“The faith of those who live their faith is a serene faith.” — Pope St. Leo the Great
Inside this issue

FEATURES
16 Remembering Brother Steve
17 Hockey Player Learns Life Lesson
19 Alumni Weekend 2011
24 Growing in Faith

DEPARTMENTS
2 Opening Remarks
4 On the Ridge
9 1,000 Words
10 Student Profile
14 Living the Mission
18 Advancement Matters
28 News from the Nest
30 Alumni Stories
32 Catching Up
40 The Last Word

On the cover Purple banners highlighting the advantages of a Niagara education welcomed incoming and returning students.

View the Eagle online at http://eagleonline.niagara.edu/

The Niagara University Eagle is published three times per year by the Office of Public Relations, Communications and Marketing.

Please send correspondence to:
Lisa M. McMahon, MA’09, Editor
Office of Public Relations, Communications and Marketing
Niagara University, N.Y., 14109
716.286.8747 • lmcmahon@niagara.edu

Design
Suzanne M. Karaszewski

Contributors/Photography
Tom Burns Michael Freedman
Ron Epstein Jim McCoy
Errin Epstein Derek Zeller, ’12

Founded by the Vincentian Community in 1856, Niagara University is a private liberal arts university with a strong, values-based Catholic tradition. Its four academic divisions include the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, and Hospitality and Tourism Management. The university also maintains an Academic Exploration Program that provides a learning community for students who are undecided about their major.
It is that wonderful time of year again when we welcome a new class of students to Niagara University. What a great challenge and privilege we have to educate and learn with the students of today, just as it was years ago when you were a student on Monteagle Ridge.

Interestingly enough, this is also that time of year when we celebrate Alumni Weekend, welcoming home the many graduates who once were students here and who come back to be with one another and share the great memories of their alma mater.

God has given us so many gifts. We have outstanding graduates and we continue to receive great numbers of enthusiastic learners who want to make sure that their education makes a difference in their lives, and discover how they can make a positive impact in our world.

We are also grateful for the Vincentians who continue to be an integral part of the university. This year, Father John Maher left NU for Rome to work with the General Curia on special publications for the community around the world, and Father Tom McKenna left us to become director of the Daughters of Charity in the new Province of St. Louis.

At the same time, we are happy to welcome back Father John Gouldrick, who will serve as assistant to the president for mission development, as well as Father Kevin Creagh, our new associate vice president for campus ministry. In addition to these men, we have been blessed with many members of our faculty, staff and administration who, in recent years, have taken part in programs that focus on Vincentian and Catholic education, spirituality and formation.

During nearly every meeting I attend, the conversation turns to the importance of our mission at NU; that is to continue to be an excellent university that is both Catholic and Vincentian. Sincere thanks to you, our alumni, for witnessing on behalf of this mission, one that inspired you as students and that you carry with you in various ministries around the globe.

I have the privilege of communicating with all of you in each issue of our Eagle magazine, and I like to thank you for all that you have done to make NU the great university that it is today. It is also my opportunity to call you to do even more for the present and future students of Niagara University and your fellow alumni as well.

Tell each other your stories, advise us of your successes and challenges, and let us know how Niagara has been an important part of shaping the person that you are today.

Be proud, dear alumni. You certainly make all of us at NU very proud of you.

God bless you, and if you wish to let us know more about yourself, your family, your work and your outstanding accomplishments, please contact me at jll@niagara.edu.

Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.
President
The grand opening and blessing of Niagara University's new Institute for Civic Engagement was held on Sept. 27, 2011. An initiative developed through the President's Office, the institute's purpose is to reinforce the university's commitment to the region by strengthening existing community partnerships and forming new town-gown relationships. It will immediately serve as the university's primary point of contact for community members and organizations. Dr. David Taylor, a longtime faculty leader, will serve as director of the institute, which will oversee two of the university's flagship community-minded programs, Border Community SERVICE and ReNU Niagara.

Elizabeth Berger, a criminal justice major at NU, has been selected as the recipient of a $2,500 scholarship from the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. The award is presented annually to nine criminal justice majors nationwide through the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Scholarship Program, which was established in 1978 to recognize the former FBI director's pursuit of excellence in educational standards.

Niagara University received the scholarship thanks to a recommendation from Brian Tone, '71, a retired special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a current member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI.

Seventeen men and women received diplomas during the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy's 52nd graduation ceremony, held Aug. 1 on the Niagara University campus, where the academy began conducting classes in February. Niagara is the only four-year, private college in New York to host a full-time police academy. Coordination of the program on Niagara's campus has been undertaken by the university's Office of Continuing Education and its Criminal Justice Department.

Niagara softball standout Teresa Healy, '11, has been selected as the 2010-11 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference's Female Student-Athlete of the Year by the league's sports information directors. Healy holds eight Niagara records and ranked third all-time in school history with a .393 batting average and holds the Niagara single-season record with 44 RBI. In July, she was named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division I All-Star First Team, the only player from the MAAC named to the top squad.

