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Photo by Steve Sartori

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A LOT IS HAPPENING AT SYRACUSE, INCLUDING IN THE NEWLY restored Hotel Syracuse, now known as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown. I was there recently congratulating recipients of the Melvin A. Eggers Senior Alumni Award at our annual Orange Central reunion weekend, which attracted more than 1,600 alumni.

The old Hotel Syracuse, which opened in 1924, had powerful meaning for the University, and the larger community. It was the centerpiece for countless campus dances, dinners, and events. At least five American presidents stayed there. Yet the hotel appeared doomed for demolition after falling into disrepair and closing its doors in 2004.

But that didn’t happen. It was fully restored during the past two years, becoming one of the truly spectacular hotels in Central New York. It was a privilege to witness the joyous disbelief of our alumni as they marveled at the restoration. As you’ll learn in this magazine, many of the dreamers and visionaries who saved the hotel were University graduates. The key player was Ed Riley ’78, who led the development team.

The strategy was simple: If you sustain and honor a beautiful heritage, while embracing innovation, diversity, and technology, the result can be triumphant.

That too is the Syracuse way. A similar philosophy is playing out across our campus. The beautiful Einhorn Family Walk, formerly University Place, is a singular dramatic result of the new Campus Framework strategy. That walkway is not simply a celebration of the future: It offers a new level of personal interaction in the heart of campus near the iconic landmarks that help to identify this University.

The same is true for the National Veterans Resource Complex, which we plan for construction soon. The goal is to provide the best University experience in the world for military veterans and their families. The Military Times recently recognized this effort at Syracuse, ranking our University as the number-one private school for veterans.

This magazine is filled with other examples of faculty, students, and alumni who are doing great things at Syracuse. I thank those of you who have helped me make this possible.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
STROLLING CAMPUS

IT WAS A CLASSIC FALL DAY: A WARM southwest breeze stirred the leaves in their autumnal blaze beneath a blue sky; a few faculty members gathered their classes in shady spots on the Shaw Quad; students strolled campus in summer gear; and a couple guys tossed a rugby ball back and forth on the athletic field outside the Women’s Building. It was one of those Central New York days where you wanted to find an uninhabited patch of grass, plunk down, and soak up as much sun as possible, casting aside those inevitable thoughts of the winter ahead.

I enjoy wandering campus and on this day, like many since the semester’s start, the University’s newest addition—a promenade along University Place known as the Einhorn Family Walk—was bustling. There was a steady stream of students on the move, while others relaxed on benches, talking with one another, working on their laptops, or texting. Admittedly, after years of descending the slope in front of the Hall of Languages to the Schine Student Center, I found that old habits are tough to shake. I still couldn’t help but glance left, then right before stepping out onto the brick-paved walkway. There was no longer a need to worry about passing cars or delivery trucks, but I did notice bikes rolling through, so I wasn’t totally inattentive.

As you’ll read in this issue of the magazine, the Einhorn Family Walk is one of the first visible steps in the University’s Campus Framework, a draft plan designed to transform the campus over the next couple decades in concert with the Academic Strategic Plan. Among the summer’s multitude of renovation and construction projects, numerous classroom enhancements and accessibility improvements were made. Most striking ahead are the construction of the National Veterans Resource Complex, a bold transformation proposed for Archbold Gymnasium, and a much-anticipated renovation of the Carrier Dome.

I often hear from alumni who haven’t returned to campus in years. For some, it’s been so long they haven’t seen the Schine Student Center. I tell them they’d be amazed at how the campus landscape has changed, just thinking of the additions over the past decade—from Newhouse 3, Dineen Hall, and Ernie Davis Hall to the Life Sciences Complex, the Melo Center, and the Ensley Athletic Center. With the Campus Framework, the University will build on its impressive history, rich in architecture and opportunities that flourish within the buildings.

JAY COX EDITOR
NEWHOUSE SOPHOMORE HANNAH BUTLER SPENT HER summer becoming a cultural ambassador. A public relations major with minors in English and marketing, she participated in the Fulbright-Scotland Summer Institute through the US-UK Fulbright Commission. Butler is the first SU student to receive the award, which funded five weeks of study in Scotland with an emphasis on the country’s history, culture, and technological advances. She calls the journey a life-changing one, rich with such experiences as attending lectures on Scottish architecture and forensics, exploring abbeys and castles, and being an honored guest at the Glasgow City Chambers. “Everything I did—the tours I went on, the archives I saw, the people I met, and the information I was privy to—I could not have done just traveling by myself and scheduling my own things,” Butler says. “I loved it!”

Butler was among seven SU students and alumni who won Fulbright awards in 2016, including four recent graduates who were selected for the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Programs in Ecuador, France, Taiwan, and Thailand. Three graduate students received study/research grants, two to travel to India and one to Ghana. The research grants and ETA are awarded through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. More than 1,900 U.S. citizens were selected for this academic year, on the basis of academic and professional achievement, service, and leadership.

Sean Reid, an anthropology doctoral candidate in the Maxwell School, was awarded a Fulbright to spend nine months in Ghana researching the pre-Atlantic history of the country’s Central Region. “It’s something I’m very excited to do,” says Reid, whose fieldwork in Ghana will inform his doctoral thesis. “I’m looking at settlement patterns before the Atlantic era of trade, exploring heavily forested areas that are not well known. There are indications that there were societies living in these forests in the Iron Age that abruptly abandoned their settlements around the 13th or 14th century A.D. I’m trying to get a better sense of why that is.”

Both Reid and Butler credit the strong support from the University for assisting them in achieving Fulbright grants. The Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising (CFSA) supports SU students and alumni in their pursuit of a variety of grants and scholarships, helping them discern which opportunities are the best fit and facilitating the rigorous application process. “Our 2016 Fulbright winners are a truly outstanding group, and they are well-suited to carry out the goals of the Fulbright program: to promote mutual understanding and cultural exchange,” says CFSA director Jolynn Parker, a campus Fulbright program advisor. “They’ve earned a unique opportunity to share their academic interests, culture, and skills with the people they meet in their host country, and to learn extraordinary amounts in return.”

CFSA also organizes Fulbright interest sessions and writing workshops with faculty, including anthropology professor Susan Wadley, the campus Fulbright faculty representative. “Fulbright awards are a great honor that allows our students to do research, teach, and gain experience across the globe,” says Wadley, the Ford Maxwell Professor of South Asian Studies. “Whether graduate students doing dissertation research or recent graduates teaching English, this experience will have long-term effects on their careers and lives.”

For Butler, the benefits are already evident, including increased confidence, greater intellectual and cultural curiosity, and a valued network of new international friends and mentors. She encourages anyone who is eligible to go for it. “What other opportunity could you have in your life to be not just a tourist in a country, but a guest?” she says.

—Amy Speach
SYRIA IS THE TRAGEDY OF OUR TIME, AND DAVID M. CRANE L’80 doesn’t intend to let it stand. The College of Law professor of practice heads the Syrian Accountability Project (SAP) at SU, a global effort by activists, NGOs, students, and others to document war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Syrian conflict.

Crane is a tough-minded prosecutor who knows what he’s up against. From 2002 to 2005, he was founding chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international war crimes tribunal, where he prosecuted those who bore the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed during the country’s civil war in the 1990s. Among those he indicted was Liberian President Charles Taylor, the first sitting African head of state to be held accountable in this way.

The project produces non-partisan analysis of open-source materials and catalogs the information relative to applicable bodies of law—like the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and Syrian Penal Law. The SAP gets its information from open, clandestine, and walk-in sources worldwide, regionally, and within Syria itself.

In March, the project released Looking Through the Window Darkly, a report focused on rape and sexual violence in Syria, the majority of which goes unreported. The document was authored by former SAP executive director Peter Levrant L’16, along with other collaborators. “This caused a conversation internationally about gender crimes being perpetrated in Syria,” says Crane, who has been involved in international humanitarian law for decades through his work with the U.S. Department of Defense.

The paper highlighted 142 incidents affecting at least 483 women and girls (estimates run as high as 50,000 victims overall). The majority of rapes occurred while the victim was detained or imprisoned; rapes during home raids and abductions were also reported. Zainab Hawa Bangura, special representative of the UN secretary-general on sexual violence in conflict, spoke on campus when the report was released. “We have to break the culture of silence and denial,” she said.

The SAP’s crime base matrix houses one of the more significant databases in the world of atrocity in Syria. The goal is to create a “trial package” for a future prosecutor; Crane has been working with the Syrians and the international community on the various options to bring justice for the Syrian people for over five years. “We have created a statutory template for a domestic, regional, or international court,” he says. “We have developed the jurisprudence, and rules of procedure of evidence, to hold tyrants and thugs and their henchmen accountable. In time, we can create a justice mechanism for the people of Syria, if there is a political will to do so.”

Current SAP executive director Zachary Lucas L’17 heads a team of 20 SU law students who research crimes and incidents, document them in narrative form, and attribute them to violations of laws. “The Syrian Accountability Project is something I can do in law school to help people who have no voice,” Lucas says. “By sharing their story and making sure they are not forgotten, we give them that voice.”

With a voice comes hope. Bangura spoke about two young girls who escaped imprisonment; one now wants to become a doctor, the other a teacher. “The only way you can defeat ISIS is to get an education, and prove to them they didn’t break your spirit,” she told them.

That outcome suits Crane just fine. “My drive is to seek justice for the oppressed,” he says. “The horror of the atrocities I have seen has given me a righteous fury to face down the beast of impunity that nibbles on the edge of civilization.”

David Crane L’80 (right) discusses the Syrian Accountability Project’s report with Professor Ken Harper, director of the Newhouse Center for Global Engagement. The center hosted a symposium on Syria in October. Photos by Matthew Coulter/Maxwell School
Enriching Academic Life for Veterans

CORRI ZOLI ’91, G’93, G’04 KNOWS INTIMATELY THE PARADOX at the heart of America’s support for its all-volunteer military. “We often talk about ‘supporting veterans’ without really thinking about what that means,” says Zoli, co-author of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at SU report *Missing Perspectives: Servicemembers’ Transition from Service to Civilian Life* (with IVMF’s Rosalinda Maury and Florida State University professor Danny Fay). “We know very little about the veterans in our midst. We thank them for their service—but too often that’s where the conversation ends.”

Zoli’s groundbreaking research into servicemembers’ perspectives about why they serve, life after the military, and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits helps deepen this conversation. One of the biggest misconceptions, Zoli finds, is the assumption that veterans need extensive support on college campuses. “It’s more accurate to say veterans have much to contribute to higher education,” says Zoli, director of research at the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCOT).

Beyond teamwork and leadership skills, veterans often have highly technical training, cross-cultural expertise, and dedication to the greater community. “Our research finds that most Post-9/11 veterans are motivated to pursue education, feel their military service prepares them well for degrees and jobs, and seek to give back to society,” Zoli says.

Yet too often veterans are an uncommon sight at four-year colleges. In fact, Zoli’s research found that less than half of recent veterans were using their generous GI Bill benefits as of 2014. Syracuse University has worked hard to be an exception to this rule, Zoli notes. Since 1946, when Chancellor William P. Tolley enrolled more than 9,600 veterans through the original GI Bill, the University has sought to leverage veterans’ skills, discipline, and leadership with such offerings as the Defense Comptrollership Program (Whitman School), the Military Visual Journalism Program (Newhouse School), and Operation Boots to Business (IVMF).

Zoli is part of another veterans’ educational transition effort on campus. The Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP) is a donor-funded college readiness initiative, launched at Yale University in 2012, designed to help transitioning servicemembers develop the academic critical skills and the confidence needed to thrive on college campuses. Zoli has taught in the program since 2015, along with history professor Allan Alipor and writing and rhetoric professor Eileen Schell, among others. In February, Zoli was named chair of WSP’s Academic Advisory Board, which includes retired Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Paul Russo. WSP’s free-of-charge “academic boot camps” now run at 12 universities nationwide. SU held its most recent camp—coordinated by Jen Jeffery ’14, G’17 of SU Libraries—in July. “We call it an ‘academic boot camp’ because it’s an immersive introduction to college work,” says WSP executive director Sidney Ellington, a former U.S. Navy SEAL officer and director of Teach for America’s Military Veterans Outreach and Support Initiative. “Just like when a young person joins the military and experiences barracks, drills, and firing ranges, at our camp they go to ‘chow’ at 8 a.m., ‘muster’ for class at 9 a.m., and work in writing labs all afternoon.” The workload extends into the evening, says Ellington, with warrior-scholars getting crash courses about admissions and college culture after dinner, before study hall until 11 p.m. “It’s an intense academic reorientation,” he adds.

Part of Ellington’s motivation for creating the program was to steer veterans toward top universities, showing them that re-tooling their military training and discipline will give them what it takes to do well, even if they are first-generation college students. “Taxpayers spent $12 billion per year on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and 40 percent of that has gone to for-profit colleges,” he says. “At boot camp, veterans learn they can succeed at a college like SU.”

Adam LeGrand ’19 is one of those veterans. A former U.S. Air Force medic, LeGrand is now a policy studies major at SU. “Academic boot camp kicked our butts!” he exclaims. “The program is designed to overwhelm you and make you think differently about higher education, but it makes sense for veterans to test themselves in a new environment.” LeGrand had aspirations of becoming a nurse anesthesiologist or going into law enforcement, but a serious accident during his final deployment in Qatar forced him to reconsider life after service. “I took some community college and for-profit college classes, but nothing worked for me,” he says. That is, un-
“Our research finds that most Post-9/11 veterans are motivated to pursue education, feel their military service prepares them well for degrees and jobs, and seek to give back to society.”

—CORRI ZOLI ’91, G’93, G’04

leads to good discussion,” he says. While Ellington says he hears often from WSP professors that the warrior-scholars enrich academic conversations, he also cites data-driven measures of his program’s success, including Zoli’s IVMF research. “Corri’s research shows that just 1 percent of military veterans are using GI Bill benefits to go to USA Today top-ranked colleges, but WSP is sending 17 percent of its alumni into those schools, and more than half of those to Tier 1 schools,” he says. “What’s more, 98 percent of our alumni who have started college are still there.”

Zoli agrees that integrating warrior-scholars into university classrooms benefits all. “At boot camp, student veterans not only discuss the great ideas that animate history, they pitch in with interpretations steeped in their experiences, including war. Servicemembers thus contribute to some of our most enduring debates: What is the nature of democracy? How do we approach injustice?” Zoli says. “WSP strives to make veterans part of a wider academic conversation and to become campus leaders. In turn, college communities are enriched by their knowledge and leadership.”

—Martin Walls

Corri Zoli ’91, G’93, G’04 (facing page), director of research at the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism, speaks to a class of military veterans as part of the Warrior-Scholar Project. Adam LeGrand ’19 (left, with his service dog, Molly) credits the program with inspiring him to succeed at SU.
**PROJECT:** Photochemistry at “Dirty” Ice Surfaces: Effects of Solutes on Reactivity

**INVESTIGATOR:**
Tara Kahan

**DEPARTMENT:**
Chemistry

**SPONSOR:**
National Science Foundation/ Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award

**AMOUNT AWARDED:**
$579,340 (September 2015-August 2020)

**Background:**
As the Arctic warms and new shipping routes become available, human activity in the Arctic will increase. Energy extraction and use, transportation, and catastrophic events, such as oil spills, will increase pollutant loadings in the Arctic. Pollutants associated with energy extraction and use can react with sunlight ("photolyze") to form more toxic products that are harmful to aquatic organisms, including coral reefs and invertebrates, as well as aquatic and terrestrial mammals ranging from seals to humans.

It is therefore necessary to understand what factors control pollutant reactivity in the Arctic (i.e., how fast they react and what products they form) in order to accurately predict the effects of increased human activity on air and water quality and to develop evidence-based policy to protect fragile ecosystems.

While pollutant reactivity has been extensively studied in liquid water (relevant to rivers, lakes, and oceans), large fractions of the Arctic (both land and water) are frozen for at least several months of the year. Therefore, pollutant reactivity in ice must be understood in order to quantify the health effects of pollutants associated with fossil fuels in the Arctic.

**Impact:**
The data generated by this research will greatly improve models that predict pollutant fate in the environment. This work will also provide a molecular-level view of ice surfaces, showing for the first time how pollutants interact with solutes, such as sea salt, at ice surfaces, and how these solutes affect pollutant reactivity.

The impacts of this work extend beyond the Arctic. Many cities experience snow cover for a fraction of the year; pollutant photolysis in snow and ice may have significant effects on human health due to the high concentrations of both pollutants and people. This chemistry may also be very important in regions used for energy extraction; extremely high levels of pollutants have been detected near hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) operations. This research will help to inform policy to protect the environment and human health in snow-covered locations across the globe.

The project includes an educational component: local middle-school children will attend a week-long summer workshop on science reporting. They will learn about environmental issues facing Syracuse and will interview an environmental scientist. These interviews will be displayed for the public as videos, posters, and blogs as a temporary exhibit at the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology in downtown Syracuse.
IN JULY, NIKITA MALEV WAS PART OF a contingent of 15 high school students from the far corners of the world who converged on the Syracuse University campus to take part in EducationUSA Academy, a program that provides English language and college preparation classes to international students interested in pursuing admission to U.S. colleges. “I could find my English skills improving in classes where two great teachers were doing an amazing job,” says Malev, who journeyed to Syracuse from St. Petersburg, Russia. “It was a unique experience to meet people from different cultures, find out who they are, and what they want to do in the future. There’s no way I’d have so many friends from these countries anywhere else.”

SU was one of 10 American institutions selected by the U.S. Department of State, in partnership with World Learning, to host the four-week summer academic program. The SU program is administered by Summer@Syracuse, and classes are conducted at the English Language Institute (ELI) at University College. The students, highly motivated 15- to 17-year-olds, spend 20 hours a week on intensive English language instruction to improve their speaking, reading, and comprehension skills. Additional instruction focuses on acquainting students with academic culture, campus life, and the admissions process, all with a goal of strengthening each student’s college application. In fact, 94 percent of this year’s participants said they hope to apply to an undergraduate program at a college in the United States. “Academy students experience ELI instruction as one of more than 24 Summer College for High School Students programs,” says Chris Cofer, executive director of Summer@Syracuse. “This collaboration allows academy students to be immersed in a residential environment with more than 400 American high school students, and each academy student is paired with an American roommate.”

Vera Pavkovic, a participant from Podgorica, Montenegro, found the academy to be excellent preparation. “I learned that hard work pays off, and if one deserves it, they can get into a college in the U.S. and get a great education,” she says. “I also learned that Americans are extremely friendly and polite.”

In addition to Russia and Montenegro, this year’s cohort hailed from Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Turkey, and Vietnam. The students lived on campus and made short visits to nearby colleges, including Ithaca College, Cornell University, Onondaga Community College, University of Rochester, and Rochester Institute of Technology. Field trips to the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn and Niagara Falls were huge hits. Local destinations included Destiny USA, the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology, and the Everson Museum of Art. The students also contributed to their Syracuse neighborhood by spending part of a day working in a community garden.

Malev, who created a blog to reflect on his experience, was impressed with the unique appearance of the campus. “It looks beautiful, especially at night,” he says. “All the tall buildings in classical English style, and a big red castle that looks magnificent in the dark. I actually expected something different from an American city: steel and glass. There’s plenty of that as well, but old Gothic buildings between that fit quite well. It’s a classic U.S. eastern city experience.”

