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ON THE COVER:
Several members of the SU physics department are part of an international scientific collaboration that confirmed Albert Einstein’s prediction of the existence of gravitational waves, capturing the signal of one created by the collision of two black holes 1.3 billion years ago. The discovery, made last September, was announced by the National Science Foundation in February.

Photo illustration credits: background courtesy of Henza, NASA; Albert Einstein photo: Wikimedia Commons/Orren Jack Turner

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  Michele Cantos ’12
  Micha Crook ’08
  Bob Dotson G’69
  Alland Leandre ’88

Q&A: Teresa Yi ’10

REFLECTION: Sonia Dalrymple Schork ’55, G’56

THE VIEW: President Obama delivers keynote
I WRITE THIS ON AN UNUSUALLY COLD APRIL DAY IN SYRACUSE. THERE IS
snow on the ground. The temperature is in the 20s. Yet the sky is a brilliant blue
with an incredible splash of orange. It is a warm and brilliant hue that captures the
energy on campus after an extraordinary few months. It is also inspiration as we
anticipate spring Commencement, a rite of passage with its roots in the Middle
Ages, a highly symbolic ritual of conclusion and emergence into a new life.

Like the Commencement ceremony, the spring edition of the magazine
celebrates notable accomplishments of this past semester, and reminds us of
what we aspire to be in the future. From March Madness to mysteries of the
universe, we have much to celebrate.

The entire Orange Nation caught the exhilaration of the run to the Final Four.
Buildings from downtown Syracuse to Manhattan glowed orange and blue in
honor of New York’s College Team. That both teams’ runs ended without national
titles does not diminish the transcendent spirit that elevated us to the point.
The character of our teams reflects the character of our campus. It is that character
that will secure our place in history as a University that values and demonstrates
fortitude in everything we do—and drives us to achieve greatness.

There are other recent affirmations of such fortitude and success. In February, I was
informed Syracuse had climbed to an “R1” rating, as determined by the Carnegie Classification
for Institutions of Higher Learning. That is the top research class awarded to a doctoral
university. Syracuse was one of only 15 universities nationwide to move into the top category
in the latest rankings. The cover of this magazine celebrates a magnificent example of the
work accomplished here.

Syracuse University’s role in a discovery that sounds like science fiction continues to bring
well-deserved attention to our research enterprise. Last September, scientists at the twin
Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors, located in Louisiana
and Washington, observed actual ripples in the fabric of spacetime caused by gravitational
waves. It verified a major prediction made by Albert Einstein in his 1915 theory of relativity.

Syracuse University was a key part of that discovery. A team of physicists from the College
of Arts and Sciences played an instrumental role: Peter Saulson, the Martin A. Pomerantz ’37
Professor of Physics; Duncan Brown, the Charles Brightman Endowed Professor of Physics;
Stefan Ballmer, assistant professor of physics; and a group of nearly two dozen students and
research scientists. Men and women from this University are helping to change the way we
see the universe itself.

Yet, there is more to be discovered and much more to be achieved as we strive to make a
difference and have impact on national and international fronts. Just recently, I had the privilege
of introducing President Barack Obama, who was the keynote speaker at the Toner Prize for
Political Reporting in Washington, D.C. The high honor in journalism was created by the S.I.
Newhouse School of Public Communications and is named for the late Robin Toner ’76. She was
a Syracuse graduate who became a pioneering reporter for The New York Times. The president’s
remarks attracted national attention as he focused on the urgent need for disciplined,
courageous, and responsible journalism, even in a turbulent digital era.

Our entire University community aspires to be courageous and responsible, to be innovative
and inspirational, qualities affirmed throughout this magazine. So, as I marvel at the brilliant
blue sky with its orange hues, I am reminded of the true spirit of Syracuse: We find our way
to sunlight, even in the snow.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
Opening Remarks

An Unfolding World

SO OFTEN WHAT’S ROUTINE AND FAMILIAR TO us can corrode the senses. We hit automatic pilot and continue with our day. What’s new? Nothing. Same old same old. But that’s when it’s important to challenge ourselves and toss in a few diversions—taking an extra moment outdoors to listen to a mysterious bird and identify it, turning down that often passed-by side road to see a new landscape, opening a long-overlooked book to send the mind on an adventure.

Beyond the scope of minor detours to our daily routines, exploring a new destination is a good option to shake up the familiar, especially when getting there is usually an undertaking in itself. It’s always fascinating to step into an unknown world and see where it takes you. While we can conjure up distant locales before our eyes with a few keystrokes these days, there’s nothing like being there, wherever there may be. For SU Abroad students, as you’ll learn in “Toward a Global Imagination,” opportunities to explore the world abound. They navigate new cultures, learn history, and delve into current issues. They polish new language skills, sample unfamiliar cuisines, and travel off the beaten paths. They also discover much about themselves and grow as individuals.

Most important, they meet people whose life stories may be significantly different than ones they are accustomed to. It can be difficult, even exasperating, to communicate with a person whose language and customs don’t mirror our own; however, a determined effort to connect, understand, and learn can be rewarding. Pieces of common ground can be shared and built upon, while actions and opinions can illuminate differences that initially may be misunderstood, but can develop into mutual respect and understanding. In discussing how he builds relationships with research subjects, political science professor Yükse l Sezgin, director of the Middle Eastern Studies program, says, “One thing I always tell my students is you have to go out and spend time with people. You have to shake hands, drink tea with them.”

What better way to learn about a person and create a bond—whether a neighbor, a classmate, or a local you meet in a distant town, a world away from home. I recall many times in my travels in which I’ve either been totally intrigued or somewhat skeptical in an encounter with a new face. And in most of those instances, I’ve found myself enjoying the company and learning. Years ago, while traveling in Ireland, I can’t tell you how many engaging conversations I had with folks who picked me up hitchhiking or sat next to me in a bus station or pub. Some invited me into their homes and others just shared their journeys with me. I still remember hopping into a delivery truck and when I told the driver I was headed to Glengarriff, he said, “Aye, the word ‘tis longer than the town.”

When I got there, I realized he wasn’t far off the mark. But like anywhere, it invited exploration. After all, when an unknown world unfolds before you, it’s always worth a look around.
WHAT’S AN APPROACHABLE WAY TO TEACH SCIENCE? 
School of Information Studies research professor Jun Wang has a special answer: comics. Wang explored an interdisciplinary world where he could combine his computational background with art to create a digital learning tool to help students of all ages learn science. DoodleBook, a website (doodlebook.org) whose mission is to make science more accessible and engaging through art, is the result of his exploration. “Science educators can introduce everyday situations and popular culture into learning materials through visual stories such as comics, and thus make learning more related and effective,” Wang says.

Wang’s idea for DoodleBook was inspired by the Picturing to Learn project, an initiative created by MIT research scientist Felice Frankel in which undergraduate science majors were asked to draw various scientific phenomena as a way to explain the concepts to high school students. Wang met Frankel at a conference sponsored by the National Academies Keck Futures Initiative (NAKFI), and after receiving a $100,000 grant from NAKFI in 2013, they began to explore how to unlock the power of visual learning to its full potential in the era of massive free online education. “The idea behind drawing to learn in science is that it forces students to break down a concept into small tangible pieces before they can start to draw,” Wang says.

Shying away from the traditional encyclopedia style of presenting information, DoodleBook shares science knowledge with an illustration and a casual tone. Kyra Nay G’15, an iSchool graduate student at the time, served as a research assistant on the project, researching and writing about the topics and coordinating the illustrators’ work. She has created more than 125 topics ranging from wind chill, color-blindness, and allergies to earthquakes, electrical circuits, and freckles. To explain why freckles form, for example, the illustrator sets a scene in which three friends talk about how tanned they got from a beach vacation; one of the girls who didn’t get tanned at all shows her freckles and explains how they are clusters of melanin that form to protect her skin. The website has a participatory element as well, allowing people to contribute their own illustrations and also vote on their favorite ones. “We try to engage as big of an audience as possible in comics drawing,” Wang says.

Though the comics can be entertaining, the effort of illustrators behind the scenes is challenging. “Lots of my work, outside of DoodleBook, tends to be very political and social justice oriented,” says Madeleine Slade ’16, an illustration major in the College of Visual and Performing Arts who was one of several SU students who contributed drawings to the project. “I didn’t do a lot of science work before, but this required me to learn many abstract concepts.” The challenge proved to be a rewarding experience for her, as she can now create a bunch of different characters to enrich the content. “To ensure the diversity of stories, I designed a variety of people with different appearances, body sizes, and personalities,” she says.

Besides popularizing science and health knowledge for the general audience, DoodleBook can also play an important educational function in the classroom, helping students learn the material by creating illustrations to explain difficult concepts. Professor Bei Yu of the iSchool has used this approach in her teaching in the past year. Instead of asking students to demonstrate their understanding verbally, she asks them to use DoodleBook to show their visual understanding. “Traditional assignments are mostly done in writing, but sometimes words can be ambiguous,” Yu says. “I realized that, through illustration, students can present their thoughts in a more clear way, and it helped me quickly see what understanding level they are at.”

“...The idea behind drawing to learn in science is that it forces students to break down a concept into small tangible pieces before they can start to draw.”
—Jun Wang, iSchool research professor

INFORMATION STUDIES | The Art of Learning Science
IN 1807, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AARON BURR WAS arrested in Mississippi Territory by troops mobilized by President Thomas Jefferson. Burr was accused of leading a conspiracy to annex part of Louisiana Territory, attack Spanish-held land, and create his own fiefdom. Burr was acquitted of treason, and his conspiracy would have been just another strange episode in the life of this outlaw statesman, had it not led to 1807 legislation that expanded the president’s ability to “call forth...such part of the land or naval forces of the United States, as shall be judged necessary” to suppress insurrection or enforce the laws. That act has proven durable. Along with the 1878 Posse Comitatus Act—which restricts a president’s ability to use the military to enforce laws—the early 19th-century legislation continues to define how and when federal troops can be deployed on home soil.

“The Insurrection Act has survived because it’s both an authorization for the president to use the military at home and a set of conditions under which they can be used. It’s a core protection against military over-reach,” says College of Law Interim Dean William C. Banks, co-author with Vermont Law School professor Stephen Dycus of Soldiers on the Home Front: The Domestic Role of the American Military (Harvard University Press, 2016). “The types of military over-reach we fear today aren’t the same as those in the 19th century, but the degree of caution is. We no longer worry that the military will willy-nilly enter a city and start enforcing federal laws. Today, we fear intelligence-gathering and other technological powers that might intrude into our lives.”

Although the republic’s founders were concerned a strong army could undermine democracy, Banks describes citizens’ subsequent attitude toward the domestic use of troops as one of “cautious embrace.” After all, America’s powerful military is uniquely able to save lives and restore order in situations that overwhelm civilian institutions. Yet the military also has been used to break strikes, quell riots, and spy on and imprison American citizens during wartime. “There’s appreciation for what the military can do,” Banks explains, “as well as an equal amount of anxiety that excesses are possible, most likely at the direction of civilian leaders.”

The book’s fascinating anecdotes illustrate many military successes, failures, and near disasters on the home front. One notable success was during the Arkansas and Mississippi school desegregation crises. “Those situations were incredibly tense, but the troops handled them with great professionalism and skill,” Banks says. However, Banks explains that during the 1992 Los Angeles Riots—when President George H.W. Bush sent in federal troops—military involvement only confused matters. In this case, the Army general in charge refused to let his soldiers assist in enforcing the law, believing incorrectly that he would be violating legislative restrictions on military involvement in law enforcement.

Nevertheless, Banks and Dycus contemplate that the U.S. military’s domestic functions will expand in the 21st century, especially if large-scale catastrophes stretch disaster planning, federal agencies, and state personnel to their limits. Since 9/11—an unpredictable “black swan” event that required military assistance—laws and directives have changed rapidly as domestic threats from terror attacks, extreme weather, and pandemics mount.

It’s time, say the authors, to clarify the military’s homeland security role, in order to establish clear lines of authority, safeguard civil liberties, and protect democratic institutions and traditions. “We’d like to see more detail about what the military should do under varying circumstances,” Banks says. “That doesn’t mean we need new laws so much as we need military orders that are transparent and widely understood. The challenge for the military, after all, is to coordinate well with others inside and outside government, whether it’s commanders working with civilian agencies or active duty soldiers working with state members of the National Guard.”

—Martin Walls
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW | Speaking Out

PROFESSOR THOMAS M. KECK, THE MICHAEL O. SAWYER CHAIR OF Constitutional Law and Politics at the Maxwell School, has long been fascinated by issues that divide Americans and how the courts respond to such disputes. In his 2014 book, Judicial Politics in Polarized Times (The University of Chicago Press), Keck examined litigation over the past two decades involving abortion, affirmative action, gay rights, and gun rights. Now, Keck has turned his attention to clashes over free speech—and he’s rounding up cases from around the globe. “There’s lots of interesting stuff going on,” he says. “There are similar free speech disputes happening throughout Europe, in Latin America, in sub-Saharan Africa, in Australia, all over the place.” For example, legal disputes about whether and when racist speech can be banned have been reprinted in a wide range of courts across the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere.

With the support of a three-year, $420,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Keck launched the project Comparative Free Speech Jurisprudence, in collaboration with about a dozen other scholars. As part of a monumental undertaking, the group has begun to gather an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 free expression decisions and related primary source documents from constitutional courts worldwide, as well as 50 U.S. state high courts. The documents will be compiled in an accessible database that will allow them to examine how these courts have responded to free speech claims brought by people from across the political spectrum, from the extreme right to the extreme left and anywhere in between, from the powerful elites to the man on the street. “It’s looking at the universe of constitutional democracies and, within that universe, those where their constitutional ideals and institutions have developed enough to start somewhat regularly enforcing a principle of freedom of speech—and it’s those patterns of enforcement that we are interested in,” says Keck, who received additional support through the Maxwell School’s Tenth Decade Project.

According to Keck, the research team has identified 184 countries with written constitutions that include a free speech provision, but not all of these countries are democracies. Among those, they have so far identified 25 whose national high courts (basically equivalents to the U.S. Supreme Court) have well-developed bodies of free speech jurisprudence. This list includes the high courts of Argentina, Australia, Japan, Norway, and South Africa, and the team is also investigating the free speech jurisprudence of some key international courts, particularly the European Court of Human Rights. Since the courts’ rulings encompass 15 different languages, one of the initiative’s biggest challenges will be getting the documents translated into English. “The Norwegian Supreme Court has a history of judicial review that is almost as old as the U.S. Supreme Court,” Keck says. “But it’s all published in Norwegian, and these decisions have been almost entirely ignored by U.S.-based courts scholars.”

They will initially look at rulings comprising electoral speech, extremist speech, sexually explicit speech, religious speech, and what Keck calls “economic” speech—cases, for example, brought by for-profit corporations or labor unions. As the project evolves, Keck says the team will consider other categories that may wander into free speech territory, such as contempt of court decisions. “Sometimes courts are biased, and people have the right to say so in public,” Keck says. “And if the judges can lock them up, that’s a problem for democracy.”

The project will also explore how the courts cite one another in their decisions. While it’s rare among U.S. courts to look to a foreign court’s ruling, Keck says, it’s fairly common for U.S. court decisions to be cited elsewhere. “One thing our data collection will help people study is whether, when, and how constitutional ideals migrate from courts in one country to courts across borders,” he says. —Jay Cox

THE LATE IRVING FEINER ’84 speaks at the opening of the Tully Center for Free Speech at the Newhouse School in 2006. As an SU undergraduate in 1949, Feiner was charged with disorderly conduct for giving a pro-civil rights speech in downtown Syracuse. In 1951, Feiner’s case landed in the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to protect his free speech rights, in contrast to a 1949 decision that protected the free speech rights of Arthur Terminiello, a suspended Catholic priest who had made a racist speech in Chicago. One goal of Professor Keck’s project is to assess how courts have responded to free expression claims filed by differently situated actors. The project team hopes to determine which courts, if any, have provided consistent treatment of diverse claims within the United States and elsewhere.
COMMUNITY MENTORING  |  Giving Voice to Young Writers and Artists

THE LYRICS IN A SONG BY FEMALE rapper Rhapsoody depict the story of a boy who was forced to grow up too quickly and whose life was cut short by violence: “I had dreams and plans, but gave it up to be the man, see. When my father didn’t bother, well, now I’m the man.” Those words served as a starting point for a creative writing workshop presented by SU students to eighth-graders at Expeditionary Learning Middle School (ELMS) in the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) in November. The lesson began with a conversation about poetry—the ways poets and musicians use their words to convey emotion, talk about their lives, and bring important social issues to light. ELMS students then worked in small groups to create their own poems exploring the theme of youth violence, just as Rhapsoody does in her song. Throughout the process, SU mentors provided prompts—“Why should we care about this? What can we do?”—and offered encouragement—“Great question! Good job.” At the end of the hour, students took turns sharing their work. “Be there for each other and stick up for each other,” one young poet read aloud. “Calm people’s anger and change their minds about negativity. Hopefully it works. And it will go on to each person and reduce the violence over the years.”

The team behind the workshop is the 30-member Syracuse University student organization Making Expression and Scholarship Heard (MESH), which was founded in 2009 with the goal of intertwining the voices of SU student writers and artists with those of kids in the city’s schools. Each semester, MESH volunteers offer weekly creative writing or art workshops and one-on-one mentoring at three SCSD middle schools. Student work is published in a literary magazine, complete with a launch event held on campus with students performing their own pieces. “We try to use writing as a source not just to improve students’ literacy skills, which is very important, but also to empower them—to give them a voice in their own lives, to help them discover that voice, and get the confidence through writing to take it outside of the classroom.”

—RACHEL BROWN-WEINSTOCK ’17, MESH CO-PRESIDENT

“We try to use writing as a source...to give them a voice in their own lives, to help them discover that voice, and get the confidence through writing to take it outside of the classroom.”

—RACHEL BROWN-WEINSTOCK ’17, MESH CO-PRESIDENT

MESH members also hope to promote post-secondary education for the kids they work with. Toward this goal, they host March to College Day each spring, bringing SCSD students to campus for a workshop series that offers a glimpse of University life. “We want to encourage them to go to college,” says MESH co-president Neha Rauf ’17. “This is one way to help them see that’s really a possibility for them.”

Participation in MESH holds great benefits for the SU students as well. “MESH gave me a place where I found people with similar passions and an opportunity to meet and work with people in the Syracuse community,” says Rauf, a Coronat Scholar majoring in international relations and citizenship and civic engagement. “And the kids mean a lot to me. We try to be a stable presence in their lives. We really love it when we see them get encouraged to share their talents.”

Brown-Weinstock agrees. “The kids are why we do it. They’re so resilient and creative in different ways,” she says. “And their capacity to want to get to know you and build a relationship with you is a really beautiful thing.”

—Amy Speach

Photo courtesy of Rachel Brown-Weinstock
**INVESTIGATOR:**
Jannice Friedman

**DEPARTMENT:**
Biology

**SPONSOR:**
National Science Foundation

**AMOUNT AWARDED:**
$475,900  
(October 2014-June 2017)

**PROJECT:**
Understanding the Evolutionary Transition between Annual and Perennial Life History Strategies

**BACKGROUND:**
This research addresses one of the most fundamental questions faced by all organisms: When is the best time to reproduce to maximize the survival and success of their offspring? In plants, there are two broad categories of reproductive strategies—annuals that reproduce once and die, and perennials that reproduce repeatedly and cycle through vegetative and reproductive phases. This research utilizes a model plant system, *Mimulus guttatus*, commonly known as monkey flower, native to the West Coast of North America, to investigate the ecological and genetic mechanisms underlying flowering time differences in annuals and perennials. The focus on the role of environmental cues, including day length and temperature, in the transition to flowering is particularly pertinent as climates change and plants adjust to new environmental regimes.

