FIRST AMONG MANY

Meet 13 alumnae who have changed the world
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World-renowned journalist Dorothy Thompson, a Class of 1914 alumna, delivers the 1937 Commencement address at Archbold Stadium. She was the first woman to give a Commencement speech at SU. To learn more about Thompson, see page 34.
Photo courtesy of SU Archives

14 SU People
SYRACUSE PEOPLE

THIS SUMMER ISSUE OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE FEATURES people. From Jay Cox’s tribute to journalist Charnice Milton G’11 on the next page all the way to the closing profile of our new athletic director, Mark Coyle, this issue touches on the contributions of scores of Syracuse people who have made a difference in many fields.

Each story is moving in its own way, but together they capture the breadth of what happens through this University—which is to say, what happens because of the people here. Harriet Brown’s book Body of Truth will open the eyes of thousands to the hidden and not-so-hidden costs of our obsession with body weight. The essence of shared-learning between faculty and students is captured in profiles of the mentoring relationships between Jason Dedrick and Terrance Andersen ’15, Steve Davis and Nicki Gorny ’15, Rob Doyle and Rachael Burke ’15, Romita Ray and Brooke Baerman ’15, and Jonathan Hanson and Bo Stewart ’15. The long-tailed impact of a Syracuse education shines through in the remarkable firsts achieved by 13 women from here. And few will not be moved by the posthumous recognition and story of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient William Shemin ’24 and his family.

Syracuse University is about people. It is humbling to realize how much talent and potential people arrive here with. It is not always obvious on the surface that each new student or faculty member or staff member has been the beneficiary of so much hard work, by parents and grandparents and teachers and mentors and coaches. Yet all that hard work and inspiration lie just under the surface, sometimes shining out in dazzling ways.

Each of us who works here has a responsibility to all those parents, and grandparents, and teachers. Because of their hard work, we get to work with and for Syracuse people who have incredible potential. Indeed, each new Syracuse person has the potential to do all the amazing things you see profiled in this issue of the magazine.

As so many of our new students and new faculty and staff arrive here for the start of the academic year, I hope we all remember their potential, and our responsibility to those who made it possible. The people starting here this fall will be profiled not so far in the future in a publication like this one—and we should not presume to know which ones will go the farthest. Let’s treat each one as having the potential to lead the world. Because Syracuse people, including those starting this fall, really will do so.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
AS SOMEONE WHO WORKS IN THE WORD BUSINESS, I pay close attention to headlines. But no headlines have ever broken my heart more than the ones announcing that a reporter had been shot and killed in Washington, D.C. The reporter was Charnice Milton G’11, who earned a master’s degree in journalism from the Newhouse School and was a student intern with us here at Syracuse University Magazine. According to reports, Charnice had covered a meeting for Capital Community News (CCN) and was headed home the night of May 27. She was on the street, making a bus transfer, when she was fatally struck by a bullet intended for someone who reportedly grabbed her and used her as a shield. She was an innocent bystander whose life was ended at age 27 by people with no regard whatsoever for the sanctity of life.

Sadly, such violence is all too common in America. Good people are taken from us everyday. I could go on here about all the issues this encompasses, but I would rather reflect on the energetic young journalist who loved to write and was a woman of deep faith. Charnice was a wonderful person and those of us who worked with her here will remember her for her positive, cheerful attitude, her smile and humor. She was thorough, conscientious, inquisitive, and hardworking, tackling assignments with enthusiasm and great initiative, determination, thoughtfulness, and sensitivity. She was dedicated to developing her professional skills and excelling as a journalist.

In her work for the magazine, Charnice wrote a few stories about people making a difference in the lives of others. It’s an ever-present thread in our pages—look through this issue and you will see example after example of members of the University community who have taken on roles bigger than themselves to help others and bring about change. Charnice was no exception. She grew up in a tough neighborhood in southeast D.C. and refused to let personal disabilities deter her from her goals. She headed to Ball State in Indiana, where she earned a bachelor’s degree before coming to Syracuse to further her education at Newhouse.

After graduating from Newhouse, Charnice returned home, committed to making a difference in her community. She spent countless hours reporting on the people and events in the area. Those she covered recognized her passion and dedication to her work, to telling stories that otherwise might not have been told. In an online post, Yvette Alexander, a D.C. councilmember who represents the ward where Charnice lived, wrote, “Her work as a reporter for East of the River Magazine [a CCN publication] was stellar as she kept readers informed and interested in learning more about what she covered. Regularly covering community meetings, she touched the lives of many,...”

Charnice not only touched the lives of the SU Magazine staff, but of all those who knew her here in Syracuse, from faculty and classmates to those she sang with in a local church choir. We are forever grateful to have known her and will remember how she lived her life with such joy and goodwill.
Taking Flight in the Marketplace

INNOVATORS HAVE A DESTINATION IN mind. Now they need a flight plan. “We show the inventor or entrepreneur the landscape, and what they are facing, in areas of intellectual property, regulations, competition, and market,” says Jack Rudnick L’73, professor of practice and director of the Technology Commercialization Law Program (TCLP) at the College of Law. “They need to know what might stop them dead in their tracks before they spend time and resources going forward. They need to know where their real opportunities are.”

The program centers around two year-long courses in business, regulatory, and intellectual property law. Technology Transactions Law is a lecture, and features guest talks by subject area experts and practicing program alumni. Students negotiate mock licenses, prepare forms and counsel for a fictional startup, and write a paper on the commercialization of a technology in the market. In the second course, Technology Commercialization Research Center, students work with clients who have a new technology to commercialize. The teams research the feasibility—and pathway—for the technology to reach the market, including market and intellectual property (IP) landscape and regulatory issues.

Clients include tech companies, university technology transfer offices, New York State research centers, and the Empire State Development’s Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR). The latter, in 2015, appointed TCLP as the official New York State Science & Technology Law Center for a fourth three-year term (it was first chosen in 2004). The tenure includes a $1 million grant, with a mission to assist economic development by helping businesses and institutions in New York State get new and emerging technologies to the marketplace. “It’s not enough to give firms tax breaks or funding if they can’t access the resources and services they need to move forward,” Rudnick says. “We work with companies that might not be able yet to afford to get this information, or are too busy trying to get things off the ground.”

Leonardi Manufacturing Company Inc. is one such firm. The diversified manufacturer of metal parts, located in Weedsport, New York, developed an innovative lawn trimmer with a patented cutting system that uses 50 percent less power and cuts twice as fast as string trimmers on the market today. “We saw the SU law program as a great opportunity to help us commercialize it,” says owner Joe Leonardi.

Leonardi wanted to evaluate licensing versus a startup. The students delivered IP research, product and market studies, and business strategies. The engagement led to other opportunities at SU, including working with the popular course, What’s the Big
That’s what Nick Somers liked. “I learn through experience,” the third-year law student says. “We work with individuals and companies that need guidance and advice. I have an edge over others entering the field—I’m thinking and acting like an attorney while in law school.”

Not that the student experience is neglected. Says Erin Phillips L’15, “Although the real-world experience was one of the biggest rewards of the program, what I liked best about TCLP was the camaraderie, and the friends I made throughout my time there.”

The program, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, was founded by the late law professor Theodore Hagelin, who passed away in 2013. “Ted had the foresight to begin building this curriculum, the first of its kind,” Rudnick says. “If you look at other law schools, you will see a lot of similar programs, but most were developed more recently and none do all that we do.”

TCLP is just what today’s Innovation Economy requires. “The entrepreneur is so in love with his ‘baby’ that he or she doesn’t see the flaws and challenges,” Rudnick says. “Often we show the client an easier and less expensive path to market, giving them a better chance of success. No investor is going to put money into a new venture without seeing the information our program provides. Our services are very much in demand in the startup world.”

—John Martin

Photos by Steve Sartori
Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost Liz Liddy ’G77, G’88 announced recently the appointment of two deans: Teresa A. Dahlberg, who will head the College of Engineering and Computer Science; and David Seaman, who was named University librarian and dean of the Syracuse University Libraries.

Dahlberg comes to Syracuse from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City, where she served as chief academic officer for the university and dean of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering.

Seaman arrives in Syracuse from Dartmouth College, where he was associate librarian for information management and joined the staff in 2006.

Terry Jones ’16, a film major, was one of 50 students selected nationwide as a Udall Scholar.

Tyler Smith ’16, a biochemistry major, was one of 260 students nationwide awarded a Goldwater Scholarship for the 2015-16 academic year. Alec Beaton ’16, a chemistry major, and Samantha Usman ’16, a double major in physics and mathematics, received honorable mention recognition from the foundation.

The Syracuse University Singers won the top Grand Prix de la Ville de Tours and the Prix du Ministere de la Culture et de la Communication at the 44 Florilège Vocal de Tours in Tours, France, in May. The 35-member group, the University’s premier touring ensemble, competed with choirs from Finland, Hungary, Macedonia, and Sweden, and was awarded nearly $5,000 in prize money. The win earned the ensemble an invitation to compete in next year’s European Grand Prix in Bulgaria.

Earth sciences professor Jeff Karson is the lead co-author of Discovering the Deep: A Photographic Atlas of the Seafloor and Ocean Crust (Cambridge University Press). The book contains more than 500 original illustrations and color photos, and a suite of online resources and exclusive videos.

The Society of Professional Journalists named Bellwethr, a tablet magazine developed by 2013-14 graduate students in the Newhouse School’s magazine, newspaper, and online journalism program, as the nation’s Best Digital-Only Student Publication. Bellwethr is available as an app and is posted online (bellwethrmag.com).

BARNES LEADS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Syracuse University Board of Trustees has selected Trustee Steven W. Barnes ’82 to serve as its chairman. Barnes assumes the role from Richard L. Thompson G’67, H’15, who was named chairman emeritus and awarded an honorary degree following the conclusion of his four-year term (2011-15) in May.

Barnes, who joined the board in 2008, has served on the board’s executive committee and investment and endowment committee. He is a managing director with Bain Capital, a Boston-based global investment firm he has been associated with since 1988. He currently leads the firm’s North American Private Equity group.

Barnes, who earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the Whitman School of Management, also serves as co-chairman of the University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families and is a longtime member of the Whitman Advisory Council. In 2010, Barnes endowed, as part of a gift, the Barnes Family Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities at the Whitman School. His gift also created the Barnes Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Whitman School. Also at the school, Barnes is a founding investor in the Orange Value Fund, a student-run portfolio.

SPORTS NOTES

Seven members of the SU track and field team garnered All-America accolades from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association at the 2015 NCAA outdoor championships at the University of Oregon in June. First Team All-America honors went to Margo Malone ’16, who finished seventh in the women’s 10,000-meter run; and Justyn Knight ’18, who placed sixth in the men’s 5,000 meters.

Colin Bennie ’17 took 14th in the 5,000 to collect Second Team All-America recognition. Also earning second-team honors were Donald Pollitt ’15 and Freddie Crittenden ’17, who both competed in the 110-meter hurdles; and Martin Hehir ’15 and Dan Lennon ’16, who finished 13th and 15th, respectively, in the men’s 10,000-meter run. Max Straneva ’14 finished 18th in the 10,000 to receive honorable mention.

The Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association honored attackers Kayla Treanor ’16 and Halle Majorana ’16 as First Team All-America selections, and attacker Kailah Kempney ’15 as a second-team pick. It was the third consecutive year Treanor collected First Team All-America honors, making her the third player in program history to earn that distinction.

The U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) named Kevin Rice ’15 to its All-America First Team and its Scholar All-America Team. The USILA also honored Rice with the Lt. Col. Jack Turnbull Award as the nation’s top attackman. Ten other Syracuse players were recognized as All-Americans: defender Brandon Mullins ’15 (first team); midfielder Nicky Galasso ’15 and faceoff specialist Ben Williams ’17 (second team); attackman Dylan Donahue ’15 (third team); attackman Randy Staats ’15, midfielders Hakeem Lecky ’14 and Henry Schoonmaker ’14, long-stick midfielder Peter Macartney ’14, close defender Sean Young ’15, and goalie Bobby Wardwell ’15 (honorable mention).

In the 2015 NBA Draft, Chris McCullough ’18 was a first-round pick, going 29th overall to the Brooklyn Nets. All-American Rakeem Christmas ’14 was selected 36th by Minnesota and, following two trades, signed with the Indiana Pacers.
HARRIET BROWN IS A PROFESSOR OF MAGAZINE JOURNALISM at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. In her award-winning memoir, Brave Girl Eating (2011), she tells the story of her family’s struggle with anorexia. Syracuse University Magazine associate editor Christine Yackel spoke with Brown about her latest book, Body of Truth: How Science, History, and Culture Drive Our Obsession with Weight—and What We Can Do About It (Da Capo Press, 2015), in which she examines how “fat” has become a four-letter word.

When and how did you become interested in exploring America’s obsession with weight and thinness?

It’s been a subject close to my heart for a long time. Like a lot of other girls growing up in the 1960s and ’70s, I thought I was too fat. So I started dieting at age 14 and then embarked on 35 years of gaining and losing 30 or 40 pounds four or five times. No matter where my weight actually landed, I was miserable about my body. Then my daughter developed anorexia when she was 14 and that showed me another side of the issue. It radicalized me around the topic of body image.

How have science, history, and culture driven our quest for thinness?

I think there are issues that are particular to this country. I teach a course in body diversity and the media at Newhouse, and one of the first things I help my students understand is that your idea of what you think is the ideal body is not hardwired—it’s cultural and changes constantly. I also think the economic and social status of women plays a huge role because every time women have been making a leap forward in terms of their economic or social power, their body ideal becomes punishingly thin—I think that’s interesting and disturbing.

What are the myths of the “obesity epidemic” in America today?

One myth is that obesity is an epidemic. That is not supported by the evidence, which shows our collective weight gain has plateaued, and we’re not all going to be obese by 2030. Another myth is that thin is always healthy and fat is always unhealthy, but the science doesn’t support that. People who are heavier when they develop chronic diseases tend to do better and live longer than thinner people. This is known as the obesity paradox. There’s robust research that shows physical activity is far more important than weight when it comes to health and predicting disease.

What role do the diet industry and media play in our obsession with fat?

The diet industry in this country is a $60 billion-a-year business that funds most of the obesity studies. And the media constantly bombard us with photos of how we’re supposed to look. Although we know these photos have been heavily Photoshopped, they still form our perception of the ideal body image.

How do you answer your critics who cling to the concept of obesity as a disease that must be treated?

I’m not trying to tell people what to think. I’m pointing out some discrepancies between what we’re being told and what the facts appear to be. I’m hoping to motivate people to consider the science and make sense of it for themselves. Dieting is such a big industry in this country. If we could just be less stressed about our weight, we’d probably be healthier and thinner.
INSIDE THE MILTON ROOM, IN THE MARTIN J. WHITMAN School of Management Building, Sandra Carruietro ’15 stood in front of a group of executives from Staples Inc. on a Tuesday morning in April and began to discuss the potential impact of natural disasters on the company’s supply chain. “I’m going to be talking about hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes,” she says.

By the time Carruietro finished, she had outlined which Staples supply facilities are at greatest risk for such events, the possible consequences, and proactive measures that could improve the outcome. Carruietro was part of an undergraduate and graduate student team that worked with supply chain management professors Burak Kazaz and John Park G’10, G’12 to develop a comprehensive risk assessment report for Staples that covered natural disasters, chemical and nuclear threats, crime, and IT disruptions, and recommended ways to reduce potential losses. “They put together a nice finished product for us,” says Dan Goehry, director of inventory operations for Staples. “We see risk all the time and have good strategies to mitigate against it, but a formal presentation like this helps either validate what we’re doing already or sheds some new light on things we might not have seen before.”

Later in the day, another team of students and faculty, led by Kazaz and faculty colleague Zhengping Wu, presented its findings to the executives on the company’s inventory operations. Both presentations were the culmination of several months of research, data collection, analysis, and modeling by the teams through a partnership forged last fall between Staples and the Whitman School’s H.H. Franklin Center for Supply Chain Management, a national leader in the field that was founded in 1919 as the first of its kind in the nation. Along with the benefits of sharing research and knowledge with a corporate partner, the collaboration includes Staples internships for Whitman students. “Getting support from Staples for this partnership helps the center fulfill its mission of creating and disseminating new knowledge that would lead to best practices in the industry,” says Kazaz, executive director of the Franklin Center and a Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence. According to Kazaz, the research findings were well received. In part, they focused on how to improve interactions and enhance supply chain efficiencies between the company’s U.S. retail distribution centers, which supply Staples stores, and its fulfillment centers, which serve Staples’ contract, dot-com, and Quill businesses. With some minor revisions, Kazaz says, the company plans to implement the risk assessment recommendations and act on suggestions in the inventory report that could produce up to 14 percent savings in fulfillment center operations. “We are quite excited about what happened on the day of the presentations,” he says.

For the students, the in-depth project proved invaluable. Carruietro, a retail management and supply chain management double major, had never done a risk assessment and called the project a unique opportunity to learn beyond the classroom and work with a national client. “Every step along the process was new and challenging,” she says. Colin Morgan ’15, a supply chain management and finance double major, characterized his risk assessment presentation on crime as one of the most difficult of his college career, requiring him to winnow down an enormous amount of information to key points. “From an experience standpoint, this was a great opportunity,” says Morgan, noting the project also sharpened his Excel skills. “It was fun to work on a project and put concepts I learned in classes to use. Providing meaningful results to a firm is also a great talking point during interviews.”