In addition, 114 Niagara student-athletes were honored for their academic and athletic accomplishments by being named to the 2010-11 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll. Niagara placed the third most on the honor roll, trailing only Marist (165) and Rider (135).

Junior Nicole Karek of the women's lacrosse team earned the highest grade point average in the MAAC with a 4.26 in computer science, while the highest GPA belonging to a male student-athlete was earned by men's tennis player David Lemieux-Sarrasin, who finished with a 4.24 in finance.

Niagara University, in partnership with the City of Niagara Falls and the P2 Collaborative of Western New York, received an 18-month, $300,000 grant from The John R. Oishei Foundation for the implementation of “Creating a Healthier Niagara Falls: A Neighborhood Empowerment Approach.” A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Sept. 9 to signify the opening of the project’s new outreach office. The goal of the initiative is to improve the individual health and quality of life of residents in designated Niagara Falls neighborhoods by building a system of community-based resources and linkages and engaging and building the capacity of residents to initiate projects that will improve their neighborhoods and create a healthy, livable and safe community.

The Niagara University Senior Term Enrichment Program, or NUSTEP, a program that enables high school students to earn college credits, was recently awarded accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. Considered the authority on credit-bearing programs offered via partnerships between high schools and colleges, NACEP has accredited Niagara University's concurrent enrollment program through 2018.

Several hospitality and tourism students earned prestigious awards this summer. Wendy Reyes, an NU senior from El Paso, Texas, is the lone recipient of this year’s Ronald H. Brown Memorial Scholarship, awarded to an undergraduate minority student committed to the pursuit of a career in the travel industry. The $3,000 scholarship is given in honor of the late commerce secretary and his enormous contributions to the U.S. travel and tourism industry.

Junior Nicolas Zachary Barth and Megan Erickson, a transfer student from Schenectady County Community College, were awarded $6,000 scholarships from the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association's Education Foundation for their exceptional representation of the future of the hospitality industry.

Barth was also among the three NU students who were awarded academic scholarships from Tourism Cares, the tourism industry’s premier charitable organization for preservation, conservation, restoration and education. In addition to Barth, seniors Brianna Fries and Mary Gibson were among the 62 travel, tourism, and hospitality students across the United States and Canada to receive merit-based awards.

More than 800 new freshmen and transfer students were welcomed into the Niagara family during the weekend of Sept. 1-5, 2011. On- and off-campus activities, including an inaugural Walk to the Whirlpool, gave students many opportunities to get to know one another and their new “home away from home.”
The College of Education received approval to offer a new master’s degree in Early Childhood and Special Education (birth – grade 2). The new program leads to initial and professional New York state teacher certification in both early childhood education and students with disabilities from birth through grade 2.

Dr. Deborah T. Curtis, director of NU’s Hospitality Training & Research Center, received the National Statler Center’s Leadership Toward Excellence Award during a ceremony held Sept. 15. Conceived by the Olmsted Center for Sight, the Statler Center is a national program that trains individuals who are blind, visually impaired and otherwise physically disabled for careers in the hospitality and contact center industry.

Four individuals were recognized for their extraordinary contributions during Niagara University’s annual Vincentian Heritage Convocation, Sept. 29, 2011.

Inducted into the Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction was Karen A. Ballard, ’66, whose leadership in healthcare reform, combined with her ubiquitous promotion of the effectiveness of nurses on quality patient care, has prompted recognition from a number of institutions and organizations.

The Rev. Michael Carroll, C.M., received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology for his dedication to serving the Congregation of the Mission since 1970 as well as for the tireless care and compassion that he has shown toward Catholic education.

Receiving the university’s Vincentian Mission Award was Fred J. Heuer, ’77, Niagara’s assistant vice president for marketing, and Thomas M. McDermott, ’62, ’65, former director of counseling services. The two men were honored for the ways in which they exemplify the charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the university’s patron.

Dr. Timothy Ireland, chair of NU’s Criminal Justice Department.

Andrew Goralski, chair of the Buffalo chapter of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, scholarship recipient Elizabeth Berger, and Dr. Timothy Ireland, chair of NU’s Criminal Justice Department.

Niagara softball standout Teresa Healy, ’11

Inaugural Walk to the Whirlpool


Accolades

Niagara University continues to be recognized for engaged students, embracing America’s veterans as students, great teaching, successful graduate outcomes, environmental responsibility, an outstanding campus community, and exemplary service to the community.
With each passing tweet, it’s become more and more apparent that people are turning to Twitter to access breaking news. But will college students turn to the social networking website to learn about events that have already taken place? Dr. Mustafa Gökçek hopes so.

The Niagara University assistant professor of history has compiled a list of 90 major chronological events that took place between 1945 and 2005. He began disseminating them as tweets on Sept. 13. Each tweet, a post or status update on Twitter that can contain a maximum of 140 characters, will include a link to a primary source that provides more information on the event.

The tweets will be sent under the handle of NUHIS199, a reference to Dr. Gökçek’s course on America and the Contemporary World.

“A vast majority of our students already have Twitter accounts and I’m hoping that this will be a way of making learning about history more fun,” says Dr. Gökçek. “I have always been interested in utilizing the latest technology in my class.”