Malev also insists the personal connections he made were as important as the program’s academic benefits. “My American peers were a great part of my social experience there, and great motivation to keep studying and preparing for the application process,” he says. He added a bit of encouragement for his international friends who were behind in their U.S. college search. “Go fill out your Common App,” he says. “Don’t miss your chance!”

—Mary Beth Horsington
BERENICE BONILLA HAD LONG PONDERED ENTREPRENEURSHIP. When she moved back to her native Syracuse in 2015, she turned to the WISE Women’s Business Center for help. Utilizing the center’s resources, she soon founded The Bérica Agency for Purposeful Branding, a strategic communications firm that supports socially focused companies. “Attending events and classes at the center was one of the very first things I did,” Bonilla says. “It gave me the opportunity to socialize with sharp, like-minded women and work toward reaching a concrete goal.”

Bonilla is just one example among hundreds of entrepreneurs who have achieved success with the support of the WISE Women’s Business Center established through the Whitman School’s Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship. This year marks the center’s 10th anniversary. To date, it has provided more than 10,000 hours of entrepreneurship counseling. In 2014-15, alone, 125 female entrepreneurs received counseling by center staff and more than 650 women participated in classes and trainings.

The center evolved out of the WISE (Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship) Symposium, which was launched 15 years ago as a single-day event hosted by the Falcone Center. The goal was to educate women on their options for starting a small business. The annual event, which featured such speakers as Barbara Corcoran from Shark Tank, grew to nearly 1,000 attendees. After four years, participants wanted more. “Many people told us the symposium inspired them to start a business, but they didn’t know where to go for more information,” says Joanne Lenweaver, the center’s director. “There were really no resources for them in our community.”

To help aspiring female entrepreneurs, Whitman secured a U.S. Small Business Administration grant to establish the WISE Women’s Business Center. Service offerings expanded from free counseling to classes on specialized skills, such as writing a business plan and launch strategies, as well as opportunities for mentoring and networking. The center outgrew its original space at the University’s South Side Innovation Center and now calls The Tech Garden in downtown Syracuse its home. The move proved positive: Client numbers continue to rise as women from outside Syracuse hear about the center and seek its services.

The efforts of Lenweaver and the center have gained widespread notice. This summer, Lenweaver traveled to Lima, Peru, to serve as a delegate for the center and the U.S. Department of State at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation to address ways to get women more involved in the economy on a global scale.

Whether domestic or international, small or large scale, Lenweaver says the center staff focus on being realistic and supportive. “If you come in and say you want to build the next spaceship, we’ll help you figure out the first step, and then take it one step at a time together,” she says.

Such guidance was just what Bonilla needed to focus on her goal. “My hope is to harness the power of communication to expand the reach of important messages to key audiences and, through the firm’s success, engage in philanthropic efforts that empower immigrants, women, and children,” she says.

Thanks in part to the WISE Women’s Business Center’s support, Bonilla is realizing her goal. Last year, her firm contributed 10 percent of its revenue to two organizations and sponsored the You Can’t Fail 2016 Celebration Event. Bonilla has also served as a panelist and written articles for culturally focused publications in Central New York.

In the decade since the center opened, it has helped more than 8,086 clients like Bonilla progress their ventures. The center’s collective impact on the lives of female entrepreneurs is immeasurable and will, no doubt, continue to grow exponentially.

—Regan Spencer
IN JULY, I WAS FORTUNATE TO SPEAK IN FRONT OF more than 500 people at the Children's Alopecia Project event, Alopeciapalooza, in Las Vegas. The Children's Alopecia Project, better known as CAP, hosted hundreds of kids along with their families for a week. There were many bonding events, and activities consisted of people sharing their life stories and how they've dealt with alopecia, an autoimmune hair-loss disease. There were kids all the way from 5 to 17 years old participating. The speakers and volunteers were all adults ranging from 19 years and up.

Before my arrival, I didn’t have much experience talking in front of crowds. I’ve always been nervous speaking in front of large groups, but I knew I had to erase that fear and do this! I’d previously spoken to several kids about alopecia so that part wasn’t new to me, but in those experiences it was just a few kids. I met Ian, a student who attended Chestnut Hill Elementary, in May. His teacher got us together. I also met a young girl, Sophia, who I’ve become very close to over the years, and our relationship helped me understand alopecia and how it affects young kids.

For my presentation in Las Vegas, I talked about my struggles with alopecia, the support from my family, and how supportive my coaches and all of my teammates at Syracuse have been. I talked about how my good friend, Trevor Cooney ’16, was one of the first ones to really talk to me about it and help me understand I would be fine. The minute I knew Trevor had my back along with my other good friend Dajuan Coleman ’16, G’17, I knew I wouldn’t have to worry about anything when it came to alopecia. I also emphasized how supportive my parents and brothers were. A strong supporting cast really made me feel better about it. Ever since I arrived on campus, everyone from the athletic community to the students has been so understanding.

I gave away a few Syracuse hats to kids in the audience (courtesy of our equipment manager, Dan Shworles). The kids loved them and it took a lot of pressure off me while I engaged with the audience.

After my talk, I grabbed dinner with two fellow speakers, Kevin Bull, who is on American Ninja Warrior, and Anthony Carrigan, an actor who has appeared on The Flash and Gotham. It was amazing talking to people I share similarities with and hearing their stories. Kevin and Anthony are on TV a lot so they have a strong following, and it was nice to hear what they had to say about alopecia and how they’ve become who they are today.

I met so many new people and took a lot of pictures with the kids. It was really humbling seeing all these kids walking around bald, yet still with huge smiles on their faces regardless of what they look like. I’ve never felt more comfortable in front of that many people. Everyone was so kind and accepting to not just me, but to everyone in attendance. I told the kids that it’s just hair and they can’t let being bald affect how they live their lives. Everyone always tries to be different and stand out. With alopecia, we are uniquely different and we stand out by just being ourselves.

Evan Dourdas ’19, a walk-on player on the SU basketball team, is an economics major in the College of Arts and Sciences from Jamesville, New York.
Chancellor Kent Syverud has been appointed to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Academic Advisory Council. Chancellor Syverud, who will serve a three-year term, joins other academic leaders in advising DHS on matters related to homeland security, career opportunities for graduates, campus resilience, and academic research.

In the Military Times’ Best for Vets: Colleges 2017 ranking, Syracuse University was the top-ranked private school in the country and third overall for service members, military veterans, and their families.

The Newhouse School’s Tully Center for Free Speech presented its 2016 Free Speech Award to Jason Rezaian, the Washington Post reporter who was imprisoned in Iran for 544 days.

M. Dolan Evanovich was appointed the University’s senior vice president for enrollment and the student experience. He previously served as vice president for strategic enrollment planning at The Ohio State University.

Life Trustee Daniel D’Aniello ’68, a U.S. Navy veteran, received a 2016 Lone Sailor Award from the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., in September.

Mary Schmidt Campbell G’73, G’80, G’82, president of Spelman College in Atlanta, was one of 11 individuals honored by the White House as “Champions of Change for College Opportunity.” She was recognized for her leadership and work to expand opportunities for students from all backgrounds to enroll and succeed in college.

Joshua Nowlin, a staff member with Food Services, collected his 51st Special Olympics medal. He has competed in Special Olympics for more than 30 years, earning medals in numerous sports.

Professor Karen Doherty, chair of the Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders, was elected a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in recognition of her accomplishments and professional achievements in the field.

Billboard magazine featured the Bandier Program in the College of Visual and Performing Arts among its selection of “12 Elite Music Business Schools Shaping the Industry’s Future.”

The Whitman School of Management received a No. 20 ranking on The Princeton Review’s list of top 25 online MBA programs for 2017.

DesignIntelligence, the bimonthly journal of the Design Futures Council, ranked the School of Architecture undergraduate program No. 3 in the nation, and the graduate program, eighth. In addition, Dean Michael Speaks was selected as one of “25 Most Admired Educators for 2016-17.” The undergraduate program has been ranked in the top 10 every year since 2004.

**SPORTS NOTES**

The defending national champion SU men’s cross country team headed into the NCAA championship by collecting its fourth straight NCAA Northeast Region title and fourth straight ACC crown. For Coach Chris Fox’s squad, it was the seventh regional win since 2009 and its fifth straight conference title and seventh in the past eight seasons.

En route to the nationals, Justyn Knight ’17 captured the ACC and Northeast races, giving him four individual meet titles in four outings this season. In both races, the Orange placed all five scoring runners in the top 10. Following Knight across the finish line at the 10K Northeast meet in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx were Colin Bennie ’18 (second), Ilia Aouani ’19 (seventh), Phili Germain ’18 (ninth), and Joel Hubbard ’17 (10th).

For the results of the NCAA meet, held November 19 in Terre Haute, Indiana, visit cuse.com.

The SU women’s tennis duo of Valeria Salazar ’17 and Gabriela Knutson ’19 advanced to the semifinals of the 2016 USTA/Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Indoor Championships in Flushing, New York, in November. They won two matches in the tournament before falling to the eventual champions from the University of Kentucky.

The pair qualified for the nationals by winning the ITA Northeast Regional Championships at Yale in October. The top-seeded pair posted a 6-2, 6-2 win in the finals. The fifth-seeded Salazar also claimed the singles title, winning all five of her matches in straight sets, including a 6-2, 6-3 victory in the finals.

Seeking to defend its 2015 national title, the SU field hockey team (15-4) moved into the NCAA quarterfinals before dropping a 3-2 double overtime loss to UConn at Coyne Stadium in November. All-ACC First Team honors went to Laura Hurff ’18, Lies Lagerweij ’18, and Roos Weers ’19.

Miles Robinson ’19 was voted the ACC’s Men’s Soccer Defensive Player of the Year by the league’s head coaches. Robinson was also named to the All-ACC First Team along with forward Chris Nanco ’17. Midfielder Mo Adams ’20 earned All-ACC Third Team honors and a spot on the league’s All-Freshman Team.

Orange wide receiver Amba Etta-Tawo G’17 received an invitation to participate in the 2016 Senior Bowl. He was among the nation’s leading receivers and set two of SU’s most prestigious single-season receiving marks—most catches (72) and most yards (1,131)—at Clemson in November.

The SU women’s soccer team was a recipient of the NCAA Public Recognition Award, an honor bestowed on teams with an NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports in the 2014-15 academic year.
Q&A: SEAN O’KEEFE | Advising a Transition of Presidential Proportions

LAST JANUARY, THE NATIONAL ACADEMY of Public Administration (NAPA) appointed University Professor and Phanstiel Chair Sean O’Keefe G’78 of the Maxwell School to a six-person group of senior advisors tasked with helping to facilitate a smooth White House transition as of January 20, 2017. Joining O’Keefe as advisors to NAPA’s Presidential Transition 2016 panels are Maxwell Advisory Board members Donna Shalala G’70, H’87, and Paul Volcker H’08.

NAPA’s Transition 2016 initiative is an outgrowth of legislation passed in 2010 to expedite protocols crucial to the day-to-day administration of the federal government. The law allows both major party candidates—as of three days after their nominations—to access certain government resources, such as intelligence briefings and FBI background checks, to begin laying the foundation for the transition in management.

Syracuse University Magazine contributing writer Carol Boll spoke about the initiative with O’Keefe, whose lengthy public service includes posts as administrator for NASA and secretary of the Navy.

What is the focus of this transition process?
Effectiveness is what you’re looking for. As the president-elect, you’ve just got so many things on your plate, and there has to be a way to organize them. Before the 2010 legislation, tradition had held that a candidate does not presume success until Election Day; then you had just eight weeks to prepare for assumption of duty. As a result, every administration is incredibly behind the curve because there was no open process to accomplish all the basic steps necessary to prepare to govern. You wouldn’t run any organization that way, much less the sprawling federal government that is likely to spend over $4 trillion in the coming year.

What type of steps are involved?
The most notable, quantifiable challenge is the appointment of senior appointees. Typically, the Senate will act expeditiously on nominations of cabinet officers. But below that, it’ll take months. And it behooves both candidates to have already started the process of thinking about who will be responsible for just the day-in, day-out management issues. If the only person “at home” is the cabinet officer, then you have this vacuum that might remain for months. This transition work expedites that process so you can have a team in place as close to day one as possible.

So the transition teams look at a range of policy issues from the implementation standpoint—how do we start the process of vetting names of people, getting security clearances? What are the management issues that need to be on the agenda? The academy panels are working hard to provide insight on these basic management challenges to both campaign transition teams, and our advisory group is overseeing the effort.

Why is this preparation important?
Because the time between the election and the assumption of office becomes a period of transitional vulnerability, a time that those who would like to disrupt our way of life find opportune to cause disruption and chaos. This has been proven time and time again to be a serious potential threat—because there’s confusion at the top in terms of how things actually get handled.

But there are also more pedestrian concerns, like structural problems with financial systems—big management problems that the new administration simply was not aware of. The Office of Personnel Management data breach a few years ago is an example. The vulnerability of that system had been identified and pointed to forever.

How will you know if the panels’ work has been successful?
The greatest measure of effectiveness is the avoidance of incidents you never hear about. If debate in the next administration is exclusively a consequence of policy or program choices—and isn’t something that was just a stupid circumstance or management problem that went ignored—that will be a measure of effectiveness. That is the management framework the academy is trying to prepare the next administration to adopt.
OH, THOSE ACHING, CREEKING KNEES. IN A SYRACUSE Biomaterials Institute (SBI) laboratory, mechanical engineering doctoral candidate Allen Osaheni G’15, G’17 is testing a new biomaterial that could one day mend damaged articular cartilage, allowing people hampered by such knee problems to return to action, full throttle. The material—a self-sustaining, lubricating hydrogel—would act as an implant, patching torn cartilage (which heals slowly, if at all) and offering an alternative to knee replacement or other methods of repair. “Right now, knee replacement is the only comprehensive solution and it’s really undesirable for younger people who want to go back to full activity levels,” Osaheni says.

For the past three years, Osaheni has been developing the hydrogel—a scaffold of polymers that retains water—as part of a research group led by Professor Michelle Blum of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. According to Blum, whose research focuses on repairing knee joints, the major challenge is for the hydrogel to possess mechanical stability as well as friction and wear properties that mimic natural cartilage. “Our system mechanically matches cartilage and now we’re focusing on enhancing the wear life while not damaging the healthy cartilage,” she says. “The goal is for these gels to have an extended wear life beyond what typical implants have. This is specifically addressing using a synthetic implant that will allow people to maintain as much of their natural tissue as possible, therefore maintaining natural joint mechanics, so in theory people can return to a full quality of life.”

In pursuing the desired hydrogel, they collaborated with former SBI director Patrick Mather, a polymers expert, who introduced zwitterionic polymers as a lubricant in their system. They came up with two approaches for consistently producing this hydrogel blend, for which they’ve filed a patent application. One method mixes the lubricant into the hydrogel matrix; the second grafts the lubricant to the surface of the matrix. Osaheni is now exploring a process that combines the two methods. “Basically, you have this polymer floating in the matrix of another polymer that’s bigger,” Blum says. “If you push on it, or even by natural diffusive processes, it will come out of the gel, lubricating it. If the polymer is grafted on top and a piece gets knocked off, you have this reservoir that will take its place. It should enhance the lubrication properties of the gel far beyond what you need.”

This semester, they are testing the hydrogel in a device known as a biotribometer, which imitates the range of motion found in a knee, allowing them to test the biomaterial’s response to friction and wear. The biotribometer was built by two former members of Blum’s research team—then engineering graduate student Ryan Olson ’14, G’16, who developed the device; and mechanical engineering major Gabriel Smolnycki ’17, who provided electrical engineering and computer programming assistance. Most important, the device was designed to fit into an environmental chamber, where they can simulate conditions in a knee joint (such as temperature, relative humidity, and atmospheric pressure), test the material’s interaction with natural cartilage, and also introduce living cells into the matrix. “The ultimate goal is to have this implant to stabilize the wound, so recovery would be quicker and you could get back to normal life,” Blum says. “Over the long term, if you seed it with growth factors and stem cells, new tissue would form and eventually your tissue would grow back with the implant underneath it, but it would operate like natural tissue again.” —Jay Cox

“Right now, knee replacement is the only comprehensive solution and it’s really undesirable for younger people...”
—Allen Osaheni G’15, G’17

Professor Michelle Blum and doctoral candidate Allen Osaheni G’15, G’17 work with a biotribometer to test the hydrogel they are developing.

Biomaterials Institute (SBI) laboratory, mechanical engineering doctoral candidate Allen Osaheni G’15, G’17 is testing a new biomaterial that could one day mend damaged articular cartilage, allowing people hampered by such knee problems to return to action, full throttle. The material—a self-sustaining, lubricating hydrogel—would act as an implant, patching torn cartilage (which heals slowly, if at all) and offering an alternative to knee replacement or other methods of repair. “Right now, knee replacement is the only comprehensive solution and it’s really undesirable for younger people who want to go back to full activity levels,” Osaheni says.

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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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To create your personal Syracuse University gift plan, call 888.352.9535 or email giftplan@syr.edu. It’s sure to be one of the most meaningful plans you’ll ever make.
KWABENA TETTEY ‘17 GREW UP IN ACCRA, THE capital city of Ghana, and spoke only French until he entered sixth grade at the American Cooperative School of Tunis. That’s where he learned to speak English—with an American accent, thanks to the school’s many teachers and students from the United States. When he was considering where to continue his education, his advisor and mentor strongly urged him to include Syracuse University on his list and in researching it, Tettey liked what he saw. “I am a big basketball fan, and knew that Carmelo Anthony played here, so that was a plus,” he says. “I wanted to be in New York and I decided to come here to study architecture.”

After spending most of his life in the heat of equatorial countries, Tettey, who was born in the Ivory Coast, was stunned by the first snow he’d ever seen. And while he adapted to the climate culture shock, he also adjusted his academic plans when he realized that although he is creative, drawing isn’t his strongest talent. Instead, he combined his interests in computers, graphic design, and digital photography to major in information management and technology, specializing in web design management, at the School of Information Studies (iSchool). During Commencement 2017, he will be one of the school’s two senior class marshals.

As a first-year student, Tettey attended an iSchool involvement fair and was recruited to join the Black and Latino Information Science and Technology Support (BLISTS) organization. He served as vice president in his sophomore year, and is now president of the club, which focuses on networking, supporting, and mentoring minority students. The group has recently started offering technical workshops to students, with an emphasis on coding. “A lot of students shy away from the technical side of information technology because it’s very code heavy and takes a lot of patience,” he says. “But that’s the core, the side of IT that gets you the best jobs.”

For the past year, BLISTS members have mentored students at the Northeast Community Center in Syracuse, hosting workshops, tutoring, and inviting them to visit SU. “A lot of them live in the city, but have never been to campus,” he says. “They loved it.” In addition to his studies and BLISTS responsibilities, he is public relations chair of the African Student Union, and works as a gate supervisor for football and basketball games at the Carrier Dome. “I’m busy, but I can make time to do the things I care about, like tutoring and mentoring,” he says. “I try to put myself in the shoes of others and be a role model for them.”

With those thoughts in mind, he hopes to earn a master’s degree, then land a high-paying job, preferably in Silicon Valley. His long-term plans are to eventually return to Ghana. “I want to build my net worth here and acquire more skills,” he says. “Then go back to Ghana when I can make a change in the lives of the people there.”

