“The only wealth you get to keep is that which you give away.” — B. Thomas Golisano
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Jeffrey Holzschuh, ’82, chair of Niagara’s Board of Trustees; senior biology major Bethany Zakrzewski; NU president Father James J. Maher, C.M.; former president Father Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.; and B. Thomas Golisano cut the ribbon on Niagara’s new science building Oct. 9, 2013. “I’m very proud to have this building bear my name, and I hope it makes a great contribution to Niagara University,” said Golisano. “It deserves it.”

View the Eagle online at http://eagleonline.niagara.edu/
In the few months since I officially commenced my term as Niagara University’s 26th president, I’ve welcomed the opportunity to speak with hundreds of alumni and friends, both near and far. It is through these conversations that I’ve gained a better understanding of what Niagara means to those who have come to know our people and programs.

Notice that I used the present tense — “means,” not “meant.” That’s because their affinity for Niagara University never wavers, even years, decades after their classification changes from student to alumnus or alumna. Oftentimes, it grows stronger.

Never was this more apparent than during Alumni Weekend in October (see pgs. 16-18), when 600-plus Niagarans returned to Monteagle Ridge to reflect on the special moments they shared together as classmates and friends. Many of these alumni described Niagara as a “magical place” — it was wonderful to witness them recapture the “magic” with their classmates. Some came from as far away as San Diego, Calif.; others were 70 years removed from their time as undergraduates. Yet no matter how far they traveled to get here, and regardless of their advanced age, they all spoke glowingly of what brought them back.

And yet as much as the faces on campus change, that sentiment remains the same. The Niagara students of today are drawn here by the outstanding quality of our academic offerings, our state-of-the-art facilities or our border-neighboring location that cannot be duplicated anywhere in the world. But once they arrive, they are touched by the Catholic and Vincentian mission that is administered carefully and compassionately by our wonderful faculty and staff.

These students are now crafting their own Niagara stories the way you once did. It is our responsibility to imbue in them the passion to make a difference in the lives of others, to uphold and advance the legacy of those who came before them. We want them to share their experiences at Niagara in the same reverent and enthusiastic manner that our alumni do at all corners of the globe; in other words, we want them to bleed purple.

Within this magazine, you’ll learn about senior Joseph Hotchkiss (see pg. 8) who was so inspired by one of his Niagara professors that he began revitalizing an abandoned park in the prime tourism corridor of Niagara Falls. Like a modern-day St. Vincent, he has accumulated resources — mostly human, some monetary — to forward the cause, one that will continue once the weather breaks. By the time you read this, Joe will have graduated from NU and turned some of his attention to starting a business downtown, doing even more to restore the proud city to its former glory.

When news of Joe’s efforts was made public, the first photojournalist on the scene was Ed Reilly, a 1980 Niagara University graduate (see pg. 22). As an employee of the local ABC affiliate, Ed, the alumnus, met with Joe, the student, to record a 2-minute piece (lengthy by television standards), which aired as part of the channel’s “Good Things” segment during its Nov. 14 newscast.

Ed Reilly is in the business of telling stories. We want to delve into that business, too. We’re not planning to launch a television station by any means; rather, we want to communicate the “magic of Niagara” organically, by word-of-mouth, through this magazine, our website and our social media presences.

We want to tell Niagara stories — your stories — to a larger audience, one that spans continents, languages and cultures. Institutionally, we are making it a strategic priority to expand our presence internationally. It’s a way to sustain the university from an enrollment perspective and it will significantly enrich the diversity of the on-campus experience for our students.

To do so, we need to hear your stories, your successes and challenges, and how Niagara has been an important part of shaping the person that you are today. We want to hear your stories so that we can share them with prospective students. Please consider my inbox always open. I encourage you to email me your comments at jjm@niagara.edu.

Thank you for contributing to the “magic of Niagara.”

Until next time,

Rev. James J. Maher, C.M.
President
The Graduation Success Rate of Niagara
University student-athletes is 6 percent higher than the Division I national average, according to figures released in October by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The Purple Eagles posted a cumulative GSR of 88 percent.

In addition to the overall department score, five programs — men’s golf, women’s basketball, women’s soccer, women’s tennis and women’s volleyball — registered a perfect (100) GSR. In addition, 11 of Niagara’s individual programs had higher scores than the national average.

Dr. Judith A. (Skurski) Willard, ’70, M.A.’72, assistant to the president for planning, received the Caritas Medal during Niagara University’s annual Vincentian Heritage Convocation, held Sept. 26, 2013. The award recognizes contemporary leaders who exemplify St. Vincent de Paul’s charity in an extraordinary way.

Also honored at the event were Dr. Craig Rivera, associate professor of criminal justice, and his wife, Lisa (Wasson) Rivera, ’95, M.S.Ed.’97, academic counselor in the Niagara University Opportunity Program. They were presented with the Vincentian Mission Award, which is given to members of the university community who seek to emulate the altruistic spirit of St. Vincent, the universal patron of charity.

The Rev. John S. Sledziona, C.M., former Niagara University trustee, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the event for his faithful service to Niagara University, the Congregation of the Mission, and the Catholic Church.

More than 700 freshmen and transfer students took part in numerous community-building activities during Niagara University’s Move-In Weekend (Aug. 30 – Sept. 2.) The newest Purple Eagles attended the 11th annual New Student Convocation, took their first class — “NUB,” a course designed to introduce new students to the culture and heritage of Niagara — and then congregated for another staple of fall orientation, the walk to Whirlpool State Park. Other activities included sports, bingo and college meetings.

National Grid, in partnership with Niagara
University’s College of Education and the Niagara Falls City School District, is providing funding for graduate-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and Advance Manufacturing (AM) professional development courses for 45 teachers from the school district. When the teachers complete their training, they will use what they’ve learned as instructors in the College of Education’s summer camps, which host more than 300 students with diverse backgrounds from across Western New York. The goal of the three-year program is to enhance STEM and AM education in order to provide students with the tools and resources to be prepared for the future job market.

The Niagra University College of Business Administration hosted 23 Chinese representatives from Jianghan University, Wuhan, China, for 11 days this summer. The delegates received training in the areas of U.S. international business relations, U.S. capitalist market, U.S. manufacturing, campus culture of U.S. universities, teaching management, research project management, and research methods in economics and management. The goal of the program was to enhance mutual understanding between the universities, develop joint programs, diversify the NU student body, and internationalize curricula of both universities.

Niagara University’s College of Hospitality
and Tourism Management has joined with Niagara Catholic Jr./Sr. High School to establish a Hospitality and Tourism Academy at the school. Students accepted to the program will obtain a solid understanding of the hospitality and tourism profession, gain industry experience, and have the ability to graduate with up to one year of college course work completed.

Alumni have good reason to be proud of their NU degrees: Niagara is once again listed among the best colleges and universities in the North (#54), and also designated as one of 15 “Best Value” institutions in the region, according to rankings released by U.S. News & World Report. In addition, The Princeton Review included Niagara in its list of “Best in the Northeast” colleges and universities as posted on the PrincetonReview.com website feature, “2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region.”

Michael Freedman, Niagara University’s associate director of public relations and manager of online content, has been chosen as a “Spotlight Professional” by Buffalo Niagara 360, a program for young professionals that is coordinated by the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. Individuals selected for the award must be engaged in the community, demonstrate leadership skills, and their work must be aligned with the Partnership’s pro-Buffalo Niagara mission of furthering regional development and growth.

Niagara University received a $30,000 grant from the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York in support of the university’s nursing programs. Through the two-year grant, titled “Investing in an Elder-Competent Workforce,” Niagara will receive $10,000 for the first year, with the balance of the grant being awarded in year two. The grant will support the enhancement of education specific to the preparation of nursing students so that they can meet the increased and complex needs of the expanding elderly population. The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York is a nonprofit private foundation, the mission of which is to improve the health and health care of the people living in those regions.

A new bachelor’s degree program in gerontology, offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, will introduce students to the study of aging and the aged, and also provide opportunities for experiential learning, including research training, internships and community service placements working with the elderly.

For more information, please call 716.286.8358 or visit www.niagara.edu/gerontology.

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Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management honored Buffalo-born Jeremy M. Jacobs, chairman and C.E.O. of Delaware North Companies and owner of the National Hockey League’s Boston Bruins; Carsten K. Rath, founder and C.E.O. of Lifestyle Hospitality and Entertainment Management, AG; and Danilo Zucchetti, managing director of the Villa d’Este, S.p.A. and Virtuoso Travel Week’s 2012 Hotelier of the Year at its 13th annual convocation Oct. 22, 2013. The convocation is the college’s showcase event, during which it annually honors national and international leaders in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Niagara University was ranked among the top 20 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students, and to ensure their success on campus for 2014 by Victory Media. By being designated a “Military Friendly School” by the “premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life,” Niagara’s continuing efforts to provide high-quality educational opportunities to veterans will be nationally recognized in Victory Media’s annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools, which was distributed in print and digital format to hundreds of thousands of active and former military personnel in early October.

A delegation of human resource administrators and directors from the Ministry of Home Affairs in Vietnam spent some time on the Niagara campus, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Hung Le, vice president for international relations at Niagara University, who is leading a management development program on public administration reform for the group. During their stay in the United States, the group attended presentations on numerous topics, visited local companies and sites to see success stories firsthand, and toured New York City.
As a Ph.D. student working on her dissertation at Kent State University, Dr. Haoua Hamza returned to her native Niger to find out what motivated some young women to continue their educations beyond elementary school. She never imagined that, 13 years later, she would be chosen as a role model for them.

The associate professor in NU’s College of Education was selected as one of 100 influential women of Niger, and one of only seven living abroad, by a committee comprising members representing the United Nations Fund for Population, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Ministry of Population, and the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children. Her story will be featured in an upcoming book intended to inspire young Nigerien women to pursue secondary and higher education so that they, too, can lead successful lives and make a difference for others.

This is not the first time Dr. Hamza has been part of an effort to empower Nigerien women. Several years ago, she launched the Global Network for Niger, an organization intended to connect Nigerien women with the resources they need, specifically in the areas of education, financial stability and health. This past summer, while in Niger for several weeks, Dr. Hamza brought two boxes of medical and school supplies to her hometown of Diffa, planning to donate them to the local clinic and to students at an elementary school she had visited in 2010 as a symbolic gesture assuring them she had not forgotten them.