In the past, students in Dr. Gökçek’s Middle East history class made short documentaries using video editing software. He has also used Skype to video conference in his classes with students in China and Egypt. Several of Dr. Gökçek’s colleagues in NU’s History Department have introduced Facebook as a tool to communicate with students.

For his newest endeavor, Dr. Gökçek is adopting software that was developed by Dr. Murat Demirbas, an associate professor of computer science at the University of Buffalo. The program was developed to send tweets at scheduled intervals, making it possible to cover 60 years of history by sending 90 tweets in 90 days, the approximate duration of the fall semester.

Dr. Gökçek takes the project one step further. Instead of simply sending out one tweet daily, the computer program can be manipulated so that one historical year translates to one and a half days. Therefore, if two events occurred one year apart, the tweets profiling those events will be sent one and a half days from each other. If they took place two years apart, there will be a three-day difference between tweets, and so on.

“The nature of this project will help students better understand the timeline of major events, the time difference between each one, and the historical context in which each event took place,” explains Dr. Gökçek. “It will also encourage the students to follow the links to primary sources and contribute more effectively in class discussions.”

Students enrolled in HIS199 have taken to the project. Those without Twitter accounts have registered with the site. At the end of the semester, they will prepare poster presentations based on what they’ve learned throughout the experience. Based on this project’s success, Dr. Gökçek and his colleagues will explore making the format applicable to other courses and perhaps even adding a testing component.

“This is certainly quite a new project for all of us and we are all excited to be a part of it,” says Dr. Gökçek. “We encourage anyone who is interested to follow us on Twitter.”

By Mike Freedman
ON THE RIDGE

Seeking Order Out of Chaos

At this time last year, Dr. Abdiweli Ali was concerned with teaching Niagara University students the concepts of economic growth and development, international trade, public finance and public choice. Today, the associate professor of economics-turned-prime minister of Somalia is dealing with the reality of those issues while governing a war-torn, starving nation that has been virtually lawless for 20 years.

Dr. Ali, a Somali-American, had been serving as the country’s minister of planning and international cooperation since November 2010. He was appointed prime minister by Somalian President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed in June, after Mohamed A. Mohamed, another Western New York resident, abruptly resigned from the position.

In September, Dr. Ali returned to Niagara to talk about the obstacles facing Somalia, his work there, and the progress he’s made.

His number one challenge is ridding Somalia of its powerful extremist groups, especially al-Shabab, he said.

“The top priority of the government is security,” he said. “Economists talk about the importance of location. In Somalia, it’s all about security, security, security.”

Dr. Ali has made significant strides in liberating the Somali capital of Mogadishu from Al Qaeda-linked extremist insurgents with the assistance of the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Stabilizing the country is also a priority, so Dr. Ali is focusing on promoting political outreach and drafting a constitution, which will help in this effort. “The better the institutional framework in a country, the more growth, development and progress that we can make,” he said, adding that “the most important institution a country can have is a good constitution, and that’s what we are working on right now.”

He’s hopeful that the document will be written within the next three months. The timeframe is of particular importance, given that the mandates of Somalia’s transitional government expire next August, at which time a new administration will be elected.

Making his work even more difficult is the fact that Somalia is dealing with its worst famine in 60 years. The United Nations has declared six of the states in Somalia to be “famine zones,” many of which are under control of militant extremist groups. It is believed that 750,000 Somali people may die from starvation in the next three months, an epidemic that Dr. Ali blames on man-made deforestation issues that intensified the effects of the country’s drought cycles.

As a result, Dr. Ali has continuously appealed to countries, organizations and individuals worldwide for humanitarian support.

“Somalia’s future hangs in the balance so we cannot make this journey alone,” he said.

The Niagara University community has responded to Dr. Ali’s call for aid by establishing “NU Mission Somalia,” a university-sponsored awareness and fundraising initiative. The project’s objectives are to maintain continuous on-campus awareness of Dr. Ali’s progress in Somalia; develop educational teaching units about Dr. Ali and Somalia that can be built into any class; support the Somali people financially; and harness the creativity of student groups to find new ways to assist the East African country. Already, the Niagara University Student Government Association has pledged to contribute $5,000 toward the effort, and the university has made special arrangements with Oxfam International* to track the number of contributions that originate from Niagara University.

“We promise you our support,” said the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, Niagara University president. “Just as we are side-by-side with you today, we will walk with you.”

*To make a donation, visit www.oxfamamerica.org/SomaliaRelief. Contributions in $10 increments can also be made by texting OXFAM to 25383, although these donations will not be tracked as part of the NU initiative. For more information about NU Mission Somalia, contact committee chairs Stephanie Cole (scole@niagara.edu) or Dr. Brian Murphy (bmm@niagara.edu), or join the “Niagara University Somalia Support” Facebook group.
The proud tradition of the Niagara nurse has been renewed, thanks to the formal approval the university recently received from the New York State Department of Education to offer two new nursing programs. One, a four-year B.S. in nursing, will provide a major in nursing to students entering NU as freshmen or transfer students without any specialized nursing background. The other, an accelerated B.S. in nursing, will admit those already holding a bachelor’s degree or higher, and enroll them in nursing courses on a concentrated, full-time track. The accelerated program may be completed within a 12-month timeframe.