He won’t have any trouble communicating there, because he is tri-lingual—fluent not only in French and English, but also in Twi, the native tongue of Ghana. “It’s nice to know three languages—I’m able to communicate with a lot of people,” he says. “And it makes me more marketable.” With all those languages to choose from, which one does he dream in? “It heavily depends on where I am, but right now, it’s in English,” Tettey says with a smile. If he achieves his goal of working in Silicon Valley, he’ll be dreaming in English for quite some time.

—Paula Meseroll
CULTURE OF POSSIBILITY

BETWEEN THE TIME WHEN DANA SPIOTTA published her second novel and won the Rome Prize in Literature and spent a year at the American Academy in Rome, she and her husband ran a restaurant near Cooperstown, New York. Business was great during the summer months, but the winters were a struggle—a time of “watching the money disappear,” she says. Fortunately, Spiotta had something to fall back on. “The running joke was that I was the only person who used her writing career to support her waitress career,” she says. “But I learned a lot from waitressing. You are almost invisible. You get to engage with a lot of different people in this almost ritual way—you’re always talking about food. But it’s intimate, too, watching people enjoy dinner. It’s very human and basic. You can think about people and how interesting they are and how specific they are. And I think it helped me as a writer. It was a great way of experiencing a wide variety of humans, from a weird angle—which I liked.”

Now a College of Arts and Sciences faculty member in the M.F.A. Creative Writing Program, Spiotta finds her work is nurtured by teaching, by her relationships with colleagues and students, and by being part of a community of writers at one of the most renowned programs in the country. “Being a working artist who also teaches in a university has been an amazingly good development. It forces you to think about what you do in your own practice, in a way that helps students and also helps you,” she says. “Being around the other faculty members is very inspiring, because they all manage to do what people think is very tricky, which is to do your own work while you’re teaching. A big part of the program is just seeing other people do this thing that you want to do. The students think, ‘Oh, here are writers, and we all have to teach and we all write.’ And so it kind of creates a culture of possibility for them.”

Spiotta is the author of four novels, all published by Scribner: Lightning Field (2001); Eat the Document (2006), which was a finalist for the 2006 National Book Award and a recipient of the Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; Stone Arabia (2011), a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist in fiction; and Innocents and Others (2016). “Each book has taken me five years to write. I like to try to immerse myself in something and find out everything about it,” says Spiotta, who was a Guggenheim Fellow in 2008 and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in 2009. “When you’re writing and it’s going really well, the self falls away and you feel more connected to the larger world. You lose track of yourself in a way. And there’s something very helpful about that in terms of how to be a person, for me.”

As she begins thinking about her next book, she reflects on the process of writing fiction, which, as she tells her students, “never gets easier if you’re doing it right.” She likens it to getting married. “You have to fall in love enough to commit to it, and then to be there when the hard parts come and it is no longer lovable,” she says. “We’re talking about a form of artistry—something that’s always going to be ripped from the most urgent part of yourself. That’s very hard to do without being around other people who think that’s important.” —Amy Speach
KATIE CADWELL

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

College of Engineering and Computer Science

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING PROFESSOR KATIE Cadwell well remembers her days as an undergraduate. She can tell you about fun courses she took (theater and ceramics), her adventures as an international student at the University of Newcastle in Australia, spinning records as a college radio DJ, the challenges of being a transfer student, and how she discovered a love for teaching as a peer tutor. “You know how you try something for the first time and instantly you know, wow, I’m good at this,” the Missouri native says. “I could tell and I liked it. And it was fun.”

Today, as the chemical engineering (CEN) undergraduate program director in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and a teaching-only faculty member, Cadwell carries those experiences with her. And along with her humor, energy, and empathy, they help her connect with students—creating interactions she enjoys and values. “There are a lot of changes, and much of what happens to students is not even really about the material in class,” she says. “It’s about maturing, learning about themselves as people, what they want to do in life, and how to interact with others.”

Cadwell received a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science & Technology), then earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW), where she researched the behavior of liquid crystals and gained experience as a TA. With her heart set on teaching at the college level, she landed a post-doctoral research associate position doing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education and outreach at UW’s Materials Research Science and Engineering Center. And when an opportunity arose to teach a preparatory chemistry class at Madison Area Technical College, she accepted. “It was terrifying,” she says. “But I learned a lot about teaching, which is that it’s really hard and takes a lot of preparation.”

From fretting about one negative student evaluation in that first class, Cadwell also learned how much she cared about the students’ success. She taught on the full-time faculty there for several years before accepting an offer from SU in 2011. “Frankly, this is my dream job,” Cadwell says.

One of Cadwell’s trademark teaching experiences is her senior CEN lab course, where she introduces students to the rigors of engineering through a fictitious company she calls Learning Curve Consultants. She poses an open-ended problem the company needs to solve and the students go at it, researching the issue, proposing and conducting experiments, giving progress reports, and making recommendations. The work, she says, helps students learn the importance of communication and collaborating as part of a team. “It’s about trying to shift them into thinking like engineers, not like students, and also to working through problems from scratch on their own,” she says.

Cadwell, whose numerous accolades include a 2015 Teaching Recognition Award from SU’s Meredith Professorship Program, also does professional development seminars, workshops, and presentations on campus and at engineering conferences. She is a proponent of flipped classroom teaching, which emphasizes interaction and team activities, and avoids long lectures like the plague. Her goal, she says, is to keep students motivated, have them gain confidence in their abilities, work hard, and succeed. “I’m interested in helping people do things better,” she says. “A lot of the time, all they really need is the push—for someone to say, ‘You can do it.’” —Jay Cox
DRIVEN BY ‘DIFFERENCE’

WHEN KARIMA AKINS ’17 FINISHED KINDER- garden at a Syracuse elementary school, she was bursting with confidence and a love of learning. But first grade in a new school district almost broke her spirit. She began to struggle academically, and when her parents insisted she be tested for learning disabilities, some significant issues were identified. “The day I found out I had a learning disability it felt like the world crushed me into pieces,” she recalls.

Being labeled a “resource kid” ate away at Akins’s self-confidence, but her parents encouraged her to hold onto her dream of becoming a lawyer. As she grew, so did that dream, and she resolved to make it happen by working harder than everyone else. “I developed solid study habits and became a good advocate for myself,” Akins says. She ignored the nasty comments, sought help whenever she needed it, and her grades improved with her outlook. “I saw how powerful my learning disability was in my life,” Akins says. “Here I was on the honor roll and I’m a resource kid! Just because I had a disability didn’t mean I wasn’t smart.”

By the time she entered high school, Akins was confident she could do anything she set her mind to. She played the violin, sang in the chorus, and volunteered extensively. But even after being inducted into the National Honor Society and earning an academic letter, she was told she wasn’t “college material.” So she decided to challenge everyone who thought she’d never make it and insisted on making Syracuse University her academic destination. “I ignored people who spoke negatively about my ‘different learning’ and embraced my disability accommodations,” Akins says.

She proved the naysayers wrong by enrolling at University College, becoming a third-generation SU student. “My family has a very rich legacy at SU, and I believe that Orange runs through my veins,” she says. Her father, Daniel Akins, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1985 and is a nuclear technician for Entergy Corp. Her grandfather, Elton Cadogan, earned a degree in broadcast journalism from Newhouse in 1981, through University College (UC). Two uncles are also SU alumni. She was awarded an associate degree last May at UC’s Commencement Ceremony in Hendricks Chapel, and is now on target to graduate in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a minor in entrepreneurship and emerging enterprises. “UC has been very supportive of me,” Akins says.

Part-time study has allowed her to work as a receptionist in SU’s Career Services office while attending college. Her UC advisors helped her navigate the path to a degree as a confident, dean’s list student rather than someone struggling with disabilities. “I have been able to do everything a full-time student is able to do, and I love the campus diversity and willingness to help others,” she says.

Akins continues to feed her passion for community service. When a chapter of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society was organized at SU in 2015, she became its president. The organization provides scholarships, career connections, and leadership and service opportunities to students with physical and learning disabilities. “We recognize the academic accomplishments of high-achieving students by advocating and educating about disability,” she says.

Law school and a job in government remain two of Akins’s goals, and she even dreams of using her entrepreneurship studies to create her own law firm. Sometimes she thinks bigger and imagines herself as the CEO of an NFL or NBA team. “I love being the boss,” she says. “I’m different, and there’s nothing wrong with it.”

—Mary Beth Horsington

KARIMA AKINS ’17
CHAPTER PRESIDENT,
DELTA ALPHA PI
INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
University College/College of Arts and Sciences
SINCE THE IMPECCABLY RESTORED HOTEL Syracuse reopened in late summer, it’s been a magnet for Syracuse alumni and parents, in town for football games, Orange Central homecoming, and other rites of autumn. One September morning, Edward M. Riley ’78, the hotel’s new owner—and many say savior—surveys the busy lobby and says, “It’s great to see the Orange shirts back.”

In fact, the hotel has been ablaze with Orange talent and passion throughout its $76 million restoration. Like Riley, the majority of the key players are Syracuse alumni. And they’re earning thunderous applause for their magnificent contribution to the city’s revitalization.

The iconic Hotel Syracuse, now operating as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, has been the city’s crown architectural jewel since it opened in 1924. But after a glorious 50-year run, coinciding with Syracuse’s reign as a major industrial city, the hotel slid slowly downhill, declared bankruptcy, and closed in 2004. For a decade, the vacant hotel cast a long shadow over the southeast corner of the city. Unheated, deteriorating, and entangled in liens, it seemed destined for demolition, until its almost miraculous...
rescue by Riley, an architect with 40 years of experience in design, construction, real estate development, and hotel operations. Equally pertinent, in the Hotel Syracuse saga, is the fact that Riley is a native son.

As a fifth-generation Syracusan, he appreciates the hotel’s starring role in the city’s social history. Riley went to family weddings and his own senior ball at the Hotel Syracuse. “More than once,” he admits, “I have been asked to leave the hotel for singing too loudly at St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. This is where our community gathers to celebrate. I couldn’t watch it reduced to a pile of bricks.”

With three massive towers, eleven floors, and more than 600 original rooms, the hotel commands a full city block between Salina and Warren streets in downtown Syracuse. It was designed by William Stone Post of George B. Post & Sons, New York, whose portfolio includes the New York Stock Exchange. During its heyday, the Hotel Syracuse hosted business travelers, five presidents, and a steady stream of celebrities. For locals, including the Syracuse University community, it was the world-class backdrop for special celebrations, large and small. Pat Cain Beyle ’56 and Thad Beyle ’56, G’60 celebrated their wedding in its Grand Ballroom. “We had 300 guests and an 18-piece band,” Pat Beyle remembers. “It was a grand place.”

The hotel was slightly less grand in 1973, when one of its floors housed Syracuse students awaiting the completion of Skytop Apartments. According to Bob Cohen ’75, “It was a sweltering September, and the rooms were air conditioned. All our friends from school came down to cool off. The hotel was past its hey-

Ed Riley ’78 (top right) led the resurrection of the former Hotel Syracuse, guiding it from crumbling abandonment to its original grandeur.
During its heyday, the Hotel Syracuse was a center for community celebrations and welcomed everyone from wedding parties to celebrities and presidents. Over time, the hotel fell into disrepair. Today, as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, the hotel proudly displays a 40-foot mural, created by an SU professor, above the reception desk. Cloaked behind mirrors when restoration work began, the mural was repaired and is now, once again, a central focus of the lobby.

Day, but that air conditioning was a big plus."

Just as the Hotel Syracuse reflected the city’s midcentury prosperity, it later mirrored its decline. As city residents and businesses fled to the suburbs, the hotel limped along for decades, with occupancy rates as low as 6 percent. In 2004, the Hotel Syracuse closed, bankrupt and $20 million in debt.

On the positive side, Syracuse’s tepid economy helped to preserve the Hotel Syracuse. The city lacked the vitality to tear it down and replace it with something new. And, paradoxically, the sluggish economy helped Riley develop precisely the skills he would one day need to save the hotel.

Riley, after earning his architecture license, set up shop in Syracuse. As the Armory Square district came to life, he tackled his first historic restorations: the Bentley Settle and Piper-Phillips buildings. He had his first taste of real estate development during a decade with Pioneer Companies in Syracuse. By the 1990s, however, more promising opportunities beckoned far from home. Riley took a job with Marriott International, developing resorts in Hawaii. But he never uprooted his wife, Janet, and their three children from their suburban Syracuse home. For years, he says, “I commuted to work from Camillus to Hawaii.”

In 2005, Riley joined the Boston-based Pyramid Hotel Group (unrelated to The Pyramid Companies in Syracuse), which specialized in restoring and operating historic hotels. With Pyramid, Riley oversaw the $60 million restoration of the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix, the $35 million restoration of the Claremont Hotel in San Francisco, and the $30 million restoration of the Fairfax Hotel on Embassy Row in Washington, D.C. In 2013, when Riley was traveling about 300,000 miles a year as senior vice president of project management, he brought the deteriorating Hotel Syracuse—with broken pipes, a leaking roof, and crumbling plaster—to his company’s attention. “It was in the roughest shape of any hotel I’d seen,” Riley says. “This looked like its last chance.”

A MONUMENTAL CHALLENGE

Pyramid looked closely at the hotel’s liens and decided to walk away. Riley looked at the same challenges and decided to leave Pyramid and tackle the project on his own. It was the biggest decision of his life, Riley later admitted at a forum sponsored by the Syracuse Media Group. “I had a skill set in my profession to restore buildings,” he says. “You can’t build history. Why not bring the old gal back to her former glory?”
Not that his decision was purely sentimental. “In the prior 10 years, I’d seen a sea change in Syracuse,” Riley says. “It was on its way to a much better downtown. I knew if the city wanted to be a player, it would need a first-class hotel.” Riley also knew he would need a first-class restoration team for the monumental work ahead. He reached out to hospitality architect Mario LaGuardia ’78 of MLG in New York. LaGuardia had worked worldwide for such luxury hotel clients as Mandarin Oriental, W, Peninsula, and St. Regis. Though LaGuardia and Riley were classmates at Syracuse, they had never crossed paths. But they clicked immediately in 2002, when they worked together at the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York, where LaGuardia was the architect in charge of a $350 million expansion.

At the Hotel Syracuse, LaGuardia’s role was architect and master planner. One of his many challenges was to reconfigure the 600 guest rooms into 320 rooms with the modern elegance and high-tech amenities that contemporary guests expect. “A hotel is like a city within a city, with public and private spaces,” LaGuardia says. “Our challenge was to create a seamless experience between the two without damaging the historic character of the public spaces.”

For the hotel’s historic preservation work, Riley turned to Bruce King ’73 and James F. Williams ’87 of Holmes King Kallquist & Associates in Syracuse. They had been involved in the hotel’s earlier renovations, as well as local restoration projects in the Nettleton Factory building, State Tower Building, and Landmark Theatre. King and Williams were responsible for the hotel’s historic public spaces—both exterior and interior, including the street-level storefronts and restaurants. Under historic preservation guidelines, King explains, these areas can be restored but not significantly altered. Since the hotel corridors are considered public spaces, all the original guest room doors had to remain in place, even though the number of rooms was reduced by half.

Each of the coffin doors—named for the hollow compartments where guests left laundry for hotel pickup—was removed and refinished by Stickley-Audi & Co. of nearby Manlius. When the restored Hotel Syracuse was unveiled, the lobby, Grand Ballroom, and Persian Terrace were jaw dropping, with their magnificent chandeliers, hand-painted plaster ceilings, and colorful murals restored to their original luster. But the architects’ responsibilities went far beyond these eye-catching elements. “The breadth of this project was mind-blowing,” Williams says. “Architecture is a mix of art and science. The real angst, in this project, came from addressing issues like the rusted steel beams that had blown out the brick facing under the parapets.”

The hotel’s basic structure was actually in good shape, according to Riley. “So much good character was still here.” The previous owners had built walls and used paint to conceal damage. That helped to protect the original surfaces. “We could peel back and find treasures buried everywhere,” Riley says.

One of the biggest treasures was a 40-foot mural discovered above the reception desk. The painting, by the late Carl Roters, a fine arts professor at Syracuse, depicts the first 100 years of the city’s history. In the 1980s, when brass and glass were in fashion, the mural was covered with mirrors. During Riley’s restoration, its original varnish was removed, revealing the artist’s vibrant colors and expressive brush strokes. The mural is once again the focal point of the spectacular lobby.

For the architects, designing the two ground-floor restaurants was especially rewarding. The lobby’s placement on the second floor made it important to have visible activity at the street level. “What happens on the street and inside the hotel reinforce each other,” LaGuardia says. “It creates liveliness, a sense that something’s happening here.”

Williams, for instance, cites the way the hotel’s new Eleven...
Waters restaurant and patio extend into the street. “It creates the interactive feeling of a town square,” he says.

A SHARED PASSION
They say it takes a village to raise a child. Riley knew from experience it would take the city, the county, and the state to help revive the massive landmark. Fortunately, from his earliest overtures, Riley attracted influential people—government officials, politicians, attorneys, bankers, and everyday citizens—who shared his passion for the project.

One of the first to go to bat for Riley was Ben Walsh G’05, who was the city’s director of economic development under Mayor Stephanie Miner ’92. After the hotel closed in 2004, a series of out-of-town developers had expressed interest, according to Walsh. “There were a lot of false starts,” he says. “But when I met Ed in 2013, the conversation immediately felt different. He understood what the hotel meant to the city. He wasn’t interested in shortcuts. So many earlier plans didn’t do the building justice.”

Walsh’s initial challenge was to untangle the liens from the hotel’s bankruptcy. When the city was unable to take title to the hotel through tax foreclosure—lien holders foiled every effort—Walsh and the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency (SIDA) went to court to take the property through eminent domain. Walsh remembers the day the city finally transferred the title to Riley. “It felt too good to be true,” Walsh says. “But I’ve felt that way about Ed since the day I met him.”

The next big challenge was to help find funding for the $76 million restoration. Riley had about $700,000 of his own money in the project and a handful of committed private investors. But the restoration would rely heavily on bank loans as well as historic preservation tax credits, state grants, and real-estate tax breaks in the form of a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement through SIDA. To help navigate these complicated funding streams, Riley brought Al Gough ’80 on board as CFO. Another suburban Syracusan with fond memories of the Hotel Syracuse, Gough has credentials that include a decade with Syracuse’s Pyramid Management Group, where he was involved in the complex permanent funding of the Carousel Center mall. The Hotel Syracuse finances are far more complicated. “My biggest challenge has been wrapping my head around the flow of funds in and out,” Gough says. “We’ve had to expand from one company to seven to comply with all the reporting and regulations required by the structure of the deal.”

One of the project’s memorable financial milestones was when Onondaga County, under County Executive Joanie Mahoney ’87, L’90, committed a $15 million state grant to the Hotel Syracuse, in exchange for its partnership with the county’s convention center. Another red-letter day was when Allen Naples ’73 of M&T
Bank approved a commercial loan for the restoration.

WSYR-TV news anchor Carrie Lazarus ’80, in the documentary special Extraordinary: Hotel Syracuse, describes Naples as “the banker who changed his mind.” Naples’s original response to Riley’s loan application was “No way. I’ve lost money on the hotel in the past. I’m not doing it again.” But after his assistant showed him some of Riley’s restoration work, Naples reversed his decision and soon became one of the project’s biggest advocates.

The hotel’s original electrical power panel now hangs in Naples’s office—a gift from Riley, in recognition of the banker’s role in helping to power the restoration.