When the mayor of Diffa learned of her intentions, he invited the governor, the regional directors of the public services, traditional chiefs, and members of the local community to a televised ceremony formalizing the contributions and publicly thanking Dr. Hamza for remembering her “sisters” in her hometown.

Although Dr. Hamza hadn’t expected that her small act would receive so much attention, she is hoping that the people of Diffa will better understand what the Global Network for Niger can do for them. “I wanted to let people know that someone from this town went as far as she can go but still comes back to help,” she says.

For more information on the Global Network for Niger, visit www.theglobalnetworkniger.net.
Travels in Istanbul

Eight Niagara students had the opportunity to experience 2,000 years of history during a 10-day trip to Istanbul, part of a special topics course taught by Dr. Mustafa Gökçek, associate professor of history.

This is the second time the course has been offered and it has proven to be extremely popular with students, who prepare for their trip during the spring semester class. The students study the history, politics, and social and cultural transformation of the city, which has served as the capital of three empires and still exhibits the influence of each one. They also learned some conversational Turkish and completed research projects on some of the sites they would visit on the trip. While in Istanbul, the students kept journals of their experiences and used these journals to write reflective papers.

Through an exchange program between Niagara University and Fatih University in Istanbul, Dr. Gökçek, a Turkish national, developed an itinerary that included visits to a number of historic and cultural sites, including Hagia Sophia, a former Greek Orthodox patriarchal basilica, later an imperial mosque, and now a museum in Istanbul. The group met with representatives of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the party governing Turkey since 2002; and the opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP), during which students gained insight into their differing views. They also took a virtual helicopter ride over Istanbul and spent two days in Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire and a sister city to Buffalo, N.Y., where they toured a village dating back to the Ottoman Empire.

Because five of the students were hotel and tourism majors, Dr. Gökçek arranged a visit to the Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus, a strait that forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia.

The group also had opportunities to interact with people from the community during several dinners hosted by local families, and students from Fatih University often accompanied them on their outings so they were able to get to know their Turkish peers.

Although the itinerary was carefully planned, there was time for spontaneous adventures, including a visit to Taksim Square, the site of the demonstrations that had ended about a week before the Niagara group left for Turkey, and a tour of an Ottoman madrasa in the Old City, a structure that Dr. Gökçek had seen often on trips to Istanbul. The building now houses a foundation. The students posted photos and comments about their adventures on a Facebook page. (www.facebook.com/TravelsInIstanbul).

In addition to experiencing first-hand what they learned in the classroom, the Niagara students had the opportunity to see that they have more in common with the Turkish people than they might have expected, said Dr. Gökçek, who received numerous thank you notes from the students’ families.

“That is the rewarding side,” he said. After all the work and worry, “when you see the students’ happiness and appreciation, and the parents’ appreciation, it makes all the effort worthwhile.”
Beautifying a Small Corner of the Community

Niagara University senior Joseph Hotchkiss was walking to work one day when he discovered a small park at the corner of Niagara and Third streets in Niagara Falls. Since then, he’s been determined to restore it to its former glory.

“I instantly saw the potential and wanted to know its past,” the business management major from Binghamton, N.Y., explains. “It looked like, at one time, a really cool park.”

Hydraulic Park was once the site of a portion of a canal system constructed in the 1860s by the Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power and Manufacturing Company, the first company to generate electricity from Niagara Falls. Several decades later, after the canal had been filled in, the park was built on the land. The area, where a community fountain once stood, eventually fell into disrepair.

Joe was initially inspired to begin working on this project during one of his business classes. “The class, Transforming Business, taught by professor Alegre, was my biggest influence of inspiration for service toward the park. Through that class, we really learned the value of helping out your surrounding community.”

After also learning of the rich history of the area, Joe soon realized that cleaning up the park was not the only thing in need of repair, but people’s view of the park and Niagara Falls in general needed restoration, too.

“Joe approached me to see what we could do to turn the park around,” explains Tom Lowe, director of ReNU Niagara and chair of the Niagara Beautification Commission. “His interest in the space led NBC to approach the site owner to ask them to contribute financially to the revitalization of the park. But even before that, Joe spent hours out there weeding, sweeping, trimming tree branches and doing anything he could by himself. He has many ideas for what to do at the park moving forward, and NBC is excited to have him leading the project.”

For his efforts, Joe has been honored with the Member Award from the Niagara Beautification Commission and with the Main Street Business & Professional Association’s Michael A. Brundidge Community Service Award.

Joe’s plans for the park extend far beyond cleaning and planting flowers. “We plan to put up a mural along the park’s shed, get the brickwork on the ground fixed, restore electricity, and host live entertainment in the amphitheater,” he says.

While Joe’s professor at NU had the most influence on his success with this project, the university’s Catholic and Vincentian mission also had quite an impact on the way he values and understands the importance of community service.

“After taking the Transforming Business class with professor Alegre, I have logged probably 50-plus community service hours. This includes joining three different associations and working on multiple projects. Niagara’s dedication to its community has definitely come through in my work.”
“This truly is a historic day at Niagara University, one that will forever change the scientific research and teaching that happens on our campus.”

Those were the words used by the Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., NU president, to encapsulate the grand opening of the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences on Oct. 9, 2013.

The event was an opportunity to formally dedicate and bless the 50,000-square-foot, $33 million facility, which opened to Niagara University faculty and students at the beginning of the fall 2013 semester.
Golisano, the Paychex chairman and philanthropist whose $10 million lead commitment helped make the project possible, was on hand for the ceremonially ribbon cutting. Also in attendance was the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., the Niagara University president who oversaw the completion of NU’s recent $83 million capital campaign, of which the science center served as the crown jewel.

“I continue to be extremely impressed by the vision and community-mindedness of Niagara University’s Board of Trustees, as well as its Vincentian, employee and student leadership,” stated Golisano. “It was Father Levesque who convinced me back in 2008 that this was a great investment to be made, and I have the utmost confidence in Father Maher’s ability to ensure that Niagara University will continue to be on the cutting edge of teaching and research in the field of science. I am honored to have my name associated with such an outstanding and service-oriented institution.”

The facility, Father Maher noted, is integral to Niagara University’s intention to advance its involvement in the economic and community development of the Western New York region. For years, Niagara faculty and students have conducted research with prestigious area health care providers, including the Heart Center of Niagara at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and Mount St. Mary’s Hospital.

Father Maher insisted that Niagara looks forward to doing even more.

“The life sciences has been identified by the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council as one of three vital industry sectors for our region, and Niagara University fully intends to be a player in its growth and development. The B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences also positions Niagara to take on an increased role in the development of the Buffalo-Niagara medical corridor, and expand upon our meaningful partnerships with several area health centers.”

Niagara University officials anticipate that the Golisano Center will be approved at LEED’s (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification level. Posters arranged throughout the building note its sustainable design.

The science center houses 18 laboratories, which are supported by designated areas for nuclear magnetic resonance, tissue culture, imaging, plant growth, radioisotope storage, and numerous other functions. Two of the labs, in particular, demonstrate the integrative nature of the building, with biology and chemistry possessing shared research labs that are arranged to increase collaboration between the scientific disciplines.
The opening ceremony also served as an occasion for members of the Niagara University community to again express their appreciation to Golisano for his unprecedented act of generosity.

“Mr. Golisano, words cannot fully express our gratitude for your generosity,” remarked Jeffrey Holzschuh, ’82, chair of Niagara’s Board of Trustees. “This facility is now the anchor academic building on our beautiful campus, and it will play a key role in the development of science and research programs for our students today, and in the future.”

Senior biology major Bethany Zakrzewski added, “Mr. Golisano, I want to say a special thank you to you. It is my goal to continue my education after graduation to become a physician’s assistant. I have had the experience to learn and work with great faculty members here at Niagara. We have done very good work in DePaul Hall, but, Mr. Golisano, because of your incredible generosity, my senior year is now highlighted by this amazing building.”

The science facility offers several areas for students to gather informally. Adding to the facility’s aesthetics is the incorporation of 44 paintings by noted artist Michael Kessler. The artworks are part of the Castellani Art Museum’s collection.

A “Science on Display” concept is an important component of the facility’s design, with several mechanisms conceived to showcase the work of Niagara faculty and students. These include large windows throughout the facility that allow visitors to see from the hallways into the teaching labs; a curved video wall in the science center’s lobby that will showcase research developments taking place in the building; several back-lit panels in the lobby to display various scientific images; and an interactive touch screen on the first floor that highlights information on the building, Golisano and high-achieving Niagara faculty, alumni and students.
In the summer of 2004, Dr. Gary Praetzel, dean of the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, launched a unique work-abroad program in Lake Como, Italy. Every year since then, Niagara University students have spent their summers learning service from some of the most opulent hotels in the world.

The Como work-abroad experience offers a total cultural immersion for the participating students, who live and work full time at one of the luxury hotels around the lake, which is located in northern Italy on the border of Switzerland. Among the participating properties are the world-renowned Villa d’Este, commonly called “Hollywood on Lake Como,” located in Cernobbio; and the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni, located in Bellagio, “the jewel of Lake Como.”

“The students find this a life-changing experience,” Dr. Praetzel says. “They gain a new perspective of the industry and newfound confidence in their abilities through living abroad in this program of true cultural immersion.”

Jack Riley, a junior from Baltimore, Md., who worked at the Grand Hotel di Como this summer, agrees. “I truly love the Lake Como program because it enables you to live in a completely foreign and polar opposite atmosphere that gives you confidence and a love for the industry, seeing it in a whole different way.”

It’s not only the participating students who benefit from this experience: a student-exchange program with the University of Insubria is another feature of the Como offering. Each fall, Italian men and women come to Monteagle Ridge for the semester to take courses in the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management. This helps to internationalize Niagara’s campus and brings a global perspective into the classroom, notes Praetzel. It also enables the Italian students to experience the practical industry application focus that is the hallmark of the college.

Where Are They Now?
Dr. Praetzel notes that students who complete the Como program are highly recruited by the best employers in the industry. “This program opens outstanding employment opportunities for many students, gaining jobs for them that would have been impossible without this experience,” he says.

Sarah (Pikul) Garis, ’07
Social media manager at the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group
Como experience: Front desk at the Palace Hotel, 2006
“My current position requires that I work with multiple partners across the globe. My work experience in Lake Como taught me a lot about the difference in service levels, hotels, and cultures across the world. These experiences help me every day when I work with others in our company.”
Evan Hanrahan, ’08
Senior event manager at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City
Como experience: Rotation through several departments at the Grand Hotel di Como, 2007
“Being in a foreign country with people you don’t know and speaking a language you are not fluent in forces you to learn how to communicate and find commonalities in order to be successful. Surviving this experience and finding a way to flourish in the environment gives you great confidence in meeting the challenges you may face in your work after graduating.