“We are thrilled to expand the diversity of programs that we are able to offer to those special people who are interested in pursuing nursing careers,” says the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., NU’s president. “Niagara possesses an extensive history of excellence in educating nurses, and nursing is a program that aligns directly with our mission of serving those most in need.”

Nursing at Niagara dates back to the establishment of its College of Nursing in 1946. The college graduated more than 3,500 professional nurses before closing in 2002 due to a steep decline in market demand for nurses. Graduates of the College of Nursing have maintained very close ties to the university, forming an alumni council and assisting with the implementation of a degree completion program that caters to students who are already registered nurses. This program has been offered since 2006 and was accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2008.

The new B.S. programs have been designed to build upon the resources already in place and in response to the critical shortage of nursing professionals that is projected to continue well into the future. The curricula for these programs have been developed following guidelines published by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the New York State Council of Deans and the most recent Institute of Medicine report on nursing competencies. They will be offered through the Department of Nursing, part of NU’s College of Arts and Sciences. The four-year track will commence in fall 2012 while the accelerated program will begin in May.

“The demand for nursing education in Western New York is at an all-time high,” says Dr. Fran Crosby, a 1967 Niagara University graduate who chairs the Department of Nursing. “Niagara’s reputation and the loyalty of its alumni body have served it well, especially once the RN-to-B.S. program opened in 2006. Since word of the state’s approval began to trickle out, we have been really impressed with the quality of nurses who have indicated interest in faculty positions and are looking forward to this expansion.”

If you know of someone who may be interested in Niagara’s nursing programs, contact the Admissions Office at 716.286.8700, 800.462.2111, or admissions@niagara.edu.
Five Niagara University students learned the ropes and a whole lot more during a three-week environmental science program that took place aboard an authentic 19th century wooden sailing ship. Lauren Kapus, ‘13 (left), Jason Davis, ‘13 (center), Danielle Graham, ‘14 (right), Joe Grenga, ‘12, and Carolyn Trabert, ‘12, boarded the Flagship Niagara, a reproduction of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry’s flagship from the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812, in Erie, Pa., on July 26. While sailing the Great Lakes, the students studied a customized, credit-bearing curriculum that focused on biology, ecology, chemistry and natural history. They also served as vessel “trainees,” assisting the 18 professional crew members in hauling lines and setting sails. This amazing experiential learning experience, which concluded in Chicago, Ill., on Aug. 15, was a first of its kind.

To see more photos of the ship and the students, visit eagleonline.niagara.edu.
William Habschied: Pursuing His Passion

By Lisa McMahon

Like many of his generation, Bill Habschied was drafted shortly after graduating from high school. After serving more than four years in the Air Force (“I spent four years, three months and 15 days in service. I don’t know why that stays in your head,” he says), he got a job at a local factory. The job provided him a good living, but the production line shiftwork he did was “very monotonous,” and taught him an important life lesson: you have to like what you do. So, after taking an early retirement, he decided to follow his love of books into the study of library science. Now, he’s finishing his bachelor’s degree at Niagara and planning to go on to graduate school.

It’s not his first time in a college classroom. Bill had taken a number of computer courses while working at the factory and completed his associate’s degree at Niagara County Community College a few years ago. But when he was faced with the decision of what he wanted to do with his education, he realized he needed to continue his studies and enrolled at Niagara.

There, he learned that while his field of choice was not available as an undergraduate major, he could take liberal arts and work with faculty to develop an individualized, interdisciplinary program suited specifically for his interests and career goals. His main focus has been history, supplemented with courses in political science, social sciences, and photography.

Being a nontraditional student was a little uncomfortable at first, but Bill soon discovered a group of his peers in the university’s newly established veteran’s club. The group meets once a month to share experiences, and this camaraderie has helped Bill, and other nontraditional students, ease into college life.

He also discovered that his life experience was an unexpected advantage in one of his history classes: America and the Contemporary World, a course that examines developments affecting America and Americans during the turbulent years since World War II. Having lived through those decades, Bill says the class was “like Old Home Week.”

To complement his classroom studies, Bill has taken advantage of opportunities to work in the Castellani Art Museum, where he helped to establish a small library, and in the Marian Library, to which he personally donated thousands of books for a book sale. He laughs when asked where the books came from.

“You know how you always fib to yourself when you want to buy something?” he asks. “I always said if I buy this book, I’m going to put it in my library and then I’ll have it when I retire. So that’s what I did. But the more I collected, (the more) they overgrew my shelves. So then I put them in chairs, put them on top of this, put them on top of that.”

When he heard about the library’s book sale, he decided to donate most of his collection. “So my house is now back to normal and I have the library back down, and I’m thinking of getting a Kindle,” he says.