—Jay Cox

Dan Goehry, director of inventory operations for Staples
BITS LAB | Social Media Trackers

AS THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES KICK OFF THEIR campaigns, School of Information Studies professor Jenny Stromer-Galley is ready to follow their social media posts, tracking what the candidates say and how the public reacts. Stromer-Galley is working with an interdisciplinary team to collect tweets and hashtags on Twitter, as well as the posts, likes, and shares on Facebook, and conduct analysis. This work is part of the digital politics project of the Behavior, Information, Technology, and Society (BITS) Laboratory, which was established at the School of Information Studies (iSchool) last October, providing a dedicated space and facilities for online network research. “Campaigns are now using social media as one of the many tools for persuading people to vote and for attacking opponents,” Stromer-Galley says. “Social media, more than TV advertising, also enable a campaign to encourage supporters to work for it.”

Stromer-Galley shares her interest in political science with her collaborators on the project, iSchool professors Jeff Hemsley, whose expertise is data collection and analysis; and Bryan Semaan, who specializes in human and computer interactions and social computing. During the gubernatorial races last year, they collected 1,147,257 tweets and more than 10,000 Facebook posts from candidate pages to analyze. “The knowledge that we create from this study adds another great sense to the collective knowledge of society about how humans interact and about politicians who are humans,” Hemsley says. “We get a deeper understanding about human experience.”

To collect social media data, Hemsley has developed a data-gathering tool named Social Media Tracker, Analyzer, and Collector Toolkit at Syracuse (STACKS), which he initially built as a doctoral student at the University of Washington and continues to refine. It provides researchers with a robust and easy-to-use platform for gathering and storing large amounts of data from social media sites. Available as an open source code on GitHub (github.com/bitslabsyr/stack), STACKS allows researchers without programming backgrounds to manage social media data through its web interface.

A team of eight iSchool graduate and doctoral students is involved with the lab. Billy Ceskavich ’14, G’15, the faculty assistant at BITS Lab and the lead developer of STACKS, says he learns about technologies through practice and is fully involved in academic research. “It’s an eye-opening experience for me,” he says. “It’s one of the highlights of my graduate career so far.”

Apart from digital politics, BITS Lab has two other projects underway. One involves information visualization, in which Hemsley is teaching students and community members to work with data visually to make it more understandable. The other project, led by Semaan, focuses on the role social media play for people in a state of disruption—such as refugees from a natural disaster or a war—and how technologies can enable them to get back on track. Right now, Semaan is collaborating with SU’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Catholic Charities, a local nonprofit organization, to study the experiences of veterans and refugee groups in Syracuse. He hopes to understand how people and organizations use technologies to help veterans reintegrate into civilian life after returning from war, and how the technologies help refugees engage in a new society. He plans to share the study with the organizations and offer recommendations on how they can improve their services to these populations. “It starts small,” Semaan says. “But over time I hope what I’m learning can be applied to other places.”

—Ruobing Li

“Campaigns are now using social media as one of the many tools for persuading people to vote and for attacking opponents.”
—JENNY STROMER-GALLEY, iSchool professor
RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

PROJECT: Enabling transport across the blood-brain barrier by engineering thermodynamically favorable pathways

BACKGROUND: The blood-brain barrier plays a critical role of allowing only certain types of molecules to enter the brain from the blood stream. This important capability protects the brain from exposure to harmful chemical compounds. However, it also prevents certain drugs from entering the brain to treat brain disorders or diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease. Since the segment of the U.S. population older than 65 is expected to increase by 50 percent by 2030, and the cost of care to treat patients with these kinds of brain diseases is billions of dollars per year, finding new ways to help drugs cross the blood-brain barrier would provide significant benefits to patients and the nation. Nevertheless, understanding how therapeutic drug molecules move or don’t move across the barrier into the brain has remained elusive. The proposed research will combine existing theories in a new way to understand how this movement is controlled across the blood-brain barrier, and will use an extensive computational toolkit to engineer favorable pathways to transcend it.

IMPACT: The proposed project will provide new molecular-level strategies to deliver drug molecules to the brain, and characterize the thermodynamics and transport kinetics of the blood-brain barrier. The focus will be to elucidate the molecular structure of the tight junctions responsible for preventing the passage of molecules and ions through the space between adjacent cells. These goals will be achieved using a combination of molecular docking, analytical tools, and multiscale molecular dynamics. Additionally, the thermodynamics of the transport process properties of ions, water, and small drug molecules will be computed. The computed transport rates will be combined with stochastic simulation algorithm simulations to compute effective transport properties of drugs across the tight junction strands. The project also features an education plan that integrates findings from the research objectives with active-learning pedagogies to more effectively teach undergraduate and graduate thermodynamics courses.

INVESTIGATOR: Shikha Nangia

DEPARTMENT: Biomedical and Chemical Engineering

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

AMOUNT AWARDED: $500,000 (April 1, 2015–March 31, 2020)

The snapshots illustrate the self-assembly process of Claudin-5 proteins (red) in the lipid membrane (green, blue, yellow) at 0, 1.5, 4.5, and 10 microseconds leading to the blood-brain barrier tight junctions.

Images courtesy of Shikha Nangia
COLLABORATIVE TECHNOLOGY | MakerSpace Making a Difference

LAST AUGUST, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS) officially launched the SU MakerSpace as a place on campus for students to learn and build innovative products using do-it-yourself approaches with such technology as 3D printers, textile machines, milling equipment, and a laser engraver. If the creations developed so far at MakerSpace are any indication of its success, then many a Syracuse student has a go-to place to turn their ideas into reality. “MakerSpace is breaking new ground for the University as it strives to prepare students for success in an ever-changing world,” says Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost Liz Liddy G’77, G’88, who sees great promise in MakerSpace (makerspace.syr.edu). “I'm impressed by how it stimulates productive collaboration among students from different disciplines. It's clearly a valuable resource for nurturing students' personal intellectual discovery, self-education, and entrepreneurial spirit.”

Jean Henry ’71, G’06, an instructor in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, brought students from her course, Digital Fabric Printing, for a tour of MakerSpace, which shares space with the Kimmel Computer Lab and is similarly open to University students, faculty, and staff while providing skilled guidance and supervision. “Our intent was to see the large embroidery machine. It can stitch 16 colors simultaneously and embroider a 24-inch square in one hooping,” she says. “We saw the 3D printers and became intrigued by how that process would mesh—pun intended—with fabric design and fashion production. I envision 3D printed structures used as fabric or as embellishments. The potential is very exciting.”

Ben Marggraf ’15, who majored in biomedical engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, led a team of students who used MakerSpace as it was getting off the ground in spring 2014. “I was able to 3D-print objects my team designed for our haptic feedback glove project,” he says. The team, started by Marggraf and mechanical engineering major Tim Meyer ’15, developed a glove that enables the wearer to control a robotic hand with high precision and feedback through a sense of touch. Their project won 2014 and 2015 RvD IDEA Awards (which provide seed funding for student entrepreneurs) and an award in the college's Invention and Creativity Competition. “MakerSpace is a place you can go with an idea and make it a reality,” Marggraf says. “If you want to make something, they have the means and the skills to help you do it.”

Kean Clifford G’14 leveraged his MakerSpace experience to launch his startup, Prey Fishing Tackle. A graduate student in the Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises program at the Whitman School of Management, Clifford established his firm to design and market customizable and biodegradable 3D-printed fishing lures. “At MakerSpace, I learned how to 3D print, and was encouraged to pursue entrepreneurship,” says Clifford, who holds an M.P.A. degree from the Maxwell School and an M.S. degree in fisheries research from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. “It’s a hive of student talent.”

Maker spaces soon will have a profound impact on higher education, according to the New Media Consortium (NMC) Horizon Report: 2015 Higher Education Edition. The report finds maker spaces becoming increasingly relevant due to significant changes in “what types of skillsets have real, applicable value in a rapidly advancing world. In this landscape, creativity, design, and engineering are making their way to the forefront of educational considerations as tools such as 3D printers, robotics, and 3D modeling web-based applications become accessible to more people.”

—Christopher Finkle
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION PROFESSOR MARA SAPON-SHEVIN BELIEVES TEACHERS CAN change the world and has developed a new program to help elementary educators across the United States begin to do so in their classrooms. Using children’s literature as the foundation for dialogue, the Peaceful at the Core curriculum gives teachers tools for ending bullying and promoting a positive social culture in schools. Its lessons are designed to be interdisciplinary and multilevel. They also align with the learning goals of the Common Core, the national academic standards developed by education chiefs and governors from 48 states. “For many years I’ve run a project called Creating Safe and Peaceful Schools, and I’ve worked with teachers around doing things in their classrooms and schools related to building community, addressing bullying, teaching kids to stand up for one another—just making the world a kinder place and educating better human beings,” says Sapon-Shevin, an inclusive education professor who specializes in diversity and social justice issues. “One thing that has been important in that work is doing projects like this curriculum, which teachers can implement without tremendous cost.”

Peaceful at the Core originated two summers ago, when Sapon-Shevin brought together teachers from 10 area schools to write a curriculum based on children’s books for students in kindergarten through the eighth grade. In November 2014, she and Fayetteville-Manlius school counselor Kathryn Haley hosted a half-day workshop to train local school teams to implement it at their schools. Classroom copies of children’s books related to the curriculum were provided to each participant. The two also presented Peaceful at the Core in January at a Barnes & Noble bookstore near campus to an audience that included parents and teachers. “The curriculum is very interactive,” says Sapon-Shevin, whose goal is to make the teaching strategies available online with a discussion forum to invite teachers’ input. “The focus is on the language arts—reading, writing, and speaking, but it also involves music, art, and role play.”

Four themes comprise Peaceful at the Core, which is supported financially by School of Education Board of Visitors member Diana Wege Sherogan ’76 and the Wege Foundation: learning about differences, appropriate and respectful social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving, and learning to be an “up-stander” rather than a bystander. In one lesson, for example, students read about a character who “stood up straight like an arrow” to oppose a bully, and are then instructed to practice standing up tall with their shoulders back so they can experience together what it feels like to “say no like you mean it.” The curriculum is not designed as a punishment model to stop bullying, but as a toolkit for teaching students to be caring, responsible, and community-minded individuals who help each other learn and grow. “I didn’t want this to be only about how not to bully, but about changing the culture and climate in schools so that it would never dawn on students to be hurtful,” Sapon-Shevin says. “As teachers, we’re doing a bigger and more important job than just having a nice year in kindergarten. We’re teaching people to be human beings who are going to be citizens.”

—MARA SAPON-SHEVIN, School of Education professor

“PEACEFUL AT THE CORE

“The curriculum is very interactive. The focus is on the language arts—reading, writing, and speaking, but it also involves music, art, and role play.”

—AMY SPEACH

Photo by Steve Sartori
ALEXANDRA HACKBARTH G’15 COMES FROM A LONG LINE of government career professionals—her grandparents, parents, and brother have all worked in the public service arena. “We call it the family business,” she says. So after graduating from Lewis and Clark College in 2009 with a degree in international affairs, she spent several years as a legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, working on domestic policy issues. But her heart has always been in the area of foreign policy and national security, so she headed to the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where she was chosen to be a Robertson Fellow. “Government service is very important to me, and the whole focus of the Robertson Fellows program is on building the next generation of government leaders,” says Hackbarth, who graduated in June with master’s degrees in international relations and public administration. “The fellowship, which covers tuition and living expenses, gave me the financial flexibility I need to take a government job because I graduated with no student loans.”

The mission of the fellowship program, funded by the Robertson Foundation for Government, is to educate and motivate talented graduate students to pursue federal government careers in foreign policy, national security, and international affairs. In 2010, Maxwell was one of five universities chosen to launch the program. Initially, Maxwell received a $750,000 six-year grant to fund two fellowships a year. In 2013, as part of the foundation’s matching grant challenge, Sean O’Keefe G’78, then chair of the Maxwell Advisory Board and now University Professor and Howard G. and S. Louise Phanstiel Chair in Strategic Management and Leadership, and his wife, Laura, supported a third fellowship, as did advisory board member Ronald O’Hanley III G’80 the following year.

According to Christine Omolino G’95, G’96, director, admissions and financial aid in Maxwell’s public administration and international affairs department, the school receives approximately 20 applications a year for the fellowships, which are open to highly qualified applicants who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates must commit to working in the federal government for three of the first seven years following completion of their graduate degrees, and are required to apply for a post-graduate paid internship with the Presidential Management Fellows program, which offers an entrée into federal government careers through training, mentoring, and work assignments. To date, nine Robertson Fellows have graduated from Maxwell and gone on to complete internships and take positions in such government agencies as treasury, state, defense, and USAID. Another three are scheduled to graduate next year.

Justin Gradek G’16, a first-year Robertson Fellow studying for master’s degrees in international relations and economics, says the program offers a vast network of professional contacts and opens a lot of doors. He was accepted into the Pathways Internship Experience Program, which provides students with opportunities to explore careers in the federal government while being paid for their work. He is spending the summer and next academic year in Washington, D.C., completing his graduate degrees while working as an intern at the Office of Management and Budget at the White House. “I think it’s really important to serve your country in whatever way works for you,” Gradek says. “It means a lot to me that I was chosen to be a Robertson Fellow because it’s validation that federal service is a valued career option.”
PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR BEN BRADLEY MAKES a career out of studying, teaching, and writing about death—a subject most people would rather not consider too closely. But for Bradley, questions about death are, in a word, interesting. “The main questions I’ve been lately thinking about have to do with rational emotions concerning death—the different kinds of emotions people have concerning death, and whether it makes sense to have them,” says Bradley, chair of the Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences. “For example, existential terror or angst at the thought that at some point in the future you won’t exist—what should you think about that? That’s one of the things I’m thinking about—how to make sense of that kind of feeling of terror.”

A prominent philosophy scholar with expertise in ethics and philosophy of death, Bradley joined the SU faculty more than a decade ago. In June 2014, he was named the inaugural Sutton Distinguished Chair in Philosophy, established by Anita Sutton ’60 and Allan D. Sutton ’55. “It was an honor to be named the Sutton Chair,” says Bradley, who is also director of the philosophy department’s integrated learning major in ethics. “Unfortunately, the humanities have experienced drastic funding cuts over the years. This fund, established by two passionate SU alums, serves as a reminder that the humanities are not only a critical piece of a solid liberal arts education, but more importantly a central part of society.”

Originally from New Jersey, Bradley earned a Ph.D. degree at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and has held academic positions at Princeton University, Western Washington University, Virginia Tech, and Illinois Wesleyan University. He is a frequent contributor to such scholarly journals as *Philosophical Studies, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Utilitas*, and *Ethics*, and has published three books exploring topics related to well-being and philosophy of death. Additionally, he has been recognized for his excellence in the humanities, receiving the Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellowship at Princeton’s Center for Human Values in 2011 and a Syracuse University Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award in 2013.

His current research is supported by a $94,000 grant from The Immortality Project at the University of California, Riverside—a project that, according to Bradley, has “sparked an interesting and necessary conversation about how people view and even prepare for the afterlife” and has also “given philosophers, scientists, and theologians the financial tools to study mortality.” Funded by the John Templeton Foundation, the grant allows Bradley and two of his graduate students to study death, rational emotion, and meaningfulness. “Through our research, we’re exploring what emotions and attitudes are fitting or appropriate to have toward one’s own death, and toward the possibility of radically extended or immortal life,” Bradley says. “Death is never an easy topic to discuss, but it is my hope that our research will uncover why we feel the way we do and shed further light on how the meaningfulness of life can explain the rationality behind certain emotions toward death.”

—Amy Speach
LAW PROFESSOR KEVIN NOBLE MAILLARD recounts what he considers “one of the most fascinating papers I’ve ever heard discussed in my life”—one that compared the art of conducting a symphony to that of interpreting the U.S. Constitution. The paper was presented by his faculty colleague Ian Gallacher, a former concert maestro, at a law and humanities workshop series that brought together Syracuse University faculty from diverse disciplines to share their fields of expertise over food and conversation. “It was riveting,” says Maillard, who began teaching at the College of Law in 2005. “Nearly everyone at the table was from a different department. Those are the reasons I came to Syracuse—to get to know people who would be able to provide insights into my scholarship that would be totally different approaches than they would be only at the law school.”

Seeking different approaches is standard procedure for Maillard, a law scholar and journalist whose areas of interest include civil liberties, popular culture, and family law, especially anything relating to nontraditional families. He is co-editor of Loving v. Virginia in a Post-Racial World (Cambridge University Press, 2012), a contributing editor to The New York Times, a writer for The Atlantic, and has appeared as a legal commentator on MSNBC, NPR, CNN, and Al Jazeera America. “I do a lot of work with unmarried committed couples and interracial couples with children—which is my own life,” says Maillard, who is originally from Oklahoma and is a member of the Seminole Nation. He commutes to Syracuse from New York City, where he lives with his partner, Iris, their toddler, and a new baby. “I’m especially interested in the rights of unmarried dads, whether they are with their partner or not,” he says.

His recent work on a feature article for The Atlantic, for example, allowed him to delve into a legal case in South Carolina involving a young man whose child was adopted out by the mother without his knowledge. Through the process of regaining his parental rights, the father was inspired to become an advocate for other unmarried dads who want to be active in their kids’ lives. For Maillard, researching the story provided a meaningful opportunity to practice “scholarship with a personal touch”—something he values. “It was great, because it wasn’t just reading statutes in a library by myself, looking at computer files,” says Maillard, who holds a bachelor’s degree from Duke, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan, and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. “It was going out and interviewing people and getting to know family members and the father’s friends and the baby. And I was really impacted by having these connections and developing relationships with all the people I was writing about.”