What’s helped Riley power through three years of relentless restoration pressure? Some of his resilience dates back to his student days. “It’s madness the way architecture students are trained,” LaGuardia says. Adds Riley, “They lock you up in Slocum Hall, and you do not leave the school.” And yet, both agree, that pressure—and their professors—created an unquenchable passion for architecture.

Some of Riley’s tireless effort is inspired by the project’s tangible impact on the local economy. During the restoration, Riley hired an estimated 450 people, 90 percent of them local. When the hotel is fully operational, it will employ 250 permanent workers—even more if its social catering operations are as successful as predicted. After all, consider there were more than 130 weddings scheduled before the hotel had officially reopened.

Riley is also propelled by the sense that the hotel—as big as it is—is part of something much bigger: a renaissance in downtown Syracuse. A number of businesses are leaving suburban office parks and moving back into the city. In the past decade, the downtown population has increased by 57 percent to 3,400 people, largely because of millennials’ interest in urban living, according to Merike Treier, executive director of the Downtown Committee of Syracuse. Multiple major restoration projects are underway. A block from the hotel, the former Dey Brothers department store has been transformed into 64 apartments, all of them leased. “People throughout history have been drawn to the density of cities,” says Robert Doucette G’76, L’84 of Armory Development, co-developer of the Dey Brothers, Sibley’s, and Loew’s buildings. “Young people especially love the urban energy and the street-level mix of shops, restaurants, bars, and nightlife.”

In the 1980s, Doucette—refusing to accept that downtown was dead—was an early investor in Armory Square, which soon evolved into a thriving, trendy neighborhood. Three decades later, the entire downtown is percolating, fueled largely by the restoration of historic buildings. “The Hotel Syracuse restoration proves that huge things can happen when businesses, banks, government, and individuals work together,” Doucette says.

Walsh echoes that thought. “It’s the only project I’ve worked on that truly transcends politics,” he says. “Everyone set aside their own personal agendas and worked toward a common goal. It makes me wonder what else we can accomplish as a community.”

Riley, it seems, has revived a sense of community through the project, demonstrating what can be achieved with vision, commitment, and collaboration. Reflecting on the entire experience, Riley says it reminds him of rowing crew. “Everyone pulled the oars together in the same direction, guided by what’s best for the community,” he says.
Beyond the Usual

Here’s a glimpse of some innovative and intriguing courses that students can explore | BY AMY SPEACH

IMAGINE A TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH—or perhaps a newfound super power—that would allow you to be fully present in more than one place at a time. Then envision using that ability to check out the rich diversity of academic offerings occurring at Syracuse University on any given day. What an educational feast that would be, with courses in 12 schools and colleges and innumerable disciplines to choose from. You might sit in on a psychology class where students learn about information processing by getting robots to run through mazes. You could join teams of engineering students as they collaborate with a local company to design and install new lighting filters in an area park. And perhaps you would take in a political science course where one way students gain a deeper understanding of American national security is by watching and discussing the film Dr. Strangelove.

You’d see students being guided by faculty who want to help them open their minds and think more broadly, critically, and creatively. You’d witness partnerships with community members, local schools, and thriving businesses, providing hands-on learning with real impact for students. And you’d see students being challenged, counseled, invested in, and inspired to achieve, succeed, and excel.

Until that breakthrough comes along, the following survey of creative course offerings across the University allows a glance of all that happens here, in classrooms and beyond.
Understanding Cognitive Science | Taught by Michael Kalish

In this psychology course in the College of Arts and Sciences, students explore the methodologies of cognitive science using robots of varying complexities as examples of cognitive systems. “Students are assigned to solve a little maze problem,” Kalish says. “The robots run around in radial arm mazes. And hopefully, the second time they run the maze they’ll be faster than the first time. The advantage of the robot over an animal or a human being is that we know what the right answer is. We know how the robot solves the problem. So students can do cognitive science on the robot and find out whether their answers are correct or not. And the robots are extremely simple. So if it fails for them, it’s certain to fail for us. But it fails in interesting ways. And that’s the point—you’re learning how to think about information processing, in a way that is like a cognitive scientist does.”

Maxwell | Underground Railroad

Taught by Milton Sernett

An online anthropology course in the Maxwell School introducing students to the history of what is popularly known as the Underground Railroad, with particular attention to African American efforts—with or without assistance—to resist slavery by escaping to freedom. New York State’s Freedom Trail Initiative informs the collective work in the course, as does the federal Underground Railroad project undertaken by the National Park Service. Students explore Underground Railroad connections in their local communities or a geographic area of their choice and use a range of primary and secondary sources.

American National Security Through Films | Taught by Michael Newell G’13

This political science course in the College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School examines the question, “How can we characterize America’s experiences with war, terrorism, and other security threats and how it responded to them?” by considering cases from World War I through the War on Terror, using security studies and film. Topics include radicalism and espionage (J. Edgar), the Cold War (Dr. Strangelove), the Korean and Vietnam wars (Full Metal Jacket), and counterterrorism operations (Zero Dark Thirty).
Introduction to Entrepreneurial Engineering
Taught by Mark Povinelli G’88, G’14

A College of Engineering and Computer Science course in which students engage in a real-world problem and interact with a customer through the entire design process, including ideation, prototyping, fabrication, and installation. In fall 2015, for example, students worked with a local design company to design, make, and install light filters underneath benches in a nearby park.

How Religion Makes Bodies: Saints, Cyborgs, Monsters
Taught by John Borchert G’13

A religion course in the College of Arts and Sciences that addresses how contemporary political, cultural, and technological environments influence ways of thinking about the human body. The course uses fiction (Frankenstein, for example), film, and philosophy to look through historical, theological, anthropological, scientific, and literary lenses as it raises questions about human embodiment in relation to religious ideas and practices.

Innovations
Taught by Carl Schramm H’12

This School of Information Studies course examines the process of how new ideas come into being and how theoretical, intellectual, and physical inventions are studied. Topics covered include scientific breakthroughs, new products, and new processes from business, architecture, medicine, graphic arts, and music.

“I like teaching this course because I believe it is the neglected ‘front end’ of the entrepreneurial process,” Schramm says. “In fact, we do not have enough good ideas emerging. This course works through the problem of how individuals can become more creative, particularly in ways that would improve the overall welfare through expanding commerce.”

Students partnered with a local design firm to improve lighting in a Syracuse park.

Not Funny Ha Ha
Taught by Greg Corso

A School of Architecture course interrogating architecture’s relationship with the comedic, exploring methods and tactics of comedy as a lens for critique and a vehicle for recalibration of design elements. Work focuses on humor-driven design opportunities that provoke material ingenuity, aesthetic experience, and tectonic novelty in the everyday manifestations of the built environment.
Design of Online Courses  
*Taught by Tiffany Koszalka*

In this School of Education Department of Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation course, students explore, design, and critique online instruction; begin to develop competencies as instructional designers, online instructors, and online learners; create guidelines for interactivity and resource use in online courses; and experience asynchronous and synchronous and individual and collaborative online activities. The course is part of the school’s online certificate of advanced study program in designing digital instruction. “At the core of this course is demonstrating and engaging students in sound instructional design practice for online courses,” Koszalka says. “Students have commented that the course is exhilarating, provides a comprehensive view of well-designed online courses, and helps them consider many different aspects of online instruction.”

Technology Commercialization Research Center  
*Taught by Shubha Ghosh and Jack Rudnick L’73*

This College of Law applied learning course allows students interested in the areas of intellectual property and business law to apply their knowledge to actual new technology projects. In the year-long course, students work in teams, consulting with companies, entrepreneurs, or universities that are seeking to commercialize new technologies.

Technologies in Game Day Operations  
*Taught by Patrick Ryan*

A sport management course in Falk College exploring current applications of technology related to sport venues and sport

Turntables: Remixing Hip-Hop Architectural Technology  
*Taught by Sekou Cooke*

A School of Architecture course exploring the history, theory, and discourse surrounding hip-hop technology and hip-hop architecture. Just as hip-hop culture originated with a simple hack of the available technology when a DJ decided to play two records at the same time, architecture is similarly interested in creating new modes of practice through the adaptation of available fabrication technology. The course includes exposure to leading fabrication software, and presentations and workshops led by invited experts, and culminates in a series of full-scale design solutions for specific community spaces within the City of Syracuse.

Professor Sekou Cooke (above) speaks at a symposium on hip-hop architecture that he organized in 2015.

Photo by Steve Sartori
organizations, including sound systems, ticketing systems, video and scoreboard operations, and lighting systems.

**Social Deviance and the Law**
*Taught by Kevin Maillard*

Deviant behavior characterizes a course of action that violates recognized social norms. First, formal social norms govern human behavior through legal institutions. Conversely, informal social norms gather energy through social approbation. This College of Law course focuses on both types of norms. Students explore informal norms as an alternative way of thinking about power and governance outside the provenance of law. They develop critical thinking skills about the authority of manners and society as equally forceful, or perhaps even more so, than formalized law. This interdisciplinary course brings together law, literature, philosophy, and film.

**Creatively Growing Your Business: A Design Thinking Approach**
*Taught by Burak Kazaz*

This non-traditional, first-of-its kind business course uses “design thinking” to filter out user/customer preferences, and then designs supply chains for startups and small- and medium-sized firms to stimulate healthy and sustainable growth. Design thinking is a popular methodology in innovation, but is not typically integrated into traditional courses in supply chain. The Whitman course is offered at The Tech Garden in downtown Syracuse to allow opportunities to work with area businesses.

**Emerging Media Platforms**
*Taught by Dan Pacheco*

This is a journalism innovation specialization course offered in Newhouse’s Communications@Syracuse online master’s degree program. Each student selects a piece of technology to field test, such as a drone or virtual reality headset, to gain understanding about how that technology can best be used to share news and information. “My goal for you [students] is to help you to be someone who’s not afraid of change and disruption, someone who runs toward change, who gets excited by it, and even becomes a disrupter,” Pacheco says. “To do that, you will learn to become a media futurist: a person who predicts and projects change in media through the lens of technology, and then goes on to make it happen.”
Whitman | Auditing Theory and Practice

Taught by Bill Walsh G’90
This course is an offering in Whitman’s online Accounting@Syracuse master’s degree program. For part of the asynchronous material produced for the course (pre-recorded video that students watch for 90 minutes each week of the term), Walsh worked with Ernst & Young to do some filming in the multinational professional services firm’s New York City offices to directly involve a corporate partner in advancing student learning.

Falk | Food as Medicine

Taught by Sudha Raj
A Falk College course that looks at the landscape of food and nutrition—past and present, the role of nutrition in a therapeutic lifestyle, and the use of food as therapy. “Food as medicine is a powerful therapeutic concept and approach to address the global chronic disease epidemic,” Raj says. “At a socio-cultural level, food is noted for its qualities of connectivity, seasonality, and conviviality. In this course, food is viewed through new lenses, generating an awareness that just the provision of food without consideration of the person who is consuming the food or the environment in which the consumption occurs does not ensure optimal nutrition.”

VPA | Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Taught by Joseph Whelan
This is a Department of Drama offering in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Students perform in August at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. The piece they perform is devised and rehearsed during the spring semester as part of the course, and presented during a two-week stay in Edinburgh that also allows students to see theatrical productions from around the world.

BuzzFeed: Future Media Skills | Taught by Jennifer Grygiel
This social media course in the Newhouse School, offered in partnership with staff from BuzzFeed, a global new media company, trains students in the essential skills needed to succeed in social media and distributed content and in best practices for a constantly shifting publishing environment.

Assertiveness in the Workplace
Taught by Stew Koenig G’78, G’85
This University College course in the bachelor of professional studies degree program traces the origins of assertiveness theory and empirical research emanating from psychology, and how it has evolved and become a part of business practice, specifically as it relates to managing people in the workforce. Students study an assertiveness management model and examine and practice communication, self-management, and coaching skills.

The course enables students to develop a foundation of knowledge and skills to be effective leaders and managers in the workplace.

Business Essentials
Taught by faculty from each discipline
A Whitman School of Management course that teaches business fundamentals through the operation of a fictional chocolate company, exploring how the principles of accounting, finance, management, entrepreneurship, marketing, supply chain, retail, and law work together within the business.
WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVED ON CAMPUS THIS fall, they saw the future landscape of Syracuse University had started to take shape. Alexis Alex ’19 appreciates the energy and sense of community created by one of the more visible projects, the vehicle-free promenade that now stretches from Newhouse to Bird Library. “I think it’s very nice. It’s just like a nice walkway for people to see the buildings and meet up,” Alex says. “It’s a good meeting pathway.” The promenade was just one of many projects that were undertaken. These included technology and classroom upgrades in academic spaces and accessibility updates. Proposed plans were also unveiled for substantial building and renovation over the next several years that will change the face of the University. The transformation was put into motion by the draft Campus Framework, informed by thousands of pieces of input by members of the campus community over nearly two years—and the work
Campus Framework’s vision is to reinvigorate the physical campus, that will grow and transform the campus for decades to come.”

The Board of Trustees, have focused the priorities and opportunities on how they use campus, with the support of the campus community, includes the input from the campus community, especially, facilities required to fulfill the ambitions of the Academic Strategic Plan,” says School of Architecture Dean Michael Speaks, a member of the Campus Framework Advisory Group. “This will mean addressing the specific needs of schools, colleges, and centers, but it will also entail the development of facilities and public places that serve the larger University community.”

Designed as a 20-year roadmap, the draft Campus Framework is intrinsically intertwined with the Academic Strategic Plan, which outlines the University’s vision and identifies University-wide goals to meet that vision. It was also developed with input from across the campus community. The Academic Strategic Plan, the Campus Framework, and Operational Excellence, which looked at more effective business processes and efficiencies, were components of the three-pronged Fast Forward Syracuse initiative, announced by Chancellor Kent Syverud in June 2014 to ensure the success of the University in the challenging higher education environment.

The work to revitalize the campus is guided by the Campus Framework Advisory Group, composed of students, faculty, staff, and trustees and chaired by Trustee Steven L. Einhorn ’64, G’67, in partnership with design firm Sasaki Associates. Since fall 2014, students, faculty, staff, and alumni have shared their voices in what the future SU should look and feel like at meetings, informational sessions, and open house events, and through the My Campus Survey, which garnered more than 3,000 responses from members of the campus community about how they use campus.

“The Campus Framework is designed to align the University’s academic vision and mission with its buildings, landscapes, and infrastructure. This investment will ultimately enhance the Syracuse experience for all students. This campus is a vital center of 21st-century scholarly learning and research and its physical environment must continue to reflect that,” Chancellor Kent Syverud says. “The work of the Campus Framework Advisory Group and the input from the campus community, with the support of the Board of Trustees, has focused the priorities and opportunities that will grow and transform the campus for decades to come.”

While building on the historic footprint of the campus, the Campus Framework’s vision is to reinvigorate the physical campus through a more dynamic core that brings together all that makes for a comprehensive student experience—from academics and research to student life and athletics. It addresses five key recommendations: enliven the civic realm; revitalize the academic core; create a campus city community; integrate diverse, inclusive student life activities; and establish mixed-use neighborhoods. With those themes in place, the plans revolve around three major east-west promenades to structure the development and movement through campus—the Waverly Avenue Promenade, a streetscape improvement plan; the former University Place Promenade, now known as the “Einhorn Family Walk” as a result of a $1 million naming gift from Steven and Sherry Einhorn ’65; and the Academic Promenade, which will be situated on the south side of the Shaw Quadrangle.

The Einhorn Family Walk was one of more than 120 construction and renovation projects that took place during the summer as a result of the draft Campus Framework, which was released last spring and details short- and long-term priorities. With most students away from campus, the Office of Campus Planning, Design, and Construction began work at academic buildings, residence halls, and outside spaces and infrastructure. Future projects include the National Veterans Resource Complex; a renovated Schine Student Center; a revitalized Bird Library; new student housing on Main Campus; and the West Campus development, including the construction of the “Arch,” a renovated Archbold Gymnasium into a state-of-the-art health and wellness complex, and renovation of the Carrier Dome.

“Our objective as a community is to create a more connected, more robust center of learning and research that will best prepare our students for the world—now and in the future.”

— STEVEN EINHORN ’64, G’67

Deeply committed to hearing community feedback, the advisory group continued with sessions into the fall and plans to provide a revised draft Campus Framework in January. “The draft Campus Framework is driven by the ideas, concerns, and suggestions that come from the campus community,” says Peter Sala, vice president and chief campus facilities officer. “We need that input to help steer the progress and ultimately transform this campus.”
Academic spaces enhanced with technology upgrades

THE CLASSROOMS OF TODAY NEED TO BE INTERACTIVE, flexible, and ready for collaboration—the latest in audiovisual equipment, teaching aids, and high-speed networks all enhance learning and research and the in-class experience. As part of the Campus Framework, the University invested more than $9 million this summer on a slate of renovations to academic spaces on campus to make that happen.

The Division of Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Office of Campus Planning, Design, and Construction (CPDC) updated technology and academic spaces in more than a dozen buildings, including Carnegie Library, the Center for Science and Technology, Hall of Languages, the Nancy Cantor Warehouse, the Physics Building, the Shaffer Art Building, and Crouse Hinds, Eggers, Flint, Haven, Link, Lyman, MacNaughton, Slocum, and White halls.

“Providing a high-caliber environment that fosters learning, teaching, and innovation is not only consistent with our Academic Strategic Plan, it’s also critical to attracting and retaining high-achieving students and world-class faculty scholars,” says Michele G. Wheatly, vice chancellor and provost. “The work done by ITS and CPDC enhances the student experience, elevates classroom learning and teaching, and generates new opportunity for student and faculty researchers.”

The work included Americans with Disabilities Act improvements; audio and visual system upgrades; the installation of new smart teaching stations; complete technology overhauls; classroom and auditorium renovations; furniture replacements; and the creation of new seminar rooms, meeting rooms, and classrooms. The updates provide new ways to engage with students and more ways for students to interact and participate in classroom learning. Many of the projects also enhance research excellence, such as renovation of space in the Heroy Geology Building to house the new National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship Program that focuses on the interface of water and energy cycles.

Accessibility improvements ensure a more welcoming campus

THE UNIVERSITY INCREASED ITS EFFORTS to create greater accommodations for learning and a connected experience for every member of the campus with more than $4.1 million in accessibility updates this summer. The accessibility projects are improving how people get around campus, as well as upgrading existing facilities that pre-date the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The updates have focused on improving accessible entrances, auditorium seating accommodations, and restroom facilities. “The improvements reflect the University’s ongoing commitment to foster an inclusive environment,” says Aaron Hodukavich, director and ADA coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Inclusion, and Resolution Services. “These are positive steps to ensure that everyone feels like they are part of our community.”

Projects across campus have included such work as a heated ramp to the Syracuse University gateway sign just north of the Place of Remembrance; the Einhorn Family Walk, which provides a gentler slope and better access to buildings along part of University Place; a new elevator to
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY HAS a long legacy of supporting America’s service members, veterans, and their families. The tradition will continue with the creation of the National Veterans Resource Complex (NVRC), a first-of-its-kind national center of excellence for research, education, and opportunity to advance the post-service lives of veterans and their families. The NVRC will be at the forefront of academic, government, private sector, and community collaboration that will inform national policy and program delivery.

“The design and construction of the NVRC is perhaps the most symbolic example of Syracuse University’s commitment to serving, supporting, and empowering those men and women who have served the nation in uniform,” says J. Michael Haynie, vice chancellor of strategic initiatives and innovation and executive director of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families. “The NVRC will build upon and solidify the University’s ongoing leadership in research and programming connected to the veteran and military sectors.”