This December, Bill will graduate with his bachelor’s degree in liberal arts, and he hopes to attend graduate school. He’s not planning too much further ahead than that, though. “I found out that what you hope to do and what you wind up doing are two different things,” he says. “I’m taking it now just one step at a time.”
Marketing major Rebecca Schied received Niagara University’s Senior Medal during commencement ceremonies on May 22. The award is given to the student in the graduating class with the highest QPA (hers was an impressive 4.29). Rebecca took time while preparing for her graduate studies at Syracuse University to answer a few questions for the Eagle.

Eagle Magazine: Why NU?

Rebecca Schied: NU has a beautiful and peaceful campus and the people were very nice. The members of administration that I met with were very helpful and almost as excited for me as I was, and the students were generally happy and pleasant people. This made Niagara the place that I really felt I could grow both as a student and as a person.

EM: What was your favorite class?

RS: My favorite class would have to be my sign language classes. The professors, Nanette Harmon and Krista Rahelich, are wonderful people who both introduced me to another language as well as to another culture and even another side of myself. These classes gave me another way to express myself.

EM: What did it take to earn the highest QPA in your class?

RS: It took a combination of skills. The first was simply dedication. I attended every class, studied for every test, completed every assignment, and read every assigned chapter. This was crucial because all of the work fed off of each other. In addition, I was careful in my class selection, particularly with my electives, matching the classes to both my skill set and my interests. I didn’t just blindly pick a social sciences elective that was at the most convenient time or that my friends were taking, I picked a class that I was going to find interesting and stay engaged in.

EM: What was the most challenging aspect during your four years here?

RS: All of the multitasking that I had to do senior year. During that time I had my regular classes, I had an internship, I was working on my honors thesis, and I was studying for the GMAT. This period of my life really taught me the value of time management and the importance of having a mental outlet. I probably spent more time working during that year, but I also spent more time just hanging out with my friends. Finding the balance was very important.

EM: What was the most rewarding?

RS: The most rewarding part came in my sophomore year when I took Principles of Management with professor (William) Angus. As part of that class we became academic consultants for Research In Motion, which is the company that makes the Blackberry. As part of a team, I analyzed the problem that was given to us and created a solution that was presented to company executives. It was hard work, but it was the most exciting feeling to hear from executives that you did a good job.

EM: What is the most important lesson you learned at NU?

RS: The most important lesson that I learned was not learned in a classroom. It was simply how to open up to people. I sometimes have difficulty opening up to people. But my classmates and my friends really helped me learn how to enjoy myself as well as enjoy being with other people. It’s not the kind of thing you can really be tested on, but it’s one of the best skills I learned and it is one that I am continuing to work on.

EM: What’s next?

RS: I am working hard to strengthen my business skills to make me a better asset for my future employer. After grad school I hope to get into marketing, perhaps working for a major corporation in its creative department or a marketing research firm. Ultimately, though, my path is not completely clear and I hope to be able to find more guidance throughout the course of my MBA and even from a summer internship.
Student manager Mike Rockwood was instrumental in establishing the St. Vincent de Paul Store at the former St. Joseph’s School in Niagara Falls.
What was once a place where children came to learn is now a space filled with gently used clothing, furniture and household items. It’s a homecoming of sorts, as the St. Vincent de Paul Store is back on Tronolone Place in Niagara Falls, where it was first established some 60 years ago. Now located in the auditorium of the former St. Joseph’s School building, the store is once again serving the poor and working poor in the Niagara Falls area.

Since its establishment in 1950, the store has occupied several locations throughout the city, including Main Street, where it was in operation for more than 15 years under the direction of Brother Stephen Kennedy, C.M.* In 1992, it moved to the former Our Lady of Rosary School on Niagara Street, where it remained until that building was sold as part of the Diocese of Buffalo’s Journey in Faith and Grace parish revitalization and reorganization program. Organizers began searching for a new site, ultimately choosing the former school building, which is now part of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Parish. Niagara University staff and students were especially instrumental in cleaning the store, removing debris, making needed repairs and soliciting donations of new and usable merchandise.

"Working with the St. Vincent de Paul Society is something that Niagara University takes great pride in and it correlates directly with our mission as a Catholic and Vincentian institution," says the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., the university’s president. “NU was involved in getting the store back up and running when it was on the brink of closure several years ago and we are committed to seeing through the sustainability of this valuable community resource.”

Today, the store is bustling with activity during its operational hours. Volunteers from Niagara University and several church groups sort donations in the back room (which was once a kitchen) and stock and organize the shelves along the walls as customers search through thousands of donated items. The work is supervised by student managers from Niagara University, an internship opportunity developed by Mike Skowronski, corporate relations developer in NU’s Office of Career Services, this summer. Mike Rockwood was the first of the student managers.

“It (the store) was handed to me and it was ‘do whatever you want with it,’ basically,” Rockwood says. “Improve business, make it into whatever you can make it into. I’m a third-year business student. It seemed like a good fit, so I jumped at the opportunity.”

Rockwood got right to work, organizing the retail space, developing policies for accepting donations, purchasing promotional ads, and handling the day-to-day operation of the store. Due to his efforts, the store has quadrupled its sales.