“When I come back to Niagara to interview students for our hotel’s management development program, I always look first for students who have worked abroad. I think the experience gained, not only in the time working in another country, but living and traveling there as well, helps prepare a student for success at the professional level.”

Matt Palmer, ’09
Front office manager at Hyatt Regency in Savannah, Ga.
Como experience: Rotation through several departments at the Grand Hotel di Como, 2008
“Living in Como on my own (for the most part) helped me mature as an adult, which made it much easier for me to move away from home after college and begin my life as a hospitality professional. The Como experience has made me much more confident and flexible as a person to take on new endeavors in unknown locations, with different people.”

Gabriella Monte, ’10
Front office director at the Eventi Hotel in New York City
Como experience: Reception desk at the Hotel Du Lac and Hotel Bellagio; kitchen at the Sporting Club, 2009
“The most memorable part of my experience was the lifelong friendships I made. I became extremely close with the Leoni family, which owns the three establishments I worked at. Working at a smaller property and seeing the one-on-one attention given to each individual guest made me realize that boutique properties are where I belong. The internship gave me confidence in the field and really challenged me to be the best I could be. I still reflect and tell stories about my experience in Bellagio. I find that diversity in cultures is crucial in our field.”

Claire Hogan, ’12
Customer experience and insights supervisor at McDonald’s USA
Como experience: Front desk and guest services at the Villa d’Este, 2010
“One of the main reasons I chose to attend Niagara University was specifically because of the Lake Como program. Not only did it allow me to work amongst people of diverse backgrounds, but it also made me a more well-rounded person. I gained valuable work experience, such as quickly adapting to change, communicating clearly and effectively, and being attentive to details; and was able to add foreign work experience to my résumé. My current boss has told me that my foreign experiences caught her eye and made her immediately pull my résumé out from the rest. Had I not participated in the Lake Como program, I may not be where I am today.”

Brianna Fries, ’12
Assistant food and beverage manager, Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Mass.
Como experience: Reception, fitness center and concierge desk at the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni, 2011
“Working at the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni allowed me to meet people from all over the world and work with many international clienteles. That opportunity was priceless because I have become a more valuable asset to any company because of this experience.”

Dr. Gary Praetzel, dean of the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, his wife, Carol, assistant professor Dr. Joe Scarcelli, and 12 Niagara University students are welcomed by the University of Insubria in this May 2013 photo. Also pictured are professor Giuseppe Colangelo, vice rector and head of the tourism sciences program at the University of Insubria, nine University of Insubria students who attended Niagara University this fall, plus many other “former” Insubria students who participated in the Como program from previous years.
Scholarships are one way Niagara University alumni and friends can make a meaningful, permanent gift to our students. Many times, the scholarships provide more than just financial assistance — donors are often able to meet the students who receive their scholarships and they develop lasting relationships that enrich the lives of the donors and give the students significant advantages as they start their careers. Establishing a scholarship can be one of the most fulfilling ways to continue the Niagara tradition long into the future.

For more information on establishing a scholarship, contact Leslie Wise, director of planned giving, at 716.286.8590 or lwise@niagara.edu.

Scholarships: A Primer

**By the Numbers**

Total endowed awards — $1,072,109

368 Total awards

361 to undergraduates

7 to graduates

114 Endowed funds

110 to undergraduates

4 to graduates

$L18,900 Largest endowed award

$2,936 Average endowed award
THE PROCESS:

1. **$ $ $**
   A donor, or group of donors, pledges $25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship. This can be paid at the outset or with an initial commitment that is added to until the full $25,000 is attained.

2. **Once the principal of the fund is attained, it is invested to accrue the interest that will be the funding source for the scholarship.**

3. **$**
   Donors, with guidance from Niagara University, can set the scholarship criteria, which typically focus on financial need, academic achievement or a combination of both. Other criteria can include students’ academic program, participation in campus activities, geographical origin, leadership potential, and/or community service.

4. **Three years later, the first award is made.**

5. **Donors may establish the scholarship in their name and/or in memory or honor of someone else.**

John Sanderson, ’75, and his wife, Karen (Glasser) ’75, have been staunch supporters of Niagara University and its students for years. They’ve served as members of The Friends of Niagara University Theatre, and John has been a member of the College of Business Advisory Council, served as a university trustee, and held key roles in two of Niagara’s capital campaigns.

But perhaps the most direct impact John and Karen have had on NU’s students is through the scholarship they established in 1993. The John R., ’75, and Karen (Glasser), ’75, Sanderson Scholarship is awarded to students from Western New York who are ranked within the top 10 percent of their class and who plan to enter the field of medicine or business.

As scholarship recipients themselves, John and Karen know well how this kind of financial support can make the difference between attending Niagara and having to choose another school. And the benefits of attending Niagara extended, for the Sandersons, far beyond their four years on Monteagle Ridge. Both went on to have successful careers (he in business, she in nursing) and to take prominent roles in their community.

So it was fitting that John and Karen gave back to Niagara by establishing a scholarship to help other deserving students.

“It’s a very satisfying thing to do, in particular for past scholarship winners,” says John. “We’re believers in giving to endowments and we’re believers in scholarships. We think it helps increase the quality of the students to allow smart people of moderate means to attend the school.”

Several students have been awarded the Sandersons’ scholarship since it was established, including Corina Rybczynski, ’12, an accounting major/fraud examination and economic crime minor from Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Corina, who now works in the Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering compliance department at M&T Bank, says that the Sandersons’ scholarship made attending Niagara possible for her.

“It’s difficult to pay for a private education like the one Niagara offers, but this scholarship enabled me to be a part of the NU community,” she says. “The community is more than just education. I did a lot of things that contributed to my development and how I conduct myself in my job, like internships and the EAGLE Leadership program. I have the opportunity to do what I do because of what they did.”
Monteagle Ridge was the place to be Oct. 11-13 for Niagara University alumni. A weekend of events provided plenty of opportunities to reunite with classmates, rediscover friendships, and relive memories.

College of Education Dean’s Award recipient John Gleason, ’73, is congratulated by the Rev. James Maher, C.M., Niagara University president, at the college’s Annual Professional Recognition Dinner Oct. 10. Also honored at the dinner were Mark Laurrie, ’84, M.S.Ed.’93; and Sr. Joan Cronin (Educational Leaders of the Year); Monica Romeo, M.S.Ed.’97; and Dr. Leslie Born, M.S.Ed.’98 (Counselors of the Year); and Dr. John Schneider Jr., M.S.Ed.’10; and Jessica Folino (Teachers of the Year).

Jean (Cleary) Mullane, ’53, and Irene Elia, ’53, share a laugh at the 60th anniversary dinner celebration on Oct. 11.

Members of the Golden Eagle Class of 1963 gather for a group photo on the steps of the Castellani Art Museum.

Madonna (Leo) Walker, ’03, M.S.Ed.’05; Patrick Noonan, ’03; Jack Hogan, ’03; and Gregory Staub, ’03, were among the more than 600 alumni who returned to Niagara during Alumni Weekend 2013.

(L-r) Class of 1993 friends Frank Albanese, Hank Vercillo, Jerry Perez, Jerry Wheaton, and Jose Olmeda participated in the 29th Annual Golf Tournament Oct. 11 at the Niagara Falls Country Club.

Father Maher and Monte enjoy the company of Robert Gorman, ’43, and Sam Cappione, ’43, at the Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction and ROTC Awards Ceremony Oct. 12. Col. Donald H. Jones, ’61; Hon. Hugh B. Scott, ’71; and Rev. Robert A. Brown, OSFS, ’61, were honored with Niagara Legacy awards, while Col. Peggy Ann Miller, ’84; and Rev. Rear Adm. Louis V. Iasiello, M.S.Ed.’73, were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Wine tasting and building a Monte were part of ReunionFest Oct. 12. Here, Enid Reiley (wife of Tom Reiley, ’83), Kathy (Merkel) Herbst, ’83, and Cindy (Usiak) Corsaro, ’84, enjoy the festivities.

The Welcome Back Party also brought together former NU football players and Class of 1973 friends John Plant, Mike Moran, Phil Zodda, Kevin Clark, Cayll Smith, and Mark Totaro.

Class of 1988 alums Joel and Mary (Kern) Daum learn about the Sustainable Sandals Project from Dr. David Taylor, director of the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Institute for Civic Engagement. Project volunteers sort, sanitize and box gently used sandals worn by tourists who visit the Cave of the Winds attraction in Niagara Falls. The sandals are then donated to individuals and organizations around the world.


Bill Schories, ’88, shows off his Purple Pride.
The Niagara University Nursing Alumni Council honored four at their annual awards ceremony on Oct. 12. Susan (Peter) Kennedy, ’68 (left) and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Barbara Agen-Ryan, ’88 (right), received NUNAC awards for leadership; Mary Jane (Gajewski) Gross, ’73 (second from right), received the Community Service Award; and Barbara (Nagengast) Traver, ’69, was honored with a special award.

Vincent Russo, ’68 (pictured with NU president Father James Maher, C.M.), received the Dunleavy Award during the Annual Alumni Memorial Mass on Oct. 13 in recognition of his outstanding professional success and his service to the university.

Robert (left) and JoAnn Clune, both members of the Class of 1958, were honored with the Alumni Award for their outstanding service and devotion to Niagara University and its alumni. The award was presented at the annual dinner-dance Oct. 12 at the Niagara Falls Conference Center. They are pictured with Father Maher and Jeff Dann, ’74, president of the Niagara University Alumni Association.

Father Joseph Hubbert, C.M., ’73 (pictured with Father James Maher and Steve Butler, interim director of athletics), was inducted into the Niagara University Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 13. Juan Mendez, ’05 (men’s basketball), Barret Ehgoetz, ’05 (hockey), Milena Matijevic, ’04 (women’s tennis), and the 1993-94 men’s swimming and diving team were also part of the 2013 class.

The Silver Eagle Class of 1988.
Who Was There

Baltimore, Md. — National Tour with the President — Sept. 18, 2013 —
Back row, l-r: Tim O’Brien, ’80; Denise (McLerran) Seigart, ’80; Jeffrey Hagen, ’05; Karen Earsing, ’78; and Barbara (Schmitt) Masiulis, ’75.
Front row, l-r: Marilyn Healy-McDermott, ’75; Father James Maher; James Gorman, ’69, and Patricia (Behringer) Gorman, ’69.