The NVRC aligns with one of the key tenets of the Academic Strategic Plan—to distinguish Syracuse as the premier university for veterans, military-connected students, and their families. Its ideals are based on the tenure of former Chancellor William P. Tolley, who opened the doors to veterans after World War II and the creation of the GI Bill, tripling the University’s enrollment. Today, with its Institute for Veterans and Military Families and distinctive veteran-related programs, the University is poised to coalesce its many resources and academic programs into the new complex.

After a six-month design competition that concluded earlier this year, the University’s NVRC Selection Committee chose SHoP Architects, a New York City firm, to design the new complex, which will include a large auditorium, and research, academic, and office spaces. The complex will be built on Waverly Avenue, with groundbreaking scheduled for summer 2017 and a tentative completion date of spring 2019.

serve Gifford Auditorium in Huntington Beard Crouse Hall, where there had only been an exterior ADA entrance to the auditorium; the creation of single-occupant accessible restrooms in various residence halls and campus buildings; and the addition of accessible teaching stations. “Having improvements to access is not only essential but vital to everyone’s experience of a welcoming campus that expects and emphasizes the value and ethics of belonging,” says Diane R. Wiener, director of the Disability Cultural Center.

Removing physical access barriers is among the initiatives the University is deploying as a result of the Chancellor’s Workgroup on Diversity and Inclusion’s short-term recommendations. As part of the commitment, the University brought on ADA consultant Danny Heumann ’91 to work with Campus Planning, Design, and Construction. “What’s wonderful about being here is that Syracuse has given me so much in my life in terms of making me the person that I am today,” says Heumann, who discovered the challenges of navigating the campus in a wheelchair as a freshman. “I wanted to take my talents and motivation and inspiration and bring it back to my alma mater—especially when my alma mater wants to do everything in its power to be the most accessible, inclusive university in the country.”
Focus on student health and wellness at the Arch

WHEN THE UNIVERSITY solicited feedback from the campus about the future of the physical campus, students were deeply interested in strengthening the academic and research spaces. But they also wanted a richer overall student experience outside the classroom, including comprehensive support systems and more robust health and wellness offerings. The draft Campus Framework proposes a plan for the “Arch,” a student-focused health and wellness complex. The complex, which will be developed through substantial renovations to Archbold Gymnasium, will include the services of the Counseling Center, Student Assistance, Health Promotion, Health Services, and Recreation Services.

“I am happy to see our students will have access to a state-of-the-art health and wellness facility, a resource our students say is especially important to them,” says Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, senior vice president and dean of student affairs. “Having all of our health and wellness units together and centrally located on campus will provide for a seamless continuum of care and furthers our efforts in serving students’ holistic well-being.”

The development of the Arch will enable student health and wellness services to better coordinate their engagement with students in one central hub. The University brought on global design firm Populous for design of the plans and to work in coordination with offices in student affairs.

The concept of the Arch is to enhance recreational opportunities and combine them with health and wellness activities and services.
The Einhorn Family Walk creates defining new space

IT’S AN UNMISTAKABLE, DEFINING NEW space that has rejuvenated a prominent area of campus for students. Completed over the summer, the Einhorn Family Walk, which was supported by a gift from Steven ’64, G’67, and Sherry Einhorn ’65, is a pedestrian-friendly promenade that replaced part of University Place and eliminated a traffic area in a busy section of campus. The gently sloping walkway—featuring inviting sitting and conversation terraces, increased landscaping, and greater ADA accessibility—allows for more connectedness and has created a new spot to meet up. “As alumni of this great University, Sherry and I take great pride in knowing this gift will benefit Syracuse University students, faculty, and staff for generations to come,” Steven Einhorn says.

Stretching from the Newhouse complex to Bird Library, the walk was developed to support the goals of the Academic Strategic Plan to enhance the student experience and build a sense of “One University.” The project includes a heated pathway that leads to the plaza with the Syracuse University gateway sign, just north of the Place of Remembrance, making it accessible to those with mobility issues.

Since its completion, the Einhorn Family Walk has already transformed that area of campus, says School of Architecture Dean Michael Speaks, a member of the Campus Framework Advisory Group. “The Einhorn Family Walk has literally stitched together, activated, and extended the campus,” Speaks says. “The walkway is a wonderful piece of public event and circulation architecture. But it is also important because it activates and transforms the spaces and buildings that surround it into distinct places with their own character and uses.”

Dome renovations will heighten experience

A PLACE OF ACADEMIC CELEBRATIONS and sport triumphs, the Carrier Dome has a storied 36-year history. The stadium is a focal point of student life and the University wants it to remain so for many years to come. As part of the proposed West Campus Project, the Carrier Dome will undergo extensive renovations, including a new roof, and become more integrated into academic spaces through the creation of the Academic Promenade.

Although plans are still conceptual, options for the Dome include a new fixed roof. Comprehensive accessibility and mobility upgrades in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act will be implemented to ensure an inclusive experience, along with other interior and exterior upgrades. The entire project seeks to heighten the overall student and fan experience.  

Photo by Steve Sartori; rendering courtesy of Sasaki Associates Inc.
A historian uncovers a long-forgotten manuscript in the Special Collections Research Center that gives a rare firsthand account of a street kid’s view of immigrant slum life in the late 1800s.

BY WOODY REGISTER
IN EARLY OCTOBER 2012, DURING AN EXTENDED RESEARCH residency at the Syracuse Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center, I began searching through the unindexed and minimally organized papers of William Osborne Dapping, a somewhat prominent, if mostly forgotten, mid-20th-century journalist from nearby Auburn. Born in 1880, Dapping graduated from Harvard in 1905 and amassed an impressive newspaper career (including a Pulitzer Prize in 1930). He rose high in the ranks of the state Democratic Party power structure and died in 1969 a respected journalist and esteemed citizen. Soon thereafter his modest collection of papers passed to the Syracuse Libraries, where his catalog biography describes him as a prize-winning “American journalist and editor from Auburn, New York.”

In actuality, there was much more to Dapping’s history than the official record allows. Before he was a Harvard man, Dapping was a “mucker,” which was street slang for a tough, grimy boy from the immigrant slums. Muckers were everywhere in late 19th-century cities: shining shoes, hawking newspapers, shooting craps, tormenting policemen, and sowing disorder in the lives of adults. Dapping ran with a tough gang of them in Yorkville on New York City’s Upper East Side. At age 16, he was “rescued” (in the reform terminology of the time) from both the slums and his chronically destitute family and entered an innovative school for unruly juveniles near Ithaca called the George Junior Republic. There he began the long process of cleansing himself of the muck of his disreputable past. His upward mobility was accelerated by Thomas Mott Osborne, a wealthy industrialist in Auburn and benefactor of the George Junior Republic, who made Dapping his ward, paid his way to Harvard, and set a place for him afterward at the newspaper he owned.

It was that part of Dapping’s life that had me searching through his papers. Above all, I hoped to find a document called “The Crapshooters Club,” an unpublished manuscript of 30,000 or more words, which I knew Dapping had penned in 1899 when he was 19 and had left the George Junior Republic to live with the Osborne family. The book was a collection of stories from his delinquent youth with a gang he called the Crapshooters Club. Dapping never found a publisher, and, based on what I knew then, all signs of the book faded after 1905. But there it was right where I hoped it would be—in one of the first boxes I opened.

This fall—more than a century after he wrote it—Syracuse University Press published Dapping’s manuscript under the last title he assigned it: The Muckers: A Narrative of the Crapshooters Club. Students of American literature and history have every reason to celebrate. The Muckers is written entirely in the slang dialect of Dapping’s Upper East Side immigrant neighborhood. It is not a novel, but a collection of freestanding sketches portraying the mischief and petty criminality of the Crapshooters, narrated in the slangy, ungrammatical voice of their leader Spike. He and the other gang members—Mickey, Butts, Shorty, Red, Blinkey, and Riley—are fictionalized representations of boys from the poor but striving German and Irish families in Yorkville.

The richness of its contribution lies in its rare firsthand account of immigrant and boy life at the turn of the century. It captures the alternative slang language they used, the elaborate and often sadistic games they played, the ingenious crimes and cruel pranks they hatched, and the spirited rebellion they staged against adult authorities. Dapping’s matter-of-fact and nonjudgmental “insider” exposé also reveals what other writers in his day were unable to convey with such authority: how muckers viewed the world they lived in and especially the well-meaning adults who sought to uplift them.

The Muckers also restores Dapping to the historical record, although I am all but certain he would greet the occasion with ambivalence. The Syracuse Press edition may vindicate a writer who labored fruitlessly for more than a decade to find a publisher, but it also exposes Dapping’s past, which he worked just as hard to hide from public knowledge. From the first word he wrote, Dapping insisted on anonymity, which defied and angered his patron Osborne. It also drove away would-be publishers, who preferred a redemption narrative about rising from the sordid abyss of the slums to the lofty heights of Harvard.

Dapping refused to reveal himself, in part, because he knew that respectable people looked at boys from the slums with pity, scorn, and fear. From experience he knew they would bar him...
at the door of social acceptance—or worse, make him enter through the kitchen—if the truth came out. In the end, he signed his name to the last revision, but he presented himself as the editor, not the author, of the muckers’ stories. He invented a fictional alter ego, the gang’s leader Spike, to pose as his talkative narrator of the boys’ exploits and crimes.

Instead of discrediting this work, the deceit may have worked a little like witness protection, shielding Dapping from reprisal so that he could tell his stories in his way. Authorities on urban social problems produced a vast, often sensationalized literature about the menace of street gangs. *The Muckers* is different. Dapping individualizes and humanizes the Crapshooters instead of portraying them as exotic and dangerous caricatures. His Crapshooters demand respect as well as their share of the pleasures of city life. They are charming, but down deep they are wily hustlers who laugh at the haplessness of their victims, whether “do-goody” social reformers or malicious cops. They need no one’s help to survive in a darkly violent world of poverty and sickness, where adults seek to cheat, exploit, and control them.

A good way to introduce Dapping, the Crapshooters, and the book’s distinctive voice is with Spike’s narration of the lavish banquet thrown in their cellar clubhouse to celebrate the gang’s founding. Spike dispatches the boys to hunt and gather—which is to say, swipe—coveted delicacies from the neighborhood’s storekeepers: jelly, oily sardines, canned salmon, plus anything else they can lay their sticky fingers on. They return with their bounty, but as is often the case with the Crapshooters, their skillfully executed mischief takes a comical turn. In this case, each tops off the feast with a hearty swig of purloined “mineral water,” or laxative, which they mistake for a tonic “what makes ye’ strong.”

*Woody Register is chair of the Department of History and the Francis S. Houghteling Professor of American History at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.*

**The Crapshooters’ Housewarming**

In an excerpt from the SU Press book *The Muckers*, author William Osborne Dapping’s gang of street boys swipes stuff for a feast

SATURDAY NIGHT SOON COME AROUND. FIRST AVENUE AS ushal was jammed with hawkers, peddlars ... a yellin’ out their wares, women an’ kids ... buyin’ stuff, and pilin’ in and out of the stores, or linin’ up on the curb to make bargains with the push-cart guys....

Well, it was just about this time that the honorable members of The Crapshooter’s Club was stealthily droppin’ in, one by one, down into Dugan’s cellar, gettin’ ready fer the inaugural blow-out. There was to be a banquet, but first we had to swipe the stuff that was to go into our menu....

As soon as I got there I announced me orders, which was to this effect: “Every guy wants to outdo himself tonight. This is the first blow-out of this club and we want some class to it. Each bloke wants to do his best an’ see how much he can swipe. The programme is this—first we hit Davey’s store, and after we have lifted all there is around there that is loose or if they get wise to us, we go on to Rafter’s store.... We ought to get a pretty good bunch of eats in the swag from them stores, and on the way back a couple of us can stop at Dutch Miller’s grocery store an’ get away with a couple o’ bottles o’ soda water....” With that we gets out on the street, and starts down First avenue.

Davey’s is a great big cheap grocery store, and on Saturday nights it is packed with East Side housewifes buyin’ groceries...
fer a week. Outside the store they have great, red tubs. One’ll
be full o’ cans o’ corn; another’ll have cans o’ salmon, another
pickle bottles, sardines, catsup, washin’ soda and so on....

When we got near the store—oh joy! There on the curb was piled up a
pyramid of small, wooden pails decorated with labels showin’ clusters of
flowers, fruits an’ berries! We knowed at a glance what them labels meant.
Jelly! “Them’s our meat!” we says quiet to each other. How the grocer left them
out on the curb subjueck to the tender mercies of any muckers like us that
come along is explained this way. The wholesale grocer’s wagon had been
along that afternoon and left them there, and them Plat-deutsch, green-
horn, grocery clerks was too busy to take them inside. Consequently some of
them pails went South with some of our push when we come that way.

I never seen such a slick job done before, neither. I have saw many good jobs
pulled off, some right under the cops’ noses, but none ever raised so much respeck
in me as the trick that Shorty and Riley put over. We had hardly got
in front of the store and none of us had even took a look in to see whether any-
body was watchin’ when Shorty steps up to one o’ them red tubs, digs down
into it an’ picks up a lot of articles like he was the proprietor’s own son fillin’ an
order, and walks off whistlin’ ‘nobody but thought that he was payin’ good
money for them articles.

At the same time Riley, pretendin’
he was an errand boy fer the grocer,
pushes through a crowd o’ wimmin as
was examinin’ the jelly labels, picks up
a pail in each hand, and goes follerin’
Shorty down the avenue....

Me and Mickey joins the rest of the
bunch who was still hangin’ around
Davey’s waitin’ fer a good chance.

That bold work done by the other guys put it up to us pretty
hard. I, meself, was just screwin’ up courage to walk half-way
into the store where there was a ten pound can with a glass
front showin’ some nifty, fruit crackers. I was about to nail that
can when I heard Buttsy’s voice yellin’ “cheese it, the cop!” and
of course it was dig out! We beat it at top speed down the ave-
 nue never stoppin’ to see whether we or the cop was gainin’, an’
stopped on’y when we was out of breath. As a matter of fact
the cop what caused the stampede never even knowed that
we was pipin’ off the place, and he kep’ on his way, swingin’ his

After we got together again we hiked it fer Rafter’s. There
we found a dandy “show.” That means everything easy fer us to steal anythink.
I walks up to a pile of packages, lifts up a few kind of easy so as not to tumble down
the whole pile, and starts to walk off. Then a big Irish biddy, who was fussin’
around with her basket when I done it, an’ was probably crookin’ somethink her
self, seen me and starts to yell. She goes into the store to put up a holler, so the
rest o’ the guys tells me to blow. I makes fer the gutter an’ starts beatin’ it hotfoot
fer other territory. I got a good start, an’ when the clerks come out all they see
was the direction I took. Mine, too was a safe getaway.

It was nix fer the rest there that night
and after hangin’ round near that store
waitin’ fer a chance fer a longtime they
give it up, and goes back to Davey’s.

Butts again takes his place to “lay keegie,” but there was no good show fer
so long that the word was passed to hit
‘em up, caught or no-caught. When fell-
ers decide to do that they are desperate,
an’ they was waitin’ so long that they had
begun to get cold feet. So jump in, sink or
swim, was the order!

Blinkey and Red accordingly led off,
swopped onto them tubs, shoved a
couple o’ old wimmin over into them in
their hurry, grabbed a mess o’ junk, and
lit out down the street, with a strappin’
Dutch grocery clerk at their heels.

The remainin’ Crapshooters chased
along behind the Dutchman ready to
hand him somethink if he caught Blinkey
or Red. He had no chance, though. His
long apron tangled around his legs, and
he was no ten-second man, at that. After
he run five blocks he got winded, set on
the curb and wiped the sweat off’n his face. They come along
and was goin’ to punch him, just fer fun, but they wasn’t bor-
rowin’ trouble, then.

Butts and Mickey was the last guys to show up at the club-
rooms, and they was empty-handed.... I sent them out to see
whether they couldn’t swipe a few bottles of soda water from
Dutch Miller’s store, just up the street a ways....

[Later we] heard clinkin’ bottles ... it was Mickey and Butts
comin’ back.... Butts sets down a lot of bottles, and turns to the
rest of us.

Spike and the other gang
members—Mickey, Butts, Shorty,
Red, Blinkey, and Riley—are
fictionalized representations
of boys from the poor but
striving German and Irish
families in Yorkville.

—WOODY REGISTER
“Now don't youse fellows kick because we brung back seltzer water instead of soda water. Dutch Miller was standin' right in the door-way and we could not wait all night fer him to get out of our way an' give us a chance. So we had to try something else. Mickey suggested that we try the row of woodsheds in the cellar of the ... flathouse down the block. So down we goes. He clim’ over the partitions and hands out what he finds. It was them bottles. Four of them is seltzer, the other is somethink else. I dont know what.... The label says its mineral water, so instead o’ chuckin’ it away, I kep’ it.”

“Let's see it,” says I. I see it says “Hunjady” on the label, and that was too many fer me. I didn't know nothin' about it so I hands it over to Shorty who wanted to inspect it. He knowed what it was right away. He says: “I know what that is. I used to work in a drugstore an’ we sold quarts an’ quarts o’ that stuff. It’s expensive stuff an’ doctors recommend it. I think it costs half a plunk a bottle. Its mineral water what comes from Germany and makes sick people strong.”...

Well, we sure had a swell banquet. Red was cook, and he announced the list of plunder. Say bo, maybe there wasn't some class to it! And more ‘n you could eat, too! Red says: “Here is one pail of apple butter, and one pail current jelly—these to the credit of Brother Riley!”

“Yea bo!” yells the crowd.

“An’ here’s six cans o’ nice oil sardines, what Shorty nipped fer us.”
“He’s a good kid!” says Butts.

“Here’s five packages o’ stuff what you put on cakes. Let’s see what you call it? The printin’ says: ‘Shredded cocoanut.’ Then we got three cans o’ Columby river salmon, and them two big bottles o’ Pride o’ Long Island catsup, which Red hooked.... Aint this a swell lay-out?”

Well, I first divvied up the shredded cocoanut. It was bum stuff. All cut up fine, packed together and sweet. Would have made pretty good plug chewin’ terbacker fer dudes. It didn’t go well with our gang. Some et some but most chawed it up into gobs, an’ threw it at each other or plastered up the walls with it. It was mighty satisfyin’ but didn’t make very good eats.

Then we pitched into the rest. We divvied everything on the square. After openin’ a can o’ sardines I take one fish, drink a sip of oil an’ pass it on to the next guy. He done the same, an’ passed it to the next, an’ so on until we cleaned out all them six cans. Sardines was one of our favorite things to swipe. Then come the salmon, each guy dumping out a handful. The catsup went next, each guy bein’ allowed to take one big swig out of the bottle each time it was passed. Maybe that catsup didn’t go fine with that salmon! Then we drunk the seltzer, each guy swiggin’ out of the nozzle. We raised holy terror with that seltzer, squirtin’ it out of the siphons. Then come the jelly! We made pasteboard plates out of the shredded cocoanut boxes and scooped out all we wanted to eat when the pails was passed.

“Too much is plenty,” says Blinkey, plastered up to the ears with apple butter and current jell’. We had so much that the guys got lawless. They smeared it around and got so fresh that I had fer to call them down. We’d forgot about the mineral water when Riley ... shouts: “Open up that mineral water, Spike, what makes ye’ strong. I want to get a pull at that before we close this banquet!”