“It takes time to get the word out that we’re here, reopened, up and running,” Rockwood says. “It takes time to build the customer base. But there’s a very notable improvement, there’s progress, and that’s good to see. That means more money for the store, more opportunity, a better outlook.”

“Mike did a wonderful job,” says Skowronski. “He had an excellent vision and helped merchandise things appropriately. It was refreshing to have that youthful presence there, and certainly he came at the right time for the store because it was reestablishing itself.”

In the coming months, a new student manager will take over where Rockwood left off. It’s one of the goals of the “new” St. Vincent de Paul Store. And in the meantime, student volunteers from the university’s Learn and Serve program and those involved with Campus Ministry will continue to help, both with running the store and fundraising for a much-needed new truck. “We definitely want to keep a close Niagara connection,” says Skowronski.

*We are sad to report that Brother Steve passed away on Sept. 27, shortly after this article was written. See page 16.*
In Brother Stephen J. Kennedy, C.M., cheerfulness and charity went hand in hand. His desire to “work with the people” led him to donate countless hours in service to the poor and underserved in the Niagara Falls area, both while working as postmaster at Niagara University, a position he held for 24 years, and after his retirement in 1987. On Friday, Oct. 7, during a memorial Mass in Alumni Chapel, the Niagara University community celebrated the life of Brother Steve, who passed away on Sept. 27 at the age of 84.

A native of Philadelphia, Brother Steve entered the Congregation of the Mission in 1957 after serving in the Navy during World War II and pursuing a career in business. He was assigned to the Vincentian Motherhouse in Germantown, Pa., where he served in a variety of administrative posts. In 1963, he was assigned to Niagara University as postmaster of the university’s Post Office, a position that enabled him to get to know hundreds of Niagara students. “I think I knew every student by their first name,” he once said. He so enjoyed his friendship with the students that he took advantage of opportunities to work with them in extracurricular pursuits, including coaching the university’s golf team and moderating the men’s and women’s hockey teams. When the women’s team earned a berth into the NCAA Frozen Four in 2001-02, the players received rings for their achievement. Brother Steve received a ring as well and wore it often. “The ring meant a great deal to him,” the Rev. Joseph Hubbert, C.M., ’73, Vincentian religious superior, recalls.

Brother Steve also enjoyed the company of his confreres and would initiate opportunities for them to get together, often over Chinese food or as members of a Thursday night bowling team. The team was “more camaraderie than competition for him,” says Father Hubbert.

But what Brother Steve was most passionate about was helping the less fortunate in his community. “This is what life is all about: Love thy neighbor — not abstractly, but concretely,” he once said, and his life clearly reflected this conviction.

He donated countless hours to a variety of charitable causes in the Niagara Falls area on days off and after hours during his postal career. He prepared meals, attended to clean up and provided hospitality to patrons of Maranatha House and the Lampstead, two projects of the Catholic Worker; tutored disadvantaged elementary and high school students; started a program to teach African American history in local churches and in the Niagara County jail; and helped to bring a literacy program to the area’s maximum-security prison.

Retirement afforded Brother Steve the time to do full time what he had been doing on a part-time basis, and, in 1987, he established the St. Vincent de Paul Center of Niagara University. Under his direction, the center distributed millions of pieces of clothing, furniture and foodstuffs to disadvantaged families in the area and collected toys for needy children each Christmas. He also had a great appreciation for Native American culture and worked with members of the Tuscarora Indian Reservation in Niagara County and the Six Nations Reservation in Canada. His enthusiasm for and devotion to this work inspired hundreds of Niagara University students to follow his example. These charitable deeds, he said, rounds out their education.

For several years, Brother Steve could be found behind the wheel of a 14-foot van that was donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Center. With it, he would make his rounds through the community, collecting clothing, appliances and household goods for the distribution center. Jan Reele, who has worked for the Vincentians for the past 12 years, recalls that when Brother Steve drove his truck onto the Tuscarora Reservation, the children would run toward it “as if (he) were Santa Claus.”

In recognition of his selfless dedication to the underserved, Brother Steve was honored with a number of awards, including the Niagara University Caritas Medal and the President’s Medal from St. John’s University.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, a funeral Mass was held at St. Vincent’s Seminary in Philadelphia. Brother Steve was laid to rest that afternoon at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Princeton, N.J.

“Brother Steve Kennedy was our postmaster for many years, but it was his compassion, service of the poor and his consistent smile and joyful spirit that made him a very special person here at Niagara University; he was indeed a second Vincent de Paul for us and the Western New York community he loved to serve,” said the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president. “Brother Steve will live forever in the hearts of everyone who knew him.”
Hockey Player Learns Life Lesson in Tanzania

By Lisa McMahon

“What’s it like in the United States?”

It was simple question, but as he looked at the boy who had asked, a boy who was about 13 or 14 and had left his village of Bagamoyo, Tanzania, only a handful of times, Sam Goodwin couldn’t come up with the words to describe a place that was so very different from the places the boy knew.

This was a defining moment in a journey that started as an adventure but became a life-altering experience for Sam, a senior communications/French major from St. Louis, Mo. He had heard about a trip to Tanzania that a friend had taken the year before to volunteer at a village school, and he was intrigued. He asked his friend to help him arrange a similar trip for himself.