Washington, D.C. — National Tour with the President — Sept. 17, 2013 —
Back row, l-r: Robert Jordan, ’65; Greg Poersch, ’02; John Celock, ’03; Tammy (Murphy) Shapiro, ’88; Carol Somerville; Bridget Cox, ’74; Paul Somerville, ’57; and Kay O’Brien. Front row: Kathy Monachino, Father James Maher; John Lenahan, ’65, and David Cristantello.


Saratoga Springs, N.Y. — Day at the Races — Aug. 27, 2013 —
Pamela (Morpurgo) Collins, ’90; Robert Gorman, ’43; Betsy (Morpurgo) Kuhlmann, ’91; Mary Anne Ljungberg, ’76; and Lynne (Ferreira) Barrett, ’76.


Manhattan — National Tour with the President — Oct. 18, 2013 —
Paul Lawless, ’85; Kate (Kehm) O’Sullivan, ’83; Patrick Nerney, ’81; Stephanie (Nannery) Nerney, ’81; Father Maher; and Elaine (Heyert) Llanos, ’81.

Buffalo, N.Y. — Young Alumni Advisory Committee Trivia Night — Oct. 24, 2013 —
Ryan Mahoney, ’09, and Jessica Bova, ’09.
John Minerva, ‘78: Empowering Others Through Yoga

By Tristan McConnell

John Minerva, ‘78, recently returned from East Africa, where he took the university’s Vincentian tradition of service in an unusual direction.

A recent convert to yoga, the 57-year-old resident of Naples, Fla., traveled to the Kenyan capital of Nairobi with the Africa Yoga Project, which seeks to spread yoga in Africa, creating jobs for young people and sharing the discipline’s health benefits. It also encourages volunteers like John to get involved in community outreach projects.

This is how John found himself standing outside a two-story primary school made of wood and corrugated tin in Huruma, a Nairobi slum, surrounded by the filth, squalor and stench of urban poverty. John wore a baseball cap to fend off the equatorial sun, clutched a three-quarter-inch thick paintbrush, and wondered what he was doing there.

“They handed me a paintbrush and I didn’t do anything with it for an hour and a half. There were so many things that needed doing. How do I make a difference with that little paintbrush?” he recalls thinking.

As everyone else got busy, scrambling up and down rickety wooden ladders, paint in hand, John snapped out of it and joined in. By the end of the day, the school had a fresh coat of paint and John’s eyes had been opened.

“I was looking for a retreat, to kick back, do a little yoga,” John said after a vegetarian lunch of lentils, rice and flat floury pancakes called chapatti at a simple restaurant next to AYP’s bright and airy wooden-floored gym. “But it has really turned into a gradual opening of myself to accept being comfortable with a lot of the discomfort the program puts you through.”

The discomfort is both physical — through the strenuous yoga sessions — and mental.

After graduating from Niagara, John spent his career in Ohio, first at the attorney general’s office and then with the McDonald’s Corp. He says the poverty he was faced with in Nairobi came as a horrifying “culture shock.”

He muses on the fact that average life expectancy in Kenya is 57. “In this country I’d be dead right now. Pretty crazy,” he says.

Niagara did not just instill in John his sense of service, “the paying forward,” as he calls it. His major in political science with a minor in criminal justice prepped him for his early career choices, but most importantly, it was at Niagara that he met his wife, Laurie (Grundtisch), ’78.

“We graduated on a Sunday, got married on a Monday. Seventy-five of our friends hung out that extra day at college to see us get married,” he says. That was 35 years ago.

AYP is run by American Paige Elenson and her husband. Started in 2007, the program has so far trained 71 teachers who now earn $125 a month each, a decent enough living in the poorer parts of Nairobi. For the Kenyan trainees, AYP can provide a way to earn a living. For volunteers like John, who practice yoga alongside them, the impact is less practical and harder to define, but no less valuable.

John trained alongside two deaf Kenyans and a man from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country that has become a byword for all that can be bad in Africa. During his visit to Kenya, he learned the alphabet in sign language and learned something of Congo, a place that, until then, he could “never even imagine.”

John said he was challenged physically, mentally and even spiritually. “Whether it’s God or Jesus Christ, Gandhi or Mother Teresa, or just father-son, it’s all a divine being that we call by different names,” he says.

“What I’ve found here is that that divinity is in each one of us. It’s been a real positive opening experience. I’ve grown a lot.”

Additional alumni stories are available at www.niagara.edu/alumni-news/.
Ed Reilly, ’80: Focusing a Lens on the Events of the Day

It’s as if Ed Reilly, ’80, has always had a camera in his hand. From the time he was a child emulating his father, a newsman for several Western New York media outlets, to today, Ed has focused a lens on the events of the day.

As a multimedia journalist for WKBW-TV’s Eyewitness News in Buffalo, N.Y., Ed has covered such historic happenings as the environmental crisis at Love Canal, the first Gulf War, and the release of the American hostages from Iran. He has been part of an air force supply mission to war-torn Haiti; covered White House press conferences; reported on the visits to Miami, Detroit and Toronto by Pope John Paul II; and interviewed Hollywood stars in their homes.

“I never thought I’d have this career,” Ed says. “I never thought I’d go to the places I went or meet the people I did, or be behind the scenes of big stories, but I did. It’s been an amazing experience for me.”

One of Ed’s earliest forays into television was at Bishop Duffy High School in Niagara Falls (now Niagara Catholic Junior/Senior High). As a member of the Television Club, he would produce daily five-minute morning newscasts, coincidentally modeled after Eyewitness News.

After graduation, he enrolled at Niagara University, again following in the footsteps of his father, Ed Sr., a member of the Class of 1954. He began his studies as a liberal arts major, but soon changed his focus to English and communication studies after working with Herm Platt in what was then known as the campus television studio.

“Niagara University was the most important factor in my taking up a career in journalism,” Ed says. “My experience as a work-study student for four years with Herm Platt really allowed me to learn the intricacies of television production. Herm inspired me in so many different ways because he made television so exciting.”

A highlight of Ed’s NU experience was when Eyewitness News sports anchor Rick Azar requested a copy of his black-and-white videotape of the basketball game during which Phil Scaffidi set the school record for assists. Azar featured the video on his newscast that night.

This experience, and the recommendation of the Rev. Michael Tumulty, C.M., English department chair at that time, earned Ed an internship at WKBW during the last semester of his senior year. Just three months after graduation, Ed was hired by the station as a stringer, and three months after that, as a full-time news photographer/editor.

That was 33 years ago. Since then, Ed has covered all types of stories and seen many unusual things. His work has earned him numerous local, national and international awards, including a special award from the White House for his Cry for Life project that warned high school students about the dangers of drunk driving.

But the stories Ed likes to do best are those highlighting interesting people doing interesting things. It’s something he learned from his mentor, legendary Buffalo newscaster Irv Weinstein.

“Irv told me to go to where the people are,” Ed says. “He would always tell me to make sure I got close shots of people’s faces, because their faces are the story. So it stuck with me and that’s the kind of stories I try to do.”

For example, there’s the story he did on Gunter Heinze, a German immigrant who left his home country as part of “Operation Paperclip” (the codename under which the United States extricated scientists from Germany) at the end of WWII before coming to Western New York, where he helped to design navigation equipment for the Apollo moon missions and deep space probes.

And the one that featured a man who was battling cancer who built model airplanes to help him cope with the disease.

“I’m inspired by those types of people, people who are struggling with things in their life that are real challenges yet they don’t let them get them down,” he says.

Of course, being in Buffalo, Ed has also covered his share of snowstorms. “Believe it or not, those end up on national news all the time,” he says.

Another of Ed’s videos that garnered national attention was the one he shot of Willie Williams, a Buffalo father who stabbed the man who abducted and raped his 10-year-old daughter. Ed was only 23 at the time and had been assigned to do a follow-up story on the girl’s abduction, but he ended up shooting exclusive video of the stabbing, which aired on ABC’s Nightline and on HBO.

Ed says that his success as a newsman comes from his role as a husband and father (two of his four children continued the Reilly family’s legacy by attending Niagara University). “What made me a good newsman is the fact I was grounded in real life. I came into the job as a family man who lived in a community and who also had things like Boy Scouts, my daughter’s dance class, school, and volunteering to pay attention to. I think that gives you a realistic look at life.”

After more than three decades in the business, Ed still finds the work fulfilling. “Most of all, I’m an artist,” he says. “I’m part newsman, but I’m definitely more artist than newsman. There’s a lot of creative satisfaction in making sure that the words and the interviews and the pictures flow together to tell a story. That’s what I look forward to and that’s the accomplishment and the satisfaction I get from the job every day.”

Additional alumni stories are available at www.niagara.edu/alumni-news/.
Osman Kabia, ’99: Sharing What He Has

From the time when he was a little boy in Sierra Leone, Osman Kabia, ’99, has seen the example of service to others. This example has stayed with him and inspired him to launch an organization dedicated to just that.

S.H.A.R.E. (Sustainable & Holistic Advances for Rural Education) was established with a vision to strengthen and advance shared responsibilities, shared values, shared opportunities, and shared leadership among rural inhabitants within the Republic of Sierra Leone.

“The name reflects my values of sharing what I have with others,” Osman says, noting that one of the most important things he can share is access to the resources people need, such as education and financial assistance. “I’ve met individuals who have helped me gain access, and now I want to give back.”

To that end, Osman is spending eight months in his home country to talk with people and learn what programs they feel are important. He’ll also identify individuals who can help run these programs once he returns to the United States.

Osman’s initial focus will be on education, including developing a summer camp where students from diverse tribal affiliations will learn more about their country’s history and leadership so that they might become more engaged, civically responsible citizens. He’d also like to launch computer literacy programs in rural schools, and tutoring and tuition assistance programs to help students prepare for the national exams that are required to advance in their education.

Other ideas he intends to pursue include providing economic assistance for women to start businesses and water filtration systems and chlorine tablets to schools and clinics.

Osman has seemingly prepared for this endeavor through his entire post-NU life. Initially planning to pursue a career in international law, Osman stopped at a Peace Corps table during a career fair his senior year and became intrigued with the idea of assisting communities around the world. Because he was not yet a U.S. citizen, the representative suggested he consider applying for AmeriCorps.