I ripped off the tinfoil, dug out the cork, an’ took a good, healthy pull at the bottle. That was all I wanted. It was the punkest tastin’ stuff I ever drunk! It must a been stale, fer it was bitter and warm. “I’m poisoned,” says I, runnin’ fer the sink.

“No y’aint,” says Shorty, “that bum taste is what makes it valuable.”

Well, them yaps really drunk up all that mineral water, twistin’ their faces into knots, but swallerin’ it because Shorty says it cost four bits a bottle.

At midnight we still had lots o’ apple butter left but they didn’t waste it when I adjourned the meetin’. They took it up on the street with them, and findin’ most of the house doors closed they smeared the knobs and stuffed the keyholes with the apple butter, like it was axle grease. An’ it might have been, from the taste it was beginnin’ to have about this time....

But we didn’t have no pleasant dreams that night. Somethink we et or drunk gave us all a awful bellyache. Me own private opinion is that it was that expensive mineral water! ""
NIMA TSERING SHERPA AND I STARTED CLIMBING AT 10:15 p.m. The stars shined above. No wind. Pretty good weather for the South Col of Mount Everest at 26,083 feet. The terrain started gradually and then became very steep. I walked like a duck with my feet pointing a little to the left and a little to the right because it was too steep to walk normally. The wind picked up and blew about five inches of snow on the trail, slowing our progress as we slipped a bit with each step. We reached a flat spot called “The Balcony.” Good time for a radio check. On this summit bid, we would call Base Camp from time to time to let them know how we were doing, and that information was relayed via web dispatches to family and friends following the climb. I took my oxygen mask off to snack and drink. It was hard to breathe due to the thin air, and the whipping wind made it very cold and unpleasant. We finished our quick break and continued our ascent. We reached a rock outcrop where we had to wait for one hour, standing in place while those in front of us made their way over the rocks one by one. Somehow I staved off the cold with my puffy down clothing, chemical hand warmers, and electric foot warmers. We moved along and passed quite a few people on the fixed line, a rope anchored to the mountain that climbers clip onto for safety. I counted about 60 people along the way. The sun rose around 4 a.m. We reached the South Summit (a little peak just about 400 feet from the real summit) and got over the Hillary Step, a steep, rocky bulge, which this year was covered in snow and much easier to negotiate. Then at 6:10 a.m., under sunny skies but a brisk and breezy -30 degrees Fahrenheit (perhaps -40 F with wind chill), Nima and I reached the 29,029-foot summit of Mount Everest.

I STARTED CLIMBING HIGH MOUNTAINS IN 2004 WITH AN ascent of Mount Rainier in Washington state. It’s a great place to learn important skills like glacier travel, self-arrest with an ice ax, identification of avalanche hazards, negotiation of crevasses, and awareness of altitude sickness. Yet my love of mountains began much earlier. When I was a kid, my family skied in Vermont and we hiked together. I went through Scouts and at age 15 hiked a week on the Appalachian Trail. Later, I took two Outward Bound courses in Colorado, thru-hiked the entire 2,163-mile Appalachian Trail, and climbed 4,000-footers in New York’s Adirondacks and New Hampshire’s White Mountains. I love the view from the top and the challenge of getting there. I see God in nature and I like how mountaineering shows the true character of people.

We spent 20 minutes on the top of Everest. We snapped pho-
tos. We peered over to the north and watched climbers coming up from Tibet. There were about 20 of us sharing this rarefied space. Prayer flags and memorabilia had been left behind by other climbers. We sat briefly and cherished the moment. Not being the best idea to sit for too long, we started to make our way down and saw everything we didn’t see while ascending during the night. Jagged, snowy peaks surrounded us in every direction. I remember thinking often, “Wow, this is really steep!” It took us three hours to return to High Camp, where we arrived at 9:10 a.m. Before I could say, “Mike, I’m really tired, how about we spend the night here to rest?” to lead guide Mike Roberts, he got the first word and said, “Rest up, we’re heading down to Camp 2.” So I drank some hot tea, ate Ramen, laid down for a few minutes’ rest, packed my things, and we were on our way down by noon. It was steep negotiating the Geneva Spur, the Yellow Band, the Lhotse Face, and finally, after passing lines and lines of climbers making their way up the mountain, we arrived at Camp 2 (20,997 feet) at 5:30 p.m. Almost non-stop movement for over 19 hours.

I GRADUATED FROM SYRACUSE IN 1992 WITH A BACHELOR of arts degree in political science. The courses I took in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs were rigorous and prepared me well for life. The Maxwell and College of Arts and Sciences faculty, particularly professors Robert McClure and Ralph Ketcham, along with many other talented faculty, compelled me to think critically. The leadership lessons I acquired as a cadet in Army ROTC and as an officer in Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity I carry with me to this day. A fraternity brother and I took a road trip to the Adirondacks. We climbed Mount Algonquin and gazed at the mountainous panorama. I ultimately reached the top of all 46 High Peaks in the Adirondacks.

Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first to summit Mount Everest in 1953. George Mallory and Andrew Irvine attempted to do so in 1924, but died on the mountain and no one knows whether they reached the top. Since 1953, more than 4,000 people have summited. Over 250 people died trying. For Everest, 2015, the earthquake in Nepal shook the Everest region, causing an avalanche to barrel through Everest Base Camp, killing 18 climbers, the highest death toll in one season on the mountain. So it was important for the climbing community in Nepal that 2016 be a successful season. The livelihood of many Nepali depended on it. Ultimately, the season was a success, with about 400 climbers reaching the summit, although there were six unfortunate deaths.

Everest is one of the “Seven Summits,” the highest mountain on each continent. I started climbing the Seven Summits in 2007 with an ascent of 18,510-foot Mount Elbrus in Russia, Europe’s highest peak. At that time, it wasn’t clear to me that I might climb all seven. Everest certainly didn’t seem possible for me yet. In 2008, I reached the highest point in Africa: 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. In 2009, I summited two more: 20,320-foot Mount Denali in Alaska, North America’s highest, and 22,840-foot Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest mountain in South America. Some time after Aconcagua, it occurred to me that I had done the apprenticeship and acquired the skills to climb Mount Everest competently. It took a few years before heading to the Himalaya in 2016. After all, the price tag was $65,000, so there was a little saving to be done. Two mountains remain and I intend to visit them in short order: 16,024-foot Carstensz Pyramid in New Guinea on the continent of Oceana and 16,050-foot Vinson Massif in Antarctica.

I summited Everest on May 20. On May 21, our team celebrated at Base Camp and by May 22, we had all helicoptered to the safety of Kathmandu, with its oxygen-rich and humid air. I find myself humbled by the entire experience. One seems quite small next to the tallest mountain on Earth. I’m extremely grateful for the support of family and friends, the expertise of Adventure Consultants, and for the blessing of Miyolansangma, Goddess of Everest, who permitted me to stand on her shoulders for a few precious moments.

Mark Milewski ’92 is assistant professor of business administration at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Connecticut. You can read his blog at www.TrailJournals.com/mtns.
Celebrating Orange Friendships

SEPTEMBER’S ORANGE CENTRAL weekend was an incredible celebration, and I want to say thank you to the thousands of alumni and friends who returned home for our annual homecoming and reunion events. I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to meet all of you and to share our passion for all things Orange.

We welcomed so many amazing alumni to campus, including graduates who I believe truly capture what it means to be “Forever Orange.” I hope these short stories spark a desire in all of you to visit your alma mater—whether during Orange Central, or perhaps for a basketball game, or maybe, just maybe, for a simple walk down memory lane during the winter months.

Lawrence Nusbaum Jr. ’51 and David Koplowitz ’51 started a lifelong friendship at Syracuse University. They were Syracuse students at a time when gasoline cost $0.19 per gallon. I Love Lucy debuted on television sets across the country, and Harry Truman occupied the White House as the 33rd president of the United States.

The day they earned their diplomas was also the last time the duo stood on campus. That is, until Orange Central. Sixty-five years later, while gazing out at the Hall of Languages, both remarked that they wished they had visited sooner. Four years at Syracuse, they said, were the best of their lives.

Barry Gipstein ’56 has a different story. His visits to campus have become a longstanding tradition. Without fail, he and his friends Dr. Milt Friedlander ’56, Ted Krawitz ’56, and Dr. Herb Portnoff ’56 make it back to campus with their wives for homecoming/reunion weekend every five years.

And then there’s Bernadette and Sam Penceal, both members of the Class of 1966. Orange Central marked two special milestones: their 50th class reunion and the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple is choosing to spend the year ahead celebrating their wedding anniversary; they decided to start the celebrations at Orange Central—at the University where their love story started.

As president of the Syracuse University Alumni Association, I thoroughly enjoy these fantastic alumni stories. We are Forever Orange, no matter the date that’s stamped on our diplomas. Our Orange story started here.

Forever Orange,

Mark Verone ’95
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association
Christen Brandt ’10  >>

Global Reach for Girls’ Education

As an English major in the College of Arts and Sciences and a Newhouse student studying magazine journalism, Christen Brandt devoted her time at SU to learning to tell stories with excellence. Six years later, as co-founder and chief programs officer at a nonprofit organization called She’s the First, Brandt is giving her all to helping transform the life stories of girls around the world. She’s the First provides scholarships to girls in low-income countries toward the goal of creating first-generation graduates and future global leaders, and works with international partners to ensure their success, both during and after their school years. “The cause of girls’ education is the most logical thing in the world to me,” says Brandt, who directs the organization’s international efforts, from developing partnerships and establishing sponsorships to overseeing donor relations and storytelling, including producing short documentaries. “You can’t create change in the world if only half the population is participating in it. This is the place you need to start. And I’m going to do my part to make that happen.”

Brandt joined with co-founder Tammy Tibbetts to launch the organization in 2009 while still a student, happy for the opportunity to combine her writing skills with a growing interest in women’s issues. The two met through New York Women in Communications and connected in Washington, D.C., during the summer before Brandt’s junior year. “It started out as a media campaign,” says Brandt, a self-defense instructor who held positions at Parent and Glamour magazines before shifting careers to embrace a full-time role with She’s the First in 2012. “It was a side project to fill in the hole that we saw in the market between all these amazing organizations doing fantastic work for girls on the ground, and professionals our age who wanted to get involved, but didn’t know where to start. We wanted to give them a platform to figure that out.”

Growth came quickly for the organization, which has helped 805 scholars in 11 nations obtain 2,214 years of education. Last year, She’s the First achieved a major financial milestone, raising $1 million. It has also established more than 225 campus chapters at high schools and universities—the first at SU—primarily in the United States, but with a growing international reach. The campus chapters focus on advocacy, awareness, and fundraising. “It’s important to us that our students learn to be informed advocates—that they have the right language and tools to understand issues affecting women and girls across the world, and how these issues affect the girls who receive our scholarships,” says Brandt, who was recognized by Women’s eNews among its 21 Women Leaders for the 21st Century. She also received a United Nations Torino Leadership Award in 2014 and was selected as a 2014 Laureate Global Fellow by the International Youth Foundation Youth Action Network.

The organization’s goal is to award 10,000 scholarships and to be on 500 college campuses by 2020. “Ultimately, we aim to put ourselves out of a job. We want to see a world where every girl has access to not just quality education, but all the tools she needs to be successful, no matter where she lives or where she grows up,” says Brandt, who was recently named to the Newhouse 44, an alumni group that mentors undergraduates. “Women and girls deserve better. And it’s up to us to make a difference.”

—Amy Speach
Coast Guard Honors World War II Hero

BY WILLIAM THIESEN

IN SPRING 1942, 22-YEAR-OLD JOSEPH Tezanos ’49, a factory worker and Spanish immigrant, enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. His life would change forever. By the end of the decade, Tezanos, who passed away in 1985, would be a highly decorated war hero, a survivor of one of World War II’s worst accidental disasters, and one of the first Hispanic American officers in the U.S. Coast Guard. Tezanos’s story is the American dream realized—and in August, in honor of his heroism, the Coast Guard commissioned one of its new Fast Response Cutters with Tezanos’s name graced on it.

By May 1943, Tezanos received orders to report to New Orleans to serve on board a new LST (landing ship, tank), a large ocean-going landing craft. By July, Tezanos and his shipmates on board LST 20 would be part of a convoy headed for the Alaskan theater of World War II.

While serving on board LST 20, Tezanos became a gunner’s mate, the most dangerous rate possible on a World War II LST. Tezanos saw action and managed to survive some of the bloodiest amphibious landings of World War II, including landings on enemy-held islands at Kiska, Alaska; Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands; and Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. April 1944 found LST 20 moored near an armada of transports and LSTs in West Loch, Pearl Harbor, preparing for a top-secret operation named “Forager.” Forager would support the invasion of Saipan, in the Marianas island chain. But on May 21, before the armada could set sail, an explosion on board an LST set off a chain reaction among the fleet of heavily loaded transport vessels.

The ensuing cataclysm resulted in the largest accidentally caused explosion of the war in terms of lives lost, including approximately 600 wounded and dead. After the explosion, Tezanos scrambled on board a rescue boat along with several other volunteers. Despite the risk of being burned alive or blown up, Tezanos and his shipmates rescued men from the water and evacuated others from the burning ships. Although he received multiple burns in the line of duty, Tezanos helped save over 40 of the disaster’s survivors.

For his actions that day, Tezanos received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, one of the highest medals awarded to Navy personnel for wartime rescue operations. He also received a commendation letter from Coast Guard Commandant Russell Waesche and a citation personally signed by the famous Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, which commends his “distinguished heroism” and concludes: “His actions on this occasion were in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service.”

In early spring 1945, Tezanos became one of the first Hispanic Americans to graduate from the Coast Guard’s Reserve Officer Training Program. His wartime commissioning in mid-January 1945 also qualified him as one of the first Hispanic American officers in the Coast Guard.

In May 1945, newly commissioned Ensign Tezanos returned to the West Coast to deploy as boat officer on board the troop transport Joseph T. Dickman (APA-13), where he spent the remainder of his tour. Most of that time saw his ship transporting troops to the front. After the August 1945 conclusion of hostilities, the Dickman returned thousands of troops to the United States as part of the so-called “magic carpet ride” back home.

Tezanos concluded his Coast Guard career in spring 1946, but his life was only beginning. He went on to Syracuse University and graduate school, started a family with his wife, Jean Allan Tezanos ’46 (they had two children, Susanne and John ’86), and became a successful international businessman. When he passed away in March 1985, he was interred at Arlington National Cemetery alongside many other Coast Guard heroes.

William Thiesen, Ph.D., is Atlantic area historian for the U.S. Coast Guard. This article was originally published as part of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association’s Cutter of the Month series, published monthly in its magazine and on its website at www.cgaalumni.org/COTM.
James Colasanti Jr. ’71 (VPA) wrote an article published online by the Greensboro, N.C., News & Record about his unplanned 1969 road trip to Woodstock as an SU student. He is recently retired from Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Also a past president of the Animal Rescue & Foster Program of Greensboro, he has six rescue dogs and has received four Maxwell Medallions from the Dog Writers Association of America for excellence in writing.

Mindy Fried ’72 (A&S/SWK), G’75 (SWK), a sociologist and principal of Arbor Consulting Partners in Boston, wrote Caring for Red: A Daughter’s Memoir (Vanderbilt University Press), about caring for her 97-year-old father, Manny Fried, in the final year of his life.

James T. Scarnati G’72, G’73 (EDU) of Henrietta, N.Y., wrote Only Until I Need Glasses: The Extraordinary Life and Adventures of Jimmy DeAngelo (Dog Ear Publishing), a lighthearted coming-of-age novel set in a small rural town in the 1950s. He is a retired superintendent of schools and U.S. Army lieutenant colonel.

Linda Troeller G’72 (NEW), G’75 (VPA), an internationally renowned art photographer, was on assignment in Bad Schandau, Germany, in June, photographing creative images for a new five-star hotel.

Peter Weinberger ’72 (A&S), an attorney at Spangenberg Shibley and Liber, was named Best Lawyers’ 2017 Medical Malpractice-Plaintiffs Lawyer of the Year in Cleveland and was recognized on the Best Lawyers list in the fields of medical malpractice—plaintiffs and personal injury litigation—plaintiffs.

Louis P. Di Lorenzo ’73 (A&S), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s New York City office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017 and is included in the 2016 Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business directory. He was also named one of the top 20 practitioners in the area of traditional labor and employment law in a survey published in the 2016 edition of Human Resource Executive.

Deborah S. Derman ’74 (EDU), a grief counselor who has been in private practice for more than 20 years, wrote Colors of Loss and Healing: An Adult Coloring Book for Getting Through Tough Times (CreateSpace), intended to help people with any loss that calls on them to redefine their identity, including illness, divorce, financial ruin, and post-addiction.

Barry R. Kogut ’74 (A&S), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017 and in the 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Dennis McDonald ’74 (NEW) of Medford, N.J., presented a paper on the Mount Holly and Smithville Bicycle Railroad at the 27th International Cycling and History Conference in New Haven, Conn., in June.

Herbert L. Byrd Jr. G’75 (E&CS) is president and CEO of MOJA Inc., an information technology and intelligence analysis company in Manassas, Va. He wrote Proclamation 1625: America’s Enslavement of the Irish (FriesenPress).

Thomas A. Jambro G’75 (EDU) is a member of the board of trustees for the Burchfield Penney Art Center at SUNY Buffalo State and a member of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Castellani Art Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Frick Collection in New York City.

Joanne E. Romanow ’75 (FALK) is an attorney at Casner & Edwards law firm in Boston, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017.

James Karman G’76 (A&S), professor emeritus of English and comparative religion and humanities at California State University, Chico, wrote The Collected Letters of Robinson Jeffers, with Selected Letters of Una Jeffers (2015), the final volume in a series of three that also included Robinson Jeffers: Poet and Prophet (2015), and Stones of the Surf: Poetry by Robinson Jeffers, Photographs by Morley Baer (2002), both published by Stanford University Press. His work was recently honored with three awards: the Lawrence Clark Powell Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the Robinson Jeffers Association, the Oscar Lewis Award for Western History from the Book Club of California, and the Gold Medal for Notable Contribution to Publishing from the Commonwealth Club.
Vivian-Lee Nyitray ‘76 (A&S) is the associate vice provost and executive director of the University of California Education Abroad Program.

Paul T. Czepiga ’77 (WSM), L’84 (LAW), a principal with CzepigaDalyPope law firm in Berlin, Conn., is a member of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants Advisory Council, representing the trust, estate, and gift taxation interest group as its chair.

Jeff Hoffman ’77 (VPA) is founder of Squashhouse Media, a video production and digital media company based in Marblehead, Mass. Current projects include producing a series of documentary films about Israel’s War of Independence, the first of which is titled 4 Million Bullets: The Untold Fight for Survival.

Edward F. Klein ’77 (ESF) is a retired family physician and former U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel. He resides in Middletown, N.Y., with his wife, Amy.

Carol Herman Abram ’78 (VPA) received a blue ribbon at the Milton (Mass.) Art Center First Annual Juried Art Exhibition for Pear Triplets, a piece created in soft pastels. She is also studying oil painting.

Carmen Harlow ’78 (A&S) wrote My Life in Syracuse: My First 60 years (urbansportsofsyracuse.com). A portion of the book’s proceeds go to support the Urban Sports Hall of Fame’s youth, sports, and neighborhood initiatives in Syracuse.

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R. Steven Lewis ’79 (ARC), an architect and advocate for social justice and diversity in the field of architecture, received the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2016 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award and was elevated to the AIA’s College of Fellows. Beginning in March, he will serve as Detroit’s urban design director for the Central District, a mayoral appointment.