He also sees his media work as a way to extend his expertise and curiosity about civil liberties issues to a broader audience, and to invite others to contribute via social media. “I want to make sure that everyone can participate in a discussion—not just ‘fancy’ people—making academia really relevant to the larger community,” Maillard says. “That’s why we’re here. That’s what brings the law alive.”
IT WAS THE LONG SNAP—ONE OF FOOTBALL’s most overlooked specialties—that brought Sam Rodgers ’15 to Syracuse on an athletic scholarship. But the ability to snap a spiraling football to a punter 15 yards away led to much more for Rodgers. “One of my goals was to be a four-year starter and start every game,” says the State College, Pennsylvania, native, who majored in nutrition at the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. “When I got to Syracuse, I knew I was capable of doing more than snapping and going to school.”

What Rodgers did was define himself as a scholar-athlete, leader, and role model whose actions reflected his hard work, dedication, and deep commitment to his Christian faith. On the gridiron, he hit his goal—starting in all 50 games of his career—and served as a captain for the 2014 Orange. His academic accolades included being selected as a Remembrance Scholar and a Falk College Class Marshal who delivered the student address at Convocation. He was named a 2014 Capital One Academic All-American, awarded an ACC post-graduate scholarship, and honored as a member of the 2014 Allstate-American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team for community service.

Perhaps most important, Rodgers viewed his status as a football player as a platform for creating opportunities to help others. He launched a chapter of the nonprofit Uplifting Athletes at SU, organizing two Lift for Life events for the football team that raised more than $15,000 for brain cancer research in honor of his friend and former Orange punter Rob Long ’12, G’14. He served as president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) campus chapter. And, he made two missionary trips to Haiti, running a soccer clinic and helping build a basketball court, greenhouses, and other facilities at two orphanages. “You see the kids look up to you and see them seeing hope through you,” he says.

Rodgers places great value in relationships and appreciates all those he’s established on the Hill—with teammates, classmates, coaches, professors, and others. He’s especially grateful for the influential role FCA and director Nathan Bliss ’05 played during his time on campus. FCA kept him grounded, he says, and it’s also where he met his wife, Jenna Rickan ’13, the previous president and a former Orange women’s soccer player. They married in July.

When asked about his achievements, Rodgers quotes Colossians 3:23—Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men—and says he always strives to perform to the best of his ability. A graduate of Mercersburg Academy, where he excelled in wrestling, baseball, and football, and polished his academic and life skills, Rodgers cites his mental discipline for his transformation from a self-described “chubby kid” with a monstrous soda habit to a premier long snapper with sights set on the NFL.

His commitment to a healthy eating regimen sparked his interest in nutrition. Combined with a minor in entrepreneurship, an affinity for public speaking, and a graduate school option, Rodgers may one day create his own path in the business world. But for now, he is still thinking about football. “I have so many things I feel I can be successful in,” he says. “Maybe it’s the kid in me, but I still just want to snap footballs.”

—Jay Cox
EMPOWERED BY EDUCATION

DULCE GALLO-BLANCO ‘17 WAS 11 YEARS OLD when she moved with her family from a small coastal town near Acapulco, Mexico, to the United States, settling in Atlanta. She spoke no English, but learned quickly—by the time she graduated high school, she was class valedictorian. One of eight children, Gallo-Blanco dreamed of being the first in her family to attend college, though it seemed financially unattainable. Strongly encouraged by her high school guidance counselor, she applied for scholarships and, despite intense competition, was awarded a scholarship to Syracuse University from the Posse Foundation, a national organization that partners with higher education institutions to improve access for students from urban backgrounds. “I didn’t know much about SU, so I did some research online,” Gallo-Blanco says. “I wanted a university that was not too small, one that had a lot of extracurricular activities, and Syracuse seemed just right.”

Gallo-Blanco accepted the scholarship without visiting campus and laughs as she recalls the drive to Syracuse with her father—and their surprise at the University’s upstate location. “Syracuse was not at all what I expected,” she says. “I thought I’d be in New York City! But I loved the University the minute I got here.”

A student in the Renée Crown University Honors Program, Gallo-Blanco was originally an undeclared major in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). But an introductory course in policy studies focused her plans, and she is considering a career in education policy, advocating for bilingual students. The time she spends volunteering and serving on the advisory board of the college’s La Casita Cultural Center, which celebrates Hispanic culture, has been instrumental in her decision, as well. She’s also the philanthropy chair of Latino Undergraduates Creating History in America (La LUCHA), a member of the A&S Dean’s Team, and co-chair of Syracuse First, which helps first-generation students adjust to university life.

It’s an adjustment Gallo-Blanco had to make herself, one that has not always been easy. “Being the first in the family to go to college is challenging and scary,” she says. “I can’t ask my parents for advice, because they don’t have any college experience.” She felt homesick her second semester, but found emotional and social support as a member of the newly established Syracuse chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc., the first Latina sorority in the United States. “The sorority promotes the empowerment of women, and it has made all the difference,” she says. “Now there isn’t a minute I feel I’m alone—I can have one of my sorority sisters with me.”

Gallo-Blanco is grateful for the opportunity to attend Syracuse and stresses how important it is for underrepresented groups to have access to higher education. “Scholarships like Posse are so necessary,” she says. “More minority representation helps all students see things from different perspectives. I’m so glad I’m getting an education—without it, I wouldn’t be able to advocate for the things I’m passionate about now, especially empowering women. In our Mexican culture, girls are expected to marry early and have big families. I’m breaking the trend, and hope to set a new path for my younger sisters.” —Paula Meseroll
ENGAGING INFORMATION

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN BARBARA Opar ’73, G’74 isn’t one to sing her own praises. But her peers in the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL) were happy to catalog her talents and contributions when they nominated her for the organization’s 2015 Distinguished Service Award, which she received in March. In one letter to the awards committee, for example, Woodbury University librarian Barret Havens acknowledged Opar as a “valuable colleague and mentor” who shares “her enthusiasm for advancing the values of AASL” and epitomizes both the pursuit of excellence and a spirit of cooperation.

Opar was pleased to receive the annual award, which recognizes a library professional who has demonstrated sustained service to the profession and has made an outstanding national contribution to architecture librarianship. A member of AASL since 1981 and a former president of the organization, she recently served as chair of its Architecture Core Reference Task Force, which produced a comprehensive online guide to architecture research materials. “It’s a very engaged group with a nice mix of senior people and people new to the profession,” says Opar, who also co-edits a monthly AASL column in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture news. “That makes it kind of fun. And we’re able to learn about trends, share what we know, and learn from and help each other.”

Originally from western Pennsylvania, Opar began her career at Syracuse in 1973 as a graduate assistant with the School of Architecture, directing the Architecture Reading Room (ARR) in Slocum Hall. She continues in that role today, overseeing collection development—including a sampling of glass, plastics, and other physical materials to help inspire student designs—and also serves in Bird Library as architecture librarian and as subject specialist for French language and literature and Judaic studies and religion research and scholarship. Additionally, she offers group instruction and one-on-one consultations as needed, and co-sponsors and presents at an annual colloquium in the French department—something she’s enjoyed doing for nearly 20 years. “When the colloquium started, I got involved by saying, ‘Can I help?’” says Opar, who majored in French language and literature in the College of Arts and Sciences before earning a master’s degree in library science from the School of Information Studies. “Now it’s grown into a real tradition, and I think I’ve helped keep it alive.”

Being a helpful resource takes many forms for Opar, whose accomplishments include the establishment and organization of the architectural working drawings collection housed in the ARR, directing the publication of the first e-book at SU, and publishing two book chapters and several articles. She is the booklist and exhibition catalog list editor for the newsletter of the Society of Architectural Historians, a former board member of the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society, and has served in various leadership and participatory roles for the Art Libraries Society of North America. And the list keeps growing. “You think you do a lot, but each time you do something new you realize there are more things you could do and more people you could reach,” she says. “That’s what spurs you on and keeps you engaged.”

—Amy Speach
You plan your career.
You plan your retirement.
Now plan to change a life.

As a child, Janet Kay Smith ’61 dreamed her twirling talent would take her to college. Her dream came true when Syracuse University offered her a scholarship and chose her to be the featured twirler for the marching band. Now, Jan and her husband, John Dean ’59, have made a lead gift from their retirement assets to establish the Janet Kay Smith Feature Twirler Scholarship, to give future twirlers the same opportunity.

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

Meet the Deans and learn how you can help them fully endow their scholarship for future twirlers at changealife.syr.edu/dean.

To create your personal Syracuse University gift plan, call 888.352.9535 or email giftplan@syr.edu. It’s sure to be one of the most meaningful plans you’ll ever make.
NINA DISI ATTENDS HER MBA CLASSES ON SUNDAY NIGHTS. She checks in with the professor, greets fellow students, and prepares for a full class with discussions, breakout groups, and in-class assignments. This traditional classroom, however, is hardly that. The classroom experience takes place all in the comfort of her own home—or wherever she happens to be with her laptop. Disi is an inaugural student in the MBA@Syracuse program that launched in January through the Martin J. Whitman School of Management. The program was created in partnership with 2U Inc., a Maryland-based leading education technology services firm that provides an online platform of live face-to-face sessions with professors and classmates, prerecorded sessions, and access to coursework anytime. “I complete my reading and the prerecorded session before the live class. In class, the professor leads the discussion while the Syracuse-2U platform allows me to learn alongside all my classmates, which I thoroughly enjoy,” says Disi, who works in the digital advertising field. “I thought I would have wanted that in-person classroom experience, but I
would have missed a lot of classes due to business travel. The Syracuse-2U platform is just what I needed.”

The technology and enhanced modes of learning online are making it possible for more students—wherever in the world they may be—to have the Syracuse University experience. The recent 2U partnership, with its face-to-face interaction and such components as on-campus and international residencies, adds to the draw of a more expansive online program experience. Disi, who selected the MBA@Syracuse program after researching various other options, appreciates being able to interact with her classmates and professor in the 2U platform—in class, during student-hosted study groups, and during the professor’s office hours. And she met up with members of her Financial Accounting class at a weekend residency on campus this spring. “It’s nice to still have that personal one-on-one connection, which the 2U platform allows you to establish,” Disi says.

MBA@Syracuse, which replaces Whitman’s iMBA online program, is the first Syracuse University program to roll out through 2U. It welcomed an inaugural cohort of 98 students—the largest class in Whitman MBA history. Accounting@Syracuse, also at Whitman, launched this summer, and Communications@Syracuse, a first-of-its-kind program for the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications that emphasizes digital trends and innovation, began in July.

The demand for such online programs was made apparent shortly after the Newhouse School announced Communications@Syracuse in January. Admissions officials received the first application within four hours of the announcement. By the second day, there were two applications submitted, 22 started applications, and another 131 interested prospects. “That says to me a couple of things: The Syracuse University brand is very strong, and there are people who are really craving to do a master’s degree online in a flexible way, but they can’t figure out how to accomplish it,” says Amy Falkner G’89, Newhouse School senior associate dean for academic affairs and professor of advertising. “The holdup is they can’t physically get here. Now we’ve eliminated that obstacle.” When the program began in July, it had enrolled 31 students who hail from nine states and include one active military member stationed in Germany, represent an average age of 27, and have about eight years of work experience.

Administrators strive to ensure that the programs through 2U Inc., which has partnered with other universities in providing online graduate programs, match the educational ex-
perience of traditional on-campus offerings. “It’s the immersive course content, live online classes, in-person residencies, social interactions, and the highest quality student support that make these online programs equal to on-campus,” says Andrew Hermalyn, 2U executive vice president and general manager. “Syracuse University is embracing change and an entrepreneurial spirit through high-quality online education. Our partnership will enable the University to bring its rigorous academic programs to high-achieving students around the world.”

Along with the 2U programs at Newhouse and Whitman, all master’s degree programs and graduate certificates of advanced study at the School of Information Studies, with a few exceptions, can be completed online. The College of Engineering and Computer Science also offers online master’s degree programs in computer engineering, electrical engineering, and computer science. “We have long had great educational programs for you if you can come to Syracuse for a master’s program,” says Chris Sedore, senior vice president for enrollment management. “But if you’re in the middle of your career or otherwise place bound, we still want you to have the opportunity to earn a Syracuse master’s degree without having to relocate.”

Flexible Studies

Prospective students may need the degree to update their skills, advance their career, or shift to a different professional focus, but they aren’t able to place their job on hold or interrupt their personal lives to come to Syracuse. Students in the first class of MBA@Syracuse hail from all across the United States and five countries, with ages ranging from 24 to 60 years old, and representing professionals at different stages of their careers. The average age is 35 years old with 11 years of work experience. “As I read application essays, I see so many people who write ‘I just know I need to get this degree in order for me to be considered for a position of greater responsibility or promotion,’” says Amy McHale, assistant dean for master’s programs at the Whitman School.

Another MBA@Syracuse student, Allison Leigh Shok, applied as she was finishing her four years as an officer in the U.S. Army and wanted to take advantage of the GI Bill. “I knew there would be struggles, because math is certainly not my forte,” says Shok, who is marketing manager for a restaurant chain. “But I knew that if I wanted to get ahead after my military career, I needed to choose a reputable school that could meet my needs of being far away in Pennsylvania.”

William Walsh G’90, professor of accounting practice and director of the Joseph I. Lubin School of Accounting at the Whitman School of Management, works on a prerecorded session for a class in the Accounting@Syracuse online program that launched this summer.
Shok’s experience with the MBA@Syracuse program has met her expectations. “I definitely had some nerves about being in my comfy office chair in my home, trying to focus on my computer screen,” she says. “But the material has been so engaging that I have been shocked every time class comes to an end because it goes by so quickly.” She misses the in-person interactions that she experienced as an undergraduate and graduate student, but has developed a core group of friends, and her professors are easily accessible, such as when Shok needed assistance in Financial Accounting taught by Professor Joseph Comprix. “He assured me that if I didn’t understand a concept, he would be available to help,” Shok says. “The professors are only an email away.”

The program’s classes are small—about 12 to 15 students each—which enables Comprix to learn how well they have grasped the material and also to get to know the students before the on-campus residency. “Since the course, I have had the opportunity to see a lot of them on campus and it was like meeting up with old friends,” says Comprix, chair of the Joseph I. Lubin School of Accounting. The 2U format also allows students the ability to replay the lectures to help them better understand the material. “However, it is important to keep students engaged with the course since I don’t see them in person very often,” Comprix says. He uses the live sessions to keep them up to speed, including posting problem sets before the class and going through them together.

New Approach to Teaching

In preparation of launching the new MBA@Syracuse program, classes were planned months in advance to accommodate plotting the syllabus in both the live and prerecorded sessions, filming the sessions in Arlington, Virginia, and editing of the segments. Professor Scott Lathrop spent four, eight-hour days filming 20 recorded hours with 2U producers for his course, Marketing Management, which he also taught in the iMBA program. The material is similar, but the pace is quicker and the assignments more concentrated since the calendar operates in 10-week quarters, with an additional week for finals, instead of the traditional 14-week semester, plus an additional week for finals.

For Lathrop, the most significant advantage of MBA@Syracuse is the opportunity to speak with every student on screen each week. In the iMBA program format, professors only met students for the first few days of the course and then on the last day, with email and Blackboard discussions in between. In contrast, the MBA@Syracuse format allows for an interactive online classroom-style discussion and then a wrap-up of key learning points every week. “I’m able to assess each student’s progress in honing their ability to critically evaluate case situations, make business decisions, and recommend actionable marketing plans,” Lathrop says.

The format and the small class size also allow for a greater sense of camaraderie and enable him to learn students’ names more quickly, since names are posted on each stu-
THE MBA@SYRACUSE program hosted its first three-day residency in April, welcoming students from around the globe. Derrick Suehs (speaking above), chief quality officer at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, led the first keynote presentation, “Chaos in Health Care.” He discussed the interconnectedness of America’s health care system and reviewed the forces shaping the need for creative approaches to health care. Students worked in breakout sessions to identify opportunities to apply what they learned.
dent’s individual video feed. The system also provides more about students’ personal backgrounds—where they live, their interests, and what they hope to achieve in the course. “It might seem counterintuitive, but this format actually enables a degree of personal interaction that isn’t always possible in a traditional classroom,” Lathrop says. He even learned about the students from the various backdrops during the live sessions, whether it was the huge “Go Gators” banner behind the University of Florida graduate or the student who did her video feeds from a local library. “The best moments happened when students’ pets or young children wandered into frame,” Lathrop says. “It gave me better insight into the sacrifice some of the students are making to get their degree. I admire that kind of initiative and motivation—it’s inspiring and drives me to be a better teacher.”

As she prepared for the launch of Communications@Syracuse, Barbara Fought, who is co-teaching Media Law with Dean Emeritus and Professor David Rubin, remembered her own experience as a student in an online class—a MOOC (massive online open course) on investigative reporting. “It showed me the value of distance learning and allowed me to be more receptive and have an understanding from the student’s viewpoint,” says Fought, a broadcast journalism professor at the Newhouse School and a Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence. She found that time management was key. “It takes a lot of discipline as a student, but I was surprised at how well it worked,” Fought says. “I also got to interact with journalists around the world. I see the value of that world community in online teaching.”

Fought expects that many of the students entering the program already work in the communications profession, and is looking forward to getting to know them. “I’m hoping I might learn from them, particularly if they are in the communications industry,” she says. “It helps keep me fresh on current issues in the industry.”