**IMPACT:**
The research represents a novel and exciting opportunity to understand the genetic basis of differences between annuals and perennials, while directly connecting natural genetic variation with the ecological mechanisms driving adaptive evolution. The proposal is unique in looking at genetic variation from different annual and perennial populations from across a species’ geographic range, and testing the fitness differences in a field common garden located in the native environment. Furthermore, using high-throughput genomic sequencing, the research will make the crucial link between genomic architecture and local adaptation. In addition to its scientific impact, the research includes opportunities for students to be involved in both field and laboratory research, supervised by postdoctoral fellow Matthew Rubin. So far, we have involved students in both our local field experiment on SU’s South Campus, and also at our field site on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

The research team’s field common garden (left) on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, was established by postdoctoral fellow Matthew Rubin in October 2015. Annual (top left) and perennial (top right) *M. guttatus* populations growing in the researchers’ common garden on South Campus in Syracuse.
An Abolitionist’s Constitution

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES’ SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH Center (SCRC) is home to some of the University’s most rare and valuable treasures, allowing student, faculty, and visiting researchers to examine primary source materials like abolitionist John Brown’s Provisional Constitution and Ordinances for the People of the United States shown here.

Brown composed the document as he was preparing for his assault on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in 1859. He believed that chaos would ensue as slaves fled the plantations following his attack and that he would need to have a legal instrument with him to retain some measure of control. Upon Brown’s capture, his pamphlets were seized as treasonous, and anyone possessing a copy was considered a conspirator in the plot. As a result, only a handful of copies have survived.

The 15-page pamphlet was printed by William Howard Day, a black printer whom Brown met on a journey to St. Catharines, Ontario, to meet with Harriet Tubman about strategies for guiding former slaves to safety in the North.

Brown was incorrect in his assumption that the slaves would rise up, but the Southern states did respond by seceding from the Union, and that was the true mayhem that resulted from his raid on Harpers Ferry. This artifact, which helped to ignite the Civil War, complements the SCRC’s considerable holdings related to reform movements in the Central New York region.

—William LaMoy

At John Brown’s trial, one of his lawyers suggested that Brown’s Provisional Constitution was not an act of treason, but evidence of his insanity. Attorney Samuel Chilton called the document “ridiculous nonsense” and said it “could only be produced by men of unsound minds.” Brown rejected that line of defense.
THEY ARE THE THREE SYRACUSE ORANGE football legends known for making jersey No. 44 famous: Jim Brown ’57, perhaps the greatest ever collegiate athlete and pro football player; the late Ernie Davis ’62, the first African American Heisman Trophy winner who died tragically of leukemia at age 23; and Floyd Little ’67, three-time All-American and college and pro football hall of famer. “It’s been a significant number for me,” says Little, who scored five touchdowns the first time he donned 44 at Archbold Stadium and wore it throughout his NFL career with the Denver Broncos. “And, of course, it’s my favorite number.”

Jeff Rubin ’95, G’98, a professor of practice in the School of Information Studies and founder and president of SIDEARM Sports, knows their stories well and wanted to honor their legacies in a special way. Like many Syracuse students, he arrived on the Hill with scant knowledge of their gridiron exploits, but became a huge Orange sports fan and embraced the Legend of 44. “It’s important to know where we came from and what got us here,” Rubin says. “I believe 44 is the most important historic number in college athletics, but we didn’t have a place at this University where you could go and learn about these three.”

That changed last November when, after a couple years of planning, Rubin and his family—wife Jennifer G’02, and sons Nathan, 10, and Benjamin, 8—shared their larger-than-life tribute to the fabled running backs with the University community: Three nine-foot bronze statues, positioned on three-foot granite bases featuring relief panels that tell the players’ stories. “Isn’t that something?” says Little, now special assistant to the athletics director at SU. “Think about this—to have a statue of yourself while you’re still alive. Not a lot of people get statues of themselves, and I have the opportunity to walk by mine every day.”

The statues were unveiled at a special public ceremony and grace what’s now known as Plaza 44, an open space just west of the Ensley Athletic Center, which was dedicated that day as well. The three are joined by a fourth statue that
stands near the entrance to the Ensley Center—one of another Orange legend, Ben Schwartzwalder, who coached all three players and led Syracuse to the 1959 national title. He also coached Trustee Cliff Ensley ’69, ’70, G’71, who joined with a group of former Orange football players and supporters to get the Schwartzwalder statue made. “Coach Schwartzwalder looks like he’s keeping an eye on his players,” says sculptor Brian Hanlon, who created the four statues.

The ceremony was attended by the Brown and Little families and members of Davis’s family as well. “There was nothing more special than looking into their eyes at the unveiling,” Rubin says. “Those are moments I won’t forget. It was equally special to me on that day to have the kids be a part of the celebration.” For Little, it was a memorable day as well. “I can’t thank Jeff and Jennifer enough,” he says. “It was a really special day and it still is. When I see the picture I took with my camera of my wife [DeBorah ’14], my three kids, and my statue, it’s like, wow, this is real.”

For Rubin, the statues also represent a bond with Syracuse that has only grown stronger through the years. A Massachusetts native and School of Information Studies graduate, he combined his passion for technology and sports just as the Internet was taking off commercially. In 1996, the young entrepreneur launched a web design business that evolved into SIDEARM Sports, a campus-based company whose software and technology power websites, live stats, and video streaming for nearly 850 university, college, and high school sports teams across North America. For the past two decades, he also has taught at the iSchool and maintained a presence with SU Athletics, assisting with game-day stats and serving on the department’s external affairs committee. In 2000, SU became SIDEARM’s first college sports client, and it was through an iSchool class that he had DeBorah Little as a student and later met Floyd Little, striking up a friendship through their mutual love of sports. “I wanted to give something back that combined my passion for Syracuse sports, my love for the history of this University, and, at the same time, honor our family’s close friendship with Floyd and DeBorah,” Rubin says. “I also wanted to show our two boys the importance of philanthropy and giving back.”

Rubin credits sculptor Hanlon for coining the “Plaza 44” name. Like Rubin, Hanlon, whose studio is in Toms River, New Jersey, is a huge sports fan. The official sculptor for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Hanlon had visited the Orange Basketball Hall of Fame in the Melo Center, and had become familiar with the Legend of 44. When Rubin met up with Hanlon a few years ago at an NCAA trade-show convention, where Hanlon had a statue of NBA star Shaquille O’Neal on display—the vision of the statues began to take shape. “When he walked over to me and I found out he bled Orange, I was all in,” Hanlon says. “I love the history there.”

More than anything, the pair wanted to ensure the statues authentically captured the three athletes. They relentlessly combed through archival images and worked with SU Athletics administrators to get the look for the statues they wanted. While the statues pose as an enticing lure for recruits on their campus visits, Rubin sees them as much more. Sitting in his Hinds Hall office—which is awash in Orange mementos and other sports memorabilia, including a prominently displayed collection of football cards of Little from his days as a Denver Bronco—Rubin happily reports he’s received emails and thank yous about Plaza 44 from fans and enjoys seeing pictures of fans posing with the statues and posting them on social media. “That’s pretty cool,” he says. “I hope every SU student, every visitor who comes through, every fan, goes to visit the statues and takes a look at these larger-than-life guys. I hope it’s a place where people can gather and meet, and show their respect to these three legends.” —Jay Cox
VICE CHANCELLOR APPOINTED

THE UNIVERSITY HAS NAMED MICHELE G. WHEATLY AS VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST

SU ENTERS TOP TIER FOR RESEARCH

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY HAS MOVED INTO THE TOP TIER FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITY AMONG ALL DOCTORAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE NATION, ACCORDING TO THE 2015 CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
You plan your career.  
You plan your retirement.  
Now plan to change a life.

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.

**Anyone can plan an SU legacy.**
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Hear about Harry der Boghosian—his love of art, architecture, and deep connections to Syracuse at changealife.syr.edu/derBoghosian.
ORANGE MAGIC

THE SYRACUSE WOMEN’S AND MEN’S basketball teams ignited Orange Nation into an NCAA Final Four frenzy when both squads stormed into the national semifinals for the first time in SU history—a feat accomplished by only eight other universities. After winning the Sioux Falls Regional to earn their first ever Final Four appearance, the Orange women ousted Washington to advance to the NCAA championship game against UConn. Their storied season ended with an 82-51 loss to UConn, which collected its fourth straight title. The SU women posted a 30-8 record, the most wins in program history. The Orange men knocked off Virginia to capture the Midwest Regional—and make their sixth trip to the Final Four.

Coach Quentin Hillsman and the SU women’s basketball team celebrate winning the NCAA’s Sioux Falls Regional after trouncing Tennessee, 89-67, in the final. At the Final Four in Indianapolis, the Orange women rolled past Washington, 80-59, to reach the championship game for the first time in program history. En route to the title game, the fourth-seeded Orange picked up two wins in the Carrier Dome (Army West Point and Albany), then knocked off top-seed South Carolina in a Sweet Sixteen matchup before eliminating Tennessee.

Guard Cornelia Fondren ’16 leads a fast break against UConn. While the SU women were powered by pressure defense and three-point shooting during their first 30-win season, UConn proved indomitable in the NCAA final, riding a 75-game win streak to its 11th championship.

Syracuse guards Brittney Sykes ’15, G’16 (far left) and Brianna Butler ’16 swarm Washington’s Chantel Osahor. Butler led the Orange’s potent three-point attack, setting an NCAA single-season record for three-point field goals (129). Guard Alexis Peterson ’17 (left) scored 18 points against Washington to help SU move on to the NCAA final.

Photos courtesy of SU Athletic Communications/Stephen Parker
The SU men’s basketball team put together an inspiring NCAA tournament run to reach the Final Four with a 68-62 victory over top-seed Virginia in the NCAA Midwest Regional final in Chicago. The win advanced the Orange to the Final Four in Houston, where they lost to North Carolina, 83-66. It was the fifth trip to the Final Four for Coach Jim Boeheim ’66, G’73, whose Orange finished the season with a 23-14 record. Syracuse was the first 10th seed—and only the fourth double-digit seed—in tournament history to reach the national semifinals. Freshman guard Malachi Richardson (holding trophy) was named the Midwest Regional MVP.

Vice President Joe Biden L’68 offers encouraging words to the Syracuse players after their Final Four loss in Houston to North Carolina.

Forwards Tyler Lydon ’19 and Tyler Roberson ’17 (above) battle Virginia players for a rebound in the Midwest Regional final.

Trevor Cooney ’15, G’16 shows the hustle and determination against North Carolina that helped define this season’s scrappy Orange, which benefited greatly from the leadership of Cooney and Michael Gbinije ’15, G’16 (right).
ALEXIS PEÑA’S STUDENT DAYS
as one of the University’s best and brightest may be winding down, but her shining future as a medical research scientist and humanitarian is just beginning. A native of Durham, North Carolina, Peña is a bioengineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science (E&CS) whose achievements exemplify the highest reaches of academic excellence. Just for starters, she is a member of the Renée Crown University Honors Program, a Donofrio Scholar, a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholar, a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, and a Remembrance Scholar. Peña has also held leadership roles in the SU chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. “I’ve been given so many opportunities and have had great advisors and mentors throughout my time at SU, and everyone has been really helpful and supportive,” she says. “I wouldn’t want to be any place else.”

Throughout her SU studies, she has garnered national awards for her research, including her work at the Syracuse Biomaterials Institute in Professor James “Jay” Henderson’s lab. In her junior year, as a National Science Foundation Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation Research Experience and Mentoring Scholar, she also conducted research under the direction of biomedical and chemical engineering professor Shikha Nangia. “I’ve always had an interest in engineering and science, and in trying to help create solutions to problems that exist,” says Peña, whose senior capstone project focused on developing a noninvasive, automated method to identify and characterize cell behavior through cell motility analysis. “And I’ve always known I needed to do research to be able to understand the scientific field and to create those solutions.”

Beyond her intellectual pursuits, which include a medical anthropology minor and a passion for reading, writing, and philosophy, she has devoted herself to student and community life, serving in such roles as a resident advisor and E&CS ambassador, a tutor and mentor in local schools, a member of the University’s Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration committee, and a volunteer at Syracuse’s Rosamond Gifford Zoo and Museum of Science and Technology. Additionally, she co-hosts a women’s empowerment show on WERW, a student-run radio station at SU. “Helping and serving others is my driving force, so I really like to volunteer and do community service, especially in underrepresented areas or areas where there aren’t a lot of opportunities,” Peña says. “It’s critical to feed young minds and to encourage kids to be curious about the world and help them to have confidence in their abilities.”

Although uncertain of the specifics of the journey ahead, Peña looks forward to continuing to be a lifelong learner, and making strides toward what she refers to as her “main mission” of removing barriers to quality health care, particularly among the world’s impoverished people. “My end goal in life is to create solutions to medical problems and to hopefully have a role in better health access for many,” says Peña, who leads her class at Commencement ceremonies in May as one of two 2016 Class Marshals. “So the opportunities I’ve had at Syracuse—including being involved in research that’s primarily independent—gave me the tools I need to be a successful graduate student, and have been really profound in terms of my future.”

—Amy Speach
WHEN ENVIRONMENTAL AND INTERIOR DESIGN professor Zeke Leonard was invited to create the furniture for a Syracuse coffee shop on Westcott Street two years ago, he embraced the opportunity to integrate three things he holds dear: teaching, making stuff, and building community. He designed the pieces to accommodate the curricular needs of students in his fabrication class, who then built the furniture that would become a tangible part of their University neighborhood. “There were certain things they needed to learn to do in the class, so I made sure those operations had to be done in making this furniture,” says Leonard, who also coordinates the first-year experience for School of Design students in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA). “Then the students had the experience of building a bench that got installed. And it’s still there. So when they go have a cup of coffee with a friend, they’re sitting on something they made.”

Creating learning opportunities and connections among people by teaching them how to make things is more than a profession for Leonard—it’s a way of life. A former New York City theatrical set designer, he began to rethink that career when he realized how much of his work would one day end up in the landfill. He decided to pursue an M.F.A. degree at the Rhode Island School of Design and then embarked on a studio practice in Fall River, Massachusetts, where he created high-end handmade bespoke furniture. But he longed for work that better honored his personal commitment to sustainable and responsible design and also reached beyond the small number of people who could afford expensive commissioned pieces. “My former career as a theatrical set designer was a continuous cycle of making beautiful things and then putting them in the trash,” says Leonard, who joined the VPA faculty in 2009. “Now I am trying to reverse that process, and one form that takes is using locally found, cast-off objects and materials to create one-of-a-kind pieces that will live on for generations.”

Leonard has also combined his uncommon appreciation for “trash” with his lifelong love for music by finding ways to create simple stringed instruments from stuff that would otherwise get tossed—from cigar boxes to damaged pianos. His low-tech, low-cost musical creations have branched into a local artists’ collaboration, a series of instrument-making and music-playing workshops, and a lively community group that gathers twice monthly to play ukuleles.

All of which provide Leonard with new opportunities to “educate people about their ability to make”—a characteristic he sees as essential to an individual’s sense of personal agency and capacity to take up one’s place in the world. He hopes to inspire a similar perspective in the young designers in training he teaches at SU. “If I can talk to our students and get them excited about the fact that stuff can be made by a person, it gets them thinking about the world that they move through in a different way,” he says. “If we understand that we can physically affect the world around us, we understand the ways we can create change in that physicality. And if we understand that, we understand that we can create change in a variety of other venues: political, social, economic, and educational. For me, that’s not just a lofty, romantic idea. It’s a driving force.” —Amy Speach

Photo by Steve Sartori
WHILE GROWING UP IN A SMALL TOWN IN SOUTH Carolina, Jordan Robinson ’15, G’17 dreamed of traveling the world. Enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps was her passport to visiting more than 30 countries and serving as an embassy security officer in such far-flung places as Cuba, Austria, and Mozambique. Always up for a challenge, Robinson chose the Marines because of their reputation for being one of the most demanding branches of service. She found out just how demanding in boot camp, which she had expected to be about as grueling as a summer camp experience. “The physical requirements for Marines are the same for men and women,” she says. “It was by far the most challenging thing I’ve ever done.”

Military service was also her ticket to achieving another life goal—a college education. “The education benefit was one of the main reasons I joined the Marines,” says Robinson, a Newhouse graduate pursuing a master’s degree in public diplomacy, a joint program of the Newhouse and Maxwell schools. “After high school, I went to the University of South Carolina for two semesters, but decided to drop out because I didn’t want any more debt through loans. Through the GI Bill, I knew I could get a degree debt free.”

When deciding where to attend college, Robinson chose Syracuse University because of its veteran-friendly policies and reputation for academic excellence. “Syracuse has a long history of welcoming veterans, and since I wanted to study communications at the time, the Newhouse School’s television, radio, and film program was a good fit for me,” she says. “I’ve since realized that my true calling is to be a public diplomat and work with the State Department, promoting the interests and values of the United States.” Robinson’s world travels didn’t end with her military service. This summer, as part of her studies, she will journey to Australia for a 10-week internship in the public affairs office of the State Department.

Grateful for the opportunities she’s enjoyed thanks to her veteran status, Robinson works hard to help other former military access the same benefits. She is president of the University’s Student Veterans Organization (SVO), which strives to reach out to all enrolled veterans and assist them with whatever they need to succeed. “We also try to keep people engaged socially, with events like bowling, movies, and volunteer work,” says Robinson, who would like to see more veterans participate in the organization. “There are more than 190 veterans on campus, but we have only about 40 active members in the SVO. We have so many resources to offer, including counseling services and help transitioning from military to civilian life.”

In recognition of her military service and involvement with the student organization, Robinson was chosen to serve as master of ceremonies for the University’s Veterans Day Ceremony last November. “I felt honored as a woman to be in that role,” she says. “It was a proud moment for me.” —Paula Meseroll
YÜKSEL SEZGIN CONSIDERS HIMSELF AN “ETERNAL STUDENT.” From his days as an inquisitive grade-schooler in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir, Turkey, to his time now as a Maxwell School political science professor and director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program, Sezgin has always plunged into learning, exploring, and immersing himself in the politics of the day. At a time when there wasn’t a single academic program in Turkey devoted to studying the Middle East, he enrolled as a graduate student at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and honed his knowledge of the region, traveling extensively throughout Israel, the Palestinian territories, and other countries there. “I realized you learn a lot when you talk to people from different ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds,” says Sezgin, who joined the Maxwell faculty in 2013 following four years at John Jay College, City University of New York. “One thing I always tell my students is you have to go out and spend time with people. You have to shake hands, drink tea with them. The primary direct information you gather and the interactions you have are priceless.”

For Sezgin, this commitment to investigative fieldwork, combined with scholarly research and a working knowledge of five languages, lends authenticity to his expertise as a public scholar and comparative political scientist. His research lies at the intersection of human rights, religion, and legal systems—religio-legal pluralism—and he draws on a background that includes consulting work with the United Nations and USAID, and a stint as a freelance journalist. In 2013, he published the award-winning Human Rights under State-Enforced Religious Family Laws in Israel, Egypt, and India (Cambridge University Press), based on the exhaustive thesis research he did as a doctoral student at the University of Washington. He spent 27 months attending religion-based family law courts in those countries, interviewing more than 200 people from 20 different religious traditions, and combing through hundreds of court cases. “My primary concern was human rights, particularly the rights of women and how they are treated within these religious systems,” he says. “The women are fighting an important battle to define their religious traditions from within, and are playing an increasingly important role as religious authorities. And you see that—a revolution in the making.”