From 2000–01, Osman worked in Atlanta as a member of AmeriCorps, serving the needs of residents living in impoverished neighborhoods. Two years later, and now a naturalized citizen of the United States, Osman was accepted into the Peace Corps’ domestic and international volunteer programs. Assigned first to Mali, where he provided HIV/Aids education and helped to launch income-generating activities for women, then to Zambia, where he taught grantwriting to directors of non-governmental organizations and surveyed the community about health practices and needs, Osman witnessed firsthand the importance of getting local residents involved when determining what kinds of projects would benefit them.

After his service in Zambia, Osman found employment at the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. In 2012, he was named a Foreign Service limited officer with the United States Agency for International Development and assigned to Afghanistan to assist during the drawdown. He returned to the U.S. in May and began working on S.H.A.R.E. He hopes that he can establish a solid foundation for the organization before returning to government employment.

“I’m not looking to change a whole nation,” Osman says. “If I am able to help one student compete for his or her livelihood in a global market, I’ll be happy.”

For more information on S.H.A.R.E., visit www.shareinter.org/, or www.facebook.com/Shareinter.
1955

Donald E. Kneeland recently completed a history of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. He is also the author of four books on area history. For further information, contact sales@pancoastpublishing.com.

1959 REUNION

George Merry was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his 35 years of continuous volunteer service with Ducks Unlimited Canada. The commemorative medal was created in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s accession to the throne as Queen of Canada and to honor significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. Dr. Merry is a retired associate professor of medicine.

1960

Francis McCann was a member of a research team on Brazilian military and foreign policy at the University of California, San Diego. In August 2013, he lectured at the III Colóquio de História Militar and at the Brazilian Army Command and General Staff School in Rio de Janeiro.

1961

Patricia (Murphy) Minarcin, M.A.’72, was named a 2013 Woman of Distinction by the Niagara Gazette in recognition of her leadership and volunteer work at Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara. Patricia serves on the organization’s foundation and agency boards.

1963

Dr. Bernadette Dorsch Curry has been selected to be inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing, a prestigious honor in the nursing profession. Dr. Curry is currently dean emerita and professor at Molloy College, Long Island, N.Y., where she initiated a Ph.D. program in nursing during her tenure as dean. She has delivered numerous presentations in the United States and abroad, published articles and chapters, and is currently writing a book on doctoral education. In addition, she is an accreditation surveyor for the Collegiate Commission for Nursing Education, an active member and officer in several professional organizations, a staunch advocate for men in nursing, and serves on a number of boards of trustees.

1965

Hon. Bernard J. Malone Jr. was appointed co-chair of the New York State Bar Association’s Special Committee on Youth Courts. He is senior counsel to Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, and formerly served as a member of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan and Albany. He has been an elected trial level Supreme Court justice since 1998.

1966

Karen A. Ballard has been appointed the first executive director of ANA-New York, the New York state constituent of the American Nurses Association. Karen has more than 20 years experience as an association executive. She was formerly the interim secretary of ANA-NY, and has served as a member and chair of the ANA’s Standards and Guidelines Committee; vice-chairperson of its Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics; and as its first vice president. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

Jack Boyle has been named senior manager for development at Middletown Community Health Center Inc. Previously, Jack directed development and marketing activities for several human service organizations in the tri-state area. Jack has also authored Sunset on the Tracks, an affectionate memoir recalling family, friends and special times in 1950s Fort Covington, a small town in the foothills of the Adirondacks. The book is available from Sunset Memoirs, 112 Palmetto Court, Milford, Pa., 18337, or as a Kindle book from Amazon. Jack resides in Milford, Pa., with his wife, Patricia.

Paul McManus was honored with the Niagara University College of Hospitality and Tourism Management Dean’s Award at Alumni Weekend 2013. Paul achieved world-class distinction in the hospitality industry as president and CEO of The Leading Hotels of the World, when he transformed the company into a prestigious luxury marketing organization representing more than 450 five-star hotels, resorts and spas worldwide.

1969

Msgr. Matthew Kopacz celebrated his golden anniversary of priesthood with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving on Oct. 6, 2013. He was ordained in St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y., on March 9, 1969. Msgr. Kopacz served as pastor for a number of Western New York parishes, held various diocesan appointments, and has served as moderator of the Catholic League/Liga Katolicka for Religious Assistance to Poland for 28 years.

1970

Diane Glowacki, ‘81

Kevin Mannara, ‘85

Suzanne Simon Dietz, M.S.Ed.’90, with Dutch Van Kirk, the navigator of the Enola Gay

John Luber, ‘93

Johnathon E. Miles, ‘11, MBA’12
**1968**

Patrick Monti, M.S.Ed.’71, was inducted into the Niagara Falls Foundation Board of Education Hall of Fame in May for his accomplishments as a coach at LaSalle High School. This is his fourth induction into a hall of fame. He was previously elected to the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame (2003), the City of Niagara Falls Sports Hall of Fame (2005), and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame (2008). Pat led LaSalle to four state titles and a record of 423 and 112.

**1969 REUNION**

Joseph Sheridan placed second in the javelin event at the National Master’s Track and Field Championships in Cleveland, Ohio, July 24, 2013. The former NU quarterback threw the javelin 44 meters.

Francis Soda, M.A.’75, joined the board of trustees of The Park School. He taught at Park and also served as director of college placement and director of Upper School in the 1980s. He currently serves on the school’s Board of Visitors and served on the Centennial Celebration Committee. He is a retired social studies teacher at Niagara Falls High School.

**1970**

Dr. Walter S. Polka, M.S.Ed.’71, was presented the 2013 Alumni of Distinction Award from the State University of New York at Buffalo Graduate School of Education during the school’s 167th annual commencement ceremony in May. He received the honor in recognition of his impact on the field of education through his exemplary history of research, teaching, and service. Dr. Polka is a professor of professional programs and Ph.D. program coordinator at Niagara University.

**1971**

Jerry Begen retired from the Stanislaus County District Attorney’s Office in Modesto, Calif., in March 2013, after serving 23 years as a deputy district attorney.

**1972**

Thomas LoStracco joined Our Lady of Peace Nursing Care Residence as administrator.

**1973**

James R. Boldt was appointed director of First Niagara Financial Group, Inc., and First Niagara Bank, N.A. He is chairman and chief executive officer of Computer Task Group, Inc., and serves as a director and the chairman of the audit committee of the board of directors of Sovran Self Storage, Inc. Previously, James served as corporate vice president of finance, chief financial officer and secretary of Pratt & Lambert United, Inc., where he spent 20 years as a finance and accounting executive until its merger with the Sherwin-Williams Company in 1996. He began his career with Deloitte & Touche.

John P. Gleason received the Dean’s Award from the Niagara University College of Education during its annual professional recognition ceremony Oct. 10, 2013. John is the president/principal of E.D.A./Gleason and chief gift planning officer for the Empire State Division of the Salvation Army.

Eileen (Callaghan) Kennedy was named senior vice president, commercial loan officer at Cardinal Bank, based in the bank’s Leesburg, Va., banking office. She brings more than two decades of local banking experience to the role.

**1974 REUNION**

Vincent D’Angelo retired after 38 years as an insurance risk management and loss control specialist and moved to Florida “to enjoy warmer weather!”

Molly Fachko was named director of clinical services for WILLCARE, a home health care company headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y. In this role, Molly will lead WILLCARE’s clinical programs, including disease management initiatives, performance improvement programs, and outcomes-based strategies, as well as re-engineering the clinical model across the entire company.

**1975**

Dr. Michelle Linneman Rougeux was named assistant medical director at Hope HealthCare Services. A member of the Hope Hospice team since 2010, Dr. Rougeux will oversee the care of Hope patients throughout Cape Coral, Fla. Dr. Rougeux has nearly 35 years of experience in the medical field. She is board certified in family medicine, and also has certifications in hospice and palliative medicine. She previously served as medical director for the Steuben County Jail and Steuben County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services in New York, where she is also licensed to practice.

**1976**

Debra S. Swanson, staff development educator at WCA Hospital in Jamestown, N.Y., was named the 2013 Nurse of Distinction in June. The honor, which was first awarded in 1989, is given to an outstanding registered nurse who exemplifies the mission and vision of WCA Hospital. Prior to her current position, Debby worked as a clinical level III staff nurse and flight nurse for the hospital’s emergency department for many years.

**1977**

Christopher Brown joined the board of trustees for Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and Health Center in Lewiston, N.Y. He is a partner with Brown & Company LLP, and holds membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. He also has served as board chairman and is a current board member of ArtPark & Co.

Terence Frawley has been appointed to the position of public relations manager with Cellular One. A Cellular One employee since November 2010, Terry has served in several strategic marketing and community outreach roles for the company. Prior to joining Cellular One, Terry served in a variety of marketing and sales management positions for major corporations, media companies and new ventures in markets throughout the country.

Sandra Paul, a fifth grade teacher at Christian Central Academy in Williamsville, N.Y., was named a 2013 Teacher of Merit by Buffalo Business First.

Maureen (O’Connor) Weber published a book with Maureen (Numme) Ott, ’88, that takes a humorous look at their days in the nursing school at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo, N.Y., during the early 1960s. Have Mercy: A Nursing Memoir details the humor and pranks that helped them endure the controlled dormitory environment that was like living in a convent. The book is available at www.amazon.com or booklogix.com.

**1978**

Susan (Furlano) Agento retired in May 2013 after 35 years as a flight attendant with American Airlines.

Eunice (Davis) Belling prepared herself for a career in health care as a nurse. She is also licensed to practice.

Eunice (Davis) Belling accepted the position of vice president for academic affairs at Niagara County Community College.

Lorie (Hartman) Gardner founded Healthlink Advocates, Inc., a health care advocacy firm dedicated to assisting clients navigate the complex and fragmented health care system. It promotes patient-centered care and provides a link between patients and their health care team. The company also offers health and wellness coaching utilizing the Wellness Inventory holistic wellness program.
CATCHING UP

DeVeaux Scholarship 35th Anniversary Celebration

The Episcopal Diocese of Western New York will host its 35th celebration of the DeVeaux Scholarship on Saturday, June 7, 2014, from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Diocesan Center, 1064 Brighton Ave., Tonawanda, N.Y.

DeVeaux scholarships are awarded annually to Niagara University students who are active members at an Episcopal church in Western New York.

If you would like to attend the anniversary celebration, or want further information on DeVeaux scholarships, please contact the DeVeaux Commission at 716.881.0660 or diocesanoffice@episcopalwny.org.