To attract a variety of communications professionals, the program offers three tracks—advertising, public relations, and journalism innovation. It features pieces from existing master’s programs, including such staples as media law and an applied research class, but was built to include new core courses, including Introduction to Digital Communications, Digital Communications Systems, and a capstone course, Digital Communications Strategy and Entrepreneurship, as well as required courses in social media and multimedia storytelling.

Due to the time and expense of putting together the prerecorded or asynchronous sessions, the goal is for the sessions to last four or five years. “We try to anticipate what might change over the coming years and note that while we are recording,” Fought says. For example, a media law case may be pending this summer and resolved during another term, so the information might have to be updated in a live session. It’s a challenging venture, but as lifelong learners, teachers are intrigued by this new style of teaching, Fought says. “Most industries are changing with technology, and certainly higher education has to change, too.”

The success of these types of high-quality online programs—and future demand—is crucial to determining whether more traditional classroom-oriented programs can be duplicated online. “At the graduate level, there are some programs that lend themselves well to an online format,” Sedore says. “I expect where we see opportunities for new online offerings, we will explore those and build them out where they make sense for the programs and the prospective students.”

THE SYRACUSE-2U online platform allows students to access prerecorded class sessions at any time from anywhere. For live classes, they can view their classmates and professors while engaging in discussions.
A FEW YEARS BACK, BIOLOGY PROFESSOR RAMESH RAINA mentored an undergraduate student who became so devoted to scientific research that she drove to campus from her home in Rochester at 7 a.m. on Christmas, just to take a sample reading in the lab. “That’s just one of many examples of students who are given the chance to do research and then say, ‘Wow!’” Raina says. “They get really hooked on it and give it 100 percent. It’s an exciting thing to see.”

As chair of the biology department in the College of Arts and Sciences, Raina considers providing opportunities to work one-to-one with a faculty member and contribute to original research an essential part of a quality educational experience—not only for science students, but across disciplines. Those opportunities abound at Syracuse University and take many forms, from independent research or senior capstone projects to designing and carrying out lab experiments and contributing to published papers. “It helps in every aspect of student development,” says Raina, who at any given time has five or six undergraduates under his wing. “This benefits the University as well, as we attract and produce the best students by making more research opportunities available to them.”

Biomedical and chemical engineering professor Julie Hasenwinkel, who has worked with some 65 undergraduate students in her lab during 15 years at SU, says the benefits of a mentoring relationship go both ways. “It’s a nice way to get to know students on a deeper level than when you are interacting with them in a large class,” she says. “And I find it very rewarding to be able to give this kind of opportunity to a student—one that can have an important impact on them, whether it helps them get into the graduate program they want, sends them down the path of their future research ambitions, or helps them find what they want to do in their careers.”

Here’s a look at five partnerships between Syracuse faculty and undergraduate researchers:
Newsworthy Venture

NICKI GORNY ‘15 WAS MENTORED by Newhouse professor Steve Davis, chair of the newspaper and online journalism department, on her honors capstone project, a study of the concept of the street newspaper—a low-cost newspaper sold to pedestrians by homeless or low-income vendors. Her project included an exploration of the potential for a successful street paper in Syracuse.

Gorny majored in Spanish at the College of Arts and Sciences and newspaper and online journalism at the Newhouse School. A member of the Renée Crown University Honors Program, she was one of seven Syracuse undergraduates invited to present at the Atlantic Coast Conference Meeting of the Minds, held at North Carolina State University in April. This summer she is an intern at The New York Times Editing Center in Gainesville, Florida. Her dream is to work as a journalist covering immigration issues.

Gorny’s reflections:
“Professor Davis read my capstone about 8,000 times, so I’m eternally grateful for that. He was really good at pointing out the holes, like, ‘This would be stronger if you had a budget,’ or ‘Did you ask about this?’ I think it probably comes from having the perspective of an editor. That was really helpful—trying to figure out what I still needed to do. He would push me to go back, call again, get more information, things like that.

“I went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and talked to the staff at a street newspaper to see how it works and then spent time on the street, shooting video of vendors and talking to them and getting their perspectives. I found that people at street newspapers are really receptive and nice. They don’t mind if you just kind of sit there and ask them a thousand questions.

“This project is probably the biggest thing I’ve ever done, academically. I don’t know if I want to say it was fun, because it was a lot of work. But I really did enjoy it. And I thought it was an interesting opportunity for me as a newspaper journalism major.”

Professor Davis’s comments:
“This project really let Nicki feature what she’s learned as a journalist. She not only had the skills she needed to do the quantitative research, but her journalism training also provided skills she could use in the qualitative part—interviewing people, on-the-scene observation. Her strengths were really showcased when she hit the streets of Ann Arbor and talked to people who were selling the street paper there. She was very comfortable doing that.

“It was interesting to see, in working with her, how the project got better with every iteration. My job is to help students do a project that might be a little better than what they expected it to be. And I think that’s just a function of collaboration, not any special skill I have. I helped push her along a little bit, but she was very organized and committed. It was a tremendous amount of work, and I’m not exactly sure how she got it done. Not only did she get it done, but she got it done at a very high level.”

To view a video clip from Nicki Gorny’s research project, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN9UXu39Ceo
Shared Experience

THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program, Terrance Andersen ’15 received the opportunity to be mentored by School of Information Studies professor Jason Dedrick. As a research intern, Andersen contributes to an ongoing NSF-funded project led by Dedrick that studies smart grid adoption by U.S. electric utilities. Now pursuing an M.S. degree in information management at the iSchool, he was the sole undergraduate on a team of five students, helping to analyze, process, and visualize a set of big data on household electricity use collected over one year from some 1,000 data sources.

Having worked in the technology field for several years before pursuing a bachelor’s degree, Andersen was a 2015 recipient of the Dean’s Scholar Award, the school’s highest academic honor. This summer, he participated in the 16-day AsiaTech travel seminar before returning to his work in Professor Dedrick’s lab.

Andersen’s reflections:

“I had never researched anything before and had no experience in it. Research is a much slower process than I thought. There’s also a lot more collaborating—the entire group sitting down and discussing different ways to analyze, maneuver, crossing the barriers of technology, and using it to our advantage so we can discover things.

“We have meetings every Friday, and usually Professor Dedrick and I will chat at the meeting and afterward, to discuss how things are going: Is there anything I’m confused on, any questions? He’ll ask my advice and ideas, what I’ve learned. It’s a really smooth and integrated process. He’s very easy going and willing to be helpful all the time. And there’s a Ph.D. student, Ehsan Sabaghian, who has taken me under his wing, too, and has taught me quite a bit. I helped Ehsan with an academic paper he’s writing on the project. That was a first for me. I’m going to be writing an academic paper as well, basically telling my whole REU experience.”

Professor Dedrick’s comments:

“I went to NSF and put in for what they call a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) grant and got that, and then interviewed several students—all impressive. As good as they were, Terry really stood out to me. He was mature and motivated—someone who was ready to step into being part of a research team.

“I don’t think of myself as, ‘I’m the mentor and I’m imparting wisdom,’ so much as, ‘You’re going to be part of this experience and then we’ll talk about how to interpret it—seeing what happened, what you’re learning, what questions you have.’

“Working with Terry has made me more aware of the potential for undergraduates as researchers and has given me a bigger appreciation for the fact that undergrads can be real assets to a research project. And in my role as associate dean for research at the iSchool, it makes me really want to encourage other faculty to work with undergrads and give them more opportunities to get involved in research.”
Fearless and Focused

RACHAEL BURKE ‘15 SET HER sights on working with chemistry professor Rob Doyle after hearing him talk about his research during her general chemistry class in her sophomore year. He’s been Burke’s mentor ever since, bringing her on board as part of an exceptional team and guiding her development as a scientist and researcher.

During three years with the Doyle group, Burke contributed to a project that explores using a combination of vitamin B12 with a specific neuropeptide to serve as an appetite suppressant in an oral form for people who are clinically obese.

A triple major in biology, psychology, and ethics in the College of Arts and Sciences, Burke can count many achievements, including being named a Remembrance Scholar and receiving the 2015 award for Best Capstone Thesis in Science and Engineering. As a sophomore, she was selected to receive an Arnold and Mabel Beckman Scholarship, a competitive national award that provides financial support for laboratory research and travel. This summer, she began studies at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Burke’s reflections:
“What most interested me about Professor Doyle’s work was how passionate he was. He made it sound so exciting. He really got through why it was important, the global applicability of it—the big picture. He’s really wonderful at letting you have independence within the lab, to own your project. He actually gave me my own facet of the project. He’s very supportive.

“I got to fly out to Seattle Children’s Research Institute to work with our collaborator there. Not with Professor Doyle, but with a graduate student I was working with on this project. But he sent me out there and said, ‘I want you to see this. I want you to experience it.’ It was such a cool experience, so different from anything I’ve ever done. I was in labs, I got all my certifications and approval to work with the rats! They were fun to work with. They’re actually a lot friendlier and less scary than people think.”

Professor Doyle’s comments:
“I’ve always had a very undergraduate-oriented research lab, but I select undergraduates with specific qualifications—an elite group. They maintain a 3.7 or higher GPA. They’re all driven, fearless, and very focused. Initially, they work one-on-one with a graduate student daily. They will be heavily involved in the project, so I don’t cut them off from anything. They get a radiation license, a biohazard license, they go to conferences, they travel with a graduate student to meet with research collaborators. They get full access to the project and are treated like graduate students. But in return, they have to be completely and utterly committed.

“Rachael is very upbeat and takes it all in her stride. She never gets beat down. She never gets lost or distracted. That sort of fearlessness and positivity in the face of things not working all the time is refreshing. She’s very smart and personable, she’s committed. And she’s a born mentor. All of that will serve her well as she progresses through medical school.”
Joyful Learning

SINCE HER SOPHOMORE YEAR, Brooke Baerman ’15 enjoyed a mentoring relationship with Professor Romita Ray, an art history professor in the Department of Art and Music Histories in the College of Arts and Sciences. Ray also served as a reader for Baerman’s Honors Capstone Project, a study of sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington and her work.

With majors in art history and philosophy and a minor in German, Baerman was a Coronat Scholar, a founding member of the Renée Crown University Honors Advisory Board, and a University Scholar. She has to her credit a long list of academic honors, including receiving a merit scholarship from the German government to study abroad in Berlin and a travel research grant from the honors program. This summer, she is a fellow at Historic Deerfield, an authentic 18th-century New England village in Massachusetts, where she is researching its collections and guiding tours. She then plans to pursue graduate studies.

Baerman’s reflections:

“Both Professor Ray and Professor Sascha Scott [her honors capstone advisor] had a huge impact on me. They put students first and it means a whole lot. Professor Scott has taught me how to be an art historian, because I worked so closely with her on my capstone. Professor Ray as well—she gave me feedback and I was always able to come to her and ask questions about where my research should go. So they both taught me, really, how to ask questions. And then how to start to answer them. And how to do responsible scholarship—how to give yourself background information and context for your arguments.

“Professor Ray has always had a sort of guiding hand, and she has this infectious enthusiasm for art history. Whenever I was struggling with my capstone, she was there to reassure me that it being hard means I am growing as a scholar—that it should be difficult. If it’s not, you’re probably not doing good work. Those kinds of talks really helped me.”

Professor Ray’s comments:

“Brooke is highly intelligent and bubbling with curiosity. That kind of curiosity translates into the high-level research and writing she’s undertaken. She has a mind that just wants to learn and gets excited about different ideas. When you are teaching her in a class or having a conversation with her, her eyes light up. She has this willingness to keep going from one frontier to another. I think that’s a very special quality.

“My job as a mentor has basically been one of enjoying her presence and nurturing her intellectual growth. That doesn’t just happen in the classroom. It’s really through conversation. She’d come to see me, very passionate about something, and we’d talk. It was fun to see that kind of evolution of a mind. It wasn’t just about the books. It was about thinking about the broader brush strokes, thinking about the impact art has on society. It’s very stimulating to have students like Brooke. They inspire us to stretch ourselves beyond the classroom. There is absolute unbridled joy in their learning process, and you can see it.”

Photos by Steve Sartori
Striking the Right Balance

BO STEWART ’15 WAS MENTORED BY MAXWELL School political science professor Jonathan Hanson in researching, writing, and presenting a Distinction in Political Science thesis that explores whether there is a relationship between legislators’ level of personal wealth and their voting ideology.

Stewart tackled four majors as a student in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School—economics, political science, policy studies, and Spanish—and was recognized with SU’s highest academic honors, among them: Coronat Scholar, Renée Crown University Honors Program, Remembrance Scholar, and University Scholar. He’s headed to Duke Law School in the fall, pursuing a dual J.D. and LL.M. degree in international and comparative law.

Stewart’s reflections:
“Professor Hanson was incredible as an advisor and a mentor on this project. For a poli-sci thesis at the undergraduate level, it was pretty data and analysis heavy, and he’s very strong there. He knew how to strike the right balance between guiding me and recommending different ways to analyze the data. But I still had to discover it on my own and figure it out on my own. And I appreciated that.

“Coming into this I thought, oh boy, this is a big project. As a whole unit, it’s very overwhelming. But when you approach it in gradual steps, it really wasn’t that stressful overall. I think a lot of the credit goes to him, because in the relationship we established, there was always an expectation of progress each week. It was a very positive working relationship in that I wanted to come to him with results and questions and progress. But he never said, ‘Well, I really need you to have this done.’ He left it up to me. Which, I think, having that happen organically is ideally what you want in a student/professor working partnership.”

Professor Hanson’s comments:
“As professors we are pulled in many different directions, and there’s not a lot of time, in general, to mentor on a one-to-one basis. So this kind of thing is a special relationship that you develop with a student. Bo is super nice and very organized and thoughtful and intelligent. He’s got an incredible interest in politics and knows so much. So it was fun to work with him. He understood that the purpose of doing research is not to be right, but to get to the truth.

“It’s always very rewarding for me to watch the development of a project from just the idea to, in this case, the fully polished senior thesis. And for an undergraduate student, this is a very big deal—to have a research project, to work one-on-one with a member of the faculty, and to really learn what it’s like to do original research for a longer piece that requires a deep level of sophistication. I think having this kind of project is so essential, for our strongest undergraduate students in particular, to go beyond what the regular classroom offers them.”

Photo by Matthew Pevear; inset by Steve Sartori
First Among Many

Syracuse University alumnae have created pathways to progress that changed the world

By Christine Yackel

Journalist Dorothy Thompson, Class of 1914, was the first woman to give a Commencement speech at SU, addressing the Class of 1937 at Archbold Stadium (above).
GENERATIONS OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ALUMNAE HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAILBLAZERS in a variety of fields—from aviation to zoology and almost everything in between. Their significant contributions were made possible by decades of progressive thinking when, from its very beginning in 1870, Syracuse was one of the few private institutions of higher learning to open its doors to women and people of color. For 145 years, SU’s inclusive campus has created a learning environment that empowers women to find their own voices and thrive. Some have been honored for their notable accomplishments, while others are unsung heroines who have made the world a better place without recognition or praise. Here are the stories of just a few of SU’s pioneering women who have had the strength of character and courage of conviction to forge their own destinies.

SARAH LOGUEN FRASER
First African American woman granted a medical degree from the Syracuse College of Medicine

Sarah Loguen Fraser G 1876 (1850-1933) grew up in Syracuse where her parents, the Reverend Jermain Wesley Loguen (a former slave) and Caroline Storum, were staunch abolitionists who turned the family home into an Underground Railroad station that sheltered more than 1,500 escaping slaves. One day, after hearing the screams of a boy whose leg had been crushed by a wagon, Fraser vowed she would never again witness someone in need and not be able to help. In 1876, at a time when medical students were predominately white men, she earned a medical degree from the Syracuse College of Medicine (now SUNY Upstate Medical University), becoming the school’s first African American woman to be certified as a physician, and the fourth in New York State. She relocated to Santo Domingo with her husband, Charles Fraser, in 1882, and passed the medical certification exam there, making her the first woman in the Dominican Republic licensed to practice medicine. After her death on April 9, 1933, flags in Puerto Plata waved at half-mast for nine days.

This is women’s rights in the right direction, and we cordially wish the estimable young lady every success in the pursuit of the profession of her choice. —FROM AN 1873 SYRACUSE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL, THE DAY AFTER SARAH LOGUEN BEGAN HER STUDIES.

CORNELIA MARIA CLAPP
First woman to earn a doctorate in biology in the United States

Cornelia Maria Clapp G 1889 (1849-1934) was interested in science from a young age. Nevertheless, after graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1871, she followed the conventional path for educated women of her time and taught Latin at a boys’ school. She eventually returned to Mount Holyoke as a biology lecturer, but soon realized that to engage in complex scientific research she needed a full faculty appointment, which required a doctorate. She turned to Syracuse University, one of the few institutions of higher education admitting women to graduate programs in the sciences, earning the first biology doctorate awarded to a woman in the United States in 1889. With a Ph.D. degree in hand, Clapp returned to Mount Holyoke and gained recognition as a pioneering research zoologist and leading scholar in ichthyology, a branch of zoology that studies fish. Spending summers at the Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratory on Cape Cod, Clapp was the first woman elected to its board of trustees. Finally, in 1904, after 15 years of debate, she was promoted to professor. Clapp inspired many women to seek careers in the natural sciences, and today, the home of Mount Holyoke’s biology department is named Clapp Hall in her honor.