In his current research, Sezgin is examining how four countries—Israel, India, Greece, and Ghana—reconcile Sharia law with their democracies. “Religious laws are difficult to be enforced or imposed by any state, whether democratic or non-democratic,” he says. “Some have been more successful than others, but I wouldn’t say there is one perfect success story.”

Now in his second year of heading the Middle Eastern Studies Program, Sezgin wants to continue building on the interdisciplinary program’s existing strengths and resources and take it to the next level. In assessing the Middle East today, he notes the polarization, the depiction of violence and terrorism, and the “pollution of disinformation,” believing it’s important for scholars, politicians, journalists, and others to provide objective information. “We have to really tackle how we understand, how we study, how we learn about the Middle East,” he says.

Through it all, Sezgin emphasizes to his students the impact that politics has on the everyday lives of people and maintains a deep appreciation for those who share their lives with him in his research. “I want to see how things are being done in reality—what the policy implications of what I write and think will have on the ground,” he says. “Can I make life better for those people I study?” —Jay Cox
“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE DETECTED GRAVITATIONAL WAVES. WE DID IT!” exclaims David Reitze, executive director of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), during a February 11 briefing from the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The announcement, which is simulcast at Syracuse University, draws cheers and applause from an overflowing crowd in Goldstein Auditorium.

Among those at the Syracuse event are Peter Saulson, the Martin A. Pomerantz ’37 Professor of Physics, and Duncan Brown, the Charles Brightman Endowed Professor of Physics. (Their colleague, physics professor Stefan Ballmer, is representing the University at the media briefing in Washington.) At one point during his remarks, Brown pauses to reflect on the amount of time that has passed since LIGO made history by detecting the billion-year-old echo of two black holes colliding. “The past five months have been a rollercoaster,” he tells the enthusiastic audience. “We’ve been doing test after test—nonstop computational analyses—to make sure that what we’ve seen is real, and to understand what the gravitational waves are telling us about the colliding black holes.”

Saulson, Brown, and Ballmer are part of the Gravitational Wave Group in the Department of Physics, based in the College of Arts and Sciences. They’re also key members of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, an international community of more than 1,000 scientists, engineers, and students who detect and study gravitational waves. Much of their work takes place at LIGO’s two L-shaped observatories: one in Louisiana called LIGO Livingston, and another, nearly 1,900 miles away, in Richland, Washington, known as LIGO Hanford. Each detector is a giant laser interferometer containing two 2.5-mile-long vacuum arms—tunnels that run perpendicular to one another. A powerful laser beam is split into two and then sent down the tunnels. Mirrors at the end of the tunnels reflect the light back to where the laser beam was split. Since both tunnels are the same length, the light takes exactly the same time to travel to the mirror at the end of each tunnel and back. But if a gravitational wave passes through Earth, it changes the distance between the mirrors, causing the light beams to return at different times. By comparing both beams, LIGO is able to measure the stretching of spacetime caused by gravitational waves. A major, multiyear upgrade begun in 2008, known as Advanced LIGO, fine-tuned the sensitivity of the precise instrumentation even further.

Shortly before 6 a.m. on September 14, 2015, LIGO’s twin observatories picked up the fleeting vibration of a gravitational wave—equal in size to a fraction of the diameter of a subatomic particle. Translated to sound, it was a faint chirp, marking the culmination of more than four decades of hard work and $1.1 billion in taxpayer money.
The detection also confirms a key prediction of Einstein’s, affording humanity an entirely new understanding of the universe. “I was in LIGO Hanford’s control room, the night before the detection,” says Ballmer, a member of the Advanced LIGO design team, who was the lead commissioner at LIGO Hanford, responsible for making sure the detector worked. “When I returned the next morning, there was a buzz in the air. I’ll never forget staring at the first plots, getting goosebumps.”

According to The New York Times, LIGO’s chirp is destined to become one of science’s great sound bites, on par with Alexander Graham Bell’s “Mr. Watson, come here” and Sputnik’s radio “beeps” from outer space. Comparisons have also been drawn between LIGO’s detectors and Galileo’s first telescope, in terms of modern scientific impact. “The things Galileo saw in his primitive telescope gave rise not only to the science and technology we enjoy today, but also to new and fruitful ways of thinking about everything in human experience,” says Greg Huber, deputy director of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Perhaps the National Science Board got it right when it officially declared LIGO’s detection “one of the coolest discoveries in decades.”

An expert on gravitational-wave astronomy and theoretical astrophysics, Brown agrees that the detection opens a new window onto the universe. “The reason this is so exciting is that it marks not only the first detection of gravitational waves, but also the first observation of black holes,” he says, during a recent meeting in the Physics Building. “We’ll be able to look at the universe in a way that we never have before, getting a better idea of where it has come from and where it’s going.”

Also significant is that LIGO’s detection coincides with the centennial of the publication of Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Saulson considers the theory a “mathematical explanation” of gravity. “Einstein saw gravity not as a force, but as a warping, or curvature, of space and time,” says Saulson, who co-founded the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, and has worked on LIGO for almost 35 years. “Think of the black holes that we’ve seen as two bowling balls, rolling along on a trampoline. They revolve around one another because their mass produces a deep depression in the surface of the trampoline. The balls also jiggle the trampoline’s surface, shooting out energy in the form of ripples, or gravitational waves.”

But that’s where the analogy ends. “In spacetime, the black holes collide with one another to form a sphere, whose energy vaporizes in a flurry of gravitational waves, leaving behind a new, larger black hole,” continues the affable professor, whose job is to assess the authenticity of LIGO signals. “The ripples from this cataclysmic event traveled through the universe for more than a billion years before reaching us last fall. Pretty amazing, really.”

Gabriela González G’95, spokesperson for the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, was Saulson’s first Ph.D. student at Syracuse.
Deep-Rooted Research History
The University has deep roots in gravitational-wave research. After World War II, Einstein assistant Peter Bergmann, who taught at Syracuse until 1982, founded the nation’s first general relativity research group. Intent on unifying general relativity with quantum theory, the group attracted many stellar faculty members, including Professor Emeritus Joshua Goldberg G’50, G’52, who supported the first international conference on general relativity; Roy Kerr, a research scientist who eventually cracked “Einstein’s code” (six interlocking equations at the core of general relativity); and Abhay Ashtekar, Lee Smolin, and Professor Emeritus Rafael Sorkin, all of whom pioneered the study of quantum gravity in the 1980s and ’90s.

Kerr, who figured out what spacetime looks like in the presence of a large spinning black hole, regards LIGO as “one of the most outstanding contributions of science and technology ever.... [LIGO] required not only unbelievable technological advances to be able to measure incredibly small gravitational waves, but also several decades of theoretical work to calculate the signals that have been observed,” emails Kerr, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. “From the frequency of the signal, it is clear that this is not two neutron stars colliding, but a pair of heavy black holes. Spinning black holes do exist.”

Gravitational waves were mostly the stuff of theory until the 1960s, when researchers began figuring out how to detect them. Early proponents included Joseph Weber, a University of Maryland physicist who claimed to have detected gravitational waves using a six-foot aluminum cylinder as an antenna, and Rainer “Rai” Weiss, who worked out the basic ideas of LIGO as part of a physics course he taught at MIT.

Weiss has mentored several generations of gravitational physicists, including Saulson, Ballmer, and González. “For the life of me, I couldn’t figure out what Weber did,” says the retired physics professor from his office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “So I came up with my own way of measuring gravitational waves, taking freely floating masses in space and then measuring the time it took to travel between them. The presence of a gravitational wave would change that.”

With Saulson in tow, Weiss teamed up with Kip Thorne (Brown’s research mentor) and Ronald Drever, gravitational physicists at Caltech, to form LIGO. Some thought their plan of using two large identical detectors to detect gravitational waves was more science fiction than hard science, but persistence won the day.

Saulson reveals in the fact that LIGO has always been on time and on budget. Although initial data runs in 2005-07 and 2008-10 did not detect any gravitational waves, they were promising enough for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to approve the Advanced LIGO upgrade. “Currently, Stefan, Duncan, and others are knee-deep into the next phase of the project, going far beyond Advanced LIGO,” Saulson says proudly.

Although LIGO involves approximately 50 colleges and universities, Syracuse is home to one of the largest, most diverse cohorts in the country. It encompasses more than two-dozen professors, research scientists, postdocs, graduate students, and

Student Physicist with a Punch

IF ANYONE ESCHEWS stereotypes, it’s Samantha Usman ’16, a double major in physics and mathematics. The College of Arts and Sciences senior has been integral to the success of the University’s Gravitational Wave Group, parlaying her interest in the astrophysics of gravitational waves into NSF fellowships at Caltech and the Laboratoire de l’Accélérateur Linéaire in Paris. She also has been awarded a prestigious Astronaut Scholarship, supporting her research in gravitational-wave astrophysics. “I never thought I’d be involved with anything as cool as LIGO,” Usman says. “I ran the analysis that first determined the significance of the binary black hole signal that we saw. When we realized that the detection was real, I was ecstatic. We can learn so much about the universe from gravitational waves.”

When she’s not participating in the Renée Crown University Honors Program or serving as a campus tour guide for University 100, the Pittsburgh native may be found in the gym. A formidable boxer, she captains the University’s co-ed boxing team, and placed second in her weight class at the 2015 United States Intercollegiate Boxing Championship. “Being at Syracuse has changed my life,” says Usman, who, after graduation, is using a fellowship to continue LIGO work at Cardiff University in Wales (U.K.). “I want to keep pushing the project in bold, new directions.”

Joshua Goldberg G’50, G’52 (right), now a professor emeritus at SU, was instrumental in the physics department’s research on general relativity.

“Einstein would be very happy, I think.”

“We’re all over the moon and back,” she says of the detection. “Einstein would be very happy, I think.”

Samantha Usman '16

Goldberg photo courtesy of the College of Arts and Sciences; Usman photo by Amy Manley
LIGO RESEARCHERS NEED MASSIVE computing firepower, as well as sensitive detectors to study gravitational waves. At Syracuse, this is made possible by two cutting-edge computational environments overseen by Information Technology Services (ITS): Orange Grid, a research cloud made from University desktop computers; and Crush, a supercomputer housed in the Green Data Center on South Campus.

Eric Sedore, associate CIO at ITS, works closely with LIGO to provide the computing infrastructure needed to achieve the project’s ambitious goals. “Finding gravitational waves in the detector’s noise and then understanding where they come from requires a huge amount of computing,” he says.

Professor Duncan Brown, whose work lies at the intersection of physics, astronomy, and computing, has created many of the algorithms for detecting and studying gravitational waves. He also collaborated with Sedore to marshal the computing hardware necessary for LIGO’s detection. “In addition to traditional supercomputers, we relied on unused CPU cycles from desktop computers all over campus,” Brown says. “Those PCs worked overnight on LIGO data analysis, helping our students make LIGO’s groundbreaking detection.”

Brown and Sedore have also worked with the Open Science Grid (OSG), a consortium that facilitates access to distributed high throughput computing. “OSG has enabled LIGO computing to flow from Syracuse to clusters all over the country, some as far away as San Diego,” Sedore says.

undergraduates, all with a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. Members include Laura Nuttall, a postdoc who studies how noise in LIGO detectors affects the sensitivity of the project’s search for black holes and other astrophysical objects; and Samantha Usman ’16, a double major in physics and mathematics, who is using an Astronaut Scholarship to develop algorithms to search for binary black holes. “At first, I thought [the chirp] was some freak noise or a fake signal that was put in the data to test us,” Usman says. “Only after we spent months looking at the results of my analysis were we convinced that the gravitational wave was real.”

Future Explorations
While LIGO’s detection is only months old, researchers are already plotting the future. Saulson sees tremendous potential for the booming field of gravitational-wave astronomy. He is among the first to propose that neutron star binaries—extremely small, dense stars, born from the explosive deaths of larger stars—are a dominant source of gravitational waves. “Their signals are so weak that we still haven’t achieved the level of sensitivity needed to detect them, but we should be able to find them soon,” he says.

LIGO detectors are so sensitive that even the slightest trace of background noise—the hum of an air compressor, the rumbling of traffic, the crashing of ocean waves hundreds of miles away—can drown out a gravitational signal. “Even quantum noise from photons in laser beams, during interferometry, is problematic,” says Ballmer, who makes sure LIGO’s lasers and high-precision mirrors are “perfectly tuned” for desired interferometer sensitivity. “That’s why I do most of my work at night, when there’s less chance of human interference with the detector.”

Meanwhile, a wide range of fields, including nuclear astrophysics, is likely to benefit from LIGO’s detection. “I combine the experimental aspects of Peter’s and Stefan’s work with my own research in theoretical astrophysics,” Brown says. “Detecting gravitational waves lets us perform experiments with energies, masses, and speeds that are inaccessible in a lab on Earth. Future observatories may even be able take ‘baby pictures’ of the universe, capturing the first moments of creation.”

Saulson says LIGO’s detection is a testament to the vision and patience of campus leadership. “What we do takes a long time to produce results, and not many universities of our size are willing to play the long game,” he says. “I am extremely proud of and grateful for the leaders of Syracuse University and the College of Arts and Sciences. They’ve stood by us the whole way.”

Peter Bergmann (above) was a research assistant to Einstein and a leader in advancing Einstein’s theories; he taught at SU from 1947 to 1982, when he retired from the faculty. The graph (center) shows the “chirp” heard round the world, the long-awaited signal detected at LIGO’s Hanford and Livingston (right) observatories that confirmed the existence of a gravitational wave produced by two colliding black holes.
Falk College program breaks new ground in the emerging field of food studies

BY AMY SPEACH
HEN ANNA DELAPAZ ’17 TOOK PROFESSOR Rick Welsh’s Agroecology course as a first-year student in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, she saw a fresh new world of scholarly and professional possibilities crop up in front of her. A nutrition major from Dallas whose interest in food sprouted when she read Michael Pollan’s *Omnivore’s Dilemma* as a high school student, Delapaz enjoyed learning about agricultural production and sustainable agriculture in the class—exploring everything from the science of soil quality and nutrient cycling to the socioeconomic and policy aspects of how food is grown and produced. “From a nutrition perspective, I had been studying how food affects the body, which I found really interesting. Then in the Agroecology class, I learned about agriculture and what goes into making food, especially how to grow food in a sustainable way. I really saw that what we put in our bodies affects not only us, but the whole world around us,” she says. “That idea opened my eyes and made me want to learn more about the social, economic, and political aspects of food.”

No surprise, then, that when Falk College launched its undergraduate major in food studies in fall 2014—the original such bachelor’s degree program in the United States—Delapaz was the first to sign on as an official major, complementing her major in nutrition. Since then, she has taken every food studies course she can, and looks forward to becoming a registered dietitian and delving further into her special areas of interest in sustainable agriculture, community gardens, and improving food access. She is also considering pursuing a master’s degree in food studies—an opportunity that will be available at Falk starting this fall. “I think having a background in both nutrition and food studies is a great way to fully grasp the complexity of food,” she says.

According to Welsh, who is chair of the Department of Public Health, Food Studies, and Nutrition and director for the undergraduate program in food studies, Delapaz’s enthusiasm for all things food-related is representative of a national trend—one that helped inform the program’s development. “Food studies is one of the fastest growing majors in the country. Programs are popping up lots of places, as well as minors and concentrations, which we also offer. And we’re starting to see a degree in food studies as one of the qualifications for food-related job listings now,” says Welsh, the Falk Family Endowed Professor in Food Studies, whose research and teaching focus on social change and development with emphases on agri-food systems, science and technology studies, and environmental sociology. “One of the reasons this came about is because students let us know they were interested in taking courses in food. They were passionate about food and ‘starving’ for classes with food-related content. So the need became obvious.”

Food studies faculty member Evan Weissman G’12 points to the broad picture of food studies as a developing field of study and practice. “We are living in a moment in history when questions about the food system are at the forefront of public consciousness,” says Weissman, coordinator of the minor in food studies. “Large and complex problems are linked to the food system, everything from climate change to public health crises in the United States, to questions of immigration and labor. All are connected to the ways we produce, distribute, access, and consume food and manage food waste.”

As food-related issues have become matters of public concern, Weissman says, a similar evolution is occurring in institutions of higher education. “You have the academy responding to shifts, recognizing the emergence of social movements focused on food and new economic developments,” he says.
opportunities around food, and acknowledging the fact that, when looking at food, it’s not just a story of doom and gloom, as I like to tell my students,” says Weissman, who studies disparities in fresh or healthful food access in urban America and grassroots efforts to address those inequities. “It’s also an uplifting story of people thinking about a variety of strategies to strengthen and improve our food system so it is more tuned to questions of social, public, and environmental health.”

When it comes to food, the potential for positive change ranges from the personal to the grand—from individuals and families making slight adjustments in their consumption and purchasing practices, to broad changes in the ways large businesses operate and in governmental policy shifts that have the capacity to affect countless people. “It’s against this backdrop that we see food studies emerging,” Weissman says. “In higher education, there’s a long history of people doing food-related work. Here at Falk, for example, our sister program in nutrition is nearing its 100th anniversary. In the United States, we have a history of land-grant institutions doing agricultural research, and Syracuse University had an agriculture program at A LONGTIME DREAM CAME TRUE IN SEPTEMBER FOR FALK COLLEGE NUTRITION FACULTY AND STUDENTS WITH THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NUTRITION ASSESSMENT, CONSULTATION, AND EDUCATION (ACE) CENTER WITHIN THE FALK COMPLEX. MADE POSSIBLE BY A VISIONARY GIFT FROM FALK COLLEGE ALUMNA RHODA DEARMAN MORRISROE ‘69, THE NEW CENTER IS A HANDS-ON LEARNING LABORATORY DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS WITH TRADITIONAL AND EMERGING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES CRITICAL TO EFFECTIVE NUTRITION PRACTICE. “THE NUTRITION ACE CENTER SIMULATES THE TYPES OF PROFESSIONAL SETTINGS WHERE ITS GRADUATES WILL WORK, WHILE PROVIDING ONGOING, UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT GIVE STUDENTS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE,” SAYS DEAN DIANE LYDEN MURPHY.

The center comprises two lecture rooms, one with a media-ready demonstration kitchen and one with a teaching station; two private consultation rooms; a physical assessment room featuring the Bod Pod body composition testing system; and a conference room with media screen. The counseling and physical assessment rooms are equipped with two teaching mannequins, a tube feeding placement simulator, wall-mounted height-measuring devices and electronic scales, pediatric measuring equipment with several multiethnic infant mannequins, electronic blood pressure monitors, a lactation education baby, and a variety of food models.

The center’s counseling rooms allow students to practice nutrition consultation skills, while the demonstration kitchen supports the new integrative nutrition curriculum, which uses food as medicine to support disease treatment. “We already have many things to be proud of in the SU nutrition programs,” says nutrition professor Kay Stearns Bruening G’80. “Our students have above average placement rates in the required dietetic internships they must complete to obtain their practice credentials. And the pass rate for SU nutrition grads on the national credentialing exam is well above the national average. This new facility makes it possible for us to embrace and incorporate new initiatives being pursued by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, particularly around nutrition-focused physical examination and emerging areas in integrative and functional nutrition.”