“I’ll go anywhere, especially if I haven’t been there,” Sam says. “Traveling in general and seeing new places is something I enjoy. That whole idea is what interested me.”

So, just days after completing his classes in May, Sam boarded a plane in Chicago and landed some 18 hours later in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. There, he met Charlie Sloan, a former Peace Corps volunteer who had established the school where Sam would work for the next three weeks, and with the words to describe a place that was so very different from the places the boy knew.

By Lisa McMahon

“W

For three weeks, I can honestly say that we lived like they did,” he says. “It was frustrating because there were times when we were pretty hungry, but we wanted the experience and we got it.”

Sam spent the majority of his time at Nianjema primary and secondary school, where his main responsibility was to help the students improve their English skills. He’d assist the older students with their classroom work and play games with the younger ones.

When he wasn’t at the school, Sam worked out to keep in shape for hockey. The Purple Eagles forward would run, despite the 90-degree heat, and kept up with his conditioning routine in Charlie’s small workout room.

“Hockey is the number one priority in my life,” Sam says, “so I had to make sure that things with that were okay before I did anything else.”

By the time his three weeks were over, Sam was ready to return home. But he returned with a new perspective and a greater appreciation of how fortunate he is.

“You really realize how good you have it here,” he says. “I learned how much they appreciate simple things that we just completely take for granted. It’s really hard to explain unless you’re there.”

And he says he still thinks about the boy and the simple question he asked.

“I still don’t know how to answer the question,” Sam says. “I still don’t know where to start.”

### 2011-2012 Purple Eagles Sports Schedule

**CLARKSON**

**BINGHAMTON**

**BUFFALO**

**FAIRFIELD**

**FORDHAM**

**Iona**

**Mercyhurst**

**Mercyhurst***

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**RIT**

**ROBERT MORRIS***

**Siena**

**St. Bonaventure***

**St. Louis***

**St. Francis (PA)**

**St. Peter’s**

**Syracuse***

**Trenton State***

**University of Connecticut**

**University of Massachusetts***

**University of Maine***

**William Paterson***

**WINTRY**

**ST. LAWRENCE***

**SYRACUSE***

**ARMY***

**AIR FORCE***

**BENTLEY***

**BOWIE STATE***

**BUFFALO***

**CLARKSON***

**CLARKSON***

**CONNED**

**CUNY***

**DIAMOND DAWGS***

**Drexel***

**EMILY’S***

**FORDHAM***

**GREGORY***

**HOLYOKE***

**Syracuse***

**Syracuse***

**Trenton State***

**WINTRY***

**WORST***

**PENN***

**ST. FRANCIS (PA)**

**ST. LAWRENCE***

**Trenton State***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTRY***

**WINTR
Four Honored at President’s Dinner

Four individuals whose “vision, accomplishments and good works reflect the life and ministry of St. Vincent de Paul” were honored at this year’s President’s Dinner, Nov. 11 at the Seneca Niagara Casino Hotel and Event Center in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Pamela Jacobs-Vogt and Peter Vogt, Robert Gioia and Dr. Robert Bull Jr. were recognized with the university’s St. Vincent de Paul Award.

Pamela Jacobs-Vogt and Peter Vogt are known widely for their dedication and commitment to the Western New York community. A teacher by trade, Pamela’s volunteer activities also point back to learning and education. She has served as a trustee of several area schools, including Niagara University, and has been very involved with such organizations as the Roswell Park Alliance, Skating for the Blind and Handicapped, Artpark and the Sisters of St. Francis Executive Council.

Peter Vogt has had a life-long presence in the art community. His involvement in many organizations includes the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Locust Street Art and the Burchfield Penney Art Center. Since 1972, he has donated more than 32 paintings to the Burchfield Penney and was a major contributor to the creation of the gallery’s new building. His continuous involvement and the support of his family foundation have made the success of arts organizations and arts in the local community possible.

Robert Gioia’s name is synonymous in Western New York with service and dedication to the community. Robert served as president of the board of trustees of the Nichols School, president of the Martin House Restoration Corp., chairman of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. He is a director of Roswell Park Cancer Institute and a trustee of St. Lawrence University. For the past four years, he has served as the president of The John R. Oishei Foundation, Western New York’s largest foundation dedicated to enhancing economic vitality and improving the quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region.

While he has a successful medical practice in Lewiston, it is the missionary work of Dr. Robert Bull Jr. that makes an immense impact on our world. For the past 17 years, Dr. Bull has made regular trips to Chiapas, Mexico, to provide medical care to the people of the village of Palenque. He has treated hundreds of people and recruited dozens of doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners for this medical missionary work.

James, ’73, and Mary Boldt were the chairs of this dinner, the proceeds from which benefit the university’s scholarship program.