I have always had an idea that if you want to do a thing, there is no particular reason why you shouldn’t do it. —CORNELIA MARIA CLAPP, CIRCA 1900
Welthy Honsinger Fisher 1900, G’21, H’65 (1879-1980) was a teacher, philanthropist, and author who believed the way to overcome poverty was through education. After volunteering for the YWCA in France during World War I, she traveled to Asia and devoted her life to promoting literacy in China and India. She trained thousands of teachers and came to be known in that part of the world as the “First Lady of Literacy.” In 1951, she founded World Literacy Inc., an organization dedicated to providing literacy training to those who needed it most. In 1957, World Literacy became World Education, and today, the organization she began more than 60 years ago continues to carry on her vision to eradicate illiteracy both here and abroad. In honor of her work, the Indian government issued a postage stamp bearing her likeness.

DOROTHY THOMPSON
Trailblazing American journalist
Dorothy Thompson 1914 (1893-1961) was a prominent journalist, political commentator, and leading opponent of Adolf Hitler. After working her way through college, she participated in the women’s suffrage movement until 1917, when she moved to New York City to begin a career in journalism. She journeyed to Europe during World War I, and became a correspondent for New York and Philadelphia newspapers and syndicates, served as a radio commentator, and contributed articles to American and British magazines and periodicals. In 1926, while stationed in Berlin, she became the first woman to head a foreign news bureau. There, she was the first Western journalist to interview Hitler, and the first to be expelled from Nazi Germany on Hitler’s personal order.

With the sweeping events of the first half of the 20th century as her beat, no journalist was more controversial or more quoted than Thompson. After returning home, her column, “On the Record,” ran in the New York Herald Tribune and more than 150 other newspapers, and she also wrote a monthly column for the Ladies Home Journal. She was heard by millions more in her regular NBC radio broadcasts, and her stories appeared in The New York Tribune and The Saturday Evening Post. In a 1939 Time magazine cover story, Thompson was named the most influential woman in America next to Eleanor Roosevelt, and Katharine Hepburn played Thompson in Woman of the Year (1942), a movie about her extraordinary life. A forceful campaigner for justice, free speech, and women’s rights, Thompson was considered a trailblazer, and sometimes referred to as the “First Lady of American Journalism.”

She [Dorothy Thompson] has shown what one valiant woman can do with the power of the pen. Freedom and humanity are her grateful debtors.
—Winston Churchill
BETTY BONE SCHIESS
Key player in the movement to ordain women priests in the Episcopal Church of America

Betty Bone Schiess G’47 spearheaded the drive to eradicate discriminatory practices within the Episcopal Church of America. On July 29, 1974, Schiess and 10 other women became the first women to be ordained in a renegade ceremony at an inner-city church in Philadelphia. Known as the Philadelphia Eleven, they were ordained by three retired bishops who were authorized to ordain priests, but had not followed church procedure. The ordination sparked a national controversy, and it wasn’t until early 1977 that Schiess was officially ordained as an Episcopal priest. She went on to an accomplished career within the church, serving as chaplain of Syracuse and Cornell universities and as rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Mexico, New York. In recognition of her leadership role in the ordination of women priests in the Episcopal Church in America, Schiess was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1994.

STELLA JACOBS PETERSEN
First South African woman of color awarded a scholarship to study abroad

Stella Jacobs Petersen G’49 (1923-2013) was a woman of color who didn’t let racism or financial hardship deter her from earning an undergraduate degree at the University of Cape Town in her native South Africa. She went on to become the first South African woman of color to be awarded a scholarship to study abroad, earning a master’s degree in education from Syracuse University. When Petersen returned home, she was not allowed to teach in a university because of apartheid, and instead taught high school students for more than 35 years. She became the first woman of color to earn a master’s degree in botany from the University of Cape Town, and wrote a history-making master’s thesis that involved observing and describing the peculiar structure of an indigenous Oxalis plant species. In 2011, in recognition of her dedication to the pursuit of excellence in science education and her work as a respected conservationist, Petersen was awarded an honorary doctorate in education from the University of Cape Town.

EDITH MARIE FLANIGEN
First woman to win the Perkin Medal from the Society of Chemical Industry

Edith Marie Flanigen G’52, H’08 earned a master’s degree in inorganic-physical chemistry at a time when few women were working in the field. After many years as the first corporate research fellow at Union Carbide, she became the first woman to be named a senior research fellow at the company where she spent 42 years. Flanigen holds 108 U.S. patents, and has received many awards and honors, including the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal of the American Chemical Society, which recognizes distinguished service by women chemists. In 1992, she became the first woman to win the Society of Chemical Industry’s Perkin Medal, one of the highest honors given for outstanding work in applied chemistry in the United States. In 2004, she received the $100,000 Lemelson-MIT Lifetime Achievement Award, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. In 2011, President Barack Obama presented her with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for her groundbreaking achievements in zeolite and molecular sieve technology.
Kathrine Switzer '68, G’72 is a true champion in the struggle to obtain equal status for women athletes. She made history in 1967 when, two miles into the Boston Marathon, an irate official attacked her from the sidelines and tried to force her out of the race simply because she was a woman. A widely distributed photograph of the incident sparked outrage and went on to become one of Time-Life’s 100 photographs that changed the world. Suddenly Switzer was transformed from a naïve 20-year-old college student into a radicalized woman who was determined to educate the public on the value of women’s participation in sports. In the decades that followed, she created many opportunities for women athletes that did not previously exist, and succeeded in getting the women’s marathon included in the Olympics for the first time, at the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles. In 2011, Switzer was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame for giving women an opportunity to excel, compete, and be empowered in all areas of their lives.

Sometimes when you just do what you think is right, it can create a revolution. —KATHRINE V. SWITZER

Ruth Johnson Colvin '59, H’84 was moved to act after reading a 1961 newspaper article based on census reports that showed thousands of Syracuse residents were functionally illiterate. Working out of her home, she founded Literacy Volunteers of America, a national nonprofit organization with hundreds of local affiliates training volunteer tutors to teach adults how to read (merged with Laubach Literacy International in 2002 to become ProLiteracy Worldwide). In recognition of her spirit of volunteerism and leadership role in the fight against illiteracy, Colvin was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993 and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush in 2006.

If you believe in your idea, you go from there. If you do it with love, it will work out. —RUTH JOHNSON COLVIN

Elsa Reichmanis ‘72, G’75 has received international acclaim for having a major impact on the field of microlithography, which is central to the manufacture of electronic devices. Years before computers entered everyday life, she predicted the need for advanced materials that would later launch the personal computer revolution—integrated circuits with features smaller than the width of human hair. The advanced materials Reichmanis helped develop led to the fabrication of integrated circuit technology that is now found in almost every modern electrical device from cars and television sets to CD players, cell phones, and personal computers. Reichmanis has received numerous awards from the scientific community for her innovative work, including the Society of Chemical Industry’s 2001 Perkin Medal. In 2002, she was elected fellow of the Polymer Materials Division of the American Chemical Society and, in 2005, was named fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Groundbreaking chemist at the forefront of integrated circuit technology

First woman to officially run the Boston Marathon

Kathrine Switzer ‘68, G’72

Sometimes when you just do what you think is right, it can create a revolution. —KATHRINE V. SWITZER

Photo courtesy of Kathrine Switzer

Photo by Veronica Magan/TheNewsHouse.com

White House photo by Eric Draper

Photo courtesy of Kathrine Switzer
Eileen Collins ’78, H’01 is recognized by Encyclopedia Britannica as one of the top 300 women in history to have changed the world. A former SU Air Force ROTC cadet, she was one of the first four women chosen to attend U.S. Air Force Flight School. As a pilot, she logged more than 6,751 hours in 30 different types of aircraft. In 1995, she became the first female space shuttle pilot and, in 1999, was chosen to be the first woman astronaut to command and land a NASA space shuttle mission. Under her command, the shuttle Columbia made history when it deployed a $1.5 billion telescope into orbit to enable deep-space exploration of exploding stars, quasars, and black holes. Hailed as an aviation pioneer, Collins was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1995. She retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2005 at the rank of colonel.

Karen DeCrow L’72 (1937-2014) devoted her life to writing articles, columns, and books on feminist issues, lecturing on reproductive rights, and using litigation as a tool for social change. In 1967, she joined the fledgling National Organization for Women (NOW) at a time when the organization was pushing for equal pay for equal work. As a Syracuse mayoral candidate in 1969, she became the first woman to run for mayor in New York State, and one of only a handful of women seeking office anywhere in the country. Under her leadership as president of NOW from 1974 to 1977, efforts to advance gender equality included persuading NASA to recruit women; urging the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to investigate sex discrimination complaints; pressuring the three national television networks to include women and minorities in front of and behind the camera; and influencing the male Ivy League schools to admit women. In 2009, in recognition of her pioneering advocacy for gender equality, DeCrow was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

VANESSA WILLIAMS
First African American crowned Miss America
Vanessa Williams ’85 made history in 1983 when she became the first African American to win the Miss America pageant. Today, she is one of the most respected and versatile performers in entertainment. A singer, producer, and actress, Williams has conquered the musical charts, Broadway stage, music videos, television, and motion pictures. She starred in the critically acclaimed TV series Ugly Betty, for which she won or was nominated for numerous individual and ensemble honors, including the Emmy, SAG, Golden Globe, and NAACP Image awards. For her accomplishments as a performer, Williams has been honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

KAREN L. DECROW
Lifelong advocate for gender equality
Karen DeCrow L’72 devoted her life to writing articles, columns, and books on feminist issues, lecturing on reproductive rights, and using litigation as a tool for social change. In 1967, she joined the fledgling National Organization for Women (NOW) at a time when the organization was pushing for equal pay for equal work. As a Syracuse mayoral candidate in 1969, she became the first woman to run for mayor in New York State, and one of only a handful of women seeking office anywhere in the country. Under her leadership as president of NOW from 1974 to 1977, efforts to advance gender equality included persuading NASA to recruit women; urging the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to investigate sex discrimination complaints; pressuring the three national television networks to include women and minorities in front of and behind the camera; and influencing the male Ivy League schools to admit women. In 2009, in recognition of her pioneering advocacy for gender equality, DeCrow was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

EILEEN M. COLLINS
First woman to command a NASA space shuttle mission

My daughter just thinks that all moms fly the space shuttle.
—EILEEN COLLINS
FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, ELSIE SHEMIN-ROTH ’51 WORKED tirelessly to ensure her late father, William Shemin ’24, would be recognized for the selfless, life-saving acts of heroism he carried out on a World War I battlefield and receive the Medal of Honor, the U.S. military’s highest decoration for valor. On June 2, in a ceremony at the White House, Shemin-Roth’s efforts were finally rewarded when President Barack Obama bestowed posthumously the Medal of Honor on U.S. Army Sergeant William Shemin. Joined by a large contingent of family members, Shemin-Roth and her sister, Ina Shemin Bass ’53, accepted the medal on behalf of their father, a graduate of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University who is believed to be the University’s first and only graduate to earn the Medal of Honor.

“Well, Elsie, as much as America meant to your father, he means even more to America,” Obama said in his remarks. “It takes our nation too long sometimes to say so—because Sergeant Shemin served at a time when the contributions and heroism of Jewish Americans in uniform were too often overlooked. But William Shemin saved American lives. He represented our nation with honor. And so it is my privilege, on behalf of the American people, to make this right and finally award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant William Shemin.”

Obama also bestowed a posthumous Medal of Honor on U.S. Army Private William Henry Johnson, an African American from Harlem who served in the all-black 369th Infantry Regiment, for his heroic efforts on the Western front. “They both left us decades ago, before we could give them the full recognition they deserved,” Obama said. “But it’s never too late to say thank you.”
SAVING LIVES UNDER FIRE
Imagine, nearly a century ago, the vast fields of northern France during the Great War—earthen trenches for miles, overwhelming German fire across the Vesle River, and your comrades falling victim to enemy bullets. Sergeant Shemin, a 19-year-old soldier from Bayonne, New Jersey, was thrown into that fearful situation from August 7-9, 1918, as a rifleman fighting with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division of the American Expeditionary Forces. Engrained with a commitment to brotherhood, Shemin repeatedly exposed himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire, crossing out of the trenches into no-man’s land three times to save wounded comrades.

After the officers and senior non-commissioned officers became casualties to this terror, Shemin took control of the platoon and displayed quick instincts and impressive initiative in battle. He was wounded by a machine gun bullet that pierced his helmet and lodged behind his left ear and also took shrapnel to the back. The Allied American-French forces fought valiantly and successfully pushed the Germans back across the Vesle and Aisne rivers, eliminating the threat of Paris falling to the Germans. Within the larger Allied victory of the Aisne-Marne campaign, Sergeant Shemin exemplified the highest degree of valor, bravery, and loyalty to his wounded and fallen comrades, which resulted in Shemin being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation’s second-highest decoration for combat valor.

After graduating, Shemin launched a landscaping and gardening business in the Bronx, and he and his wife, Bertha, raised three children, Elsie, Ina, and Emanuel “Manny” Shemin ’52. He passed away in 1973 at age 77. “He taught us all to always give back more than you are asked to do,” Elsie said at a press conference in St. Louis after being informed by President Obama that her father would receive the Medal of Honor. “From my father came this wonderful generosity and this wonderful sense of honor.”

A FAMILY LEGACY AT SU
Sergeant Shemin left a long legacy of service to the country and a legacy of Orange pride at Syracuse University. All three of his children attended Syracuse. The late Manny Shemin, a University Trustee from 1997-2009, met his wife, Rhoda Lee Zisman Shemin ’53, on campus, and their daughter, Leslie Shemin-Lester ’84, is an alumna who serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council of the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA). Four of Sergeant Shemin’s great-grandchildren are alumni: Rachel Forman ’05, William Cass ’08 (co-chair of the University’s Metro New York Leadership Council), Samuel Cass ’13, and Scott Bass ’15.

The Shemin family has been incredibly generous to the University over the past 50 years. A highlight is the Shemin Family Lecture Series. Created with the support of Manny and Rhoda Shemin, and their daughter, Leslie, the lecture series is a collaborative effort between VPA and the Martin J. Whitman School of Management that brings young alumni and other industry professionals to campus to meet students and help them understand the business of fashion. The philanthropy of Manny and Rhoda Shemin has supported scholarships for Whitman students and helped fund the 300-seat Emanuel and Rhoda Shemin Auditorium in the Shaffer Art Building in 1990. They also donated funds to build the Rhoda Shemin Student Lounge in the
JUNE 2 WAS A DAY TO REMEMBER for the Shemin family. Three generations of the family gathered for the Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House, where they were welcomed by White House and military officials, and others.

President Barack Obama met in the Oval Office with Elsie Shemin-Roth ’51 and Ina Shemin Bass ’53 before the ceremony, where he presented the two daughters of the late William Shemin ‘24 with the Medal of Honor for risking his life to save others during a 1918 battle with German troops in northern France. Along with the visit to the White House, family members were also guests at the Pentagon the following day.

In his remarks, President Obama cited Elsie Shemin-Roth for her theory about what inspired William Shemin to serve in World War I. “He was the son of Russian immigrants, and he was devoted to his Jewish faith,” Obama said, quoting Shemin-Roth. “His family lived through the pogroms,’ she says. ‘They saw towns destroyed and children killed. And then they came to America. And here they found a haven—a home, success—and my father and his sister both went to college. All that, in one generation! That’s what America meant to him. And that’s why he’d do anything for this country.’”

MEMBERS OF THE SHEMIN family—all Syracuse alumni—who attended the Medal of Honor presentation at the White House include (front row, left): Ina Shemin Bass ’53 (holding the Medal of Honor) and Elsie Shemin-Roth ’51 (William Shemin’s two daughters); back row (from left): Scott Bass ’15 (great-grandson of William Shemin), William Cass ’08 (great-grandson), Rachel Forman ’05 (great-granddaughter), Seth Forman ’04 (Rachel’s husband), Leslie Shemin-Lester ’84 (granddaughter) and Sam Cass ’13 (great-grandson).
Winnick Hillel Center for Jewish Life, and provided funding in 1995 for the Manny Shemin Resource Room in the Stevenson Education Center at Manley Field House for the academic support of student-athletes. Their service to the University is also evident in Manny’s 12-year tenure on the Board of Trustees, including nine years on its executive committee and service on the academic affairs and facilities committees.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, Manny created Shemin Nurseries from his father’s retail nursery in the Bronx in 1955. The company pioneered the concept of the international nursery and garden supply distribution center and became the world’s largest wholesale horticulture distribution business, with centers throughout the United States, Canada, and Holland. Manny Shemin put his professional knowledge to use as a contributor to campus beautification; over the last decade of his life, he annually selected 1,000 daffodil and 200 tulip bulbs from the Netherlands and donated them to the University. “Manny was a thoughtful person and successful businessman with an engaging personality,” says Louis G. Marcoccia ’68, G’69, executive vice president and chief financial officer. “I always enjoyed our conversations about University matters.”

Marcoccia’s sentiments about the Shemin family are shared by Thomas J. Foley, executive associate dean for institutional advancement at the Whitman School. Foley recalls how Manny’s passion for landscaping and plants was also transferred to SU Athletics. For example, Manny donated dozens of trees that frame the athletic fields around Manley Field House. “Manny was the salt of the Earth; his father’s values were instilled in him and he passed those values on to future generations,” Foley says. “The Shemin family [four generations of SU alumni] epitomizes what you hope a Syracuse University family would be. They became part of the SU community and we became part of their philanthropic fabric.”