According to Bruening, the Nutrition ACE Center also enhances research opportunities for faculty and student research at Falk. “The potential is tremendous, and with our current group of nutrition faculty with complementary interests, and our growing graduate program, the new facility and equipment can be put to use right away,” she says. “It also strengthens our position for collaborative and interdisciplinary research with health researchers at nearby universities and in the community.”

Bruening also points to a national initiative concerning interprofessional education—learning experiences designed to be completed by students from several health care disciplines working together. “With our new facility, we are well-positioned to reach out to health professions education programs in our area to design such learning experiences,” she says. “We’re very excited about and grateful for the new center, and what it means for the future of our nutrition programs.”

New Center Strengthens Nutrition Offerings

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one point in time. Social scientists have long looked at food as an indicator of inequality or as a question of labor or economics, as an insight into gender, or as a cultural marker in anthropology. Given the shifts in the public and in higher education toward transdisciplinary approaches to knowledge production and education, you have this groundswell leading to the growth of food studies.”

**World of Food**
The new Falk program is built on a social science foundation, specifically one with a political economic focus. “We take a holistic and multidimensional approach to understanding food as a process—as reflecting a host of relationships between people and institutions,” Weissman says. “We’re looking at questions of power and inequality. We’re looking at social transformations and the intersection of politics and economics as it shapes and is shaped by food.”

For example, Professor Anne Bellows, who is director of the food studies graduate degree program, focuses her scholarship and activism on the relationship between food-related issues and human rights, with a concentration on women’s access to adequate food and nutrition. She joined Falk College in 2013 from the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany, where she was chair of the Department of Gender and Nutrition. Her new book, *Gender, Nutrition and the Human Right to Adequate Food: Toward an Inclusive Framework* (Routledge, 2016), identifies conditions fueling food insecurity around the world and how those conditions disproportionately affect women, children, and rural food producers. “We’re interested in food studies as an explanatory vehicle for understanding social conditions more broadly—in learning how civil society interacts to create a democratic and just process of food governance,” Bellows says.

In her work, food studies faculty member Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern examines the interactions among food and racial justice, labor movements, and transnational environmental and agriculture policy as a framework for understanding how the food system operates and how it can be improved. In her Food Movements class, for example, students learn to think through the problems with the food system and explore methods for changing it, from the perspectives of social justice, the environment, and access to food. “Students also learn to be critical of solutions we have today and to think systematically about the food system and the structural ways to make changes, which challenges them to think beyond food as a consumer issue, seeing it as a bigger social issue,” says Minkoff-Zern, whose research has been informed by her work on farms and with agriculture and food organizations in Guatemala, New York State, and California. “In all our classes, we teach about the food system. For us, food is not just about what’s on your plate, but what’s growing in the ground. It’s about the water and the air and the workers—everything from the soil and how food gets to the market to how food gets prepared and who’s preparing it.”

The food studies program has its home in the Department of Public Health, Food Studies, and Nutrition in the new Falk Complex, allowing for important relationships with faculty in the college’s well-established partner programs. Among them are collaborations with public health professor David Larsen, a global health specialist researching malaria in southern Zambia; and with Jennifer Wilkins, the Daina E. Falk Endowed Professor of Practice in Nutrition. Her work focuses on nutrition in the food system, including the creation of *MyPlate Northeast*, a regional food guide that emphasizes a nutritious and seasonally varied diet.

Creating spaces and opportunities for interdisciplinary partnerships—both within Falk College and across campus—was an essential aspect of Dean Diane Lyden Murphy’s vision for the program. “When you’re building a program in food studies, you’re bringing together a mix of people to have a conversation about how to study and inquire about and make a difference through food: food as culture, food as critical, food as it relates to the social and political sciences, to geography and the STEM sciences, the humanities and the arts,” says Murphy ‘67, G’76, G’78, G’83. “That deep interrogation across disciplines is where we wanted to go with this, and that’s what we’re excited about.”

Another distinguishing characteristic of the program is the curriculum’s culinary component. Three full-time teaching chefs—Mary Kiernan G’12, Bill Collins, and Chris Uyehara—and professional kitchen facilities serve as valuable instructional resources and provide opportunities for hands-on food preparation labs to enhance student learning. In the course Philosophy and Practice of Locavorism, for instance, Bellows partners with chef Uyehara to provide students with an understanding of the what, why, and how of eating locally produced food year-round. Another example is Weissman’s *World of Food*
man’s Farm to Fork class, in which he partners with chef Kiernan in exploring the culinary theory and practice of alternative food networks through study, field trips, and a cooking laboratory. “We are also building strong collaborations with the broader Syracuse community, where dynamic shifts are happening in terms of food as an economic development tool in Central New York, and where there are a lot of grassroots efforts to strengthen our food system and improve food access,” Weissman says.

Active Learning

Such experiential learning is a key element of the food studies curriculum, both in the classroom and beyond. “We use a wide variety of teaching and learning modalities,” Weissman says. “That creates an exciting program for our students and helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed for success beyond Syracuse University.”

In Weissman’s Feeding the City course, which was recognized with a 2015 Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship, students work on semester-long, community-based projects to put their learning into action. Students partnered with the Syracuse-Onondaga Planning Agency to conduct a basic food system analysis, using an assets-based approach to thinking about Central New York, focusing not on deficits but on strengths that might be leveraged to bolster the food system and better attend to environmental, social, political economic, and public health concerns. “We’ve also partnered with Nojaim Brothers grocery store and the technology startup, Rosie—a web-based tool for food delivery—and helped the owner, Paul Nojaim, to think about marketing and outreach strategies and possibilities of using this technology to expand his customer base and increase access for individuals who otherwise would not have it,” Weissman says.

The Emergency Food Systems course Bellows teaches also creates opportunities for active learning. In January, students toured the Hendricks Chapel food pantry and considered ideas for class projects that would help the pantry better serve the SU students who periodically draw on its assistance. And in her Gender, Food, Rights course, Bellows arranged for graduate students to meet via Skype with the gender coordinator at FIAN International (Food-First Information and Action Network), a human rights organization with members from more than 50 countries that advocates for the right to adequate food and nutrition. “At FIAN, they are working to develop new indicators to monitor the impact of right-to-food approaches on national food and nutrition security,” says Bellows, a member of the organization’s board, who was exploring

FARM TO SCHOOL

- Between 2006 and 2012, there was a 430 percent increase in farm-to-school programs, with more than 4,000 school districts in the United States using locally sourced food in school meals.
- Farm to school programs now exist in more than four out of 10 school districts in the United States.*

Many food studies courses feature opportunities for students to learn from Falk College’s full-time teaching chefs, including Bill Collins, in professional kitchen facilities.
ways for students to contribute to that project. Internships are another way students gain essential hands-on experience. Anna Delapaz, as well as being the first official food studies major, was the first to acquire an internship with My Lucky Tummy, a community organization that promotes awareness of the refugee population in Syracuse through sharing different ethnic dishes at pop-up food courts. “I volunteered with My Lucky Tummy in my sophomore year at an event held that February, and that led to an internship,” Delapaz says. “It was so much fun, cooking side by side with people from all around the world. There were three chefs there, all speaking different languages. It was such an interesting learning experience that I could never have gotten anywhere else.”

Students have also taken a proactive approach, creating BrainFeeders, the first academic food studies student organization in the country. The idea for the group originated with its co-presidents and founders, Lindsay De May ’16 and Imelda Rodriguez ’16, when they took the Human Right to Food and Nutrition course with Bellows in 2014. “We felt we needed a club that addressed food beyond health and nutrition. We wanted to look at food access and sustainability on campus,” De May says. “The inspiration came from that class, where we were learning about implementing a human rights framework into a food system and figuring out what our role is to make food more accessible. It felt very natural to want to create a student club after that.”

The group has accomplished a lot in a short time, from completing the process for becoming a recognized student organization and establishing its identity, to recruiting members from across campus and getting several projects underway. Last fall, they brought a community-supported agriculture (CSA) program to campus for the first time, partnering with a Central New York farm to bring shares of fresh seasonal produce to more than 40 members of the SU community. BrainFeeders students also organized a weekly charter bus service from campus to the CNY Regional Market, and are now working with the campus sustainability committee and Food Services to find ways to bring more sustainable, local, and organic food to campus, including the establishment of a café with such offerings in Schine Student Center. “We’ve had amazing experiences with the group and have learned a lot,” Rodriguez says. “It’s been one of the most challenging and rewarding things I’ve done at SU.”

In May, De May and Rodriguez will receive their bachelor’s degrees from Falk College as two of the four members of the first graduating class in food studies. It’s an important milestone for them and for the new program they’ve helped shape and define by their presence and contributions here. “We’ve grown very quickly, and it’s been an exciting time for us and for our students,” Weissman says. He points to upcoming additions as the program flourishes, including a partnership with Syracuse University Abroad to offer classes in Florence starting next fall, and the development of a certificate of advanced study in food studies. “We’re a brand new program and still growing,” he says, “but I don’t think it is an overstatement to say that very quickly Syracuse University is going to be recognized as the place to study food.”

*Information provided by Evan Weissman. Source is the U.S. Department of Agriculture, except where otherwise indicated.*
VISITORS TO ISTANBUL WAX POETIC OVER ITS ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE and modern urban energy. Brittany Peterson ’15 raves about its breakfasts. “At a restaurant in our neighborhood, they’d bring out a million little dishes—eggs, cheese, cucumbers, olives, warm bread, clotted cream, and honey,” says Peterson, a nutrition major who spent a semester in Istanbul in 2014. “Everything was so fresh, and the staff was so friendly. If you said something as simple as ‘thanks’ in Turkish, they’d say, ‘Wow. Your Turkish is very good.’ If we walked past the restaurant on our way to class, they’d come out and wave to us. It made us feel so welcome.”

Making herself at home in a megacity is one of many skills that Peterson acquired in Istanbul. Under the wing of SU Abroad, she learned to navigate the 450-square-mile city with 15 million people and—according to GPS data—the world’s worst traffic. “At first it came as a shock,” she says. “I’m a scheduled person, I leave early for everything. In Istanbul, I learned to deal with being off the rails.”

Peterson took an intensive seminar on Istanbul’s 2,500-year history and began to comprehend the region’s deep ethnic and religious rifts. During her internship at a culinary arts center, she helped translate Turkish recipes from the Ottoman Empire, and she made Muslim friends. “Now when I hear someone say derogatory things about Muslims, I think, ‘That’s not
fair. You just don’t know them,” she says. “It’s easy to believe horrible things about people you don’t know.”

By the time Peterson’s semester abroad ended, a passion for Istanbul and its culinary riches had been ignited. Back at Syracuse, she wrote her honors thesis on the impact of diet change on Turkish immigrants. She taught Turkish students on campus to recreate their favorite dishes with American ingredients. After graduation, she enrolled in a master’s program with a dietetic internship—and the first year’s courses were taught online. “It was a perfect excuse to spend another year in Istanbul and blog about Turkish cuisine,” Peterson says.

Peterson’s evolution—from apprehension to immersion to a deeper understanding of another nation’s social, cultural, and political systems—exemplifies the arc of a global imagination that Syracuse University seeks to nurture in its students today. Internationalizing student thinking is an important component of the academic strategic plan. “In nurturing a global imagination, we are teaching students to become cosmopolitan in the best sense of the word,” says Margaret Himley, who oversees SU Abroad as associate provost for international education and engagement. “We facilitate immersion in new cultures. We help students understand history and its relevance to contemporary issues. We urge them to develop an area of expertise and explore new places through that lens. We encourage students to learn new languages, engage in global discussions, and envision global solutions.”

In 1959, Syracuse University staked an early claim on the international study scene and opened its first center in Florence. Today, SU Abroad offers more than 100 programs in 60 countries and operates eight SU Abroad centers with full-time staff. According to the 2013-14 Open Doors data from the National Institute of International Education, 45 percent of Syracuse students studied abroad—the 19th highest participation rate nationwide.

In its early years, SU Abroad focused on language and culture studies. Today’s programs offer international experience in virtually every discipline—and the cultivation of a global imagination is common to all.

Istanbul: The Megacity Experience
Modern Istanbul is a democratic, secular city, but as the former capital of the Roman and Ottoman empires, it has many layers of history to explore. “Istanbul is a majestic
place to immerse in history and a powerful vantage point for exploring key regional issues and conflicts,” says Er- ika Wilkens-Sozen G’10, who earned a doctorate at the Maxwell School and directs SU Abroad’s Istanbul Cen- ter. “What we’re offering students is a chance to become temporary residents of a big, complicated space to study abroad. It’s challenging, but not overwhelming—we give students enough skills to explore on their own.”

Students live in a vibrant neighborhood far from the tourist district and a short walk from Bahcesehir University, where they take courses. The Istanbul version of the Signature Seminar—an intensive historical and cultural ori- entation offered at many SU Abroad centers—introduces students to Istanbul’s 2,500-year history. “It’s like studying history in three dimensions, you’re surrounded by so many remnants of the past,” Pe- terson says. “In Istanbul, history is so relevant to today’s dynamic reality.”

Despite the city’s size and density, Ivan Zhivkov ’15 found its people family-centered and very friendly. “When you meet with a Turkish friend, the traditional greeting is to come together and touch cheeks,” he says. “Turkish culture is very open and embraces interaction between friends.”

In Istanbul, Zhivkov carried a Turkish dictionary at all times to help him connect with the people around him. “I don’t remember everything I learned in my Istanbul courses, but I remember my Turkish friends and how passionately they felt about issues,” says Zhivkov, who is earning a master’s degree in international relations at Maxwell.

Santiago: Fluency in a Young Democracy

In SU Abroad’s Santiago program, “our goal is to have students speak Spanish around the clock,” says center direc- tor Mauricio Paredes, a Chilean historian. “One reason for choosing this location—aside from the political stability—is that only 4 percent of the Chilean population speaks English.”

Students live with host families and take all classes in Spanish, either at the center or local universities. Amanda Quinn ’14 assumed she’d easily adjust to immersion in Santiago. She’d grown up in Colombia, Australia, Japan, and the Netherlands. “But Santiago was the first time I had to navigate a foreign country as an adult. The language was a challenge, especially the colloquialisms. But the people were great,” says Quinn, noting she was a walk-on for her university’s volleyball team. “It was total immersion.”

During the program’s Signature Seminar, students toured Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. The three countries had recently achieved democracy, but were still healing from oppressive dic- tatorships. Quinn, a Spanish and cultural anthropology major with a minor in biology, took a keen interest in Chile’s struggle to identify and return the remains of the desaparecidos—citizens who had disappeared under Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. Remains had been recovered for fewer than half of the 3,200 who had disappeared. Quinn wrote her honors thesis on the role of fo- rensic anthropology in providing evidence of po- litical crimes and bringing closure to families.

At the end of their Santiago semester, Quinn
and her classmates discovered that Paredes was one of the thousands imprisoned and tortured under Pinochet. “After we returned to Syracuse, our group of 15 students would reunite over empanadas and talk about life in the United States, where little things no longer bothered us as much,” Quinn says. “In Chile, we had been exposed to a ‘higher truth.’ We had a new perspective on the world.”

London: Gateway to a Global Mindset
Each semester, more than 200 students flock to SU Abroad’s London Center, which has a faculty of 70 and staff of 20. “English is the native tongue, and we come from a common culture, yet students in London face constant cultural adjustments,” says Troy Gordon, center director. “Their notion of British life is often based on Downton Abbey, 007, or Harry Potter. Those stereotypes fade within 24 hours. In today’s London, the soundscape is so diverse that it’s a challenge to find a proper British accent.”

In acclimating to London, students detect what’s different and adapt accordingly. “They notice, for example, that it’s a really polite culture, but not on the tube [subway],” Gordon says. “They acquire cultural intelligence, not just knowledge of British culture. They develop the transferable skills of recognizing their own cultural framework and adapting to any new cultural environment.”

In London, faculty-guided field trips are designed within a global context and invite students to consider their responsibilities as global citizens. London, Paris, and Berlin, for example, are explored through a lens of architecture, creative industries, or sustainability. Instead of a field trip to the Georgian spa town of Bath—“rich, romantic, and very Jane Austen,” according to Gordon—students are introduced to nearby Bristol, a thriving port town and one of Europe’s most exciting eco-cities.

However, in the short-term SU Abroad program, Jane Austen in Context, a visit to Bath is mandatory. Austen spent several years in Bath and set two of her novels there. “When we visit the sites featured in Austen’s books,” English professor Michael Goode says, “we find them almost as she describes, because the local tourism industry is so invested in preserving the myth. But part of our curriculum is understanding that Bath was also touristy in Austen’s era. We use this insight to study the artifices of the Bath tourism industry, past and present. When we lift the veil and deromanticize Austen in this way, some students find it a bit disappointing. But my point in teaching literature is to help students become critical readers—to notice, for example, that Austen criticizes the artificiality of the aristocracy and embraces feminist issues yet largely overlooks labor issues. During our travels, we ask students to engage that same critical eye: to separate the myth from reality.”

Central Europe:
Helping the Past Find Its Voice
SU Abroad’s first theme-based program transports students to Central European regions still struggling with
Short-term Exposure, Long-term Impact

SU Abroad offers dozens of creative, short-term, faculty-led programs that cultivate global imagination. Here is a sampling:

After-School Enrichment in South Africa

When public health professor Mary Ann Middlemiss arrives with her students in Grahamstown, South Africa, they hit the ground running. “It’s not that we arrive with answers,” Middlemiss says. “We are there to help teens from poverty-stricken townships discover their voice and subsequent power to improve the health of their community.”

Before leaving the United States, the Syracuse students engage in a two-week online course in cultural competency, empowerment, and participatory planning, a community development paradigm that places community people at the center of the action. The online work addresses the question, “How do we make a difference in a culture we do not know?” Middlemiss says the answer is to appreciate the teens’ cultural experiences and promote self-reliance by engaging and working with them.

In Grahamstown, Middlemiss and the Syracuse students partner with Inkululeko, a Syracuse-based nonprofit, and Rhodes University to help local teens break the cycle of poverty by enhancing their education, health, and quality of life. The Syracuse students focus on a different public health project each year.

Last year, they facilitated a Photovoice project in which teens were given cameras and invited to “speak” through visual images and stories. They took pictures of such local resources as gyms, day care centers, and community gardens. The teens researched the agencies, created posters, advocated for change, and ultimately asked to become involved in their work. “It’s like service learning at Syracuse,” Middlemiss says, “except these young teens often lack the knowledge, skills, and confidence to even approach an agency. Our support helps them develop the self-esteem and advocacy skills necessary to transform their community.”

The Grahamstown students are so motivated, Middlemiss adds. “They want to go to university, so they can help their families and community. They welcome us into their world and into their lives.” Likewise, the Syracuse students are enriched by their immersion in a different culture and more empathic and global worldview.

Concrete Skills in Switzerland

All SU Abroad programs cultivate soft skills such as cultural intelligence. One program literally cultivates concrete skills: Architecture students spend a week in Switzerland, mixing, molding, and folding concrete into shapes and models.

The course, created by architecture professors Roger Hubeli and Julie Larsen, offers a rare opportunity for students to work in the Swiss R&D labs of global concrete manufacturer CEMEX. “It gives them a sense of what’s possible with concrete today,” Hubeli says. “It can float, insulate, heat spaces, or be reinforced with fibers, making it one of the most versatile materials.”

Architects and material engineers don’t usually communicate with each other, Larsen says. “The students enjoy working with scientists and engineers, who are eager to learn what architects think of their products.”

