, D.C., and New York City, but still has close ties and great friends in Syracuse. “I have a lot of connections in the area,” she says. “I love the community.”

—Kathleen Curtis
JOSEPH BEN KAIFALA FORMED HIS VIEW OF HUMAN NATURE early in life, during the Liberian and Sierra Leone civil wars. At age 9, he was imprisoned by the rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia. Two years later, he encountered those same prison guards in Sierra Leone—where they were now fighting for the Revolutionary United Front. “The rebels who were prepared to kill us in Liberia were equally prepared to protect us from other rebels in Sierra Leone,” says Kaifala, who earned a master’s degree in international relations from the Maxwell School. “I believe there is goodness in all of us that is sometimes subdued for alternate desires, but avails itself under the right circumstances. Therefore, to achieve peace, we must seek and cultivate the dormant good in all of us. As Madiba Mandela put it, ‘Man’s goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished.’” (Madiba is Nelson Mandela’s ancestral name, used as a sign of respect and affection.)

Kaifala is executive director of the Jeneba Project, which provides and promotes educational opportunities for students in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia, member states of the Mano River Union, an intergovernmental organization based on socio-economic improvement for the region. The project supports human rights in the region through research, fellowships, and publications as well (jenebaproject.org). Kaifala also co-founded the Sierra Leone Memory Project, which is recording oral testimonies from survivors of that country’s civil war.

The Jeneba Project is currently raising money for a high school in Robis, Sierra Leone. “When the Ebola emergency is over, we will complete the construction as a pilot project for free fundamental education,” Kaifala says. “We have been advocating for free high school education in Sierra Leone. The government always argues that it is impossible, but we believe that, as Madiba used to say, ‘It always seems impossible until it’s done.’”

Kaifala is writing a history of Sierra Leone that will incorporate survivor accounts from the Memory Project. “The first group of victims we interviewed thanked us for listening to them, and for offering a dignified platform for them to share their stories,” Kaifala says. “The Memory Project believes that healing the country requires collective dialogue around forgiveness and reconciliation. We cannot enter a peaceful future without ironing the rough edges of our past.”

Kaifala speaks six languages—English, French, Kissi, Krio, Mandingo, and Mende—and in addition to his Maxwell School degree, he has a J.D. degree from Vermont Law School, with a Certificate in International and Comparative Law. A member of the Washington, D.C., bar, he wants to become a professor of international law. His goal is to serve on a judicial body like the International Court of Justice, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, or the Economic Community of West African States Court of Justice.

“This could permit me to influence legal changes to strengthen democracy and improve lives on the African continent,” he says. “My vision for the Mano River Union countries is formidable democratic institutions and respect for fundamental rights. This is a vision I hold for Africa as a whole, because without mature democracies and respect for individual rights, the people are limited in the realization of their human potential and their collective desire for peace.”

—John Martin
HARD EARNED

STACY PEARSSALL IS WIDELY KNOWN FOR HER AWARD-WINNING work as a military combat photographer and the founder of the Veterans Portrait Project. This fall, the campus community had the opportunity to view her extraordinary images through Hard Earned: The Military Photographs of Stacy Pearsall, an exhibition that runs through January 24 at the SUArt Galleries. A 2005 graduate of the Newhouse School's Military Photojournalism program, Pearsall began her career as an Air Force photographer at age 17 and was twice named the National Press Photographers Association's Military Photographer of the Year (2003 and 2007). During three tours in Iraq, Pearsall earned the Bronze Star Medal and Commendation with Valor for heroic actions under fire. Now combat disabled and retired from military service, she travels the world as a freelance photographer and is also an author, educator, military consultant, and public speaker. During a campus visit in November, she welcomed veterans and active duty service members from the University and local communities to participate in her Veterans Portrait Project (www.veteransportraitproject.com).

Unconcealed, March 17, 2007
archival pigment print
16 1/2 x 25 inches

After clearing 14 fake improvised explosive devices and six live bombs, soldiers of the U.S. Army’s 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team dismount and begin clearing the neighboring houses in Buhriz, Iraq, on March 17, 2007.
Celebrate Orange in your hometown at alumni club game watches, networking events, and more.

Update your info. Visit alumniupdate.syr.edu to make sure we have your latest email address and can keep you posted on all the happenings in your area.

Get social! Whether you prefer to tweet, pin, or post, the University’s many social media channels can keep you in the loop.

Build your professional network at a SUccess in the City event in your region, or through ‘CuseConnect, a LinkedIn group managed by Syracuse University Career Services.

Create real-world experiences for Syracuse students! Offer internship and employment opportunities by emailing hireorange@syr.edu.

Recruit new students. Encourage anyone who’s considering college to attend a local Syracuse University event!

Share your Orange pride now and always with a poster or T-shirt, available at bookweb.syr.edu. Relive the best moments from Orange Central 2015 at orangecentral.syr.edu/gallery.