Before passing away in 2009, Manny also served on the Corporate Advisory Board of the Whitman School. Both he and Rhoda were proud supporters of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, a national initiative run by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University, designed to offer cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with service-related disabilities. “Syracuse University has a long and proud history of helping veterans and our military personnel succeed when they come back from service,” says J. Michael Haynie, vice chancellor for veteran and military affairs at the University and executive director of the IVMF. “We are honored to include Sergeant William Shemin and his family of Syracuse alumni as integral members of the larger story of America’s veterans, the U.S. military, and Syracuse University.”

**OVERCOMING INJUSTICE**

There were many influential forces pushing to award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Shemin, including pressure from veterans’ groups and U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) investigators. Over the past several years, the DoD has been investigating, back as far as World War I, instances of combat heroism that would warrant awarding the Medal of Honor—but were not recognized due to possible discrimination based on race or religion. One of the cases under review was that of William Shemin, who was Jewish. With bipartisan support in 2011, the U.S. Congress passed the William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act, signed into law by President Obama. It allowed the DoD to investigate any discrimination in the designation of awards to Jewish service members and led to Shemin finally receiving the Medal of Honor. Elsie Shemin-Roth spearheaded this campaign, joined by U.S. Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer of Missouri and U.S. senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt of Missouri, Dean Heller of Nevada, and John Boozman of Arkansas. “Discrimination should never play a role when our country pays tribute to extraordinary acts of courage and selfless sacrifice,” McCaskill said in a statement after learning President Obama would honor Shemin’s heroic actions. “I couldn’t be prouder that we were able to correct these past injustices and that William Shemin and other Jewish heroes will get the recognition they deserve, and the national gratitude they earned.”

In reflecting on the success in having her father’s story finally told, Elsie Shemin-Roth said it can be summed up in 11 words: “Discrimination hurts. A wrong has been made right. All is forgiven.”

Patrick M. Jones and Wayne Westervelt G’07 of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at SU contributed to this report.
2015 Commencement

Syracuse University and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry celebrated Commencement on May 10 in the Carrier Dome. It was the 161st Commencement for SU and the 118th for SUNY ESF. Here are some highlights:

**DEGREES CONFERRED:**
SU, 5,613; ESF, 566

**CLASS MARSHALS:**
Ashlee Sage Newman, College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs; Ronald James-Terry Taylor, College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School

**STUDENT SPEAKER:**
Matthew Fernandes, College of Arts and Sciences and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

**HONORARY DOCTORAL RECIPIENTS:**
Bob Costas ’74, NBC sports journalist and broadcaster (Doctor of Letters); Charlotte Holstein, founder and executive director of F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse (Doctor of Letters); Mary Karr, award-winning poet and best-selling memoirist, Jesse Truesdell Peck Professor of Literature, College of Arts and Sciences (Doctor of Humane Letters); Sonia Nieto, professor emerita of language, literacy, and culture, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Doctor of Humane Letters); Richard L. Thompson G’67, attorney, civic leader, veteran, and chairman emeritus of SU Board of Trustees (Doctor of Humane Letters).

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER:** Mary Karr

**QUOTING KARR:**
And kids, thanks for being here—a university is a city of ideas, and we’re grateful that you became citizens of our city. Whether your degree is in architecture or exercise physiology, law or mathematics, by being here you’ve added something to the conversation this city runs on the way a body runs on breath.”
WHEN JOSEPH I. LUBIN FIRST VISITED SYRACUSE University with his daughter, Ann, for her admissions interview in 1944, it was the beginning of a lifelong friendship with the then Chancellor, William Pearson Tolley. Also, that day signified the start of an enduring relationship between Joseph Lubin and the University—a bond that led to him becoming an SU Life Trustee and one that has remained strong across four generations of the Lubin family.

A New York philanthropist who grew from poverty to become a renowned tax expert, real estate investor, and chairman of Pepsi-Cola, Joseph Lubin contributed generously to the University in many ways throughout the years, including establishing the Lubin-Tolley Book Fund, supporting the construction of Manley Field House and renovations to Hendricks Chapel, as well as funding scholarships. Perhaps he is best remembered for donating the Manhattan structure that bears his name and serves as SU’s headquarters in New York City. This year marks the 50th anniversary of that facility. The Joseph I. Lubin House was dedicated in 1965.

“My father believed that if you were an impoverished kid but you received a good education, then you could become anything you wanted. He himself went to school 13 years at night to become a lawyer, accountant, and business school graduate,” says his daughter, Barbara Goldsmith, acclaimed author, journalist, and philanthropist, who received an honorary doctorate in literature from the University in 1981. Her daughter, Alice Goldsmith Elgart ’80, is an SU alumna. She says, “Syracuse was among my grandfather’s philanthropies of which he was most proud. Education was his first priority.”

Situated on East 61st Street in Manhattan among such iconic landmarks as Central Park and The Pierre Hotel, Lubin House is a hub for the University’s relationships and operations in New York City. Originally envisioned primarily as an alumni center, today it operates as a multipurpose satellite, hosting some 400 events each year and catering to more than 57,000 alumni in the New York City metro area. A second adjoining building that Joseph Lubin donated has been amalgamated with the first. It contains office space for a full-time staff of approximately 20 professionals and provides overnight accommodations to University employees and faculty with business in the city.

Lubin House is home to a regional admissions office that offers workshops and information sessions for prospective students and their families and provides space for admissions interviews with local applicants. Additionally, SU students take part in special programs at Lubin House, meeting with alumni and other professionals in their fields at career development and place-
ment events. “The house itself is just beautiful,” says Joseph Lubin’s granddaughter, Wendy H. Cohen ’70, H’02, a Syracuse University Life Trustee. She is the daughter of the late Ann Lubin Goldstein ’48 and Honorary Trustee Alfred R. Goldstein, who received an honorary degree from the University in 1985. Their contributions to SU include the naming and donation of the Goldstein Auditorium in the Schine Student Center, the Goldstein Student Center on South Campus, and the Goldstein Alumni and Faculty Center, as well as a number of initiatives named for Joseph Lubin, including establishing the Joseph I. Lubin School of Accounting in the Martin J. Whitman School of Management. “For many years, the University had use of only one part of the house, and they maintained the integrity of what that looked like—the elegance that still remains today, while the other side is more modern and practical. It’s a nice combination,” says Wendy Cohen, whose brothers, Richard Goldstein ’79 and Steven Goldstein G’76, and daughter, Heather Cohen Sugarman ’02, are also Syracuse alumni.

“Syracuse was among my grandfather’s philanthropies of which he was most proud. Education was his first priority.”

—Alice Goldsmith Elgart ’80

Today, Lubin House, which Joseph Lubin donated to SU, serves as a multipurpose facility, proudly flying an Orange flag. Among its features are the Louise and Bernard Palitz Art Gallery (middle right) and a library (bottom right).
SEE YOU AT HOMECOMING

AS THE NEW PRESIDENT of the Syracuse University Alumni Association (SUAA), I look forward to leading a team of ambassadors to our more than 250,000 Syracuse alumni across the globe. A 1995 Newhouse graduate, my Orange roots run deep. I have been a member of the SUAA Board of Directors since 2010, and for the past two years served as vice president of SUAA. I have been a member of the Chicago Alumni Club since 1999 and the Chicago Regional Council since 2012. For many years my wife, Dr. Rachelle Hardy ’95 (E&CS), and I have continued to host Chicago’s New Student Send-Off in our home, welcoming first-year students and their families to the Syracuse University community.

Many of you share a similar bond with SU—a wonderful place where you matured into adulthood and made close friendships that will last a lifetime. However, your connection with SU continues well beyond your time on the Hill and SU is everywhere. It is so easy to stay connected to SU by becoming an active member of your local alumni club or regional council and by attending Orange Central Homecoming this fall.

Save the dates of October 22-25 and return to campus for a fun-filled weekend packed with exciting events—including campus tours, the Arents Awards, and a tailgate party on the Shaw Quad before the Syracuse vs. Pittsburgh football game on Saturday. And there will be special reunion celebrations for those members of a class ending in “0” or “5,” which includes alumni of the Jerry Leider Company Inc., an international production and distribution company based in Los Angeles. He is co-producer with actor Wendell Pierce of the racial drama Bily, a film adaptation of the Albert French novel about a 10-year-old Mississippi boy who was convicted and executed for murder in 1937.

Ronald L. Goldfarb ’54 (A&S), L’56 (LAW) of Alexandria, Va., and Key Biscayne, Fla., wrote his first novel, Courtship: A Novel of Life, Love, and the Law (Ankerwycke/American Bar Association), under the pseudonym R.L. Sommer. The book is an epic love story spanning 60 years and three continents. An attorney, author, and literary agent, he has written 11 books and 300 articles as well as numerous op-eds and reviews.

Carol Hoffman Cook ’56 (NUR) is a retired psychiatric nurse practitioner living in San Diego.

Larry Bashe ’66 (A&S), G’68 (MAX), who retired as managing director in the public finance department of the Raymond James investment bank in May 2014, received the Eagle Award from the New Jersey Alliance for Action. The award recognizes his contributions to the quality of life of New Jersey residents through designing low-cost financing techniques to fund public infrastructure improvements.

John Hall ’66 (A&S) of Cazenovia, N.Y., is a flugelhornist with the JT Hall Jazzz Consort, a jazz and blues band that has performed widely in Central New York since 1999. The group released its debut CD, Rain After Midnight, which features six compositions by Hall.
Eric Mower ’66 (A&S), G’68 (NEW), chairman and CEO of Eric Mower + Associates marketing and public relations agency, received the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Sustainability, Corporate Volunteering and Business Ethics award from City & State Reports magazine in April.

Roland C. Van Deusen ’67 (A&S), G’75 (SWK), a U.S. Navy veteran and member of the group North Country Veterans for Peace, was featured in the Military.com article “Veterans for Peace” and on the front page of the Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, recognizing his “Honor the warriors, not the wars” demonstration during a rally and listening session at the Fort Drum Army base in March.

Eugene C. Ayres ’68 (A&S), an award-winning novelist, journalist, columnist, critic, and film and television writer and producer, wrote Red Tide (Booktrope Editions), part of a series featuring environmentalist and private investigator Tony Lowell. He divides his time between Florida, where the series is set, and the Pacific Northwest.

Sam Kafriessen ’68 (A&S) of Arlington, Mass., wrote The Mill Town (IDBP Industries), a mystery novel set in Rhode Island in 1958, the first in a series featuring private investigator Hugh Doherty.

Eileen Bernstein Douglas Israel ’68 (A&S) is co-founder of Douglas/Steinman Productions, an independent production company in New York City, which released its third full-length documentary on DVD in May, Titled The Dance Goodbye (First Run Features), the film chronicles the career transition of retired New York City Ballet principal dancer Merrill Ashley (douglas-steinman.com).


Bruce Chadwick ’69 (NEW) is the entertainment critic for the History News Network, a website for history lovers that draws some 400,000 readers each month. He reviews and writes columns about plays, films, and cultural events related to history. A journalism and history professor at New Jersey City University and a lecturer in American studies at Rutgers, he has written 29 books, most about history, and is at work on one about life in New York City immediately preceding the Civil War.

Anton Gottlieb ’69 (A&S) is dean and professor of dental medicine at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, in Bradenton, Fla.

Linda L. Day G’70 (MAX) published This House is Just Right: A Design Guide to Choosing a Home and Neighborhood (CreateSpace). Illustrated by R. Thomas Jones, the book offers home buyers a process of self-discovery to help them make good choices. A retired professor of city and regional planning with California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, Day is now a contributing faculty member in the graduate public policy and administration programs at Walden University.

Edward F.D. Spencer G’70 (EDU), vice president emeritus for student affairs at Virginia Tech, received the 2015 Alumni Award of Distinction from the North-American Interfraternity Conference for his lifelong service to the educational mission of fraternities as a member of the Journey chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Augustine F. Ubaldi ’70 (E&CS), an airport and railroad engineering expert at Robson Forensic based in Dublin, Ohio, was interviewed by several media outlets as an expert witness regarding the fatal train crash on February 3 in Valhalla, N.Y., including The New York Times and CNN.

Roslyn A. Mazer ’71 (A&S) is the inspector general at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C.

Robert Pratt ’71 (SDA), a retired U.S. Army colonel, portrayed one of his ancestors, complete with period uniform, in the Grand Review Parade in Washington, D.C., in May, an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the triumphal march of federal troops at the end of the Civil War in 1865.

Susan Duprey ’72 (A&S) is of counsel at Bernstein Shur Counselors at Law in the firm’s real estate and municipal law practice groups in Manchester, N.H.

Patrick Ahearn G’73 (ARC), founding principal of Patrick Ahearn Architect with offices in Boston and Martha’s Vineyard, was named to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows, an honor awarded to AIA members who have made significant contributions to the profession and society. A Syracuse Architecture Advisory Board member, he established the Patrick J. Ahearn Endowed Scholarship in 2009 and a Special Initiatives Fund in 2014.

Mary Schmidt Campbell G’73 (A&S), G’80 (VPA), G’82 (A&S), dean emerita of the Tisch School of the Arts and former university professor in the Department of Art and Public Policy at New York University, assumes the role of president at Spelman College in Atlanta in August.

Louis P. Di Lorenzo ’73 (A&S), an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s New York City office, is included in Chambers USA 2015, a guide that lists, ranks, and provides commentary on the top lawyers in 175 countries.

Robert Heller ’73 (EDU) is a middle school social studies teacher in Somers, N.Y., where he has taught for 40 years. He was inducted into the Somers Education Foundation Hall of Fame for his years of service to his students as well as his colleagues as an officer in the Somers Faculty Association.

Eileen A. Roth G’74 (VPA) is co-founder and executive recruiter at Getting to the Point Inc., a consulting firm that specializes in helping corporations attract highly sought executive talent to Pittsburgh. She wrote Ten Fingers Touching (Getting to the Point Inc.), an illustrated fable of romance, mystery, and adventure.

Paul Leuzzi ’75 (ESF) is vice president, assistant general counsel, and chief compliance officer at the Weyerhaeuser Company in Federal Way, Wash. He is active in his community as a director on the boards of the Eastside Human Services Forum and the Seattle IP Inn of Court, and serves on the Community Building Committee of United Way of King County.

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.
Emily Schneider L’13 »

Advancing Next-Generation Security

EMILY SCHNEIDER COULD EASILY PLAY A LEADING role in Cybergeddon, an online thriller about the perils of worldwide cybercrime. A senior program associate for the International Security Program at New America, she works on cybersecurity issues relative to several countries around the globe and the ways in which they all interconnect. She also is an assistant editor of Foreign Policy magazine’s South Asia Channel, a premier clearinghouse of news and analysis from and about Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. Schneider does a lot of work with drone regulation as well. “We just created a database called the ‘World of Drones’ that tracks all of the drone imports and exports from every country in the world and what they are being used for,” says Schneider, who grew up in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Penn State and a master’s degree in English from the University of Rochester. “We encourage other organizations to download our data and use it however they want.”

New America is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy institute that invests in new thinkers and new ideas to address the next generation of challenges facing the United States. Schneider joined the Washington, D.C.-based think tank soon after graduating from the College of Law, and in the two years since she has been on the job, she has rapidly advanced from intern, to research associate, to program associate, and now senior program associate. Schneider became fascinated by the questions surrounding policy and national security issues when, during law school orientation, she heard a talk by Professor William Banks, director of the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT), a joint research center of the Maxwell School and College of Law. So she took as many international humanitarian law classes as possible and jumped at the chance to work with law professor David Crane L’80 on biometric data collection regulations in the United States. She also worked with Corri Zoli, INSCT’s director of research, on developing a database that tracks conflicts in Muslim states from 1947 to the present to determine whether they comply with international humanitarian or Shari’a law.

Schneider’s policy papers receive attention from the media, including The Washington Post and Colbert Report, and she has done interviews with the BBC and Huffington Post, among others. She says one of her biggest challenges with regard to cybersecurity research is that technology—and the way society interacts with it—is changing at such a rapid pace that the law struggles to keep up. Transparency is another challenge, especially in the drone program. But Schneider readily admits she likes the variety of her work at New America and enjoys how different it is from day to day. “One day I might be working on issues concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan, the next I’m working on cybersecurity, and then I’m on to drones, warfare, and future technologies,” she says. “This field is exciting in ways you won’t find in a law firm—and that’s just what I was looking for.”

—Christine Yackel
The Rewards of an Academic Life

BY RICHARD L. HOLLOWAY

THIS YEAR, MY 19TH AS DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR THE Medical College of Wisconsin, marked my return to faculty life. It’s been a great run, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served in this administrative role of a medical school of 819 students for all these years. Frankly, I never imagined my career would have gone in this direction. When I started my academic career as an assistant professor in health sciences in 1976, I was barely aware of medical schools and how they functioned. But I immediately began to love the medical school environment and its commitment to caring for people. It was pretty intoxicating, to go from a naïve graduate to a professional who was viewed as possessing a skill set that would help train physicians. I received my Ph.D. from Syracuse nearly 40 years ago, but in so many ways, the comparatively short time I spent at Syracuse is far more vivid to me today than many of the career events I’ve experienced since.

I remember entering Huntington Hall for the first time on a hot, muggy August afternoon, having zero clue of what I was embarking on. I just knew that the reputation of Syracuse was superb and that I was extremely fortunate to have been accepted into a Ph.D. program. Immediately, I was welcomed by a more senior graduate student and introduced to several more. I was enormously impressed with their collective sense of purpose and commitment. And, they accepted me as one of their own: no initiation period, no “prove it to me” mentality, just support coupled with an expectation of excellence. They also introduced me to toasted honey buns, something that has to be experienced to be fully appreciated.