The students also travel to France, Germany, and Italy to see buildings made with concrete and other innovative building materials and visit the factories where they’re made. The students travel on trains and buses, even when visiting remote suburban factories. Like many factory employees, they make the last leg of the trip on foot. “This gives students a glimpse of the sacrifices Europeans make to live sustainably,” Larsen says.

Song, Dance, and Cinema, Bollywood-Style

From a Western point of view, Hollywood is the center of the cinema universe. But Bollywood—the mainstream Hindi cinema industry based in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India—generates twice as many films. In the SU Abroad Bollywood Practi-
cum, students have access to another culture of film production and to the native country of the course’s creator, Tula Goenka, a television, radio, and film professor at the Newhouse School.

The Bollywood curriculum calls for three weeks at the Whistling Woods International Film School, where students devote the first week to filming and performing a song-and-dance routine, a standard feature in Bollywood films. Then they create and produce a short documentary with a local nonprofit.

Apart from the filmmaking experience, the students learn to navigate a very different culture. They return to Syracuse with a new perspective on the world, Goenka says. “They all notice that so many people in India live with so little.”

And then there’s the novelty of adding the Bollywood experience to their resumes. “One student told me that it helped land her first job,” Goenka says. “The SU Bollywood program has certainly opened many doors.”

**Paris Noir: Variations on a Theme**

After studying abroad in high school and later at the Sorbonne, African American studies professor Janis Mayes resolved to offer her Syracuse students similar inspiration. The result is Paris Noir, which explores the profound impact of black cultures on Paris and throughout the world—and challenges students to leave their own legacies.

Now in its 16th year, the five-week program uses Paris as its classroom and begins with communal experiences: visiting restaurants, museums, community centers, and studios; meeting Paris-based scholars, artists, activists, writers, politicians, musicians, and more; and reading African American writers who found refuge in Paris. The group’s seminars take place at Café de Flore, where James Baldwin wrote *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.

Mayes compares the program to a jazz composition with multiple variations, created by students’ independent research projects. Kwame Phipps ’16, for example, explored La Sape, a fashion culture that was born when French colonialists brought secondhand French clothing to the Congo. According to Phipps, the Congolese became fascinated with French elegance. Their colorful, sophisticated style eventually found its way to Europe and the Americas.

Whatever directions the students’ projects take, Mayes says, “the goal is to help them appreciate a powerful black identity and redefine themselves as intellectuals and creative thinkers. These students are high achievers when they apply to the program. After Paris, they soar.”
JANELLE LINTON ’15 DISCOVERED THE joy of travel in high school, when her New York City basketball team competed in Puerto Rico and in states as distant as Oregon. In college, she resolved to continue to travel—with an academic agenda.

At the end of her sophomore year, Linton (pictured above) found the perfect opportunity in a traveling seminar that compared health systems in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, and Morocco. She scrambled to find funding—her HEOP scholarship didn’t cover summer study—but her perseverance paid off. “Standing outside the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva,” she says, “I knew I wanted to study public health.”

Linton went on to spend a semester in South Africa, in a program offered by Student International Travel and funded by her HEOP scholarship. That trip opened her eyes to the critical role of NGOs in health care delivery and led her to New York University, where she is earning a master’s degree in global health. During her first semester at NYU, she spent two weeks at an international emergency preparedness conference in Israel. “I don’t believe in limiting myself,” Linton says. “There’s too much to learn out there.”

That’s what Jennifer Zuccarelli ’03 discovered through her study abroad experience in London. Zuccarelli enjoyed the international experience so much that she now calls London home as the chief media spokeswoman and communications director for JP Morgan Chase there. She credits studying in London a few months after 9/11 with awakening her to the world around her. She began to follow international news and made an effort to get to know people who weren’t American. “Studying abroad put me in the mindset that led to my career today,” she says. “I’m sure I’m not the first to say that SU Abroad changed my life.”

For Jose Moreno Jr. ’14, London was also an awakening—to a passion for travel. “I discovered there is no better feeling than getting off a plane in a new place,” he says. During his semester abroad, Moreno took field trips to Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Prague, Budapest, and Vienna. “I developed that SU Abroad, where-am-I-going-next mentality. An hour ago, I booked a weekend flight to Paris,” says Moreno, a production assistant for WWE. “My network is broadcast to 180 countries. I hope that means there’s global travel in my future.”
only go because of the students. We explore this together, intellectually and emotionally. And because of these personal connections and transformations, students come to see education as something real. It’s not just a diploma, it’s how you view the world.”

Katelyn Olsen ’16, who had grappled with the magnitude of the Holocaust since sixth grade, appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the conversation. As a biology major, many of her classes were lecture-based. “In a biology lab,” she says, “you can’t really debate the number of protons in hydrogen.” When Olsen returned to Syracuse, she added a second major in political science. “I missed the way those discussions abroad made me think,” she says. “Biology is very linear. Political science is about people, and people are a wild card.”

Moving Forward
The ever-more-compelling need to nurture a global imagination keeps Syracuse and SU Abroad moving forward in high gear. In the University’s academic strategic plan, a multidisciplinary task force is charged with creating a blueprint for comprehensive internationalization. Potential priorities include exploring new program destinations and dimensions; coordinating global efforts on campus and abroad; integrating global perspective into all classes; increasing the percentage of students who study abroad; and improving underrepresented students’ access to international study. “As a university,” Himley says, “we believe it is critically important to ensure that all students, in all majors, and especially those who may not have the financial resources, have access and opportunity to participate in these programs. That means increasing financial aid and developing new abroad programs that are integrated into students’ majors, from engineering to social work.”

Igniting the global imaginations of tens of thousands of students is a massive undertaking. To remain focused, Himley finds it useful to concentrate on the University’s ultimate goal, which she defines as “providing students with the knowledge, skills, and disposition to become socially and professionally responsible leaders in an increasingly global world.”

As a participant in the Central Europe program, Katelyn Olsen ’16 appreciated the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust and examine issues related to it, such as reconciliation.
Syracuse Biomaterials Institute researchers leverage collaboration and technology to create medical breakthroughs

BY JULIE BERRY
ERIC OUELLETTE ’10 COMPLETED A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AT THE College of Engineering and Computer Science, and credits the serendipity of working in Syracuse Biomaterials Institute (SBI) founder Jeremy Gilbert’s laboratory with his decision to pursue a Ph.D. degree at SBI. He anticipates defense of his Ph.D. this spring and has interviewed with a health care company focused on orthopedic devices.

His work on polymers for use in hip and knee joint replacements is representative of the real-life impacts that come from cross-collaborations that SBI facilitates. SBI, located in Bowne Hall, is a haven where researchers, spurred by intellectual curiosity, work together to create medical breakthroughs that will potentially have impact during their lifetime.

In this collaborative institute, indeed often in the same building, SBI researchers Patrick Mather, James “Jay” Henderson, and Lisa Manning are working on projects that range from development of biodegradable smart tissues to enhance healing to development of computer models to predict effective treatment for such diseases as asthma and cancer. “What I like about biomedical engineering is the idea that you can influence the health care sector,” Ouellette says. “You’re not focused on one person at a time, but you can step back and make improvements in a lot of people’s lives. It has direct application. SBI has brought a lot of opportunities within research. There’s cross-talk and collaboration, with pooling of equipment, space, and resources. It’s a good opportunity to do interesting work with high-caliber faculty and teachers. In general, it’s a unique environment.”

According to Mather, who is the director of SBI and the Milton and Ann Stevenson Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering, the institute’s culture promotes the pursuit of answers to problems that can’t be solved by individuals alone. Mather holds 14 patents. His research as a polymer scientist explores biodegradable elastomeric materials that can serve as blood vessel replacements, coronary stents, or even in the esophagus.

“Interdisciplinary fields stretch people. Projects have tangible goals,” Mather says. “Once we get a student into the laboratory, their skills take off.”

Plenty of students get the opportunity to have hands-on experiences, too. According to SBI, 35 faculty members worked with 150 students in 2014. From 2009 to 2014, the institute received about $13 million in external funding from federal, state, corporate, and foundation sources.

**Joint Replacement**

Ouellette’s work at SBI, under the direction of advisor Gilbert, focused on thermoplastic polymer use in metal hip replacement to reduce corrosion at the modular taper junction. Modu-
lar tapers are a design feature that allows the surgeon to assemble the implant ball and socket components during surgery to provide the best adaptation to and outcome for the patient. Corrosion may arise within the junction between these parts of the implant. Corrosion and wear in metal-on-metal hip joints is associated with inflammation, and designs that have metal-metal contacts have been a target of class-action lawsuits. “Corrosion is a big problem in hip and knee implants,” Ouellette says. “Clinical evidence indicates that corrosion is associated with a host of problems.”

To minimize corrosion at the modular taper junction, Gilbert and Ouellette developed polymer linings to improve the mechanical and electrochemical performance. The challenge is to develop a polymer that can withstand the tremendous amount of force applied on joints by regular body movements. “It’s like a thin gasket that electrically insulates,” Ouellette says.

An early recognition that foreign materials could be used in the body came during World War II when it was observed that fighter pilots suffered fewer eye infections from shards of windshields made of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), commonly known as Plexiglas, than glass. “Maybe the body doesn’t reject all materials,” says Gilbert, professor of biomaterials, Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering. “Now there is a lot of energy around materials for use in medicine. Students thrive on the thought of having an impact on their parent or grandparent.”

Inspiration can come from collaboration and influences outside of a narrow field of study. Gilbert cites Dr. Robert Jarvik ’68, H’83, inventor of the first successful artificial heart, who has said his advance was influenced most by metal working in a jewelry-making class. “You would think it would come from something in his field,” says Gilbert, who also has a strong focus in metals. “It’s bringing engineering to medicine.”

Gilbert is an engineer who began his career studying dental materials, including amalgam fillings, which is another use of foreign materials in the body, and he is now internationally recognized for his work in orthopedics. He is also a member on the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Panel of the Medical Devices Committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
The field of biochemistry is focused on how to control and manipulate cell mechanical and chemical factors. The future vision of regenerative medicine is how to turn off disease progression or regenerate tissue and asks how do you modify the body to get rid of arthritis or medical devices?

“I have spent a career [almost 35 years] studying metallic biomaterials, their surfaces, and their interactions with the biological system,” Gilbert says. “This has included working a lot with surgeons, scientists, and engineers and learning from them and thinking carefully about all that can go on at the surface of these implants. It’s been interesting, complicated, and fun.”

Since our bodies are essentially salt water, metal replacement joints have corroded. Clinical researchers initially thought the effects of corrosion on the body’s biological system were caused only by oxidation reactions that generate metal ions and metal oxide particles. “We have known for a long time in the biomaterials community that when metals corrode, it can have an effect on the local tissues,” Gilbert says. “Thus the focus has always been on the oxidation part of corrosion, and the role these ions and particles have on the tissues and cells nearby.”

Gilbert’s work shows that the biological effects of corrosion may also come from another type of reaction—a reduction reaction, which is thought to be produced during the interplay of oxygen and water with metal during corrosion reactions. During reduction reactions, byproducts, including hydrogen peroxide, hydroxide radicals, and others, are created. These byproducts can kill cells that are in contact with or near the metal surfaces. While this negative voltage reaction is not desired in medical implants, its impact as a potential to kill cancer cells or as an antibacterial agent is under investigation by Gilbert and chemical engineering professor Dacheng Ren, an SBI affiliate. “It’s such a complicated system,” Gilbert says.

“A solution to one problem very frequently creates another problem.”

Gilbert has found that the body itself can also cause corrosion when compounds triggered by inflammation are released. When inflammation occurs, the cells involved generate and release reactive oxygen species, including chemicals like hydrogen peroxide and hypochlorous acid, that can increase the corrosion attack of alloys in the body. “It is also apparent that inflammation may accelerate corrosion by changing the fluid to be more aggressive in its attack of the metal,” Gilbert says. “So, for example, if significant inflammation occurs around an implant, the cells driving inflammation can release reactive oxygen species, which can cause a more severe attack of the metal surface. Therefore, corrosion can stimulate inflammation and inflammation can accelerate corrosion, creating a positive feedback between the two. This may result in both severe corrosion and severe inflammatory reactions in some patients.”

In the past, recipients of hip or knee implants were expected to adapt to their implants. Now as implants are more commonplace—with more than 500,000 hip implants and 1 million knee implants in the United States—demands are on making implants that fit the lifestyle of their users. Given the amount of use and sheer force on the metals, that’s a big challenge for manufacturers of biomedical devices. “The future is an interesting place,” Gilbert says. “The rate at which people get metal implants continues to grow exponentially. There’s a demand on the medical device industry. How do we manage this burgeoning need for these devices that have metal?”

“Smart Materials to Enhance Healing

Biomedical and chemical engineering professor James Henderson has been with SBI since its inception in 2007 and is focused on how to engineer tissue that can repair
or replace damaged tissue, such as cartilage. “We are motivated by the opportunity to improve treatments for individuals with injuries, such as ACL tears, or diseases, such as arthritis or cancer,” he says.

Henderson observes how normal cells and tissues respond to their environment, and then develops smart materials that mimic this behavior. Smart materials are used to stabilize an injured site and to support natural tissue healing. Applications are for post-menopause osteopenia, which is a precursor to osteoporosis, a condition that decreases bone density and increases the risk of bone fractures; for controlling healing and scar tissue development; and for treatment of complex bone fractures.

In the example of bone fracture, if a tibia is shattered or crushed, multiple-stage surgeries are required and healing is poor because blood supply is low. “Bone is very good at healing, but some categories of fractures are hard to treat,” Henderson says. “Recovery is long and it impacts quality of life.” Even with surgery, bone may not heal, and the leg is sometimes amputated.

SBI is a unique research environment that brings different expertise under the same umbrella.... Few places in the world have this level of integration.”

—JAMES “JAY” HENDERSON, professor of biomedical and chemical engineering

Henderson’s lab—in collaboration with the labs of SUNY Upstate orthopedics professor Megan Oest, who has expertise in bone fractures, and of SBI director Patrick Mather, who has expertise in shape memory polymers—has developed temperature-sensitive biodegradable sleeves that can hold bone in place and deliver bioactive agents, such as growth factors or antibiotics, to promote healing. “They’re like internal casts,” he says. These would replace metal hardware and eliminate multiple surgeries. And, because they’re temperature sensitive and have shape memory, they can be wrapped around the bone and 45-degree saline can be injected as a thermal signal for the sleeve to tighten during the surgical process. “Instead of a staged surgery, a patient could have a single surgery with no metal hardware,” says Henderson, noting human application is at least a decade off as research continues. “They’re back
on their feet faster, with less loss of work time and less cost. One of the attractions for me with bioengineering is the ability to impact human society and quality of life with technology.”

Modeling Diseases
Henderson, Lisa Manning, a physics professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Christopher Turner, SUNY Upstate Distinguished Professor of Cell Development and Biology, are collaborating on a National Science Foundation grant-funded project that is focused on mechanobiology, an emerging field where biology and engineering overlap. Their project seeks to understand how and why cells move, and could have implications for cancer and congenital disease. Henderson’s research focuses on development of cell substrates, Turner provides molecular staining to track cell behavior, and Manning develops computer models to predict the behavior of large groups of cells. “We need to be willing to collaborate outside of our area of expertise,” Henderson says. “SBI is a unique research environment that brings different expertise under the same umbrella. It’s shared physical space, but also intellectual space. It provides a set of resources. Few places in the world have this level of integration.”

Henderson studies how cells naturally align and has successfully triggered changes in alignment. Knowing how and why cells move may lead to breakthroughs in metastasis of cancer cells. “We’re using shape-changing polymers to see if we can trigger cells to change shape and to better understand molecular interaction,” he says. “How this could matter? Cell motility and development are linked to and can lead to a better understanding of disease status, such as cancer.”

Manning takes a top-down, “bird’s-eye” view of cells, and observes their behavior as part of a group or tissue. She uses physics-based computational models to predict how cells move within large groups and how defects in cell motion cause disease. For example, her models predict that a small change in a single cell can generate a large change in tissue behavior and disease, a discovery that was recently published in Nature Physics. Manning and her group found that tiny alterations in a newly identified cell shape index can cause the entire tissue to transition from solid-like to fluid-like behavior. Having a small change make a large impact is a common concept in physics, but isn’t always applied to biology, Manning says.

Predicting the behavior of cells and tissue can have implications for the development of treatment for diseases such as asthma. Working with the Manning group, collaborators at the Harvard School of Public Health found that tissue from non-asthma patients quickly becomes solid-like, while tissue from asthma patients remains fluid-like longer. This work, which was published in Nature Materials, paves the way to test which treatments are most effective. “A delayed transition is a signature of asthma,” Manning says. “If we can identify what’s wrong, we can see if treatments can alter the transition.”

Asthma is one of many examples of these types of transitions. Manning has developed new collaborations to study their role in congenital disease and cancer, too. She has partnerships at SU, SUNY Upstate, Harvard School of Public Health, University of Chicago, and in Germany. “The combination of engineering and science,” she says, “is exciting, unique, and important.”

SBI director Patrick Mather (above), the Milton and Ann Stevenson Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering, says cross-disciplinary collaboration is a key component of the institute’s work. One example is a mechanobiology project that SU professors James Henderson and Lisa Manning are working on with SUNY Upstate professor Christopher Turner (left, top right photo).
Join us for Orange Central Homecoming

SAVE THE DATES OF SEPTEMBER 15-18 and join us for Orange Central Homecoming 2016! September is one of the most beautiful months of the year on campus, as the leaves begin to change colors and the energy of our students is palpable as they kick off the fall semester. Cheer on the football team as our players, under the leadership of new head coach Dino Babers, take on South Florida. Watch for information on special reunion celebrations for those members of a class ending in “1” or “6.” Additionally, the Office of Alumni Engagement is working to resurrect some exciting traditions at this year’s celebration, as well as to create new experiences that engage alumni returning to campus with young children. My wife, Rachelle (a fellow member of the Class of ‘95), and young sons Andrew and Christopher are certainly looking forward to those experiences! I look forward to seeing you on campus for Orange Central Homecoming 2016.

As we prepare for Orange Central, we are excited to welcome Sue Ballard to Syracuse University. Ballard will lead our alma mater’s alumni engagement efforts, and I am confident that under her leadership, we will elevate our alumni program to one that is premier and forward-thinking—an engagement program that starts when a student steps foot on campus for the first time. Ballard is most looking forward to meeting as many alumni as she can—listening to your memories, hearing about your love for all things Orange, and learning firsthand what the Syracuse University experience meant to each one of you. I hope you will join me in giving her a warm welcome to SU! I’d also like to extend a warm thank you to our alumni clubs/groups around the world. Without the commitment of volunteers from Oregon to Hong Kong, our alumni association could not carry out its mission to create an environment in which Syracuse University alumni, former students, parents, students, and friends become and stay connected to the University and support it with their work, wisdom, and wealth. We are so grateful to these volunteers for drawing thousands of SU alumni together with events that range from faculty speakers to career networking opportunities, from game-watching events to evening at the theater. Please consider joining an alumni club where you live—and show your Orange spirit all year long!

Forever Orange,

Mark Verone ’95
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association

40s

Patrick McCarthy ’48 (A&S), a retired automobile franchise owner, and his wife, Patricia, celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in April. Both also turn 90 this year. They have resided in Oneida, N.Y., for 50 years, and have been honored together with the Roses for the Living award for community service. Also a 50-year member of the Oneida Rotary, McCarthy is an avid SU sports fan. He plays tennis weekly and expects to compete in the 2016 New York State Senior Games in tennis, badminton, and horseshoes.