Denis Sweeney ’79 (NEW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Buffalo office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017.

George F. Bellows G’80 (WSM), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Buffalo office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017.

THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT, in partnership with alumni clubs across the country, hosted 40 new student send-off events this summer. These events offer new students and their families the opportunity to meet fellow members of Syracuse University’s incoming class, as well as to receive advice from alumni, current students, and SU staff members. This year’s event series was a resounding success, with nearly 2,500 attendees taking part. “The Syracuse University Alumni Association is grateful to all of the volunteers who help make these events a wonderful experience as we welcome the newest members of the Syracuse University family,” says Sue Ballard, associate vice president for alumni engagement.
THE UNIVERSE STRIVES AFTER BALANCE. That is a premise we all absorbed in a number of classes at SU. No system or just cause ever proceeds irresistibly forward. It is ever subject to setbacks and worse. A proverbial “setback and worse” occurred for the LGBTQ community early Sunday morning June 12, when a terrorist, who’d pledged allegiance to ISIS, entered Pulse, a popular gay Orlando nightclub, and fired volley after volley of bullets into the crowd on the dance floor. Forty-nine innocents were massacred and scores injured. In the age of nanosecond communication, gay clubs and gathering sites throughout the nation, and around the globe, were filled with disbelief, horror, and unspeakable grief.

What then would be the reaction of the intelligent, informed, emotionally warm LGBTQ community in Los Angeles, where I live? What was to become of its Gay Pride Parade, the nation’s largest, scheduled to begin just hours after the massacre in Orlando? Cancellation was not an option. It wasn’t simply the months of planning, effort, and expense. It was the fact that gays, who had so courageously marched forward from Stonewall to the legitimization of gay marriage, were not about to abandon their celebration of life, liberty, and freedom. They could not be dissuaded even by reports that a heavily armed man was headed to the parade route.

Retired from the bench of the Los Angeles Superior Court, I received a call that morning, asking if I would join L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck at the front of the parade. If ever there were a time when the L.A. gay community needed to know its civil authority, police leadership, and judiciary stood with it in solidarity, it was then. I had marched at the beginning of the same parade two years before. But, this was different.

At the parade lineup, there was a distinctively somber, even quiet, atmosphere among the marchers and the crowd. It was all so very different from the rambunctious gaiety of years past. Then again, this wasn’t just another Gay Pride Parade. Orlando was hauntingly fresh in everyone’s mind. No sooner did the event begin, when the massive rows of well-wishers on both sides of Santa Monica Boulevard, the 5th Avenue of West Hollywood, first smiled at the marchers. Seconds later they broke out in joyous cheer, like I have never witnessed before. They waved American flags and gay flags and held up signs proudly exclaiming, “We Love Orlando.” One well-wisher handed her Orlando sign to the mayor. Another handed him his gay flag. The mayor proudly and happily carried the sign and waved the flag throughout the parade. As for this aging jurist, I waved so incessantly and so feverishly that, by the end, my arms were losing their feeling.

All those present were now gratefully aware that the police had intercepted in the City of Santa Monica the heavily armed man, bent on devastation at the parade. Hence, when the Swat Team, in full battle gear, proceeded along the sidelines in its Humvee, the crowd clapped its approval and thanks.

At the termination of the parade, I posed with straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender LAPD officers and deputy sheriffs. What an incredible honor it all was for me! I was so utterly proud of the LGBTQ community. May God always bless it and may God always bless America. I’m so glad my mother, Pearl, who died at 98, brought me across the Peace Bridge from Canada when I was a child and raised me in this truly blessed land!

The Honorable John T. Rafferty, Retired, is a 1970 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences and was president of the graduating Class of 1973 at the College of Law. He retired in 2009 after serving for 25 years on the bench of both the Los Angeles Municipal Court and the Los Angeles Superior Court.
Jim Weiss ’87

Inspiring Self-Starters

AS A KID AND A STUDENT, JIM WEISS SAYS HE followed in the footsteps of some special role models. Now, as a leader in the global public relations and marketing communications industry, he is one. Weiss is founder and CEO of W2O Group, an international marketing and communications network comprising three companies, 12 offices, and nearly 500 people. Among those he counts as important influences along his path to success is his grandfather, who grew up “a poor immigrant kid” in New York City and was an All-America basketball player at Penn State. “My grandfather was a guy who lived a nice long life, with a lot of different careers in different towns. Nothing was handed to him—he earned it. He was a community leader. He was that kind of guy from that era—good, ultimately strong, and a man of high integrity,” Weiss says.

He also speaks of three women who have been inspirations: his mother, “a teacher and a strong woman in business who had a very open style”; Newhouse public relations professor Maria Russell, an “icon,” he says, who helped spark his passion for the field; and Beverly Simons, who directed him into health care communications and “taught me how to apply what I learned at Newhouse in the real client world,” he says.

At Newhouse, Weiss earned a bachelor’s degree in public relations, with minors in art history and political science. “Newhouse encourages a certain level of entrepreneurialism and self-starting perseverance that was critical to me,” he says. That strong start propelled Weiss’s career in strategic communications, particularly in the areas of health care and biotechnology.

He launched W2O Group in 2001 as a one-person consultancy. The firm now generates nearly $100 million in annual revenue and serves some of the world’s leading companies and brands, including Merck, Intel, PepsiCo, and United Technologies. “I’ve modeled W2O Group along the same aspirations as Newhouse—to be the best!” says Weiss, who among other honors was named one of the 500 Most Important People in the Global PR Industry by PR Week in 2015 and is on the Board of Trustees of the Cancer Research Institute. “And I believe very much that Syracuse had a lot to do with that and always will.”

As the founder of the W2O Center for Social Commerce at Newhouse—which educates students in social media, digital technology, and analytics and provides them with an edge as they enter the workforce—Weiss gives back in a big way. Established in 2012, the center offers new course content in social commerce, interactions with experts, guest lectures, a robust internship program at W2O Group offices, and a novel internship program where Newhouse students split time with both the W2O Group and one of its major clients, Medtronic. “I think this is something you rarely get to do in life—to go back to the place you were formed and help inform it, to make it a better place,” he says.

He sees a bridge between what he did as a Syracuse student and the life he lives now. “There’s a kind of continuity. All the things I did as, say, a fraternity rush chairman, I’m doing here in my business: creating communities and networks, generating jobs, and providing value,” says Weiss, who was honored in 2015 as one of Newhouse’s 50Forward most accomplished graduates of the last 50 years. “I remember walking on the Quad and stopping every couple of people to say hello to somebody, which I still like to do. In a people business, still, it is all about the people.”

—Amy Speach
THE THIRD TIME PROVED TO BE THE CHARM FOR Marvin Harrison '95. In his third year as a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Syracuse’s all-time leading receiver earned the ultimate on-field honor in February when he was selected for induction into football’s most exclusive club. On August 6, Harrison was formally enshrined and his bronze bust presented at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio. Harrison joined seven others, including his coach with the Indianapolis Colts, Tony Dungy.

The induction capped a remarkable football journey for Harrison—one that started in his native Philadelphia, continued at Syracuse University, and concluded in the NFL with the Colts. In addition, he added to Syracuse’s indelible legacy in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Harrison, who coincidentally wore No. 8 for the Orange, became the program’s eighth inductee. “Being inducted into the Hall of Fame isn’t something that happens overnight. I’m very thankful and very grateful that this has happened,” Harrison told the capacity crowd in Canton. “I’ve worked extremely hard to get to this point.”

After a redshirt season in 1991 and contributing mainly on special teams the next year, Harrison broke into the Orange’s starting lineup in 1993. He used his soft hands and breakaway speed to catch 41 passes for 813 yards. His 19.8 yards per reception led the team, as did his seven touchdown catches. The following year, Harrison led the Big East in receiving yards per game (76.1) and recorded four 100-yard games. He also showcased his ability as a return man, running back 18 punts for 165 yards to finish second in the Big East in punt return average (9.2).

In his senior season, Harrison became the target of a redshirt freshman quarterback named Donovan McNabb ‘99. The combination was magic. Harrison set the school single-season record with 1,131 receiving yards. He posted six 100-yard games and propelled the Orange to a 9-3 record and a top-20 finish in both national polls. The Orange capped the season with a 41-0 thrashing of Clemson in the 1996 Gator Bowl, with Harrison establishing SU bowl records for receptions (7) and yards (173) in his final game in a Syracuse uniform. He also caught a pair of touchdowns.

In the 1996 NFL Draft, the Indianapolis Colts made Harrison the 19th overall pick. He contributed immediately, catching more than 60 passes in each of his first two seasons. In 1998, quarterback Peyton Manning joined the Colts and, much like when McNabb took over as Syracuse’s signal caller, the results were explosive. Manning and Harrison hooked up for an NFL-record 953 completions in their 11 years together, including 112 touchdowns, another league record for a quarterback-wide receiver tandem. In 2006, the pair guided Indianapolis to a Super Bowl victory over the Chicago Bears.

The Super Bowl title was one of many highlights in Harrison’s sparkling 13-year career. He was named to eight Pro Bowls and recorded eight 1,000-yard receiving seasons before retiring after the 2008 season. Harrison’s best season was 2002 when he shattered the single-season record for catches (143 receptions for 1,722 yards).

Harrison finished his pro career with 14,580 yards, which ranks seventh on the NFL’s all-time receiving yardage list, and he is one of only two players in league history to amass 14,000 receiving yards for one franchise. His 126 touchdown grabs are fifth all-time.

“You don’t go into the NFL saying, ‘I want to make the Hall of Fame.’ You want to make it to the NFL, you want to play well for your team, play well for your fans,” Harrison said. “All the pieces fell into place for me to where I was able to show my talent.”

Charming indeed.
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Rick Burton ’80 (NEW), the David B. Falk Professor of Sport Management in Falk College, wrote Sports Business Unplugged: Leadership Challenges from the World of Sports (Syracuse University Press), a collection of columns. His author royalties for the book will go to a Falk College scholarship. His son, Andrew Burton ’10 (NEW), shot the photo for the book’s cover.

Edwin J. Kelley Jr. ’81 (LAW), G’81 (WSM), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017 and in the 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Valerie Ann Leeds G’81 (A&S) wrote Paul Moro: A Painter’s Journey (Newington-Crossey Foundation), an essay exploring the art and life of the Italian-born American artist. The publication accompanied a retrospective exhibition of Moro’s work at the foundation, held this summer in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Mark G. Cunningham L’84 (LAW) is a partner at MCIS law firm in Los Angeles.

Alfredo N. Rivera ’84 (A&S) is chair of the Department of Psychiatry and medical director of geriatric psychiatry at the Medical Center of Aurora (Colo.).

Lamont R. Bailey ’85 (VPA), a managing partner at the Queens-based law firm Bailey & Bailey, was appointed general counsel of the National Bar Association, the country’s oldest and largest national association of predominately African American legal professionals.

Thomas Ferrara ’85, G’90, G’99 (E&CS), G’01 (WSM), director of facilities at the Syracuse City School District, was named Educator of the Year as an administrator by the Syracuse City School District Education Foundation.

Bosco McKinney ’86 (VPA) is an artist residing in Plattsburgh, N.Y., whose pen and ink images have won many awards and are sought after by collectors (boscomckinneyart.com).

Stephanie Goldman ’88 (VPA), president of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and member of the board of Lighthouse International, is a board member with the Parkinson Foundation, a New York City-based organization focused on Parkinson’s research, care, education, and advocacy.

Jane Haseldine ’88 (NEW), a journalist and former crime reporter, wrote The Last Time She Saw Him (Kensington Publishing), a suspense novel about a crime reporter whose son is kidnapped on the 30th anniversary of her brother’s abduction. A second book in the series, Duplicity, is due out in April.

James Burns ’89 (NEW) completed a 600-mile walk from Philadelphia to Ann Arbor, Mich., this summer, raising funds for a children’s hospital in Philadelphia and the ChadTough Foundation in Ann Arbor, whose mission is to support research and raise awareness for pediatric brain tumors (chadtough.org).

Don Vassel ’89 (E&CS) is CEO of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, a mentoring organization that provides empowerment programs for youth living in at-risk environments.

Lauret Savoy ’90 (A&S) received a 2016 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation for Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape (Counterpoint).

Elizabeth St. Hilaire ’90 (VPA) wrote Painted Paper Art Workshop: Easy and Colorful Collage Paintings (North Light Books). The book offers more than 30 techniques for painting decorative papers, instructions for creating painted paper collages, and a gallery of paper paintings for inspiration (paperpaintings.com).

Brian J. Butler ’91 (A&S), L’96 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in the 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

George R. McGuire ’91 (E&CS), L’96 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017 and in the 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

David Camuzo L’92 (LAW) is director of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority’s national office in New York City.

Daniel Martindale ’92 (A&S) is president of the Warren, Washington, and Albany county (N.Y.) chapters of NYSARC Inc., which promotes opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Matthew Kinney ’94 (A&S) is senior counsel at Patriot Energy Group in Burlington, Mass. He is celebrating his fifth anniversary in the legal/regulatory department of the company, which acts as a client-side energy procurement and management consultant for commercial and industrial clients in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwest regions.

Shawn Kolodny ’94 (VPA), a former Manhattan nightclub owner and tech investor, is a professional artist who is currently artist in residence at the Wynwood Arcade in Miami.

Todd Wachtel ’94 (A&S), a partner at Levinson Axelrod law firm in Hillsborough, N.J., wrote a chapter in the LexisNexis Practice Guide: New Jersey Workers’ Compensation. He is certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a workers’ compensation attorney. He lives in Princeton, N.J., with his wife, son, and daughter.

Ted Meyer ’95 (NEW/WSM) is senior vice president of global public relations and communications at Natixis Global Asset Management, one of the world’s largest asset managers, based in Boston.

Dana Babbins L’96 (LAW) is the founder of Pink Truck Designs (pinktruckdesigns.com), a gender neutral clothing line inspired by her twin daughters, who have a strong affinity for trucks, cars, and tractors.

John L. Levitow ’96 (NUR) received a doctorate in nursing practice from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., in May.

Martin A. Schwab L’98 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2017.
When he first picked up a guitar, Stanley Kaminsky '16 never envisioned himself a singer-songwriter who would release his very own music. He also never thought he would land an internship at indie rock label Glassnote Records. But there he was, thanks to Newhouse in NYC—a full-semester immersion program combining specialized courses at SU’s New York City campus with internships matched to students’ interests. In addition to a network of valuable contacts, Stanley says it provided him with an education he “truthfully couldn’t find anywhere else.”

Read more about Stanley, hear him sing, and learn how you can help SU students develop their greatest talents. Visit changealife.syr.edu/stanley or call 315.443.1848.
Fostering Equity and Well-Being

FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS EDUCATION, TEACHERS were the key for Llewellyn Cornelius. He grew up in a struggling family in a Harlem tenement and attended Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx. A teacher at Cardinal Spellman, who was engaging and enthusiastic, piqued Cornelius’s interest in the subject of psychology. When Cornelius landed at Syracuse University, he was happy to find professors who were similarly inspiring. “Teachers should be excited about what they teach,” Cornelius says. “The best teachers I had—in undergraduate, in graduate school—you could tell they were really into what they were doing. You get the feeling from them—I am doing this because I love to do this.”

Now Cornelius shares his enthusiasm for his expertise—social work, social justice, and civil rights—with undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Georgia, where he is the Donald L. Hollowell Distinguished Professor of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies. He loves the challenge of connecting with students—who refer to him as “Dr. C”—and training a new generation of social workers.

First and foremost are the basics. “Everyone, whether they are in an underserved community or not, wants to work with someone who has heart, who is compassionate,” he says. “They want to know that you are there and you care. That is the most critical piece.”

Cornelius focuses his research on racial and ethnic health disparities in the United States, research methods, and social determinants of health. He is one of the most frequently cited African American scholars in the field of social work. An important issue he addresses in his classes and in his research is the fact that the large majority of social workers today are white, middle class, and female—and that profile does not match the majority of the people needing services.

He speaks of the importance of “cultural humility” on the part of social workers, underscoring the need to be respectful of different cultures, attitudes, and ways of life. Social workers also need to be keenly aware of their communities. “An intervention that is being developed in Central New York may not work in Miami,” he says. Cornelius is also concerned with improving the lot of social workers, who he says need to take care of themselves before devoting themselves completely to their clients. There is also a gender issue to be addressed: Men entering the field, he says, are more likely to move into management, while women “do the front line.”

Cornelius came to Syracuse University in 1977, enrolling in the College of Arts and Sciences eager and open to new experiences. He thrived in his classes, in both psychology and African American studies, and also became involved with WAER radio, which at that time was student run. He worked on the 360 Ebony Degrees program, which featured alternative music. Most of the other students committed to the station attended Newhouse, planning careers in broadcasting. Cornelius chose a different path—to head to the University of Chicago. There, he completed two master’s degrees, in social science and social science administration, and a Ph.D. degree in social science administration. His dissertation, “The Impact of Medical Delivery on the Outcome of Care for Minorities and the Poor,” started him on a career to explore the complex issues of health care delivery, and work to address them.

Cornelius has kept in close touch with Syracuse over the last few years, as his nephew, Gordon George, is a College of Visual and Performing Arts student who graduates in December. While Cornelius says he didn’t exactly steer his nephew toward his alma mater, he was very happy when he made the choice.

—Kathleen Curtis
“The farm workers wore scarves or bandanas, or wrapped and pinned T-shirts around their noses and mouths to keep from breathing dust. Some duct-taped the ends of their gloves to their straw hats or baseball caps. But it was useless. Late afternoons, when Fausto peeled away layers of clothes, dust clung to everything. It seeped through his outer clothes and dirtied his undershirt. Dust and sweat turned his white socks muddy brown. Even his teeth felt gritty.”

From A Village in the Fields

In September 2015, at the Filipino Community Hall in Delano, California, Patty Enrado read an excerpt from A Village in the Fields (Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2015), her historical novel depicting the lives of Filipino American farm workers. The local chapter of the Filipino American Historical Society was hosting a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Delano Grape Strike, an event most closely associated with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers union (UFW). “Few people know, however, that Filipino American farm workers initiated the strike for fair wages and better working conditions, and made important contributions to California’s farm labor movement,” says Enrado, a graduate of Syracuse University’s Creative Writing Program who grew up in a Filipino American community in Terra Bella, California. “It took 17 years to research and write my debut novel, to bring their story—my relatives’ story—to light by way of my elderly protagonist, Fausto Empleo, who looks back on his long and costly struggle for civil rights.”

Enrado spoke with Syracuse University Magazine associate editor Amy Speach about the book, which was shortlisted for the 2016 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing by the Stanford University Libraries.

Q&A

Honoring the Story of Filipino American Farm Workers

How did the idea originate?

When I came back to the Bay Area after graduating from Syracuse, I went to a reading of Filipino American writers, where a poet was talking about Agbayani Retirement Village [a retirement complex for Filipino farm workers, where the book begins] and Delano and the grape strike. And I thought, “I didn’t know about this. I should explore this.” Then in ’97 there was a PBS documentary and book called The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers Movement. Only one Filipino was interviewed for the film, and I remembered feeling: “Wait. There’s a bigger story here.”

Please share about how the book evolved.