Perhaps my most enduring memory is of the values instilled by our faculty at Syracuse. While we students learned many important skills and acquired so much knowledge, what has stuck with me for this entire time is the strong sense of worth the faculty placed on academic achievement and the challenge of shaping ideas. I wanted to be just like them—committed to an academic career and advancing knowledge, then applying that knowledge to the solution of important problems. In addition, they imparted a sense of academic community that has become a part of my being. Our faculty at the Program on Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation hosted an annual retreat at the Sagamore Lodge on Raquette Lake. Wow! What a heady experience for a young graduate student to participate in seminars and late-night discussions, not to mention canoeing and hiking, to bond and explore important ideas. What I gained from those experiences is a commitment to academic life I carry in my soul to this day.

So, as I return to my academic department as a professor of family and community medicine, I return to the fundamental values of the role of an academician—values I acquired through my most memorable time at Syracuse University.

Richard L. Holloway G’76, who holds a Ph.D. degree from the School of Education, has research interests in the doctor-patient relationship, with an emphasis on the humanities in medicine and writing for personal reflection. He lives in Brookfield, Wisconsin.
IN CONSIDERING A RECENT CAREER MOVE, KRISTA CANFIELD had three criteria: What new types of people would she like to meet; would her new supervisor be someone she could trust and feel inspired by; and would she be passionate about the company’s work? She found the ideal match at Gogobot, a travel research and local discovery application and website established in 2010 in Menlo Park, California. Canfield stepped into the role of vice president of corporate communications there in December 2014. “Gogobot’s mission is to help people find great places to stay, eat, and play that are perfect for them,” says Canfield, former senior manager of corporate communications at LinkedIn, the world’s largest professional networking website. “My job is spreading the word about what we’re up to over here. I have a penchant for doing that at smaller companies no one’s heard of, with the goal of hopefully turning them into something everyone does become aware of.”

Although Canfield loved working at LinkedIn, and calls it “a fantastic company and a really hard place to leave,” after spending seven years there, she felt ready for a new adventure. During that time frame, she contributed to the company’s growth from 200 employees and 18 million members to more than 6,000 employees worldwide and 332 million members. And as she helped the business thrive, she did some professional flourishing of her own. In 2013 and 2014, she was recognized by Business Insider as one of the 50 best public relations people in the technology industry. She was also the World Technology Network’s 2014 World Technology Award winner in the marketing communications category.

One reason the new position at Gogobot appealed to her so much is the opportunity to share with others her “epic passion” for travel. “Every time I travel, I write in a Word doc or journal about the streets I enjoyed walking down, the neighborhoods that were pretty cool, the shops I thought were interesting,” says Canfield, who has visited countries all around the world with one of her favorite travel companions—her dad (pictured together at Machu Picchu, Peru). “So when I heard Gogobot helps people discover those hidden gems—I thought, this is the perfect fit for me. It’s a great story to tell.”

Becoming a skillful storyteller has been part of Canfield’s plan since her days at SU, where she earned dual bachelor’s degrees in broadcast journalism from the Newhouse School and finance from the Whitman School of Management. But she never would have guessed as a college student that she would one day be working at a technology company in California. “That’s why I love talking to students, because I remember being in school and thinking, ‘I’ve got to define the rest of my life,’” says Canfield, a member of the School of Information Studies Board of Advisors who regularly hosts students during Spring Break in Silicon Valley. She was also the school’s Convocation speaker in May. “But it doesn’t work that way,” she says. “People make career changes and transitions and life takes different paths. It’s all very serendipitous, but it’s usually not a straight line. What matters most is working on something you really enjoy. That way, it doesn’t really feel like work at all.”

—Amy Speach

Harry Weller ’76 (A&S/NEW), senior assistant with the Connecticut Chief State's Attorney’s Office, received the University of Connecticut School of Law Alumni Association 2014 Public Service Award.

Bob Costantini ’78 (NEW) is the White House correspondent at Westwood One News radio in Washington, D.C.

Gerard Martin ’78 (A&S), a pedi- atric cardiologist and senior vice president of the Center for Heart, Lung, and Kidney Disease at Children’s National Health System in Washington, D.C., received the Distinguishe d Fellowship Award from the American College of Cardiology (ACC). He was recognized for being a dedicated champion of the ACC’s goal to improve clinical outcomes in cardiovascular care.

Deborah Raines ’78 (NUR) received the 2015 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Clinical Scholar- ship from the University of Buffalo School of Nursing in May.

James Naughton ’79 (A&S/NEW), G’82 (A&S), former canon for communications and advancement for the Episcopal Diocese of Washing- ton (D.C.) and founder and retired editor of the Episcopal Café online magazine, received the House of Deputies medal honoring him for service to the Episcopal church at the Diocese of Washington’s annual convention in January.


Mark Roberts ’79 (A&S), a poet, fiction writer, and lyricist living in Los Angeles, released a music CD, Villanelle, under the pen name B.D. Love, in collaboration with musician Maura Kennedy (bdlove.org).

David Rockwell ’79 (ARC), founder of the New York City-based Rockwell Group architecture and design practice and a member of the Syracuse Architecture Advisory Board, was named to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Col- lege of Fellows, an honor awarded to AIA members who have made significant contributions to the profession and society.


Robert Gay G’83 (MAX), a sociology professor at Connecticut College, wrote *Bruno: Conversations with a Brazilian Drug Dealer* (Duke University Press), based on exten- sive interviews with a former leader of one of Brazil’s most powerful organized crime factions.

A. Stevens Krug ’83 (ARC), an ar- chitect in West Chester, Pa., is chair of the Climate Change Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Ronald Leibman G’83 (WSM) of Glen Rock, N.J., is a partner at Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Per- retti and co-chair of the law firm’s transportation and logistics group. He serves on the advisory board for the H.H. Franklin Center for Supply Chain Management in the Whit- man School of Management.

Richard Granoff ’84 (ARC) is president of Granoff Architects in Greenwich, Conn. The design firm celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Jed Buck ’85 (NEW/WSM), owner and director of Meadowbrook Day Camp in Long Valley, N.J., received the American Camp Association’s National Service Award.

Janice Convery ’85 (A&S/NEW) of Albuquerque, N.M., wrote *Dogs in the Sun: A Tropical Odyssey* (CreateSpace, 2014), a novel inspired by her experiences living in Haiti, Los Angeles, and Mexico.

Katherine Magon ’85 (VPA) and Russell Danwin ’78 (E&CS) are pilots with American Airlines who crewed together flying a 767 from England to Chicago in March. Magon is a first officer, and Danwin is a captain with the airline.

Margaret Griffin ’86 (ARC), a co-founder and principal of the Los Angeles-based Griffin Enright Architects and a member of the Syracuse Architecture Advisory Board, was named to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Col- lege of Fellows, an honor awarded to AIA members who have made significant contributions to the profession and society.

Tricia McLaughlin ’86 (A&S/ NEW), a New York City-based art- ists and naturalists.

Mary Ann Hopkins ’87, G’89 (E&CS) of Washington, D.C., is president of the government ser- vices unit at Parsons, an engineer- ing, construction, technical, and management services firm. She was selected to the 2014-15 Wash100, a group of private and public sector leaders chosen by Executive Mo- saic’s organizational and editorial leadership as the most influential voices in the government contract- ing sector and recognized for their ability to drive vision, innovation, and achievement.

Bill Roth ’87 (NEW), longtime Virginia Tech athletics radio play- by-play broadcaster known as the “Voice of the Hokies,” accepted a new position as announcer for UCLA football and men’s basketball in April.

Shari Simmons-Bolouri ’97 (A&S) is vice president, marketing and events, at the Alexandria (Va.) Chamber of Commerce.
Kathleen Stress G’08 »

Hunger Relief

As Executive Director of Food Bank of Central New York, Kathleen Stress wants to eliminate hunger and work herself out of a job. Until then, she is responsible for supplying about 38,000 meals a day to 368 food programs within an 11-county area in Central New York. “We provided roughly 14 million meals by the end of our fiscal year on June 30,” Stress says. “It’s an unbelievable statistic. If I could eliminate hunger that would be awesome, but it’s a lot more systemic than I realized.”

Stress first tuned in to the issue of food insecurity when she ran a recreational child care program for The Salvation Army in Syracuse. She was shocked to discover many of the children were hungry because their families struggled to put food on the table. “I hadn’t realized the depth of the problem and didn’t grasp just how much hunger impacted the community in which I was living,” says Stress, who grew up in Phelps, New York, a small town near Rochester. “I became aware that hunger is not just a third-world issue, but a local issue where one-in-six people don’t have enough food to eat.”

At the urging of her supervisor, Stress pursued a master’s degree in public administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs with a focus on nonprofit leadership. In 2008, the Food Bank recruited her as its director of internal communications to help with its strategic planning initiative and solidify policies and procedures. She soon moved up to the chief operating officer role, which led to her being named executive director of the Food Bank in July 2013. “I often wonder if it was a higher power that opened the path for me from The Salvation Army to the Food Bank,” she says.

Stress oversees 56 full-time staff members, and 100 to 150 regular volunteers who help sort dry good items at the Food Bank’s vast warehouse located north of the city. The food is then distributed to food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters, as well as day care, residential, and senior centers throughout the region. Four registered dietitians on staff identify the core components to be included in each meal package distributed by food pantries, with an emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables. Stress also is responsible for procuring food commodities donated by grocery retailers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and purchased wholesale with a New York State Department of Health grant. “I’m humbled to be around such a dedicated and smart staff,” she says. “They make it easy for me.”

As head of a nonprofit organization, Stress must raise funds to support the Food Bank’s emergency food network and a variety of outreach and educational initiatives. Her goal is to partner with local companies and organizations to make a larger collective impact on hunger. One such partnership is with SU Life Trustee Eric Mower ’66, G’68, whose advertising agency worked closely with Stress to create the Food Bank’s highly successful Stick a Fork in Hunger public awareness campaign. And last spring, 20 students in the College of Visual and Performing Arts’ Design Project Management class worked on promotional and communication strategies to refine and extend the Food Bank’s brand to a younger audience. “I feel we are making really good progress,” Stress says. “On a daily basis, I’m at least ensuring that children and their families have access to nutritious food.” —Christine Yackel
Katie Hursey Zaferes ’12

WORLD-CLASS TRIPLE THREAT

WHEN KATIE HURSEY ZAFERES STEPS TO THE TOP OF THE awards podium, she knows she has reached great heights when she hears “The Star-Spangled Banner.” “You are standing up there and it’s the coolest feeling to know the national anthem is playing,” says Zaferes, a world-class, professional triathlete and member of the USA Triathlon National Team. “You are representing your country and so many other people, too.”

Zaferes and her peers experience those peak moments as athletes in the World Triathlon Series (WTS), the highest level of competition within the International Triathlon Union (ITU). It is a pursuit that has taken Zaferes around the globe, from Europe and the Middle East to Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. While she enjoys seeing the world on the ITU circuit, it’s the challenge of swimming, cycling, and running that motivates her. In the last couple of years, Zaferes—the 2013 USA Triathlon Elite Rookie of the Year—has captured the 2014 New Plymouth (New Zealand) ITU World Cup Championship and finished as runner-up in four 2015 WTS races so far: Abu Dhabi, Auckland, Cape Town, and London.

That’s quite a change of scenery for the former novice swimmer and high school soccer player who grew up in Hampstead, Maryland, and originally took up track and cross country as a way to stay in shape for soccer in the fall. “I liked the team atmosphere of cross country and the different elements of the courses,” Zaferes says.

At SU, Zaferes expanded her skills under the guidance of head cross country and track and field coach Chris Fox and associate head coach Brien Bell. It was a revelation in the art of running—and she succeeded, too, winning the 2009 NCAA Northeast Regional cross country meet and earning 2011 All-America honors in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. “Until I met my husband [Tommy, also a professional triathlete], I always looked at going to Syracuse as the best decision of my life,” says Zaferes, who earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from the School of Education. “That is what got me started and really got me into running. That is when I learned to work hard and believe in myself. Having Coach Fox and Coach Bell believe in me and put things into perspective was something I don’t think I could have gotten anywhere else. Having that team environment and being a leader really shaped me to get ready for triathlons.”

With that foundation in hand, Zaferes’s experience as both a swimmer and a runner led the USA Triathlon Collegiate Recruitment Program to take an interest in her progress. She undertook an intensive training program and received guidance from triathlete Barb Lindquist, the program manager, who helped Zaferes with continued growth in the sport. “The hardest part was learning the skills on the bike and getting used to riding, which I had never really done before,” she says. “Getting back in the pool was probably the biggest mental difficulty that I found. Getting into a pool and beginning to train by myself was not very fun.” To overcome that, Zaferes recruited friends to swim with her and regularly met with Falk College sport management professor Gina Pauline for early morning workouts in the pool.

But Zaferes does not have to search far for motivation. It comes from Maryland, from Syracuse, and from the red, white, and blue wardrobe she sports as a triathlete. “Being able to wear those colors and represent the USA is something that drives me every day,” says Zaferes, with an eye on reaching the 2016 Rio Olympics.

—Brian Hudgins
A Cuban Dancer’s Journey

ONCE CONFINED TO AN ISLAND, ROBERTO PEREZ NOW travels the world. This summer, the Cuban refugee backpacked through 16 countries—from Norway to Turkey. The freedom to travel fulfills a childhood ambition for Perez, who collected maps and globes as a boy, but like most Cubans was restricted from travel. “When I was little I learned the names of the capitals of all the countries,” he says. “That I can now experience the places I spent so much time thinking about fills me with joy."

Perez also finds joy in sharing the music and dance culture of his native country. He is co-founder of La Familia de la Salsa, the largest Latin dance organization in upstate New York, and is an instructor in the School of Education’s Department of Exercise Science, teaching classes in Foundations of Salsa and Cardio Dance. “I want to be the ambassador of Cuban music,” he says. “This was my mission when I came to the U.S.”

Perez grew up in Havana, a musical city that gave birth to such Cuban rhythms as mambo, cha-cha-cha, and casino—the traditional way of dancing to salsa music. In seventh grade, Perez left Havana to attend boarding school in the countryside, where tuition was free but students earned their way by picking fruits and vegetables. “My mother believed I would get a better education,” he says.

Perez developed a strong work ethic and earned high grades, but endured harsh realities, including bullying and the grueling field labor. Before he returned home in 11th grade to finish high school, he remembers feeling angry he had been sent away. “But I also learned discernment,” he says. “Some things are worth fighting for and I learned not to be afraid.”

Perez fought for his freedom to travel and experience the world outside of Cuba. He made a few attempts to escape by boat to no avail. After earning a bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of Havana, he boarded a flight to Russia, which didn’t require a visa for Cubans. From there, he traveled to Finland and Italy as a way to try to reach the United States. He eventually flew from Europe to Colombia. Then he ran out of money. “I was stuck there for five years,” he says. “But it is where I profoundly bonded with my cultural identity. After I left Cuba, it made me feel more Cuban to listen to my own music. I grew to fully appreciate how rich it was. I wanted to share it.”

Perez’s stepsister is a professional dancer, discovered there was also a dancer in him. “I met a Colombian writer knowledgeable about Cuban music who had social dances every night,” he says. “We formed a Cuban band. I did choreography and we booked shows.”

In 2000, Perez finally succeeded in making it to American soil. Using a Colombian passport, he illegally boarded a flight to Europe that had a stopover in Miami. Perez hid in a bathroom for hours, then located the immigration office and asked for political asylum. He was detained for five months before being given legal status.

With the help of a resettlement program, Perez made his way to Syracuse. He did not know a word of English or a single soul. But in seven years’ time, he earned a bachelor’s degree in international relations from the Maxwell School and College of Arts and Sciences and became a U.S. citizen. “There were many times I wanted to give up,” he says. “A good work ethic allows you to get things done. It makes you believe you can do anything.”

This is the confidence Perez instills in his SU students. “Learning to dance isn’t easy,” he says. “Watching them respond to the music, connect with each other, and grow confident in their ability is gratifying.”

—IWANT TO BE THE AMBASSADOR OF CUBAN MUSIC. THIS WAS MY MISSION WHEN I CAME TO THE U.S.”—Laura Mikols
Jeffry Comanici ’88 (WSM), former assistant dean for advancement at the College of Visual and Performing Arts, is director of philanthropy at Crouse Health Foundation in Syracuse. A graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse, he has been active in local community organizations, including Oakwood Cemetery, DeWitt Community Church, Susan G. Komen Central New York, Vera House Foundation, and the Consortium for Children’s Services.

John DiDonna ’88 (VPA) is program chair and artistic director of theater at Valencia College in Orlando, Fla. He is the creator/director of Phantasmagoria Orlando, a critically acclaimed Victorian storytelling troupe and “horror circus” that features dance, puppetry, explosive stage combat, and live music, now celebrating its sixth year.

Eric Leeb ’88 (VPA), G’89 (NEW) of New York City co-produced ActSense: Ladies First, an evening of one-act plays featuring three actresses from Buenos Aires, Argentina. The plays were presented at the Bridge Theatre at Shelter Studios in Manhattan in July to benefit Abrigando Sueños (Harborling Dreams), an initiative in Argentina that aims to supply 10,000 people in need with winter kits consisting of blankets and clothing.

Brian A. Caswell G’89 (WSM), a partner with Caswell & Associates Certified Public Accountants in Phoenix, N.Y., was re-elected to the International Ethics Standards Board’s 18 voting members and a two-year term. He is one of the board’s 18 voting members and the only member from the United States.