Sonia Sloan ’49 (A&S), a retired microbiologist who held positions at Temple Medical School and DuPont and then entered the field of fundraising and development, was awarded the state of Delaware’s Order of the First State by Governor Jack Markell and was selected to be inducted into the Delaware Women’s Hall of Fame. These honors recognized her considerable volunteer activities, including serving on the founding boards of the Delaware American Civil Liberties Union, Public Allies, Delaware Financial Literacy Institute, and Agenda for Delaware Women, and as a past president and current board member of Planned Parenthood of Delaware.

Herbert M. Sorkin ’49 (A&S) of Clifton, N.J., reports that his “greatest accomplishment, to date, is being here to see and hold” his first great grandson, Jack Elliott Forman. Sorkin has been writing a blog, The Sorkin Report, since 2012 (Therightcamp.wordpress.com).

50s

Arnold Friedman ’50 (WSM) and his wife, Bette, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in December. He retired in 1992 as editor of the Springfield Republican (Mass.), after a 42-year career as a newspaper journalist. They reside in Louisville, Ky.

Robert H. Bolton ’51 (A&S) and his wife, Dorothy Grover Bolton ’53 (A&S), G’70 (EDU), wrote What Great Trainers Do: The Ultimate Guide to Delivering Engaging and Effective Learning (AMACOM Books, 2015). Retired from Ridge Training, the company they founded in the ‘80s to teach managers and trainers the people skills necessary for organizational success, they are at work on their fourth book. Robert’s first book, People Skills (Simon and Schuster), has been in print since 1979. They reside in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Suzanne Raphael Berksen ’53 (VPA) of Evanston, Ill., illustrated The Parakeet Named Dreidel (Far-rar, Straus and Giroux, 2015), a picture book adaptation of a Hanukkah story written by the late Isaac Bashevis Singer. She is a retired art teacher and working artist. This is her first picture book.

Harold Winer ’54 (A&S) received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lake County (Ill.) Municipal Prosecutors Association for his 50 years of prosecutorial service to the Village of Deerfield, Ill. He is the longest serving prosecutor in Lake County history.

Randy Place ’55 (A&S) of Greenwich, Conn., a career coach and executive management consultant, wrote Your One-Minute Job Finding Coach:
How to Find a Job and Manage Your Career While Coping with the Hassles of It All (Place Publishing, 2015).

Edward S. Lisk ‘56 (VPA) of Oswego, N.Y., an internationally recognized clinician, conductor, and author, received the National Band Association 2015 Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to furthering the excellence of bands and band music.

James L. Worley ‘58 (WSM), owner of Pali Kai Inc. real estate agency in Kailua, Hawaii, received the Michael H. Lyons II Palaka Award for exemplary community service from the Rotary Club of Kailua in recognition of his devotion to the Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center and several other community organizations.

Robert K. MacLauchlin G’59 (NEW), retired professor of speech communication and director of TV-radio instruction at Colorado State University (CSU), was honored by his former students from many decades back with a surprise alumni breakfast during CSU’s 2015 homecoming weekend.

60s

Marion Behr ‘61, G’62 (VPA) is an artist and cancer survivor who compiled, illustrated, and published Surviving Cancer: Our Voices and Choices (VWWH Press, 2014). In 2015, the book was awarded the Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPIE) Gold Medal in the health/medicine/nutrition category, the President’s Gold Medal for Health & Fitness from the Florida Authors and Publishers Association, and the New Apple Book Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing Medal in the “Society Books” category (wwwvww.com).

Ronald P. Kaminiski ‘61 (A&S) of Walnut Creek, Calif., wrote Home Sweet Home Handbook (Advanced Publishing, 2015), a resource for anyone buying or selling a home, based on his 28 years of law-related real estate appraisal experience (homesweethomehandbook.com).

Sylvia Mackey ‘63 (A&S) launched a campaign with the Concussion Legacy Foundation to raise funds for research and advocacy related to chronic traumatic encephalopathy in honor of her late husband, Pro Football Hall of Famer John Mackey ‘63 (A&S), who battled the disease for several years before his death in 2011 (concussionfoundation.org/john-sylvia-mackey).

Rachel A. Walker ‘62 (A&S), a former Peace Corps volunteer (1963-66), is retired from a career that included work with TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and in federal medical insurance and property management. She continues to manage Walker Farm, her family’s 57-acre ancestral property in Gasport, N.Y., which was protected in 2012 by the Western New York Land Conservancy.

Arlene Heyman G’65 (A&S), a psychiatrist who lives in New York City, wrote Scary Old Sex (Bloomsbury, 2016), a collection of stories about aging and intimacy.


Joseph Bruchac G’66 (A&S), award-winning Abenaki author of more than 120 books for adults and young readers, wrote Trail of the Dead (Lee & Low Books, 2015), a young adult novel that examines the psychological toll that being a leader can take, and how Native American traditions can encourage healing.

Diana K. Bendz ‘68 (ESF) received the 2015 Graduate of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award from the SUNY ESF Alumni Association in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments in the field of chemistry and beyond.

Hermon R. Card ‘68 (A&S), G’00 (EDU), an adjunct faculty member in the Newhouse School and retired English teacher, photographer, motivational speaker, education consultant, author, and “occasional” poet, was elected to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame as a baseball umpire in 2015. He and his wife, Dolores, wrote The Missing Piece: Educating New Kids for a New World (Balboa, 2013).


Julie Music Morrow ‘69 (A&S) received the 2014 Volunteer of the Year award from Hospice of the Rapidan in Culpeper, Va., in April 2015.

70s

Andrea Ibanez ’70 (A&S), G’73 (MAX) of Tucson, Ariz., wrote two mysteries set in North Carolina: A Mockingbird’s Song (CreateSpace, 2015) and its sequel, A Dowitcher’s Dirge (CreateSpace, 2016).


Toni S. Sullivan ’71 (A&S), a social worker and community activist living in Sacramento, Calif., is a member of the board of directors at Elica Health Centers, a nonprofit organization that serves low-income populations, particularly immigrant communities, in the greater Sacramento area.

Marion J. Bachrach ‘72 (A&S), an attorney at Thompson & Knight law firm in Dallas, was recognized in the 2015 New York Metro Super Lawyers list.

Lyle Confrey ’72 (A&S) and Tony Gabriel ’71 (ESF) announced their wedding in June 2016, having reconnected two years ago after 41 years apart. Both retired, they divide their time between residences in Newport, R.I., and Burlington, Ontario.

Donna Higier ’72 (EDU) married Howard Attempern ’73 (WSM) in June 2015. They reside in Florham Park, N.J.

J. Martin Rochester G’72 (MAX), the Curators’ Teaching Professor of Political Science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, wrote The New Warfare: Rethinking Rules for an Urryworld (Routledge), his 10th book.

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

BY SONIA DALRYMPLE SCHORK

I OFTEN RECALL MY WONDERFUL, DIFFICULT, near Stone Age SU years, 1951-56. We emerged onto that Victorian campus from New York City to Buffalo, from Canada to Pennsylvania, all full of uncertainty and excitement. Our lives lay before us. Fifteen girls and parents climbed three floors of Nottingham Cottage, a “firetrap,” my cop father noted. (He immediately showed me an escape route onto a roof.) These “dorms” had once been large, wood, family homes, clapboard, needing paint. We settled in, met roommates.

The first week was all about us—a whirlwind of small meetings and large (all of us in the Class of ‘55) convocations, a new word to me. We got our Frosh lids, football passes, I.D.’s, etc. Various speakers greeted us, but one administrator I remember particularly. “Welcome, you lucky 7 percent. That’s right, only 7 percent of the Class of 1951 has gone on to a four-year college.” Then he paused. “And,” he continued emphatically, “only 2 percent of you will graduate, here or elsewhere. Half of you will drop out this year.” (Fear welled up inside of us, purely Dickensian.) He was right, of course. It took all we had to stay at Syracuse and keep afloat—nervousness over scholarships, living after being dumped, needing money, braving cold, snowy, sleety, rainy days—all while growing up, one slice of life at a time.

As if we were new Army recruits, we girls were (not carefully) fitted for god-awful, one-piece maroon gym suits, just past Victorian bloomers. We played field hockey, danced at 8 a.m. with football players in Co-ed Rhythms, and learned to be graceful (or so we hoped) in Chinese Ribbon Dancing. Later came tennis, skiing, and golf to make us socially ready.

The worst thing we had to do was the “Davy Drill”—escape from pending conflagrations (someone must have agreed with my father) using a cable contraption known as a “Davy.” We stood atop the catwalk in the Women’s (1890) Gym and an instructor slapped a firehose-like loop under our arms. We then stepped off, into stale air, and were lowered on a pulley to the blessed gym floor below. It scared the bejesus out of me!

But that wasn’t as bad as when we really had to “escape” from our dorms on a Davy. Of course, mine died on the eaves, three flights up, and left me panicked and swinging. I was in my awful gym suit and a nearby fraternity died of hysteria while issuing snide remarks my way. Eventually, a nice fireman hauled me into my room. Thankfully, we never had to use those contraptions again. But we were ready, in case.

Oh, there were romances, A’s, party raids, rushing, beer parties (off campus, of course), dearest friendships, and pure survival. We were The Saltine Warriors (which I still love) and yelled for Jim Brown ’57 in Archbold Stadium in snow and autumn leaves. The chimes always brought forth tears. We learned our place in placard cheering. We attended chapel and sang. It was grand.

Little was like today—there were strict curfews, housemothers, and no electronics. Our “unofficial uniform” consisted of a gray flannel skirt, light blue cashmere sweater, Sylvia Putziger blazer, Spalding white wool socks (up), Spalding white bucks (slightly dirty) or navy blue Keds. (I’m 81 and I still wear navy Keds.) We worked hard on floats, posters, and snow sculptures—spirit training for PTA, church rummage sales, charity work in wifedom. We learned to pour tea along with our Shakespeare.

In four years, our professors hoped we had “learned to think,” and our parents hoped we would now “make something of ourselves.” We did.

We went to graduation one hot day, June 1955, in Archbold, and then we stepped off into our futures, just like we did in our Davys. We had always followed the ethics, did what was expected of us, respected tradition. As I wrote in my Class of 1955, 50-year poem, “We were the last of a breed.”

Sonia Dalrymple Schork ’55, G’56 is a retired English teacher who lives in Sierra Vista, Arizona.
Linda Troeller G’72 (NEW), G’75 (VPA), an internationally renowned art photographer (lindatroeller.com), published Living in the Chelsea Hotel (Schiffer, 2015), a photographic collage of 76 images and vignettes depicting life in the famous New York City hotel.

Louis P. Di Lorenzo ’73 (A&S), a managing member of the Bond, Schoenbeck & King law firm New York City office, was recognized in the 2015 New York Metro Super Lawyers list.

Dennis F. Glackin G’73 (MAX) of Newton Square, Pa., retired as found ing member of Glackin Thomas Panzak Inc., a consulting land planners and landscape architects firm in Paoli, Pa. He and his wife of 45 years, Joyce, plan to spend their retirement in St. Michaels, Md., enjoying their seven grandchildren and sailing the Chesapeake Bay.

Thomas Centolella ’74 (A&S) of San Francisco received the 2015 Dorset Prize from Tupelo Press for his poetry manuscript Almost Human. The prize consists of a cash award, publication, and national distribution. This is the fourth book of poems for Centolella, who teaches creative writing in the Bay Area.

Judy Nauseef G’74 (NEW), a garden writer and landscape designer living in Iowa City, wrote Garden ing with Native Plants in the Upper Midwest: Bringing the Tallgrass Prairie Home (University of Iowa Press, 2016).

Herbert Weisbaum ’74 (NEW) is the midday news anchor and consumer reporter at KOMO radio in Seattle. He also covers the consumer beat for NBC Digital (www.consumerman.com). He was recently inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences’ Silver Circle in recognition of his years of community service.

Robin Brailsford ’75 (VPA) is a public artist and landscape architect in Dulzura, Calif. She invented and patented a public art and architecture technique, LithoMosaic, which pairs the best qualities of monolithic concrete with modern mosaics and is found in projects from Alaska to Nevada. Her LithoMosaic and pierced steel LA Metro station in Irwindale, Los Pioneros de la Rivera San Gabriel, opened in March. In May, she was the Convocation speaker at the University of New Mexico, Fine Arts, Digital Media, and Architecture and Planning graduation, sharing her lessons from 30 years of designing and building environmentally conscious public art for park and transit projects, including this year’s Territory of Magic/Innovation Corridor, for Albuquerque Rapid Transit.

Thomas Moore G’75 (A&S), a spiritual scholar, psychotherapist, and author of the bestselling book Care of the Soul, appeared on Oprah Winfrey’s SuperSoul Sunday television show in October, discussing his latest book, A Religion of One’s Own (Penguin, 2014).

Shelley Thorstensen ’75 (VPA) of Oxford, Pa., is an artist with expertise in printmaking techniques. An exhibition of her work, As Above, was shown at the Union Gallery at Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y., from November 3 through January 15.

Jatrice Martel Gaiter L’77 (A&S), executive vice president of external affairs for Volunteers of America in Alexandria, Va., is chair of the board of directors of the National Human Services Assembly, which unites more than 80 human service organizations, including the American Red Cross, AARP, and United Way Worldwide.

Tracy E. Leenman ’77, G’83 (EDU/VPA), owner and CEO of Musical Innovations in Greenville, S.C., was named 2015 Dealer of the Year by NAMM, the National Association of Music Merchants.


Craig Lifland ’78 (A&S), a partner at Halloran & Sage law firm in Cleveland, was recognized in the 2016 Ohio Super Lawyers list.


Valerie Ann Leeds G’81 (A&S), an independent curator, organized the exhibition Charles Harold Davis (1856-1933): Mystic Impressionist for the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn.

Llewellyn J. Cornelius ’82 (A&S) is the Donald L. Hollowell Distinguished Professor of Social Justice and Civil Rights Studies in the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia, Athens, where he also serves as director of the Center for Social Justice, Human, and Civil Rights.

Sherijo Damico ’82 (FALK/VSM) is director of real estate and property management for Habitat for Humanity of San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys (Calif.).

Jim Condelles ’83 (NEW) is senior manager, communications, at Boeing Philadelphia, leading communications for the Boeing vertical lift division and its military helicopter facilities in Pennsylvania and Arizona.

Susan Buehler ’84 (NEW), executive vice president at Bellevue Communications Group, was named a 2015 Woman of Distinction by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Alfredo Rivera ’84 (A&S) is the medical director of geriatric psychiatry at The Medical Center of Aurora in Denver.

Susan Chaityn Lebovits ’85 (VPA) is executive director of Boston Cancer Support, a nonprofit organization and community outreach program that provides resources for cancer patients and their families at the state, region, city, and town level (BostonCancerSupport.org).


Rick Fedrizzi G’87 (WSM) of Syracuse, CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council, wrote GreenThink: How Profit Can Save the Planet (Disruption Books, 2015).

Laird Ogden ’87 (VPA) was included in Anthology: Visual Narratives from Nashville’s Print Community at the First Center of the Arts in Nashville, a juried exhibition presenting the works of individual artists and small presses who use print techniques to tell stories through images and text.

Julie Smith-Clementi ’87 (ARC) is a partner at Rios Clementi Hale Studios, a multidisciplinary design firm in Los Angeles that was honored as one of the 2016 AD100 by Architectural Digest.

Michael Winston G’87 (SWK) wrote Forward to Danger (CreateSpace, 2015), the final volume in the Sgt. Smith World War II trilogy, a historical fiction based on the experiences of his father. Best known for his six-volume Jonathan Kinkaid series about an American naval officer during the Revolutionary War, he is also an artist. His paintings can be viewed at www.michaelwinston.org.
Micha Crook ’08 »
Journey of Learning

MICHA (PRONOUNCED MEE-SHA) CROOK KNEW she wanted to learn more about her Irish heritage while cultivating her love of filmmaking, and understood that a college degree would help her achieve that dream. Her tenacity and drive earned Crook a bachelor’s degree in sociology with a minor in English and textual studies through University College (UC). She then moved to Ireland to complete an M.A. degree in cultural policy and arts management at University College Dublin.

Crook says continuous assistance from UC assistant dean Rosemary Kelly and a strong support system from professors ensured her success. She met Kelly while working as a manager at Starbucks on campus. “I wanted to go back to school and finish my degree, but was uncertain it could really happen,” Crook says. “Rosemary told me to just come in for an appointment first and talk about my goals.”

By the end of their conversation, she had filled out an application. “The rest of the process seemed so effortless, but it was Rosemary and the rest of the UC staff being spectacular at their jobs,” she says. “Trying to find the balance between raising a child, work, and going back to school seemed like a gigantic undertaking.”

Crook says flexibility is key, and understands now that she shouldn’t have been so hard on herself in trying to juggle everything in her life. “The house will never be perfect or tidy, and you’ll eat takeout more than you know is healthy,” says Crook, whose son, Addison, was age 5 and starting kindergarten when she began her studies. “You may be reading your child your assigned readings as their bedtime story, but let go of the guilt.”

While her educational journey was challenging, Crook says it was a sacrifice worth making. It also gave her son a chance to witness the importance of education. “If you really care about something, you should work hard for it,” she says.

After graduation, Crook and her son moved to Ireland so she could pursue a master’s degree. While there, she served as executive producer on a feature documentary, Older Than Ireland, which won best documentary at the Galway Film Fest in July 2015. The film, which focuses on the lives of Irish centenarians, premiered in the United States at the Palace Theatre in Syracuse in March. It is the second highest grossing Irish documentary to date. “It was a pleasure to work with director Alex Fegan and the rest of the people at Snackbox Films,” Crook says. “I couldn’t have asked for a better group.”

During the filming, Crook became friends with 113-year-old Kathleen Snavely (pictured above), a Syracuse resident who was the oldest living Irish-born person on record. “She came to the U.S. at 19 and moved to Syracuse,” Crook says. “She built a successful dairy business with her husband in the middle of the Depression, paid for her nieces and nephews to attend college, and donated more than a million dollars to Syracuse University for scholarships.” Sadly, Snavely died two days before the film’s Dublin premiere.

Crook returned to Central New York and is now working in arts management as a consultant and cultural events promoter with several local companies. “I hope to continue to write and produce more films,” she says. “I’d like to start directing, and eventually bring contemporary Irish films to Syracuse.”

Looking at a picture taken at her graduation with Addison giving her a congratulatory hug, Crook reflects on the importance of her journey. “That picture was the first thing I unpacked and hung up in our new home in Ireland,” she says. “To me, it was a symbol of how hard I had worked, and who I continue to work for.”

—Eileen Jevis
RECALLING HIS FIRST DAYS AS AN M.F.A. STUDENT IN SU’s Creative Writing Program, Jeff Parker G’99 says of himself, “I was 22 years old and dumber than a stump, also less worldly than a stump.... While I burned to write, I didn’t have the slightest notion what it meant to be a writer or how one did it or really what the hell a writer was.” Enter literary pros Arthur Flowers and George Saunders G’88, two of his teachers and mentors in the program, whom he credits with coming into his life at one of his most impressionable times and serving as important guides in the development of his work—and identity—as a writer. “Many years later, after I had managed to publish some stuff and had become a teacher of creative writing myself, I started to think about what kind of a mentor I would wish to be to young writers,” says Parker, an author and English professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. “And I reflected on my own experience and how important my teachers at Syracuse had been for me—not only as a writer, but in becoming the sort of person I like to think of myself as.”