Nancy Langer, president of The Nativity Miguel Middle School of Buffalo, N.Y., was named a 2013 Woman of Influence by Buffalo Business First in recognition of her professional achievements.

Michael Puglisi was promoted to employment services manager II with the New York State Department of Labor, Division of Employment & Workforce Solutions.

1979 REUNION
Kenneth Binger had been named senior vice president and relationship manager at CNLBank’s Fort Lauderdale, Fla., location.

Dr. Carlos Roberto Jaen, M.S.’82, is among 70 new members elected to the Institute of Medicine, one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. Dr. Jaen is a professor and chairman of the Department of Family & Community Medicine in the School of Medicine of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. His particular interests include improving preventive care, building a healthier city through community wellness efforts, and building and studying high-performance primary care practices. His research on improving patient-centered care and community health has drawn international acclaim.

Edward Turkasz Jr. retired after 33 years in education as a teacher and administrator in Hamburg, Lancaster, and Bemus Point, N.Y.

1980
Mary Brennan-Taylor, vice president of programs for the YWCA of Niagara, was named a 2013 Woman of Influence by Buffalo Business First in recognition of her professional achievements.

1981

Patrick Brown was appointed to the Preservation Buffalo Niagara board of trustees. He is the director of operations and marketing for the Niagara Arts & Cultural Center in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Tony Lista has joined CBORD, the leading provider of cashless card, access control, and food and nutrition management solutions, as general manager of its Student Advantage program. Tony has extensive experience in the higher education market, most recently serving as general manager for Ellucian, a provider of technology solutions.

1982

Rita Straube Corbett was honored in October 2012 for 25 years of service at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. She had been a staff nurse and charge nurse in the intermediate cardiac care unit for 20 years before recently leaving the bedside to join the case management department, where she is responsible for discharge planning and utilization review.

1983
Debbie (Stockton) Fracassi earned her master’s degree in nursing education from Roberts Wesleyan College. She is employed as a clinical nurse specialist for perioperative services at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Tom Hart has been named director of athletics at Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga. He takes over a 21-sport athletic program at Berry, which will become a full member of the NCAA’s Division III in 2013-14. Tom recently concluded his 21st year — the last 19 as the athletic director — at Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

Kurt Schuler recently joined Niagara Sheets, LLC, in North Tonawanda, N.Y., as controller. A certified management accountant, Kurt has also been elected chairman of the Niagara County Community College Foundation board.

1984 REUNION

Debra Boyne has been promoted to clinical coordinator for inpatient behavioral health at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Debra has been a staff nurse in Memorial’s inpatient behavioral health service since 1984, and at the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center since 2008.

Mark Laurrie, M.S.Ed.’93, received an Educational Leader of the Year Award from the Niagara University College of Education during its annual professional recognition ceremony on Oct. 10, 2013. Mark is deputy superintendent for the Niagara Falls City School District.

1985
Dr. John C. (Jack) Huebschmann, M.S.’85, was named chief of the new anesthesiology group at Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Lewiston, N.Y. The team was formed to meet the expanding surgical needs of patients and physicians.

Richard Lis, MBA’91, was promoted to senior vice president and chief credit officer of The Old Fort Banking Company in Ohio. He joined the company as a vice president in December 2007.

Kevin J.V. Mannara graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Catholic Theological Union at Chicago on May 16, 2013. His area of concentration was liturgy and his doctoral research was in parish consolidations and places of worship. Additionally, Dr. Mannara was a Bernardin Scholar, studying the legacy of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, the late archbishop of Chicago and president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now known as the USCCB).
1987

Bob Jellinick was appointed to the board of directors for Suneel’s Light, a Western New York foundation with a mission of raising resources to fund genetic research that will lead to the cure of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and to increase public awareness of the genetic disease. He is a senior vice president with Merrill Lynch.

Edward Kent, M.S.Ed.’90, recently completed his first young adult novel, Ed Undead: The Chronicles of a Teenage Zombie. The book has received positive reviews and Ed is working on his second novel in the trilogy. For more information, visit www.indiegogo.com/projects/ed-undead-trilogy.

1988

Maureen (Numme) Ott published a book with Maureen (O’Connor) Weber, ’77, that takes a humorous look at their days in the nursing school at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo, during the early 1960s. Have Mercy: A Nursing Memoir details the humor and pranks that helped them endure the controlled dormitory environment that was like living in a convent. The book is available at www.amazon.com or booklogix.com.

Paul A. Richardson was re-elected treasurer of the board of directors for Suneel’s Light, a Western New York foundation with a mission of raising resources to fund genetic research that will lead to the cure of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and to increase public awareness of the genetic disease. Paul is a principal with Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP.

Rhonda (Goodberry) Rotterman was recently featured in No Nonsense Magazine, a national publication in fitness and health, and in The Buffalo News. She has been instrumental in launching the person-centered care movement in long-term care facilities in Western New York and recently joined the University of Buffalo’s School of Nursing as program director for the Institute for Person-Centered Care.

1989 REUNION

Suzanne Covington, a precalculus and calculus teacher at Clarence Senior High School, was named a 2013 Teacher of Merit by Buffalo Business First.

Lt. Col. Dawn (Metro) Flynn was recently assigned to the Medical Readiness and Training Command in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. As an active duty officer, she provides oversight of the unit’s clinical operations and serves as the clinical training officer, medical readiness coordinator, and family readiness liaison officer.

1990


1992

Lt. Col. Jamey Barcomb, a veteran of the war in Iraq, took command of the New York Army National Guard’s 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion in June. Lt. Col. Barcomb was commissioned as a field artillery officer and began military service in May 1992. He has served on active duty and as a member of the United States Army Reserve (USAR), as well as in the New York Army National Guard. His last assignment was as information operations officer for the 42nd Division.

1993

John Luber was named controller for Great Plains Manufacturing, Inc.’s Ag Division.

Denise (Magnani) O’Dea recently edited a book: Site Specific Cancer Series: Pancreatic and Hepatobiliary Cancers. She is an adult nurse practitioner at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, N.Y., specializing in hematology/oncology.

1994 REUNION

Amorita McClam recently launched 2 Sisters Cosmetics, which offers toxin-free, true color match nail polishes made in the United States. For more information, see www.2sisterscosmetics.com.

Jerry Wheaton was named director of sales at VoIP Supply, LLC. A specialist in process implementation, strategic planning, coaching and mentoring, and sales organization development, Jerry has spent the past two decades in the telecommunications and information technology industries. He most recently worked in sales for Innovative Solutions and prior to that was vice president of Callfinity, Inc.

Hometown: Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Degree: B.S. in business communications

Current job: President, ACD Enterprises Inc.

My best memory at Niagara is: I grew up around campus so I have many great memories. I loved going to basketball games with my dad.

My favorite hangout was: Captain’s Cove.

My favorite part of my job is: working with my wife and brother.

When I’m not working you’ll find me: golfing, enjoying friends, having a cold beer.

I still want to learn how to: drive a race car.

I decided to become a chapter leader because: Niagara has done a lot for me and my family; it’s time to give back.

Our chapter is planning: to do something with the St. Vincent DePaul Society in Dallas.

Alumni should stay connected to Niagara by becoming involved in their local chapters because: we are a family, we have similar beliefs and experiences. Together, we can help and support each other, Niagara, and others. That’s what Niagara and St. Vincent call us to do.

More information on our chapters can be found at www.niagara.edu/alumni-chapters/.
30

Welcome to the Association — The newest Niagara University Alumni Association chapter, North Texas, held its inaugural meeting on July 18, 2013. Pictured from l-r are: Don Cavallo, John Parchue, '81, Frank Arena, '11, Ann Liberatore-Cavallo, '81, Jim Grannis, '78, Judy Reid, '84, Jim Reid, '84, Peter Tarantino, '10, Chris Reid, '81 (chapter leader), and Howard Morgan, '86. (For more on Chris Reid, see page 29.)

1995
Dr. Elizabeth Heavey was awarded the New York State Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is given to faculty members who have consistently demonstrated superb skills in teaching, dedication to students, adherence to the highest academic standards, and continued professional achievements. Dr. Heavey is an associate professor of nursing at SUNY Brockport and also the author of Statistics for Nursing: A Practical Approach.

JoAnn Duffy Thomasson was the recipient of the Western New York Foreign Language Educators’ Council's 2013 Maryalice Seagrave Outstanding Foreign Language Teacher Award. JoAnn is a French teacher at Hamburg Middle School and coordinates an exchange program between Hamburg High School and l’Ensemble Scolaire Thérèse d’Avila in Lille, France. Currently serving as WNYFLEC first vice president, JoAnn is also the editor of NYSALFT News, the newsletter of the NYS Association of Foreign Language Teachers and an active member of the Alliance Française de Buffalo and the American Association of Teachers of French.

1996
Chuck Cutler moved to Boise, Idaho, to teach military science/ROTC at Boise State University.

Kevin Kurcoba was named head golf professional at the Tonawanda Country Club, Tonawanda, N.Y. Prior to this position, Kevin was the assistant pro at Glenmaura National Golf Club in Moosic, Pa.

Dr. Nalini Packianathan has joined the Buffalo Medical Group’s Allergy and Immunology Division. Previously, Dr. Packianathan was an assistant clinical professor in allergy/immunology and internal medicine in Academic Medical Services at the University at Buffalo Medical-Dental Consortium. Her special interests in allergy and immunology include food allergies, environmental causes of allergy, and genetic asthma.

1997
Monica Romeo, LMHC, received a Counselor of the Year Award from the Niagara University College of Education during its annual professional recognition ceremony on Oct. 10, 2013. Monica is the director of counseling services at Niagara.

1998
Dr. Leslie Born received a Counselor of the Year Award from the Niagara University College of Education during its annual professional recognition ceremony on Oct. 10, 2013. Dr. Born is a mental health counselor with the Hamilton Family Health Team.

Jennifer Egan joined the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart as a math teacher.

1999 REUNION
Lisa Strock was promoted to senior vice president/client services by the Martin Group. She formerly was vice president of client services.

2000
Angela Conner was promoted to associate general counsel at Integrys Energy Services, Inc., where she will be responsible for the legal duties associated with the retail power area of the business.

Dawn (Romagnola) Decker is a part-time learning disabilities specialist at Santa Monica College and at Cypress College in California.

Karen (Piwowarczyk) Doucet, M.S.Ed.’02, is a middle-school teacher in the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nev.