In the beginning it was personal—just wanting to find that story for myself. But then it became a matter of wanting to honor my parents and my community. I did a lot of research—talking to my relatives, doing interviews, and poring over Delano Record newspaper articles. I was accumulating all this information and at some point I realized I was working on a book.

How did your time at SU contribute to your work on the book?

I had a full-time job throughout, writing for a media company. I have two kids who are teenagers now, and my husband and I were very active in our school district. It was hard, but I knew it had to be done.

How does it feel to have the story out there?

My goal was to get it into the Filipino American community and into students’ hands in Asian American studies classes, and that’s happening. To have the community embrace it—to have Filipinos come up to me and say, “I never knew this about our history and I’m proud of our contributions”—has been unbelievably gratifying.
1932 Oliver Brown Hoffman
1936 Martha Hutchison Easton, Mary Hale Mowry
1937 Florence James Irving, Leon I. Jones, Dora Fishman Lisman
1938 Carol Simons Mercer
1939 Jeanne Stauffer Beaudry, Muriel Karp Manheim

1940 Betty Massie Allis, Donald L. Foley, Bruce F. Stauderman

1943 Joseph A. Falcone, Beth Booth Gurley, Eric M. Hart, Ronald C. MacQueen, Barbara Coit Turner
1944 Ronald M. Osborne, Barbara White Schilling, Nancy Garfola Svehla
1945 Charles A. Adams, Jacqueline Manion Brown, Mary Salisbury Curtiss, James P. Nowicki, Norma G. Parker, Mary Kinner Shoemaker, Jean Hyzer Stern, Carolyn Burrows Temple
1946 Mildred Hinman Beaudette, Dorothy Brooker, Stillman V. Copp, Elizabeth Otto Cranshaw, Marie Oakland Hasert, Martha Morton Langston, Carol Foote Mears, Robert M. Savasky, Arline Sleeth Wood
1948 Elsie Clark Bertrand, Gustave H. Bitzer, Frederick A. Bobenhausen, Elwood F. Booth, Almet N. Broadway, Eugene S. Cowen, Marie Snow Dolan, Margaret Pitt Esch, Sanford S. Fender, Frank A. Marshall, Nancy Condit McCormick, Channing L. Pao, Martin B. Price, Virginia Mason Swartzendruber, Charles E. Vonnosta


1961 Michael D. Herr, Richard A. Saha, Ruth Dilley Sims, Cal
1962 Andrew V. DeMarco, Dale J. Freundlich, Ann Strutz Mattfeld, Rex V. N. Perkins, Robert T. Sedlak
1966 Ursula Kolodziej Ashmore, Charles B. Crawford, Robert C. Dam, Philip W. Hirschler, John R. Metz, Deborah Powers Oliver

1971 Edward R. Campagna, Gloria Gerber, John W. Gormley, Julianne Nowadly Shepelay
1973 Louisa L. Chase, Robert C. Merriam, Susan Marie Stockman, Lorraine Klotz Schmidt, Rachel Josefowitz Siegel
1974 Clark P. Billings, Vittorio Didio, Candace A. Greathouse
1975 Donald S. Cleverley, Katrine Tallie Danforth, Irene Burdette
Gromny (staff, University College), a tired professor, biology), Cindylou and linguistics), Marilyn Kerr (staff, Physical Plant), Pedro Cupermie Schumer Ryall (A&S), A. Friedman, David A. Meeker, James A. Stachelia Ramsden Gundersen, Susan Ruddy Minard, Joyce L. Scotto, Anita Miller Waite (A&S) is chief of advocacy at the Alliance of Community Health Plans in Washington, D.C.

William Warkentin ’98 (A&S), a major in the U.S. Marine Corps, earned a master’s degree in military studies at Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Va., in June. In August, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service as Fire Support Officer, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, from April 2012 to July 2015.

Erin Young Villagray ’03 (EDU/ VPA) is assistant vice president of learning and development at Peapack-Gladstone Bank, headquartered in Bedminster, N.J.

Matt Brill ’04 (WSM) and his wife, Amy, of Columbus, Ohio, announce the birth of their daughter, Ruby, who joins big sister Miriam.

Kathleen McGary Laney ’04 (A&S/NEW), president of Laney Solutions parking industry recruitment firm in Boulder, Colo., was recognized by the National Parking Association as a member of the 2016 40 Under 40 class of young professionals and up-and-coming leaders in the parking industry.

Jessica Wechter ’04 (A&S/NEW) is special assistant to the president at the NEA (National Education Association) Foundation in Washington, D.C., a public charity that supports public school educators and their students.

Kristy B. Frame ’05 (A&S), L’09 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in the 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Brenna O’Leary ’06 (NEW) is an account manager at Powerhouse Public Relations in Santa Ana, Calif.

Todd Wojtowicz L’06 (LAW) and his wife, Jodi, wrote No Chimney? No Problem! (Moon Jump Press, 2015), a children’s holiday book.

Brian D. Agnew G’07 (NEW) is an executive compensation attorney with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions.

Malcolm J. Morrisweather ’07 (EDU/VPA) is the vice president of institutional advancement at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, N.J.

Vin Nucatola ’09 (NEW), a brand-ed video producer with Thrillist Media Group, created a video ad for Smith & Forge hard cider, along with three fellow SU alumni. It features CrossFitGames competitor Kenneth Leverich costumed as an elderly man who astounds body-builders and spectators at Southern California’s Muscle Beach by lifting massively heavy weights. The video reached more than 90 million views and was the most watched video on the Internet in July.

Lindsay Truesdell ’07 (NEW/VPA) is an associate communications specialist with Delaware North, a hospitality and food service management company headquartered in Buffalo.

Alyza Bobbot ’08 (VPA), CEO of City Girl Coffee in Duluth, Minn., is a member of the International Women’s Coffee Alliance Board of Directors.

Heather Lupole ’08 (VPA) married Matthew Crespy ’08 (NEW) in September. They reside in Los Angeles, where she is an associate at CO Architects and he is the creative executive director at Weimarner Republic Pictures, a film/television production company.

Raquel Santos G’08 (EDU) earned a Ph.D. degree in education at the University of Lisbon in July. She is a faculty member at the Instituto Politécnico de Santarém in Portugal.

Christopher J. Stevens ’08 (A&S), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Albany office, was recognized in the 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers Rising Stars list.

Mary Anne Burges Bibby, Ralph E. Jean Doyle, Stephen L. Fuller, Robert D. Kessler, Barbara L. Smith, Joseph Wagner 1976 (A&S) is an associate communications specialist with Delaware North, a hospitality and food service management company headquartered in Buffalo.

Alyza Bobbot ’08 (VPA), CEO of City Girl Coffee in Duluth, Minn., is a member of the International Women’s Coffee Alliance Board of Directors.

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1. Chancellor Kent Syverud (right) joins the 2017 Arents Award recipients, who were recognized for excellence in their professions. Honored (from left) were Jim Brown ’57 (athletics and social activism), Arielle Tepper Madover ’94 (theater producing and arts leadership), Dr. Robert Jarvik ’68, H’83 (medical science), and Ambassador James Cunningham ’74 (public service and diplomacy).

2. Generation Orange alumni have some fun at their celebration.

3. Alumni spend time with one another outside the Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center.

4. Alumni gather on the Shaw Quad for a tailgate party before the football game against the University of South Florida.

5. Members of the Class of ’56 celebrate their 60th reunion. The class reunion committee received the Melvin A. Eggers Senior Alumni Award.

FOR MORE ORANGE CENTRAL PHOTOS, visit orangecentral.syr.edu/gallery/index.html.
When Jacqueline Saturn attended SU, she studied political science with a French minor. An excessively active student, she was involved in student government and Greek life, soaking in all that college had to offer. “I got a taste of everything,” she says. “Syracuse opened my eyes to so many incredible experiences.”

As a Nashville native with music in her blood, she was especially fascinated with shows on campus—and confused by the lack of shows off campus. “When I was growing up in Nashville, Music City USA, every bar had a live band,” Saturn says. “Going out in Syracuse was different. I had never been to a bar where there wasn’t live music playing.”

These days, music is still the defining feature in Saturn’s life. She is the general manager of Harvest Records and Caroline, subsidiaries of Capitol Music Group, and in 2015 was named one of the 50 most powerful women executives in the music industry by Billboard magazine. For Saturn, who has returned to campus as a guest lecturer in the Bandier Program, including in November, the well-rounded experience she had at Syracuse helped give her the knowledge and confidence to move to New York City after graduation and pound the pavement for a music industry job. She worked as a paralegal and eventually heard about an opening for a receptionist at a tiny label, Savage. “I knew it was my best shot,” she recalls. “I met with them and thought, ‘I have to make this happen.’ I just told them, ‘I’m your person.’”

She got the job and through that met Frank Deleo, who had managed Michael Jackson, and he took her under his wing. She worked with him managing Taylor Dayne and Laura Branigan and that led to her being hired in the promotion department at Sony/Epic Records in 1993. “Getting hired at Epic was the best day of my work life,” she says. “It was a game changer.”

She stayed with Epic for 20 years, advancing to executive vice president of radio promotion, where she worked with Pearl Jam, Oasis, Rage Against the Machine, and other bands who rose under her care. In 2013, Saturn was tapped to become GM of Harvest Records. “At Epic, we had been successful in artist development, and Harvest needed a team to bring that magic,” she says. “I was excited because there aren’t a lot of women running major labels.”

Saturn was settled on the East Coast with her family, and the job required moving to Los Angeles. For advice, she met over lunch with Jon Cohen ’90, a music and media executive and close friend from SU. “He’s someone I’ve always trusted,” she says. “I told him the story and he said, ‘Jacqueline, run, don’t walk.’” Saturn made the jump and was soon asked to be GM of Caroline as well. “It’s a major undertaking, but this is my dream,” she says. “If you want to be in this business, you don’t turn down an opportunity. You just go for it.”

Today, Saturn is successfully handling her work and personal life in L.A., raising tween girls with her husband, and setting an example, especially for women who want to rise to the top of the business. “People always ask how I do it all,” she says. “The truth is I don’t, but I juggle and balance things like everything else in life. There are days that are hard and if I don’t laugh, I cry. But I always stay positive, because there are plenty of people who want to knock you down. They’ll say, ‘She can’t possibly do that, because she’s got kids.’ It’s frustrating to still hear that, but those kinds of comments are ultimately empowering because they make me want to bring it even more.”

—Jessica Novak
Robert Watson ’79

Transforming Health Care Technology

ROBERT WATSON HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THE HEALTH CARE information technology industry for more than 30 years, serving as founder, officer, or CEO of a half-dozen healthcare companies and achieving extensive experience in all operational facets of the field. Now the president and chief growth officer at NantHealth Inc., he’s honored to be a senior leader of a company whose ultimate goal is saving lives by curing cancer. “This role is a special opportunity to be part of a really big mission and to do something that gives back,” says Watson, who holds responsibility for the company’s sales growth engine, as well as aspects of the business that more directly touch its users—some 100 million people worldwide. “At the end of the day, NantHealth’s objective is to be a leader in curing cancer. We believe the way to do that is a next-generation molecular diagnostic scan, GPS Cancer, intended to help doctors in treatment selection.”

Based in Culver City, California, NantHealth is a member of the NantWorks family of companies, a visionary health care solutions system developed by Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, cited in Forbes magazine as one of the world’s leading billionaire entrepreneurs. Watson describes NantHealth, which went public in June, as “an interesting combination of a molecular diagnostic company married to a robust health care information technology platform.” GPS Cancer is a comprehensive molecular test that analyzes the whole genome (DNA) and the RNA, including an individual’s protein makeup (proteomics), providing oncologists with a detailed molecular profile of a patient’s cancer. By converging molecular science, real-time patient signal monitoring, computer science, and big data technology, the technology platform allows physicians, patients, and insurers to coordinate and personalize the best possible care, monitor outcomes, and control costs. “This is important for a variety of reasons, including that we lose people every day from cancer,” says Watson, who began at NantHealth in January 2015. “The cancer incidence rate worldwide is accelerating. We know from the research that in chemotherapy, unfortunately, we sometimes do bad things to patients, because we historically haven’t had enough information to know the correct molecular address and to know whether a patient’s molecular makeup was resistant to a given treatment. The scan we’ve developed has been a 10-year journey by Dr. Soon-Shiong. And on that journey, our teams have learned a lot.”

Watson points to his time at Syracuse as an important milestone on his own journey. He grew up in Harpursville, a small town in New York’s Southern Tier, and was thrilled to receive a scholarship to attend SU. “There were less than 100 people in my high school graduating class. And I think I’m the only person from my school to ever go to Syracuse,” he says.

Although he started out with the intention to go on to medical school, that plan changed after he got a C in organic chemistry his sophomore year. Fortunately, he received some wise guidance from Maxwell professor Bill Coplin that led him to pursue a bachelor’s degree in health policy studies at the College of Arts and Sciences and information and library science at the School of Information Studies. “He’s a great guy and his counsel was very helpful to me,” says Watson, who also holds an MBA degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. “Most of what I’ve done in my career has been in health care technology. And none of that would have happened without his involvement.”

Regarding his work at NantHealth, Watson is optimistic about the potential to cure cancer in the not too distant future. “Certainly, I think we’re on the path to solving the problem, and that’s really important for all of us,” he says. “This is a beautiful mission to be a part of.”

—Amy Speach
ONE WAY TO FRAME ELLIOTT PORTNOY’S SUCCESS story is to look at some of the significant numbers along the way—his status as SU’s first Rhodes Scholar, for example, or the fact that he earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in only three years. Or consider that, while studying at Oxford University, he founded Kids Enjoy Exercise Now (KEEN), a nonprofit organization that trains volunteers—more than 45,000 in the United Kingdom and in seven U.S. cities—to coach kids with profound disabilities. And in his role as the global chief executive officer of Dentons, an international law firm based in Washington, D.C., he leads an organization comprising 8,000 lawyers serving clients from 144 locations in 59 countries.

Not bad for a guy who—before deciding to attend SU—had thought that, rather than venture far, it would be nice to go to college in the university community where he grew up. “My parents wisely said I could go anywhere in the country that I could get in, other than stay home,” says Portnoy, a Syracuse University Trustee who jokes that he chose SU for the opportunity to watch his “beloved” West Virginia University Mountaineers play football here. “The real story of course is that, in Syracuse, I found an institution with an extraordinary commitment to excellence, where students’ desire to learn and passion for discovery is celebrated. I was blessed with the engagement and support of exceptional faculty and administrators who really wanted to help students propel their lives.”

Portnoy credits the University with helping shape his interest in public and community service through opportunities to become engaged with the Syracuse community and to complete two internships—one with the U.S. Senate, and the second with a legal aid society. “Both taught me that the blending of the legislative and legal process would give me the best intersection where I could make a difference,” says Portnoy, an attorney who holds a Ph.D. degree in politics from Oxford and a law degree from Harvard. “Those two disciplines—the practice of law and the legislative process—were most interesting to me. And Syracuse worked to help me pursue both, for which I’ve always been very grateful.”

Portnoy makes his home outside of Washington, D.C., with his wife, Estee, and their three children. He began practicing law in Washington 25 years ago, moving into the role of chairman of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal in 2007 and embarking on a series of mergers and combinations that led to the 2013 launch of Dentons, now the world’s largest law firm. “Each of the firms that has come together has a rich history, wonderful people, and great values,” says Portnoy, who among numerous honors has been recognized by Washingtonian magazine as one of the nation’s top lobbyists. “To have the privilege of knitting it all together to be an integrated global law firm has been extraordinarily challenging and rewarding. And many of the leadership lessons I first learned at Syracuse and the experiences made possible there continue to infuse what I do every day with particular meaning.”

Expressing his appreciation for SU takes many forms, including service on the College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors, the Washington, D.C., Regional Council, and the Board of Trustees, where he enjoys collaborating with “a group of extraordinary, generous people” who share his passion for the University. And in his travels around the world as global CEO, he often comes across someone who loves Orange as much as he does. “One of the biggest treats for me is being able to blend my professional life with the chance to spend time with great people who share that Syracuse connection,” he says. “The reach of the place astonishes me.”

—Amy Speach
IT WAS JANUARY 2015 AND ANDREW SCHWAB ‘03 WAS fresh off of one of the most difficult phone conversations he ever had. The day had started innocently enough with a Facebook message from the brother of Jason Anderson ‘03, who had resided in the room across from his freshman year in Brewster Hall. Their relationship had quickly progressed from a fluke of the Syracuse University housing system to a less heightened version of the type of backslapping camaraderie made popular by the buddy movies of the 1980s. In the years after graduation, Schwab, Anderson, and other members of their crew formed freshman year had traveled to SU basketball games together, attended bachelor parties together, served as groomsmen in each other’s weddings, and eventually navigated the pitfalls of adulthood together. “I kind of knew that if I ever needed something, Jason would figure out a way to help me,” Schwab says. They were close, but that still didn’t explain why Anderson’s brother would reach out with a request for Schwab to contact their mother. Friendship has certain benefits though, and a freedom from the burden of explanation is one of them. Schwab made the call—and learned that Jason Anderson had been killed that morning in a car accident.

The next calls Schwab made were all to family—the one he and Anderson had built for themselves among the Syracuse University Class of 2003: Jennifer Meinen, Jay Morrison, and Tim Caputo. “They were the hardest phone calls I’ve ever had to make,” Schwab says.

Nearly two years later, Jason Anderson has not been forgotten. Alongside Anderson’s family, Schwab, Meinen, Morrison, and Caputo helped build the Jason Anderson Foundation for Youth Sports as a monument to carry on the name and legacy of their friend. “Jason was, to put it mildly, obsessed with sports,” says Schwab, chair of the foundation’s board. Meinen and Caputo are also board members, and Morrison serves as treasurer.

Last spring, the rookie nonprofit organization awarded grants totaling $1,000 each to three youth sports initiatives in Delaware—Dover Little League, the Police Athletic League, and the Junior Football League. “All of a sudden that first grant meant this is a success,” Meinen says. “We did it.”

Prior to his death, Anderson had developed a robust career in athletics, including work with the Syracuse Sky Chiefs, the New Orleans Saints, and Dover Motor Sports. Caputo wants all children to have access to youth sports. He sees it as an opportunity for them to develop the same well-rounded character he saw in his one-time roommate and constant friend. “It was easy to see how that passion, with a bit of competitiveness, made him a tireless worker, a loving father, a devoted husband, and a loyal friend,” Caputo says. “That’s how we remember him and why we thought it was the best way to honor him.”

While the foundation planted its roots in Delaware, where at the time of his death Anderson was living with his wife and young son, Meinen says it’s possible the nonprofit could eventually trickle into other communities. In the meantime, the old gang is back together again, minus one very important member. “I’m proud of what we’ve created and what we hope to accomplish long term,” Caputo says. “But seeing Jason’s name on the check we presented or his likeness on the logo reminds you there’s a hole in your heart you can never replace and you just wish he could be here to share in the joy we’re spreading by helping others.”

—Frank Ready

For more information on the Jason Anderson Foundation, visit jasonandersonfoundation.org or @EveryKidPlays on Twitter.
IMAGES OF FALL ABOUND ON CAMPUS, from the American flag flying atop the Carrier Dome to a brilliant sunset framing Crouse College to the SU Marching Band performing at the season's first Orange football pregame rally on the steps of Hendricks Chapel. These photos were among the many beautiful pictures taken by students, staff, faculty, and alumni for "Syracuse Views 2016," which are featured on the SU News homepage. For more, visit news.syr.edu/syracuse-views-fall-2016-2016/.
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