Those reflections led Parker to begin asking other writers about their mentoring experiences, including his teachers at Syracuse and others whose work he admires, and, later, to share their responses in book form. The result is A Manner of Being: Writers on Their Mentors (University of Massachusetts Press, 2015), a collection of nearly 70 short essays by contemporary writers from around the world. Co-edited with another Syracuse creative writing alum, Annie Liontas G’13, the anthology features personal and informal remembrances that pay homage to the mentoring relationship and offer a wealth of advice and guidance on writing and life. “What impressed me was the variety of different types of relationships people described, but also the commonality among them, which was sort of loosely categorizable as a manner of being—or, how to be,” Parker says. “That was an aspect of my own mentorship that I had always thought was important, but I didn’t know how to articulate it before people like Doug Unger and George Saunders and the other contributors to the book put it very eloquently in their writing.”

For Liontas, the book is a reminder that in the midst of the solitary nature of the writing life, a “mob” can be called on. “As a writer, you work in isolation— weird hours, kind of talking to yourself most of the time—and it can be hard to remember you’re part of a greater community,” says Liontas, whose first novel, Let Me Explain You (Scribner, 2015), was recently published. “The writers in A Manner of Being confirm how we are all constantly cutting our way through unmappable terrain, and most of the time you go it alone. But every now and then you might find comfort and encouragement from those who have gone before you. This book, for me, reveals all the variations of the path that one could take, in sincere but unsentimental ways.”

According to Parker, the book also positions the mentoring relationship as an important aspect of literary culture—one that happens everywhere, and flourishes at Syracuse. “The book includes a lot of Syracuse folks, from past faculty and past students to current faculty. So in a lot of ways, it’s a love letter to Syracuse,” he says. “But more broadly, it’s a love letter to the ethos that’s exemplified there. That ethos is in action all over the world.”

—Amy Speach

What impressed me was the variety of different types of relationships people described, but also the commonality among them.”

—Jeff Parker G’99

Annie Liontas G’13

Jeff Parker G’99
TWO YEARS AGO, TERESA YI ’10 learned her grandmother had fled to South Korea during the Korean War in the 1950s, leaving her two younger sisters behind in North Korea. The separation, initially considered temporary, has lasted more than 60 years. Yi’s grandmother, who is in her 80s, still hopes to see her sisters someday.

While Yi, a Korean American, regrets she wasn’t aware sooner of this part of her family history (her late grandfather was also from a divided family), she was moved to take action and joined Divided Families USA (DFUSA), a national coalition that seeks to reunite Korean Americans with their North Korean relatives. According to DFUSA, an estimated 100,000 first-generation Korean Americans have immediate family members in North Korea. “Once I learned their history, I felt terrible for what they went through and wanted to help out,” says Yi, a Whitman School of Management alumna who is now the president of DFUSA (www.dfusa.org). “Part of my involvement is personal, but the other part is keeping that history alive.”

Since the United States does not have official diplomatic relations with North Korea, scheduling a reunion would require assistance from South Korea, which has its own reunion program. But, Yi says, South Korea has an estimated 65,000 citizens who still seek reunions with relatives in the north, so assisting U.S. citizens is not a priority. As a result, DFUSA appeals to the American government for a solution and works to heighten awareness through community engagement and outreach, including a weekly newsletter that Yi oversees. Yi spoke about her experiences with Liu Jiang of Syracuse University Magazine from her home in Chicago, where she is also working on a master’s degree in school counseling from Roosevelt University.

**What motivated you to join the organization?**
I like action. There are lots of sad things happening in the world, but I don’t like to just hear about them and not do anything. I always think there is something we can do.

**How did your family history shape your values or cultural identification?**
It made me more proud of the Korean part of my culture. I was born and raised in New Jersey, so I identified much more with American culture. Because of the divided family work, I’ve never been more proud to be Korean.

**What would a reunion mean to divided family members?**
Peace of mind. For those who are in the late years of life, all that matters is that all the people they care about are OK. It gives them relief of a burden.

**Besides diplomacy, what’s the biggest challenge?**
We have to build our support base and keep people engaged on our issue. Right now, we have 2,500 people who get our newsletter and we would like to grow that to about 10,000 people. Our challenge is getting people to care consistently. We want supporters from all races and ages.

**What have you learned through your work with DFUSA?**
The best lesson I’ve learned is that you have to have patience and understand that it’s not about putting a lot of effort into something and then it will come true. There are too many factors. The strategy is more about consistency and looking at the long-term vision of the U.S. facilitating reunions through a unified community voice.

**What do you want to say to those still seeking opportunities to see their families?**
Don’t lose hope. You have a young group of dedicated and committed people who really care about this and are making strides in a way that has never been attained before. Keep memories alive in your heart and head, and know that you’re not alone.
American Storyteller

ALL TOLD, BROADCAST JOURNALIST AND master storyteller Bob Dotson figures he spent some 8,000 nights in motel rooms during the span of his 40-year career with NBC News, crossing the United States in search of everyday people doing remarkable things. He had a knack for finding those stories, but there was also a fine art to helping folks who were unaccustomed to the spotlight feel comfortable talking about themselves in front of the camera. “If you go up to somebody who is truly doing something significant, who’s been too busy doing that to Tweet about it, the first reaction you’re going to get when you walk in the door is, ‘Why are you here? I’m not important.’ And if you say, ‘Oh, yes. You are important,’ then they get scared,” says Dotson, who retired in October from the Today show, where he hosted the beloved American Story series for 35 years. “But if you’re talking about how they’re making donuts, and how much you love donuts, and how it reminds you of when you were a child going to grandpa’s house—pretty soon you’re like the guy leaning over the back fence. People open up to you.”

Speaking of treasured memories about grandpa: Dotson traces his love for storytelling back to summer evenings in Hiawatha, Kansas, when he was a red-headed, freckle-faced boy who liked to cozy up next to his grandfather on the porch swing and just listen. “He’d start out saying something like, ‘Did I ever tell you about my honeymoon?’ and then go on to tell how he and my grandmother took the train to Salt Lake City—‘Had a free ticket’—and found out the conductor on the train was his long lost older brother who had been missing from the family for 20 years,” Dotson says. “Now, that’s a story! And if you’re around a storyteller like that, you learn to pay attention.”

An earlier turning point in Dotson’s own American story came when he was stricken with polio at age 2. Thanks largely to his mom’s determination that he would walk again, he achieved a full recovery—nicely symbolized by a photo of him sitting on the big toe of the Statue of Liberty 30 years later following his climb to the top for a story on the Today show. But the big picture of his legacy as a storyteller may be best portrayed numerically: 4,000 stories told and 4 million miles traveled; 200 nights a year on the road; 120 national and international awards for producing and reporting, including the Sprague Memorial Citation from the National Press Photographers Association, six Edward R. Murrow Awards for Best Network News Writing, and 12 for reporting; eight Emmy awards and 11 nominations; and four books, including The New York Times bestseller American Story: A Lifetime Search for Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things (Viking, 2013). No less impressive is Dotson’s 43-year marriage to his wife, Linda. He looks forward to having more time with her now that he’s retired, as well as with their daughter, Amy, and grandchildren Zoe and Aden. Also a generous teacher, Dotson enjoys sharing his expertise with journalists in training, and recently spoke with Newhouse students as a guest of the school’s broadcast and digital journalism program. “I tell young people, what you’re looking at is a career in storytelling,” he says. “If you’re constantly curious and you learn your craft, somebody’s going to give you a ticket to ride. There’s going to be somebody who says, ‘Do you know how to tell a story?’”

His other piece of advice? His personal key to happiness: “Every time you have the chance, if you find something in your life that makes you smile—and on top of that you have to be fairly good at it—slide back toward the smile,” he says. “That’s been my guiding light.”

—Amy Speach
Sharon Brackett ’84 ➤
Activist and Engineer

WHEN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT LAST YEAR RULED IN FAVOR of same-sex marriage, transgender activist Sharon Brackett ’84 readied herself for what could become the nation’s next civil rights battle. “A lot of critics who have resigned themselves to the fact that marriage is a done deal are pulling out their same playbook and trying to apply it to trans people,” says Brackett, founder of Gender Rights Maryland, one of the nation’s few transgender rights lobbying groups. “There’s nobody left to go after.”

The transgender community, sometimes called “the caboose on the LGBT train,” saw the high court ruling as a way to drive forward a conversation that long has foundered under the umbrella of the gay rights movement. Trans advocates traditionally have aligned themselves with LGB groups because there’s been “no specific charter for trans people,” says Brackett, who’s been working to change that since 2011. That’s when the Baltimore computer engineer, one of an estimated 700,000 Americans whose gender identity differs from their born sex, founded Gender Rights Maryland in her living room.

Her efforts reached a pinnacle in October 2014, when then-Governor Martin O’Malley—after much behind-the-scenes legislative maneuvering by Brackett and others—signed into law the Fairness for All Marylanders Act. The legislation bans gender identity discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations, which include restaurants, hotels, and hospitals.

The law went into effect eight months before the Supreme Court’s same-sex marriage ruling, making Maryland one of 17 states with such protections.

But advocating for civil rights isn’t the only cause she hopes to get off the ground. As founder of the computer engineering firm Tiresias Technologies—named after the mythic Greek prophet who was transformed into a woman—Brackett, an avid model rocket enthusiast, is in part designing components for a drone startup. It’s a passion that took root in 1968, when the then 6-year-old watched Apollo 7 blast into space atop a mighty Saturn 1B rocket. “It was the coolest thing ever, and I was hooked,” she recalls of those days growing up in Batavia, New York. “I was a space junkie as a child.”

Brackett’s engineering journey started with Tinkertoys and Erector sets, before leading to Syracuse, where she studied at the College of Engineering and Computer Science. There, she got to the etiology of engineering challenges: “Here’s a problem, how do you figure it out?” she says. “The most valuable component of my education was learning how to look something up. When you’re faced with a challenge of some kind, technical or otherwise, the ability to have knowledge about it in order to make an informed decision is critical. I learned that exercise in college.”

It’s a skill that continues to inform her work as a trans activist, where there’s more work at hand. While the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has sided with transgender complainants who argued that they were fired because of their gender identity, Brackett is hopeful that a court ruling—akin to the high court’s same-sex ruling—“will lead to a body of legal precedent that will be hard to undo,” she says.

Brackett began reconsidering her born gender when she was as young as 5. “I knew I was different, I just didn’t understand what the difference was,” she says. But neither was it anything that she talked about: “This was the ’60s and ’70s. They’d put you in an institution.” It wasn’t until 2009, when she was 48, that she began her gender transition.

The parent of two adult sons, Brackett is optimistic that the transgender community ultimately will be seen equally under the law, but also by the court of public opinion. A December UCLA poll showed that two-thirds of residents in every state support transgender employment protections. “Once you know us, it is hard to hate us,” she says. “My goal is to make trans the new normal.”

—Andrew Faught
Alland Leandre ’88
Inspiring Careers in Science

ALLAND LEANDRE CAN TRACE HIS PASSION FOR FLIGHT to his early childhood. As a 3-year-old in Haiti, he joined family members in bringing his father to the airport. He watched out a window as his father crossed the tarmac. “I saw him walk to the airplane and climb the stairs,” Leandre remembers. “The idea the plane was flying him to a distant land—that just captivated me.”

Leandre moved to the United States as a ninth-grader, enrolling in a public high school in Washington, D.C., and dreaming of studying aerospace engineering. He was drawn to Syracuse University not only because of the educational opportunities, but also, he says, because he had become a huge SU basketball fan, even though he lived in Georgetown Hoyas territory. Despite his first bouts with the snow and cold, Leandre remembers, Syracuse was the perfect fit. As an aerospace engineering major, he found challenging and exciting classes in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and also discovered a love of Spanish literature, in which he minored. “I made friends from all over the globe,” Leandre says. “It really helped me enlarge my view of the world. I learned so much.”

After working as an engineer for Ford Aerospace and serving in the Army National Guard, Leandre earned an MBA degree at the University of Michigan. In 2002, he founded Vyalex Management Solutions, a Maryland-based consulting firm that specializes in avionics engineering and program management services for government organizations.

In 2008, two things happened that made for a turning point in Leandre’s life. He read Rising Above the Gathering Storm, a report requested by Congress that stresses the importance of rigorous science education in the United States to maintain the nation’s global competitive edge, and he received the Entrepreneur Award at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference, sponsored by U.S. Black Engineer Magazine. Leandre says he used that award to do his part in boosting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education, founding the Youth in Technology Summit. The annual summit, which draws 400 students from throughout Southern Maryland each year, is designed to inspire students to pursue careers in science and connect them with professionals working in the STEM disciplines. Leandre looks back on his own experience and knows what made a difference, in particular an internship as a 10th-grader at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “I believe that having people who cared enough for me to provide advice and mentoring was the key to my success, so I have always identified with young people who remind me of my early journey,” he says.

During Orange Central last fall, Leandre moderated an SU deans’ panel discussion titled “STEMming the Gap in Higher Education.” “I’m passionate about getting students interested,” says Leandre, a member of the School of Information Studies Board of Advisors. “I pushed my own kids first, and then I tried to get other kids excited.” Clearly the encouragement clicked with his two daughters: Verida is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in biomedical technology at Brown University, and Alexandra is a systems engineer for a national security contractor.

The most important step in igniting students’ interest is mere exposure to opportunities available in the STEM fields, Leandre says. “They need to know the basics of technology, and what sort of things people do. It makes it seem real.” While the dedication and the right courses in school are critical, often just as important is a mentor who has pursued a career in science, Leandre says. “Then a student can see herself doing this kind of work someday.” —Kathleen Curtis
When Dean and Elizabeth Wolcott established a scholarship at Syracuse University, little did they realize just how big their impact would be. For Arianna Clark, the opportunity to pursue her dreams, interests, and passions at SU is “one of the greatest gifts I could ever receive.”

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

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

BE AN INSPIRATION.

Holly Nichols ’88 (FALK/WSM) married David Scrano in September. She is adult librarian at the Paine Branch Library in Syracuse.

Carolyn Hill ’89 (A&S/NEW) of New York City wrote Things I Don’t Want to Talk About (WordTech Communications, 2015), a poetry book.

Larry Richards ’89 (VPA) is the executive producer for commercial production at WFTS-TV, ABC Action News in Tampa, Florida.

Elizabeth St. Hilaire ’90 (VPA), a collage artist based in Orlando, Fla., wrote Gelli Prints: A Mono-Printing Plate How To (Blurb.com, 2015). Her next book, Paper Painting (North Light Books), is due out in August. In October, she taught collage workshops in Tuscany, which she will offer again in June. Her artwork was accepted into the National Collage Society’s annual juried show in 2015, and is available in reproductions at Pier 1 Imports and HomeGoods stores.

Jacqueline Saturn ’90 (A&S), general manager of Caroline Records and Harvest Records at the Capitol Music Group in Los Angeles, was named to Billboard’s “Women in Music 2015: The 50 Most Powerful Executives in the Industry” list.

Lauret Savoy G’90 (A&S) was among the authors longlisted by the PEN American Center’s annual literary awards. Her book, Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape (Counterpoint) was listed for the PEN Open Book Award for an exceptional book-length work of literature by an author of color published in 2015.

Jill Hacker Schneider ’90 (NEW) is senior producer at Bloomberg TV.

Kimberly A. Blackwell ’92 (A&S), founder and CEO of Progressive Marketing and Management Agency in Columbus, Ohio, was named to the 2015 Ebony Power 100 list, recognized by Ebony magazine as one of the most influential and inspiring African Americans in the country.

Johanna Garton ’92 (A&S/NEW), an attorney and writer living in Denver, wrote Awakening East: Moving Our Adopted Children Back to China (Marcin Press, 2015). The book chronicles a 25-year period in her life that begins with her first year at SU.

Glenn Rugg G’92 (VPA) is executive director of ZEKE, a print and digital global awareness magazine published by the Boston-based Social Documentary Network that features visual stories and in-depth articles on timely issues in current affairs (www.socialdocumentary.net).

Lisa Serafin ’92 (A&S), a principal at Redgate, a real estate advisory, development, project management, and investment firm in Boston, was appointed to the MassHousing Board by Governor Charlie Baker in January.

Eric Stangel ’93 (NEW) is a co-creator and co-executive producer of the daytime entertainment TV show Harry, hosted by Harry Connick Jr., which will debut nationwide on the Fox network in September.

John Welsh ’93 (A&S) of Frisco, Colo., a professional bartender, wrote Weedgalized in Colorado: True Tales from the High Country (Peak 1 Publishing, 2015), described as “a lighthearted and surprisingly informative read, featuring on-the-ground stories from scores of participants in Colorado’s historic transformation into a cannabis-friendly state.”

Tyler Aldredge ’94 (E&C&S) is senior vice president of clinical laboratory operations at Mark Genetics, a company based in Cambridge, Mass., that develops diagnostic and prognostic tests for urological cancer care.

Matt Friedman ’94 (NEW), co-founder of Tanner Friedman strategic communications firm in Farmington Hills, Mich., is a member of the board of directors for the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Jenna Lucente ’94 (VPA) is an art professor at Salem Community College in Carney’s Point, N.J.

Harmony Verna ’94 (NEW), a freelance writer and communications professional who resides in Newtown, Conn., wrote Daughter of Australia (Kensington), her first novel.

Jesse Ash ’95 (A&S) is a partner at Reed Smith law firm’s Washington, D.C., office, and a member of the firm’s life sciences health industry group.

Robert Davis ’95 (VPA) is director of arts and cultural programming at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of New York City.

Chris Hannan ’95 (VPA) is executive vice president of communications and integration at Fox Sports in Los Angeles, overseeing public relations and corporate communications teams.

Cheryl Hoffman ’95 (FALK) is director of the Children and Youth Policy Division at the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

Ted Meyer ’95 (NEW/WSM) is senior vice president of global public relations and communications at Nativix Global Asset Management in Boston.

Joe Ray ’95 (A&S) of Seattle co-wrote Sea and Smoke: Flavors from the Untamed Pacific Northwest (Running Press, 2015), a travelogue and cookbook, with award-winning chef Blaine Wetzel.

Rachel Sears Casanta ’96 (A&S/NEW) and Philip Casanta announce the birth of their daughter, Francesca Rio, who joins big brother Giovanni. They reside in Ventura, Calif. A former professional triathlete and co-owner of Hypercat Racing, a coaching company and bike fit studio, Rachel is an endurance sports coach and contributing author to The Women’s Guide to Triathlon (Human Kinetics, 2015).
The oldest of six kids, Arianna Clark ’16 felt incredibly fortunate when the Elizabeth G. Wolcott Scholarship made it possible for her to attend Syracuse University—the only school where she truly felt at home. After meeting Dean Wolcott, the man who, together with his late wife, created the scholarship, she felt not only lucky, but inspired by their generosity. Now she pushes herself “to the limit and beyond in all that I do, to prove that their gift is making a difference.”

How can you make that kind of difference in the life of an SU student? It’s easier than you think. Learn more at changealife.syr.edu/arianna or call 315.443.1848.
SHE’S ONLY 25, BUT MICHELE CANTOS KNOWS A THING or two about the world—and her place in it. She was born in Brooklyn and lived in Ecuador from age 6 through 11 before returning with her family to New York. “My family is from Ecuador and they migrated here in the ’80s. I was born here and lived here until first grade, and then through some immigration complications we had to leave,” Cantos says. “But it was a blessing in disguise. I had the opportunity to live in a beautiful country, to learn to speak Spanish, and to just become really open to different cultures and different ways of thinking and living. They were amazing experiences that few people have.”