Susan V. Martin has been appointed director of women’s services at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Susan has spent her entire career in women’s health services and has extensive experience in direct patient care, including critical care.

Edmund E. Mielcarek Jr. was promoted to vice president, relationship manager at HSBC Bank USA. He joined the bank in 2002.

Allison Perkins-Olson had her article, Using Simulation to Assess Chemotherapy Competency, published in the Clinical Journal of Oncology. She is a clinical nurse specialist for the Medical-Telemetry Unit at the San Diego VA Healthcare System, and coordinates the hospital’s RN Residency Program.

Gregory Santoro, M.S.Ed.’02, was appointed principal of Skaneateles High School. Greg was most recently the executive principal for the Cortland Junior Senior High School (grades seven through 12) for five years. He was also an associate principal at Ithaca High School.

2002
Monica (DiSanza) Dvoranchik is a sign language interpreter for INOVA Health System in Virginia.
Larry Mannion and George Harvey, both Class of 1968, had an unexpected reunion in October of 2010 when they came together to design and execute a security system for the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum. Larry, director of security for the memorial, notes that when he contacted MSA Security to discuss the best way to screen visitors to the World Trade Center site, he was reintroduced to his classmate, George, who was chairman of the company. It was the first time the two had seen each other in more than 40 years.

After graduating from Niagara with a degree in history, Larry attended Fordham University School of Law. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969 and served for two years, both in the United States and in Korea. In 1974, Larry began a 32-year career with the New York Police Department. Upon his retirement in 2006, he launched a second career in security with the Empire State Building. Four years later, Larry was selected as the 9/11 Memorial and Museum’s first director of security.

Meanwhile George, also a history major, had served five years in the Army and founded Medifit of America, a company he turned into one of the leading providers of physical therapy services in the United States. He joined MSA Security in 1995, where he spearheaded the company’s technological expansion by developing and executing its SmartTech® and SmartChem® services.

The two NU alumni have been working together for the past three years, partnering to ensure the safety of the more than 10 million visitors to the memorial. MSA leases and services the X-ray and magnetometers that are used to screen the public, supplies an explosive detection canine, and conducts background investigations for all new hires and volunteers at the memorial, which has been open since September 2011. The museum, which is currently under construction, is scheduled to open in spring 2014.

Nicholas Maiorano has been hired as an associate attorney with Finkelstein & Partners, a personal injury law firm. He will be working out of the firm’s headquarters in Newburgh, N.Y.

2003
Amber (Zito) Ash accepted a clinical oncology outpatient social work position with University Hospital’s Seidman Cancer Center in Cleveland, Ohio, and was appointed to the center’s Patient and Family Advisory Council and the Advance Directives Task Force. Amber also volunteers with the Cleveland Young Professionals of the American Cancer Society.

2004 REUNION
Lynde (Bradley) Bachman was named director of the KinderCare Learning Center in East Syracuse, N.Y.

Jeannie (MacDonald) Kornacki is director of student activities at Hilbert College, Hamburg, N.Y.

Daniel Morello is an internal audit manager for the Seneca Gaming Corp. in Niagara Falls.

2005
Gabrielle (Veit) Auckland is a high school algebra teacher in the Manchester Shortsville Central School District.

Shelly (McLaughlin) Cieslak was promoted to area general manager for Buffalo Lodging. She manages Fairfield Inn & Suites and the new TownePlace Suites Buffalo Airport, which opened this past summer.

Gregory Manciocchi is an air import expeditor for H.W. St. John & Company. In this position, Gregory is responsible for all of the company’s customs clearances related to air imports entering into the United States. Previously, he worked for Mohawk Global Logistics as operations manager of its Chicago branch.

Marisa Minute joined The Hamister Group as senior corporate recruiter. She will be involved with recruiting at the corporate office as well as assisting with property specific department manager positions. She will also be involved with field training of management staff in the art of recruiting exceptional employees.

2006
Adriano Gatto, artist-in-residence and recruiter in Niagara’s Department of Theatre and Fine Arts, appears in several Wal-Mart commercials that air in the Western New York region. During each 30-second spot, Adriano and a real shopper review prices of top brand name foods and discover the savings to be found at the discount store.

2007
Kristen (Carucci) Cronyn was named to the Advertising Club of Buffalo’s board of directors. She is assistant vice president, emerging markets at M&T Bank.
Maria Dojka was promoted to supervising senior accountant with Tronconi Segarra & Associates LLP.

Joseph Kalil accepted the position of general manager at Toby Keith’s I Love This Bar & Grill in Syracuse, N.Y.

Katie Kocsis, M.S.Ed.’12, has been named director of financial aid at Niagara University. Katie, who has served as assistant director of financial aid since 2009, replaces Maureen Salli, ’73, M.S.Ed.’80, who retired in February after almost 36 years at NU.

Megan (Weber) Manning was promoted to assistant general manager for the Hampton Inn & Suites Buffalo Airport.

Elena Oxford was promoted to director of rooms at Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming.

2008

Stephanie Cattarin was named foundation director for the Buffalo Niagara Human Resource Association. She sits on the Buffalo Partnership Advisory Board for Buffalo 360 and is the director of programs for NFASD.

Matthew Chavez accepted the position of coordinator for Cross Catholic Outreach in Boca Raton, Fla., a Catholic relief and development ministry that provides food, shelter, medical care, water, education, self-help programs, care for orphans, and emergency relief to the poorest of the poor in dioceses around the world.

Jamie Constantz was appointed pupil personnel worker in the department of student services at St. Mary’s County Public Schools, Leonardtown, Md. Jamie joined the district in August 2011 as a school psychologist.

Mariana Glass joined the University at Buffalo TCIE as a training program coordinator. She oversees the coordination and scheduling of classroom-based and online public and private training program offerings for professionals and companies. She also manages the Student Six Sigma Black Belt Certification program, which places UB students at Western New York companies to complete Black Belt improvement projects.

Patrick Haggerty made his first profession of vows for three years as a monk of Marmion Abbey on July 11, 2013. Following the monastic tradition to take a new name, Patrick has chosen the name of Brother Theodore.

Steven Hoover, MBA’09, joined Lumsden & Bellerive as an associate. He is a member of the firm’s torts and products liability defense, professional liability, and insurance coverage and regulation practice areas. Prior to joining the firm, Ryan was an attorney at HoganWillig.

Katelyn (Banach) Mogle was promoted to operations manager at the TownePlace Suites Buffalo Airport.

2009 REUNION

Erica (Hoskins) Cramer, M.S.’10, recently completed the 17-week police academy and was sworn in as an officer with the Tucson Police Department on Aug. 1, 2013.

Amanda Farrell was promoted to assistant sales manager at Rembrandt Charms, a family-owned business that has been designing and manufacturing charms and charm bracelets for more than 40 years.

Rachele Folino, MBA’10, was promoted to senior accountant with Freed Maxick CPAs.

Climbing for a Cause — On July 13, 2013, Dr. Ed Kampf, ’65 (second from left), achieved his dream of hiking to Uhuru Peak at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. What made the climb even more significant is the reason he did it: to raise money for St. Catherine’s Center for Children in honor of his lifelong friend, Don Smith, retired executive director for community services at the center. According to Facebook postings, Dr. Kampf’s five-day adventure included both day and night treks to camps along the trail before he reached the summit, 19,341 feet above sea level. Here, Dr. Kampf, a board member at St. Catherine’s, displayed a banner decorated with the handprints of children from the center and recognizing Smith’s 40 years of service. At 69, Dr. Kampf is reportedly the oldest person his guide has ever taken up to the peak.

Dr. Kampf’s journey has raised more than $6,000 for the Albany-based center, which offers services, treatment and education for at-risk children and families in order to heal and preserve family life.

Sara Umhauer was promoted to marketing manager at MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Elizabeth Warden was named operations manager for The Lodge, a Buffalo, N.Y., dining and nightlife destination. She has more than nine years of experience in hospitality and restaurant management.

Amber (Smith) Gonyea is a geometry and algebra teacher at Bruton High School in Williamsburg, Va.

Zach Gonyea was promoted to captain in the U.S. Air Force.

Neil Kapoor, MBA’12, is a managing partner at Hiscock & Barclay as an associate. He is a member of the firm’s torts and products liability defense, professional liability, and insurance coverage and regulation practice areas. Prior to joining the firm, Ryan was an attorney at HoganWillig.

Katelyn (Banach) Mogle was promoted to operations manager at the TownePlace Suites Buffalo Airport.
Joshua Nightingale was promoted to night manager of The Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla, Calif.

Juliano Pagliero was named an assistant men’s hockey coach at Holy Cross. The former Niagara goaltender served as the Utica College assistant coach from 2011-13.

William Raffety, MBA’10, was promoted to in-charge accountant in the audit and accounting department of Firley, Moran, Freer & Eassa, CPA, P.C., East Syracuse, N.Y.

Eric Reeners, MBA’10, was promoted to senior accountant with Freed Maxick CPAs.

Christine Stolzenburg, MBA’10, was promoted to senior accountant with Freed Maxick CPAs.

Mike Wheaton is a cruise and events manager for Walt Disney World.

2010

Tyrone Lewis was inducted into the Bristol Township Athletic Hall of Fame Nov. 2, 2013. Tyrone is the Purple Eagles’ all-time leader in steals and three-point field goals made, and the only player in school history to achieve 1,500 points, connect on 200 three-pointers, and commit 200 steals along with 500 rebounds. He is an assistant coach for the men’s basketball team at Widener University.

John Schneider Jr., a religion, global studies and U.S. history teacher at Niagara Catholic Junior-Senior High School in Niagara Falls, N.Y., was named a 2013 Teacher of Merit by Buffalo Business First. He also received a Teacher of the Year Award from Niagara University’s College of Education during its annual professional recognition ceremony on Oct. 10, 2013.

Alison Valerio, M.S.Ed.’12, was promoted to head women’s lacrosse coach at Washington & Jefferson College. Alison was the assistant coach last season. Prior to her arrival in Washington, Alison spent one season as the assistant women’s lacrosse coach at Niagara. She was a four-time Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference All-Academic Team honoree as a player at Niagara.

Lynzy Zielonko accepted the position of housekeeping manager at the Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte, N.C.

2011

Steve Atlas was promoted to front office supervisor at the Courtyard by Marriott, Buffalo Airport.

Suzanne Curry joined Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP as a staff accountant.

Christie Lee Fodera joined the O’Henry Hotel in Greensboro, N.C., as guest services manager.