Daniel B. Heukrath ’89 (ARC) is practice leader, architecture at N.K. Bhandari Architecture and Engineering firm in Syracuse.

John Beaton Hill ’89 (VPA) is writer and director of The Wolves of Savin Hill, a crime-thriller that won the Chris Brinker Award for Most Outstanding First Feature Film at the 2014 San Diego Film Festival. David Cooley ’90 (VPA) stars in the film.

Lawrence Swiader ’89 (NEW), G’93 (EDU) is senior director of digital media at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy in Washington, D.C. He leads the Bedsider program (bedside.org), a digital intervention in reproductive health directed to women ages 18 to 29 that provides comprehensive information and resources related to birth control.

1990s

Doug Brunk G’90 (NEW) of San Diego wrote Wildcat Memoires: Inside Stories from Kentucky Basketball Greats (University Press of Kentucky, 2014), a collection of first-person essays from 32 former coaches and players.

Scott Erdy G’90 (ARC), a founding partner and lead designer at Erdy McHenry Architecture in Philadelphia who teaches at the University of Pennsylvania, was named to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows, an honor awarded to AIA members who have made significant contributions to the profession and society.

Michael Lawton ’90 (VPA) is creative director at Fortune magazine in New York City.

Joseph Nelson ’90 (A&S) is senior credit officer at TD Bank in Hartford, Conn.

Allison Slater Ofanansky ’90 (NEW) received the 2014 National Jewish Book Council award in the illustrated children’s book category for The Patchwork Torah (KarBen/ Lerner, 2014). Her book New Moon, New Moon (KarBen, 2014) is the fifth in her Nature in Israel series, with a sixth scheduled for publication in 2017.

Lee Wybranski ’90 (VPA), owner and creative director at Lee Wybranski Art & Design in Flagstaff, Ariz., has painted the official commemorative poster for the United States Golf Association’s U.S. Open every year since 2008 (www.leewybranski.com).

Craig Enger ’91 (NEW) of Rockville, Md., co-wrote and co-edited America Speaks: Great Writings and Speeches That Forged a Nation (Hobo Publishing, 2014) with his father, Norman Enger.

Joshua Zinder ’91 (ARC) is principal and founder of JZA+D, a Princeton, N.J.-based design firm that received the Architectural Firm of the Year 2014 service award from the American Institute of Architects New Jersey (AIA-NJ) in January. Zinder received the AIA-NJ Architect of the Year service award in 2013. Staff members at the firm include Mark Sullivan ’91, G’93 (ARC), Ben Grace G’10 (ARC), and Megan Pritts ’12 (ARC).

Erica Berman ’92 (NEW) is creator, manager, and owner of Haven in Paris, a luxury vacation rental agency with properties in England, France, and Italy, and maintains the Hip Paris blog (haveninparis.com).

Eugene McCabe ’92 (E&CS) retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of active duty. He is the manager of the Engineering Support and Plan Review section of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in Anchorage, where he oversees a group of civil and environmental engineers who develop and review technical standards and review wastewater system designs statewide.

James Morris ’92 (A&S/NEW) wrote What Lies Within (Kindle Press), a young adult thriller. A former television writer who now works in digital media, he lives with his wife and dog in Los Angeles.

Alana Suko ’92 (NEW) is executive director at Hornercom public relations and marketing communications agency in Harleysville, Pa.

Sergio Castiglione G’93 (ARC) of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a photographer specializing in architecture and urbanism. He will present an exhibition of his work in New York City at the art gallery at the Consulate General and Promotion Center of Argentina in New York in September.

Eric Grode ’93 (NEW), a critic, author, teacher, and digital journalist, is the new director of the Newhouse School’s Goldring Arts Journalism Program. He has written about the theater and the arts for such publications as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and New York magazine. His second book, The Big Book of Broadway: 150 Definitive Plays and Musicals (Voyageur Press), is forthcoming this summer.

Greg Sankey G’93 (EDU), a longtime associate commissioner in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), was named the league’s eighth commissioner in March by the presidents and chancellors of the SEC. He and his wife, Cathy, reside in Birmingham, Ala., and have two daughters.

Michelle Sures Rath G’94 (EDU) is a high school counselor at American School of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Rosiland Rollins ’94 (E&CS) is a patent agent at Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, an intellectual property law firm based in Washington, D.C.

Winston C. Fisher ’96 (A&S), SU Trustee and a partner in the Manhattan-based Fisher Brothers real estate firm, rode with Team Intrepid Fallen Heroes in the annual Race Across America in June, raising nearly $550,000 to help treat wounded military heroes suffering from traumatic brain injury.

Rachel Mazur G’96 (MAX), a wildlife biologist at Sequoia National Park in Three Rivers, Calif., and a recognized expert in black bear ecology and management, wrote Speaking of Beans: The Bear Crisis and a Tale of Rewilding from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Other National Parks (Falcon Guides).

Dawn Hughes Sangley ’96 (ARC) is an associate principal at PLDA Inc., a Baltimore-based commercial interior design firm.

William F. Gramer ’97 (A&S) is an attorney with Devine Millmet law firm in Manchester, N.H.

Edward S. Goldis ’98 (A&S), a partner with Feldman Shepherd Wthglglernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig law firm in Philadelphia, was listed as a 2015 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in Philadelphia magazine.

Wanda Lotus McCrae G’98 (E&CS) is one of the inaugural artists whose black-and-white street photography was selected for exhibition by Rush Street Gallery, a digital exhibition of contemporary artistic photography (rushstreetgallery.com). Her photography was also accepted for inclusion in Colors of Humanity’s February show, Red (colorsofhumanitygallery.com).

Jennifer Carnahan ’99 (NEW), a business executive who formerly held positions at such Fortune 500 companies as General Mills and McDonald’s, owns Primrose Park (primroseparkmpls.com), a women’s clothing boutique—designed by Kristen McCoy ’96 (VPA) — that opened in northeast Minneapolis in October. Also a yoga teacher, Carnahan is president of the SU Alumni Club in the Twin Cities.
RECORD RUN

Alumna Harriette Thompson becomes world’s oldest woman marathon finisher

It appears there is no stopping Harriette Line Thompson ’47 when it comes to crossing a finish line. At age 92, the Charlotte, North Carolina, resident and grandmother became the oldest woman ever to complete a marathon. On May 31, Thompson finished the Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego Marathon, covering the 26.2-mile course in 7 hours, 24 minutes, and 36 seconds. At 92 years and 65 days on race day, she eclipsed the previous record holder’s age by 46 days.

“I can’t believe I made it!” she told the Charlotte Observer. “I was really tired at one point. Around mile 21, I was going up a hill and it was like a mountain, and I was thinking, ‘This is sort of crazy at my age.’ But then I felt better coming down the hill. And my son Brenny [who accompanied her] kept feeding me all these wonderful carbohydrates that kept me going.”

Thompson has finished the California race 16 times, raising more than $100,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She is a cancer survivor who lost her husband, Judge Sydnor Thompson Jr. ’47, to the disease in January. A former concert pianist who earned a bachelor’s degree in music from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, she ran her first marathon at age 76 and says she mentally plays piano pieces to help her endure the grueling distance. To compete in this year’s marathon, she also overcame a staph infection in one of her legs that hampered her training. And her new record isn’t the only one she has set. Last year, she motored through San Diego’s streets in 7:07:42—the fastest marathon finish ever by a woman older than 90.

—Jay Cox
With all of $6.14 in her bank account and too much pride to call her parents for money, Courtnee Futch ’15 whipped up a batch of bacon-chocolate Rice Krispies Treats, put the word out on Facebook, and sold out in less than an hour. ThunderCakes—her bakery business—was born. But it was seed funding from the Raymond von Dran IDEA Awards Competition that enabled her to invest in equipment, pay legal fees, and hire interns. Now she’s planning to take her thriving business full time after college.

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Beau Biden L’94

JOSEPH R. “BEAU” BIDEN III, former attorney general of Delaware and the oldest son of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden L’68, died on May 30, 2015, of brain cancer. He was 46. A graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law, Biden was a popular and dedicated public servant and an Iraq War veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star.

Biden, a rising political star who planned to run for governor of Delaware in 2016, stepped into the national spotlight at the 2008 Democratic National Convention, where he gave a memorable speech introducing his father as the nominee for vice president. He began his career as a law clerk for a federal judge in New Hampshire and went on to work for the U.S. Department of Justice, serving several years as a federal prosecutor in Philadelphia. In 2001, he volunteered for an assignment to work in post-war Kosovo, helping to train judges and prosecutors there. In 2006, he was elected to the first of his two four-year terms as Delaware’s attorney general. A major in the Delaware Army National Guard’s Judge Advocate General Corps, Biden deployed to Iraq in 2008 and served there for a year. In 2011, Biden returned to campus to deliver the College of Law Commencement address.

“More than his professional accomplishments, Beau measured himself as a husband, father, son, and brother,” Vice President Biden said in a statement. “His absolute honor made him a role model for our family. Beau embodied my father’s saying that a parent knows success measured himself as a husband, father, son, and brother,” Vice President Biden said in a statement. “His absolute honor made him a role model for our family. Beau embodied my father’s saying that a parent knows success when his child turns out better than he did. In the words of the Biden family: Beau Biden was, quite simply, the finest man any of us have ever known.”

He is survived by his wife, Hallie, and two children, Natalie and Hunter; his parents, Vice President Biden and Jill Biden; a brother, Hunter; a sister, Ashley; and their families.
Marcia Fields ’00 (NEW) co-wrote, co-produced, and co-directed the comedic short film Moving On with her husband, Mike Spear. The film premiered at the 2015 Santa Barbara International Film Festival in February and was selected for the NoHo Cine Fest in North Hollywood in April and the New Hope Film Festival in Bucks County, Pa., in July.

Kristen Duda ’01 (VPA) is an event and fundraising specialist at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York, which operates a year-round home away from home for families whose children are hospitalized with serious illnesses or injuries.

Sapna Kollali ’01 (A&S/NEW), G’09 (EDU) and her husband, Kevin Tampone ’01 (NEW), announce the birth of their daughter, Jyothi, who joins big sister Leela. They live in Syracuse, where Sapna is a public information officer at Madison-Oneida BOCES and Kevin is a business reporter at Syracuse Media Group.

Theresa Siconolfi ’01 (VPA) is a production manager at SKM Group marketing agency in Depew, N.Y.

Kelly Nelson ’02 (A&S) married Benjamin Schoen in September 2014. They reside in St. Louis, Mo.

Benjamin L. Riemer ’02 (A&S), an associate attorney at Bell Nunnally & Martin law firm in Dallas, was named to the 2015 “Texas Rising Stars” list published by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters publication and ratings service.

Neil J. Smith ’02 (NEW) is a partner at Mackenzie Hughes law firm in Syracuse.

Emilie Cole ’03 (A&S/NEW) is director of communications at Asana, a software startup focused on team productivity. She resides in San Francisco.

Ritu Kaur Cooper L’03 (LAW) is an attorney with Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, a health care law firm in Washington, D.C.

Christopher Ellis ’03 (NEW) and his wife, Kelsey, announce the birth of their son, Everett, in September 2014. Ellis is a development associate at Community Health Center of Cape Cod in Mashpee, Mass., and is director of the Woodlawn Run for a Cause, a 5K race that has raised more than $80,000 for various charities since 2007.

Seth Feldman ’03 (A&S/NEW) partnered with his sister, Brooke Feldman ’11 (VPA), and their father, Edward Feldman ’69 (A&S), to establish Bergen Shakespeare, a New Jersey nonprofit corporation offering Shakespeare in the Park performances in Ridgefield Park, N.J., in July and August (www.bergenshakespeare.org). The organization was formed in 2014 with the goal of bringing free theater and arts experiences to the community.

Austin Gerber ’03 (ARC) is a project manager at SOSH Architects in Atlantic City, N.J.

Matthew Perl ’03 (A&S) is chief marketing officer at Fix Media in Alexandria, Va.

Jackie Shutack Wong ’03 (NEW) and husband Eugene Wong ’02 (WSM) announce the birth of their daughter, Helena GISelle, in June 2014.

Whitney M. Kummerow ’04 (NEW) is an attorney at Hancock Estabrook law firm in Syracuse.

Todd B. Rubin ’04 (ARC) is president and minister of evolution at The Republic of Tea in Novato, Calif. He received the Generation Orange Award for philanthropy in 2014, and was also honored as one of North Bay Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 in 2014.

Kathleen Foley Ioannilli ’05 (NEW) and Michael Ioannilli ’03 (WSM) of London, England, announce the birth of their son, William Rowan, in November.

Rebecca L. Tweed ’05 (A&S), a political consultant in Portland, Ore., was profiled in the March issue of Portland Monthly Magazine as one of the state’s most influential women.

Aaron Meyerson ’06 (A&S) is director of business operations at WiredScore in New York City. The company provides a standardized rating system to identify, evaluate, and certify commercial buildings with the fastest, most reliable Internet connections.

Michael Sperenza ’06 (ARC) is an associate at MDSzerbaty + Associates Architecture in New York City.

Ryan W. York ’06 (WSM) is chief executive officer of Confidential Planning I at Pinnacle Holding Company in Syracuse. He serves on the board of directors for the SU Alumni Club of Central New York and the Arc of Onondaga Foundation.

Alana Edmunds ’08 (IST) married George S. Smith Jr. in October. They reside in New York City, where she leads mobile products for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Emilee Lawson Hatch L’08 (LAW), an attorney at Bousquet Holstein law firm in Syracuse, received the 2015 New York State Bar Association President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the 5th Judicial District in May. She was nominated for the award by the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County Inc. for the volunteer legal services she provides in the community, including her work with Upstate University Hospital’s social work department.

Arley Sochacky ’08 (VPA), interior design studio manager at SOSH Architects, was recognized as one of Atlantic City Weekly’s “Top 40 Under 40.” She also completed a 200-hour yoga teacher training program at Grace and Glory Yoga in Northfield, N.J.

Will Elkins G’09 (NEW) is the communications and social media manager at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

Leigh Paynter G’09 (NEW) married German Martinez G’09 (NEW) in San Francisco. Leigh is a reporter at CBS KOVR-TV, and German is a marketing strategist for a Bay Area tech startup.

Andrew Graham ’11 (NEW) is senior talent manager at Big Frame, a leading media company in the YouTube entertainment space, managing individuals with large digital followings and building businesses in conjunction with them (www.bigfra.me).

Geoff Campbell G’13 (NEW) is digital and social media specialist at Friends’ Central School in Wynnewood, Pa.

Nate Haddad ’13 (A&S) is an AmeriCorps volunteer serving at the Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School in Dorchester, Mass., and a program coordinator at Playworks, a nonprofit organization that promotes healthy play and provides trained recess coaches to low-income schools in major urban areas of the United States. He was named 2015 Rookie of the Year by Playworks for his efforts at the Kenny school, including organizing a Saturday community clean-up event.

Allyssa Kaiser ’13 (NEW), an account executive at MRY, attended the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in Austin, Texas, in March on behalf of her company, as a result of winning an agency-wide social competition with her photo entry.

Flose Boursiquot ’14 (A&S/NEW) is an associate organizer at PACT (People Acting for Community Together), a Miami-based affiliate of DART (Direct Action and Research Training Center). She was one of 11 individuals selected from a pool of 580 applicants this year by the DART Organizers Institute to be trained as part of a new generation of community organizers.

Chelsea D’Amore ’14 (A&S/NEW) is an account coordinator at Hornercom public relations and marketing communications agency in Harleysville, Pa.

Scott M. Cohn ’99 (NEW), co-founder of the New York City-based creative agency Night Agency, wrote Daddy Sat on a Duck (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers), a funny and heartwarming children’s book that offers up a salute to real-life dads everywhere and is crafted with contemporary parents in mind (www.daddysatonaduck.com). A second book, Daddy Said a Word I Never Heard, will be released in November.
AN ORANGE NATION WELCOME

NEW DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS MARK COYLE IS A native of the Midwest, but he’s been familiar with the Orange and the Carrier Dome since the early days of the Big East and cable TV sports. “Growing up in Iowa, I remember watching Syracuse basketball on ESPN,” he said. “I felt like this institution was on TV every night.”

Coyle shared that recollection at a June 22 press conference on campus, when he and his family were officially welcomed by Chancellor Kent Syverud and the University community. He arrived in Syracuse from Boise State University in Idaho, where he’d served as athletic director since 2012.

“I am confident that Mark is the right leader for Syracuse University Athletics,” Chancellor Syverud said, citing Coyle’s career-long commitment to strong academic values and the welfare of students, as well as his fundraising expertise. “Mark has helped students find success in sport, in the classroom, and in the community. He is consistently focused on developing students to their fullest potential, along with building a nationally competitive athletics program.”

Coyle, a 1991 graduate of Drake University in Iowa where he lettered in football, holds master’s degrees in teaching from Drake and in sports administration from Florida State University. He was recommended to the Chancellor by a search committee headed by SU Life Trustee Steven Ballentine ’83. Prior to joining Boise State, he held positions in the athletic departments at the University of Kentucky and the University of Minnesota. “My expectations are simple,” Coyle said. “I want to make sure that we provide a nationally competitive, broad-based program that focuses on every student-athlete. We’re going to get our degrees, and we’re going to compete for championships.”

—Jay Cox
Save the dates for Orange Central 2015—our special alumni weekend packed with exciting events, including Saturday’s football game against Pittsburgh!

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