Then came her years at Syracuse University, where she majored in international relations (College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell) and public relations (Newhouse) as an undergraduate and earned a master’s degree in international relations at the Maxwell School. Traveling abroad was a highlight of her SU studies, taking her to Spain, Switzerland, Chile, and Thailand. And the friends Cantos met at the University are literally citizens of the world, hailing from such places as Palestine, Venezuela, and Paraguay, and sharing her passion for learning about diverse people, places, and cultures.

Today, Cantos brings her enthusiasm for all things global to work every day in her role as program manager at the Future Leaders Foundation, a New York City-based nonprofit organization that recruits and supports exceptional college students from around the world. “The main goal of the foundation is to create a tightknit global network of talented aspiring leaders who come from humble backgrounds and have achieved great success all on their own,” says Cantos, who manages the foundation’s three-year fellowship program, working with college students in the United States, France, China, Singapore, and a growing list of other countries. “Either they come from a low-income family, are the first in their family to go to college, or they’ve overcome a lot of adversity to be successful.”

Another aspect of her work is building relationships with institutions to provide students with internships in countries around the globe. “We partner with top universities worldwide and select the best students and the ones who have the most potential to be future leaders in their field,” she says. “After they complete the fellowship, our goal is for them to join our young professionals’ network.”

As the first in her family to attend university, Cantos understands some of the challenges faced by the students she works with, as well as what kinds of support are most helpful—both during college and in getting started professionally. “When I was doing my job search, I had this huge network supporting me morally and also sending me contacts and introductions and checking in on me all the time,” Cantos says. “I think that’s why I’ve been able to do a good job in my current position—because I know the power of a network and what it can accomplish in so many aspects of your life. My colleagues and I try our best to instill this lesson in our fellows.”

She says she constantly draws from her experiences at Syracuse, both in and out of the classroom. “At Maxwell, I met people from all over the world who are different, but who share some common core values and are super supportive of each other,” Cantos says. “And that’s what this foundation is building. Here, I get to meet and support so many intelligent and compassionate aspiring leaders. It’s a lot of fun and an amazing learning experience.”

—Amy Speach
Charles H. Cobb ’97 (A&S), an attorney at William Mattar Law Offices in Buffalo, is a member of the board of directors of HOME: Housing Opportunities Made Equal, a nonprofit organization that tackles housing discrimination by providing information, counseling, investigation, and legal services.

Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer ’97 (A&S/Max) began a four-year term as village councilwoman for Whitehouse, Ohio, in January. She and her husband, U.S. Navy Commander Daniel Kleiboemer ’96 (A&S), have two sons, Gabe and Max.

Matt Magnani ’98 (A&S/EDU) and Holly Rowe Magnani ’00 (NEW) announce the birth of their daughter, Zoey, in November.

Ben Wightman ’99 (NEW/WSM) and his wife, Surtini, announce the November birth of a daughter, Evangeline Jean, who joins big sister Grace Lynn. They reside in Singapore.

Elizabeth Braungart Fauth ’00 (A&S), a faculty member in the Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development and coordinator of the gerontology certificate program at Utah State University, recently presented at a TEDx event on the topic, “Finding Joy in Alzheimer’s Reality” (tedx.usu.edu/portfolio-items/elizabeth-fauth/).

Robin Lester Kenton ’00 (NEW) is vice president of marketing and communications at Brooklyn Public Library, the fifth largest public library system in the United States. She resides in Brooklyn with her husband and two sons.

Ann Melinger ’00 (A&S/NEW) is CEO at Brilliant Ink, a New York City-based employee engagement consultancy that works with companies to assess and improve their employee experiences (brilliantink.net).

Susie Moreno ’00 (ARC) is a senior project manager at Dewberry professional services in the firm’s Houston office. She has 15 years of project management experience, particularly in tenant improvements and renovations, as well as retail and hospitality projects.

Kate Rorick ’00 (NEW) co-wrote The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet (Touchstone, 2015), a novel that brings Jane Austen’s characters into the digital age and is based on the Emmy Award-winning web series The Lizzie Bennet Diaries. A Los Angeles resident, Rorick has written for various television shows, including Law and Order: Criminal Intent and Terra Nova. She also writes historical romance novels under the pen name Kate Noble.

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Andrew Hopko G’02 (NEW) is an attorney with the trusts and estates practice group at Plunkett Cooney law firm in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Mike Nunes G’02 (NEW) is vice president of current programming at NBC Entertainment in Universal City, Calif.

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Committed to Those Who Serve

Unique alumni-led initiatives enhance life for troops and veterans

By Renée Gearhart Levy

There are more than 2.5 million veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, one of the most diverse groups to have served our country. Novel initiatives by six Syracuse University alumni have improved the quality of life for troops while deployed overseas and are helping this growing demographic lead fuller, healthier lives once home.

Helping Veterans Take Their Next Steps Forward

CHRIS MEEK ’92

SOLDIER STRONG

The Goal: Help veterans get back on their feet, both literally and figuratively. The group has funded and awarded nearly $2 million in medical devices over the last two-and-a-half years, including prosthetic devices to individual veterans and bionic exoskeleton suits—which allow paralyzed individuals to stand and walk—to military rehabilitation centers. In an effort to fill in gaps in the post-9/11 GI Bill, the organization also established three scholarship funds, including one at the Maxwell School to support veterans who want to continue life in public service as private citizens.

Backstory: In 2001, Meek ran the floor trading operations for Goldman Sachs at the New York Board of Trade. On 9/11, he was across the street on a conference call when terrorists struck the World Trade Center. As he fled to his apartment uptown, he recalls the people running into the buildings to try to save others. “I knew that at some point I’d need to pay it back, but I didn’t know how or when,” he says.

How It Started: Fast forward to 2009. A mentor, who happened to be a retired Marine captain, shared a letter from a Marine in Afghanistan asking for tube socks and baby wipes for personal hygiene. The Marine’s unit was living out of Jeeps and hiking all day; they didn’t have enough water to drink, let alone a shower. That struck Meek as a simple way he could help. Soldier Socks, which started as a grassroots effort packing baby wipes and tube socks in his driveway, collected and shipped more than 70,000 pounds of wipes and socks to 73 units in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2009 and 2015. When the withdrawal of troops began, Meek switched his focus to the needs of veterans returning to the United States.

Impact: Out of roughly 46,000 military-focused nonprofits, Soldier Strong is the only one that focuses on medical devices. To date, the organization has donated 12 exoskeleton suits, providing roughly 25,000 paralyzed veterans with the ability to stand and walk again. “When you see somebody who was injured serving our country and told they’d never walk again do just that, well, that’s why we do what we do,” Meek says.

Sharing His Love for the Game

JOSEPH HANNA G’14

BUNKERS IN BAGHDAD

The Goal: Provide soldiers, veterans, and wounded warriors across the world with donated golf equipment as a means for much-needed stress relief and injury rehabilitation.

Backstory: A sports and entertainment lawyer and avid golfer, Hanna was struck by a 60 Minutes segment that showed soldiers in Iraq hitting golf balls into the desert as a way to relieve stress during downtime. Shortly after, he saw an article in Golf Magazine that highlighted a make-
shift driving range in Iraq. He had old equipment that was gathering dust, and figured plenty of other golfers did as well.

**How It Started:** Initially, Hanna reached out to family, friends, and the pro shop at his golf club for donations, but soon secured sponsorship from such manufacturers as Callaway Golf and LoudMouth Golf Pants, and began fundraising to pay for shipping. He created the Bunkers Buddies program to engage students from elementary school to college to help collect equipment and monetary donations. Donations are sent to Hanna’s law firm, Goldberg Segalla in Buffalo, which provides office and equipment-storage space for the nonprofit. “Many of the firm’s attorneys have connections to the military, either as former members themselves or through family,” Hanna says. “This is their way to give back.”

**Impact:** Since 2008, Bunkers in Baghdad has sent more than 6.5 million golf balls and 480,000 clubs to soldiers in 37 countries and to wounded warrior programs across the United States. Each shipment includes letters and cards from students who are part of the Bunkers Buddies program, which counts 300 schools in 47 states. The best part is the notes he receives in return. “They’re so appreciative,” says Hanna, who enrolled at the Maxwell School to earn an M.P.A. degree so he could better lead his nonprofit, commuting three days a week from Buffalo while working full time. “The program gave me a much stronger knowledge base for fundraising and the administrative aspect of running a nonprofit,” he says. “It’s amazing how a simple idea can snowball.”

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**Creating Community Connections | JIM LORRAINE ’85**

**AMERICA’S WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP**

**The Goal:** Empower the veteran population of partner communities through a model program that includes mentorship, collaboration, advocacy, and education to ensure veterans have successful access to the benefits they are entitled to. While the program currently operates in six communities—Augusta, Georgia/Aiken, South Carolina; Pensacola, Florida; Charleston, South Carolina; Greenville, South Carolina; Orange County, California; and Buffalo—Lorraine’s goal is to create tools and offer guidance so any interested community can replicate the program. “Our model is unique,” he says. “We want to create an ecosystem of veterans who give back to other veterans and to their communities.”

**Impact:** Since it was established in February 2014, America’s Warrior Partnership has underwritten and built its Community Integration Program in its six partner communities with more than 19,000 veterans, two-thirds of whom are post-9/11 vets. Of those post-9/11 veterans, 75 percent of those eligible have enrolled in VA health care; 64 percent have enrolled in VA benefits, and a third of those eligible have enrolled in educational programs and are on track to graduate. In addition, 187 homeless have been housed, and 1,478 unemployed veterans have secured jobs. “What we’re doing is making people aware of existing services available to every veteran, and then helping these veterans take the next steps to make use of them,” Lorraine says.
Packaged With Care
MYRALINE MORRIS WHITAKER G’74
SISTER SOLDIER PROJECT

The Goal: Improve the quality of life for female soldiers of color serving in the Middle East by providing them with hard-to-come-by African American hair-care products.

Backstory: Whitaker was COO of a small group of hotels in the Central Coast of California when one of her executives shared a story about her roommate in the Marines—an African American woman—burning her hair with chemicals to keep it straightened to comply with military standards. “It struck me as how difficult it was for her to do her hair, which is something all black women can relate to,” Whitaker recalls. She went home and did a search on the website anysoldier.com, where military personnel make requests for care packages. “When I zeroed in on African American women, every single one of them asked for hair-care products,” she says.

How It Started: Whitaker began calling hair-care companies asking for donations and organized “packing parties,” where groups of friends would gather to pack the items and pay for postage. The first was her book club. After the Los Angeles Times wrote an article about the effort, Whitaker began getting requests from groups across the country. “This was something that resonated for black women. All I asked was that they commit to packing and shipping 100 packages,” she says. “The smallest packing party was with about 20 local people. The largest was on Long Island with a group that did 1,000 packages and the post office came to us.”

Impact: From 2008 until 2013, the Sister Soldier Project sent more than 7,000 hair-care packages to military personnel in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and ships at sea. “We were told that every package touched eight to 10 people because the women always shared,” says Whitaker, who received thousands of thank-you notes in return. “These women were so appreciative that we understood their needs. They wrote about their families left behind and the work they were doing overseas.” The project ended in 2013 after the draw down of troops; Whitaker recently donated her collection of letters and photos to the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. “Someone doing research is going to be interested in this segment of the population,” she says. “These women made history and their stories will be told forever.”

Competing for a Cause
WINSTON FISHER ’96
INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND

The Goal: Raise money for the treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI). The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund financed construction of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICOE), which opened in 2010. The 72,000-square-foot facility, located adjacent to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, focuses solely on the treatment of TBI. In 2013, the fund began a campaign to build nine Intrepid Spirit Centers at major military bases around the country to act as satellite treatment centers.

Backstory: Fisher, a trustee of both Syracuse University and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, is a self-described adrenaline junkie. When a friend proposed competing in Race Across America—a 3,000-mile bicycle race—he was all in, for a cause. In 2014, his eight-person team won both its division of the race and the highest fundraising total. In 2015, his four-person team earned the same distinctions. Both years, Team Intrepid Fallen Heroes netted $650,000 to help treat veterans suffering from TBI. “Anyone can run a race for charity, but this was a way to do something outsized from a fundraising perspective,” Fisher says.

How It Started: The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund was founded by the Fisher family in 2000, and has provided $120 million to support veterans of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and their families through
death benefits; the construction of the Center for the Intrepid, a $55 million physical rehabilitation center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio; NICoE; and the Intrepid Spirit Centers. “I love that we as a family have been able to help the military’s medical system by giving things that are profoundly changing the lives of people,” Fisher says.

Impact: Through two Race Across America competitions, Team Intrepid Fallen Heroes raised $1.3 million, donating 100 percent to the charity. This year, Fisher is organizing a 200-mile running race around Central Park, which he hopes will raise another $650,000 through the four-person teams that participate. “It’s not political,” says Fisher of his motivation. “I don’t care if you’re for the Iraq War or against it, these people went over to serve our country and they came back injured. We need to help them.”

Honor Bound

MATT ZELLER G’06

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

The Goal: Assist Iraqi and Afghan translators who served U.S. troops in gaining asylum in the United States and help with resettlement. “We’re the only veterans’ organization that works with this population,” Zeller says. “These people either make it to America, or they die a horrible, brutal death because they’re viewed as spies.”

Backstory: Zeller spent 2008 as an embedded combat advisor in Afghanistan, training Afghan security forces on intelligence. It was a dangerous assignment: The unit his replaced had a 50 percent casualty rate. Zeller says his life was saved two weeks after arriving when the Afghan who would become his translator shot two approaching Taliban. “He told me I was a guest in his country and he was honor bound to take care of me,” Zeller says. “I asked to have him assigned to me for the rest of the year.”

How It Started: In 2013, Zeller was working as a management consultant in Washington, D.C., when he received a Facebook message from his former translator. There’d been a draw down on troops and he would lose his job in three months. He’d received threats from the Afghan army—“leave when the Americans do or we’ll sell you to the Taliban as an American spy.” Zeller had been helping him with his visa since he’d left, but now went into overdrive. Three months later, Janis Shinwari arrived in Washington, essentially with the clothes on his back. “I quickly learned there was no resettlement agency that helped people like Janis,” Zeller says. “They’re basically given a visa and abandoned.”

Impact: Drawing on media attention from Shinwari’s story, Zeller used money raised to start No One Left Behind. The organization helps translators who make it through the rigorous visa process resettle in the United States by providing short-term housing, furnishings, a car, and assistance with employment—a cost of $15,000 per family. Since 2013, the organization has helped resettle more than 1,500 people in nine cities across the United States, 1,335 in the last year. His goal is to assist the remaining 40,000 still in the Middle East, within 10 years. He says it’s not only a moral obligation, but also one of national security. “People talk about how it’s a matter of national shame what happened to the Vietnamese who stood with us after we left that war,” Zeller says. “If we don’t honor our commitment to these translators, who is going to help us next time?”
IN MEMORIAM

Notices of deaths must be accompanied by a copy of an obituary or memorial card.
Send to: Alumni Editor, Syracuse University Magazine; 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308; Syracuse, NY 13244-5040; fax 315-443-5508.


Faculty/Staff: Claire S. Rudolph G’73 (professor emerita, social work); Father Linus DeSantis (Catholic chaplain)

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Brittany Brathwaite’13 (A&S) and Kimberly Huggins ’13 (A&S) co-founded Kimbritive, a Brooklyn-based collaborative that offers interactive skill-building and empowerment workshops for young people, youth service providers, and adults on topics related to sexual health and reproductive justice (kimberlyhuggins.com/kimbriitive/).

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Flose Boursiquot ’14 (A&S/NEW) of Miami writes the blog Let It Flose: be with me as I figure it all out (letitflose.wordpress.com).

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Edward J. Pettinella G’76 » Guiding Principles

THE RECENT SALE OF HOME PROPERTIES INC., A REAL estate firm where Edward J. Pettinella served as president and CEO for the past 14 years, provided him with the perfect occasion for reflecting on a career that has been rich with opportunity and accomplishment. A Syracuse University Trustee who serves on the Whitman School of Management Advisory Council, Pettinella considers himself “very fortunate” to have worked in three industries and with four public companies during his 43-year career, including Ford Motor Credit, Rochester Community Savings Bank, and Charter One Bank. In his leadership role at Home Properties—a company that owns, operates, develops, acquires, and rehabilitates apartment communities in the coastal Northeast and Mid-Atlantic markets—he ran a $7 billion real estate investment trust.

“When a large company approached us with an offer to buy Home Properties, our board of directors agreed that to sell at this time was in the best interest of our shareholders,” says Pettinella, who earned an MBA degree at the Whitman School in 1976. “For me, it was a turning point in my career and presented a bittersweet situation.”

Quickly realizing it was too soon to move into the retirement stage of his career, Pettinella spent many months following the sale analyzing various executive and board opportunities. “This will be my gentle glide path from the more

rigorous pace of a CEO to a different time commitment as an executive chairman of a large real estate company,” he says.

Throughout his career, Pettinella has been guided by his firm belief that “great people make great companies.” Two critical factors behind his success have been to consistently hire and retain people who are ambitious, talented, and motivated, and to assure that the right people are in the right positions for them. “I believe in a fully participative management approach—one that encourages critical thinking, idea generation, and informed decisions focused on results,” says Pettinella, a native of Western New York who earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and management at SUNY Geneseo in 1973. “My philosophy is to hire great people, provide guidance where necessary, and then get out of the way and let them be great.”

For students and young professionals starting out in their careers, he offers these words of advice: “Whatever path you choose, your willingness to roll up your sleeves and go the extra mile will serve you well through your entire career,” he says. “Hard work, a strong desire to succeed, and a positive outlook will guarantee your value to any employer in any business environment. SU prepares each of us with the skill set and mindset to succeed in today’s complex business world. So, take that leap. Give 100 percent, and remember to enjoy the journey.”

Appreciative of his own SU experience, he considers it a “real honor to be part of this great University” as a Trustee. “I love to work with talented individuals who are extremely successful and come from diverse backgrounds, multiple industries, and varied business environments. It is always amazing to me to realize the wealth of knowledge that comes from such a diverse pool of talent and experience,” says Pettinella, who in 2012 endowed a professorship in finance/real estate in Whitman’s James D. Kuhn Real Estate Center, and was recognized with the school’s Jonathan J. Holtz Alumnus of the Year Award in 2013. “I feel that SU is on the precipice of achieving higher growth and prominence under Chancellor Syverud’s Fast Forward strategic plan. I look forward to participating in this reveille at our University.” —Amy Speach
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE Newhouse School’s Toner Prize Celebration in March in Washington, D.C., where Alec MacGillis of ProPublica was awarded the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Journalism.

“Journalism at its best is indispensable,” Obama said. “Not in some abstract sense of nobility, but in the very concrete sense that real people depend on you to uncover the truth. Deep reporting, the informed questioning, the in-depth stories—the kind of journalism that we honor today—matters more than ever and, by the way, lasts longer than some slapdash Tweet that slips off our screens in the blink of an eye, that may get more hits today, but won’t stand up to the test of time. That’s the only way that our democracy can work.”

MacGillis won for “The Breakdown,” a collection of stories that, among other issues, revealed the influence of the oil industry and other corporations on public policy; examined the reasons that some voters make political choices that many analysts consider against those voters’ own interests; and showed that many assumptions about politics and governance no longer hold true.

The $5,000 Toner Prize is given annually by the Newhouse School in memory of late alumna Robin Toner ’76, who was the first woman to serve as national political correspondent for The New York Times.

—Wendy S. Loughlin

Photo by Steve Sartori
Celebrate this all-alumni homecoming weekend!

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September 15–18, 2016