Johnathon E. Miles, MBA’12, joined Brisbane Consulting Group as a staff analyst responsible for valuation, forensic accounting, and litigation support services. He has prior public accounting experience working in the tax department of a Syracuse CPA firm.

2012

Joanna Biracree Brown is a staff RN in the endoscopy/urology department at Sisters of Charity Hospital, Buffalo, N.Y.

Alicia Burning completed an internship with the Walt Disney World costume department and was hired as a full-time performer.

Aubreyanna Curtis is sponsorship director for the Rochester Lancers, a men’s professional indoor soccer team.

Sebastian Galbo was a visiting summer scholar at Yale University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics.

Colleen George was promoted to area sales coordinator for the Buffalo Lodging Marriott Airport Hotels cluster.

David J. Hoover is an event coordinator at the Greensboro, N.C., Coliseum Complex.

Kelsey P. Kuppinger was appointed a staff accountant by Dansa & D’Arata, certified public accountants and consultants in Buffalo, N.Y.

Marc P. Mckenica, MBA’13, was appointed a staff accountant by Dansa & D’Arata, certified public accountants and consultants in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jordan Moore was promoted to assistant director of athletic facilities at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Rebekah Rutkowski accepted the position of concierge at 70 Park Avenue, a Kimpton Hotel in New York City.

Morgan Weir joined Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP as a staff accountant.

2013

Darcy Unruh was named Student of the Year by the New York state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in recognition of her dedication to the social work profession through volunteering, leadership and academic skills. She has volunteered with several organizations throughout St. Catharines, Ontario, and has also traveled with the Multicultural Exchange program to Ghana, Africa, and participated in the Urban Plunge in Philadelphia. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in social work at the University at Buffalo.

Our apologies: To Brian Mylod, ’68, for misspelling his name in the summer issue of the Eagle magazine. Mea culpa!

MARRIAGES


Frank Eassa, ’01, married Alison Butler, ’13, on June 8, 2013.

Celebrating a Milestone Birthday — Several members from the Classes of 1985 and 1986 got together, some for the first time in 25 years, to celebrate classmate Joe Formica’s 50th birthday (l-r): Chris Lore, ’85, John Holland, ’85, Karen Cuylor Esposito, ’85, Tom Gallagher, ’85, Jim Clary, ’86, Kevin Walsh, ’85, Joe Formica, ’85, Paul Shaw, ’85, and Jodi Chandler Boland, ’85. Joe notes that “it was a great reunion which included viewing old college pictures and (sharing) many memories and stories. Niagara University gave us the opportunity to make lifelong friends.”
Amber Zito, ’03, married Elliott Ash on April 13, 2013.


Sara Umhauer, ’08, married Kerry Hall on Sept. 21, 2013.


IN MEMORIAM
To have a Mass celebrated at Alumni Chapel, call NU’s Campus Ministry Office at 716.286.8400.


Dr. Robert F. Toomey, ’42, passed away on June 11, 2013.


Anthony DiChiara, ’48, M.S.Ed.’59, passed away on June 22, 2013. Our condolences to his wife, Elizabeth (Falsetti) DiChiara, ’50, M.S.Ed.’73, and to his daughter, Elizabeth DiChiara-Murphy, M.S.Ed. ’76.


Justin Kelly, ’50, passed away on July 17, 2012. Our condolences to his daughter, Cindy Kelly, ’79.


Francis B. Brusino, ’54, M.A.’58, passed away on Sept. 29, 2013. Our condolences to his son, Karl Brusino, ’97, and to his daughter, Stephanie (Brusino) Devantier, ’03.


Thomas J. Gouhin, ’56, passed away on April 22, 2013.


Our condolences to Carol (Coyle) Grish, ’59, on the death of her husband, and to Ann (Coyle) Shults, ’53, on the death of her brother-in-law, Leonard Grish, who passed away on July 7, 2013.

Walter Curry, ’60, passed away on Sept. 23, 2013. Our condolences to his wife, Marie (Tabone) Curry, ’60.


Michael J. Flaherty, ’61, passed away on Aug. 5, 2013. Our condolences to his wife, Sheila (Supples) Flaherty, ’63.


David S. Broderick Sr., ’63, passed away on Aug. 5, 2013. Our condolences to his brothers, William Broderick, ’57, and Peter Broderick, ’61, to his sister, Susan (Broderick) Moore, ’68, and to his daughter, Jenetta (Broderick) Quinlan, ’86.


The Rev. Aloysius Grass, C.M., M.S.’64, passed away on June 4, 2013. Fr. Grass worked at Niagara from 1961 to 1963 as a prefect and theology instructor, and from 1969 to 1973 as the dean of men.


John J. George, ’67, passed away on May 31, 2013.

Robert Haff, ’68, passed away on July 24, 2013.

Harold D. Aloian, M.S.Ed.’70, passed away on Oct. 18, 2013.

Angeline P. Fernandez, ’70, passed away on June 16, 2013. Our condolences to her son, Richard Fernandez, ’76; to her daughter, Diana (Fernandez) Schroeder, ’77; to her brother, Salvatore Pace, ’61; and to her granddaughter, Ami Fernandez, ’04.

Frederick E. Midler III, ’70, passed away on Aug. 12, 2013.

Joseph Kraus Jr., ’72, passed away on July 27, 2013. Our condolences to his wife, Varsha (Rawal) Kraus, ’74.


Our condolences to Douglas Dorsey, ’75, and Christopher Dorsey, ’79, on the death of their mother; and to Julie Dorsey, ’09, on the death of her grandmother, Rose Mary Dorsey, who passed away on Aug. 23, 2013.

Our condolences to Mary (Molini) Kullman, ’78, on the death of her father, Paul J. Molini Sr., who passed away on June 7, 2013.


Dennis P. Sugrue, ’81, passed away on Aug. 25, 2013.

Andrei E. Neimanis, ’82, passed away on July 24, 2013. Our condolences to his wife, Deborah (Doucet) Neimanis, ’79, and to his parents, George and Naomi Nemanis. George is a former professor of economics at Niagara University, and Naomi is an adjunct professor in the Department of Theatre and Fine Arts.

Wendy B. Smith, ’82, passed away on July 13, 2013.


Richard Marasco, M.S.Ed.’95, passed away on Sept. 16, 2013. Our condolences to his wife, Joanne (Cale) Marasco, ’75, and his son, Matthew, ’12.

Our condolences to Claudette Walck, ’02, M.S.’03, M.S.Ed.’05, on the death of her great uncle, William Sciuk, who passed away Dec. 24, 2012.

PLANNED GIVING

“I wanted to give something meaningful back to my alma mater, and am able to do so through a planned gift.”

Jessica Kemp, ’04, MBA’05

Kemp Financial Group

As a women’s basketball player, I received financial support through an athletic scholarship. Because of that support, I was able to pursue my education at Niagara and obtain a career in the insurance industry. Now, as an alumna of Niagara University, I’ve made plans to give something back. I am making a gift of insurance to benefit the women’s basketball team. I also continue my involvement with Niagara as a member of the Planned Giving Advisory Committee and as a chapter leader for the Alumni Association.

For more information on how to include Niagara University in your estate plans, please contact Leslie K. Wise, ’82, at 716.286.8590 or lwise@niagara.edu. You may also visit us online at http://niagara.givingplan.net.
In his treatise on education, the 18th century French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau describes the interaction between a young boy, Émile, and his private tutor. One day, after the teacher had given a particularly lengthy and impassioned discourse on the value of geography and astronomy, the boy turned to him and asked simply, “A quoi sert tout cela?” roughly translated into English as “What’s the point?” or “Why do I need that?”

When I was a junior in college, much to my parents’ chagrin, I changed my major from business finance to French literature. Suddenly, a question that had never before been posed to me became a recurrent refrain that would persist for years to come: “What are you planning to do with that?”

The liberal arts are the core of the Niagara University education. All students, whether they major in accounting, hotel management, criminal justice, or biochemistry, are required to take courses from most of the departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, and I have no doubt that many of them, while filling up the requirements on the left side of their curriculum card, ask themselves, “Why do I need that?”

In April 2012, the Association of American Colleges and Universities published the results of a survey that asked 320 chief executive officers of leading American companies what they desired most in their employees. Seventy-four percent stated that they preferred to hire job candidates with a strong background in liberal arts. Ninety-five percent of them said they need workers who are able to solve problems and to translate their ideas with good communication skills.

Rousseau’s answer to Émile came the following day, when the teacher led the child into a forest, then let him believe that they were lost. The boy was brought to tears until eventually fear and frustration brought back his lessons in geographic orientation, which allowed him to figure out the way home on his own — a kind of experiential learning by fire.

My response to the question “What’s the point?” is that students in the liberal arts are able to think critically, to imagine outside of the box, to adapt to unexpected challenges, and to express themselves effectively, sometimes in multiple languages.

The sad reality, however, is that at many universities, the liberal arts are the last on the list to receive resources or investment, and in tough economic times, the liberal arts face disproportionate cuts compared to professional schools and accredited programs.

Despite these universal challenges, the liberal arts continue to be the foundation of the Niagara University education. Students in all four colleges take courses in the College of Arts and Sciences as part of their general education requirement. In May 2013, the College of Arts and Sciences recognized two outstanding faculty members whose dedication to their students’ success in the liberal arts has gone above and beyond professional expectations: Dr. Kalen Churcher, assistant professor of communication studies; and Nanette Harmon, director of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies.

Kalen Churcher was part of a small team of professors from the College of Arts and Sciences who, on their own initiative, transformed our students’ first year experience by restructuring and strengthening the NU Beginnings curriculum. This was a faculty-driven project born out of interdisciplinary collaboration and a desire to bring freshman students into contact with full-time faculty in their chosen field, beginning the very first week of their first semester at Niagara. The impact of this program has been tremendous.

When I hired Nanette Harmon seven years ago, our department offered a single course in American Sign Language. Since that time, Nanette built up a full undergraduate minor in ASL and Deaf Studies, including a sequence in applied signing and courses in Deaf Culture. It is now the only such program in this region and, this past semester, it enrolled more than 150 students.

These are the kinds of initiatives that define Niagara’s liberal arts core. And these are the kind of professors you find here as well: supremely dedicated, profoundly invested, and completely committed to the success of their students.

Henrik Borgstrom, Ph.D.
Professor of French/Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
The PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION of

Rev. James J. Maher, C.M.

Save the Date
Friday, April 4, 2014