In the 2010-11 academic year:
- 98% of undergraduates received scholarship assistance from NU totaling $33,530,000
- 389 undergraduates received endowed scholarship/grant assistance totaling $1,113,000
Niagara University welcomed graduates of the classes ending in 1s and 6s to Alumni Weekend 2011, held Oct. 6, 7, and 8 on the university’s campus. Traditional favorites like the annual golf outing, the Welcome Back Party, and the Alumni Dinner-Dance were offered along with newer activities, such as ReunionFest and a wine tasting. Alumni even had the opportunity to create their very own Montes, complete with a customized Niagara University Alumni Weekend T-shirt, during a “Build-a-Bird” event in the Gallagher Center. Niagara University’s military history was in the spotlight during the Pantheon of Warriors, a ceremony that recognized graduates of the ROTC program who were commissioned, called to active duty and served during a wartime period. For the more than 350 alumni who attended, the weekend was a wonderful way to reunite, rediscover and relive their NU memories.
Class of 1986 graduates Sean Buoye, Frank Sapere, and Ken Burke joined fellow alumni for a great day on the links at the Niagara Falls Country Club during the 27th annual Alumni Weekend Golf Tournament Friday morning.

The campus war monument outside Dunleavy Hall was the site of a ceremony commemorating the military service of ROTC alumni from the classes of 1951 and 1961. Bill Bergan, ’61, above, unveiled the new Vietnam Era Memorial Plaque during the event, while Charlie Starrs, ’51, left, spoke at the wreath ceremony for the campus war monument, which was established by his class.

Several Masses and events during Alumni Weekend celebrated milestone anniversary classes. Walter Rooney, ’51, and his wife, Dolores, above, were among those who enjoyed the festivities in the Heritage Room for the Class of 1951, while Vivian (Vinett) Crouth, ’61, and Jerry Crouth, ’61, above right, joined their classmates at the Golden Eagle event in the Statler Dining Room in St. Vincent’s Hall. Class of 1986 friends Sally (Hutteman) Cappa, Mary Beth Teoli Corapi, Jeanne Griffin-Dowling, and Sharon (Mergler) Blazey, at left, attended the special Silver Eagle reception for 25-year anniversary graduates.
Robert J. Daino, ’66, Honored With Alumni Award

Back in 2006, when Robert J. Daino made a sizeable gift to help finance construction of the Academic Complex, he said that Niagara University was at a “unique moment” in its history and that he and his wife, Judy, not only wanted to help, but felt that it was their obligation to do so. That very sense of selfless devotion to Niagara University is among the reasons Bob was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Alumni Award.

Bob earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Niagara University in 1966. Shortly after graduation, he moved to Syracuse to join Onondaga Savings Bank, his first professional opportunity to work with the financing of residential and commercial mortgages. He parlayed his experience there into a position with Marine Midland Realty Credit Corp., the mortgage banking division of Marine Midland Bank, in 1973.

In 1977, he co-founded a private mortgage banking company called Continental Securities Corp. He served as vice president of the company for six years and, in 1983, was appointed president.

Bob retired from Continental Securities in 2002 and formed a new company, RDR Advisors LLC, with his son, Rob. The firm, of which he and his son remain its only employees, engages in the business of real estate development, acquisition, consulting and commercial mortgage brokerage.

Despite an extremely busy business agenda, Bob always made an effort to give back to his community through his association with several charitable organizations. In addition to serving on the Niagara University Board of Advisors and Board of Trustees, he is a longtime supporter of the Crotty Scholarship, which was established in the memory of his classmate, John T. Crotty. Bob has also made significant contributions to the Syracuse Symphony Foundation, Rehab Philanthropies, the Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, Rescue Mission, Guardian Angel Society, Francis House, and the Loretto Foundation, Central New York’s largest not-for-profit organization.

The Friday night Welcome Back Party in the Gallagher Center was the official kick-off for the weekend. Among those in attendance were Frank Delany, ’66, and his wife, Bernadette, pictured at right; Mark Tambini, ’85; Joe DiChairo, ’86; Sean Buoye, ’86; and Eric Vanderoef, ’86, pictured below; John Kotler; Margaret Campbell Kotler, ’71; Julie Riedlinger; Ed Riedlinger, ’71; Kristina Baron; and Larry Baron, ’71, pictured below middle; Mary DeFranco, ’76; Jeanne Kinsella, ’76; and Colleen (Corcoran) Camp, ’76, pictured at the bottom.

See Catching Up in this issue of the Eagle for information about our Deans and Nursing Award winners.
Among the alumni who were honored during the weekend were eight graduates of the university’s ROTC program, who were inducted into the program’s Hall of Fame Saturday morning. Lt. Col. John F. Fielding, ’61, pictured above; Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, ’76; Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Conlon III, ’64; Brig. Gen. Robert J. Winzinger, ’66; Col. Thomas A. Blanchfield, ’51; Col. Donald H. Jones, ’61; Lt. Col. Lawrence W. Yager, ’61; and 1st Lt. John T. Mitchell Jr., ’51, became the most recent members to be inducted since the Hall of Fame was established in 2005. Niagara’s servicemen and women were recognized and thanked during the Pantheon of Warriors celebration on Saturday morning. Graduates of the ROTC program who were commissioned, called to active duty and served during a wartime period were called by name to receive hats that represented their branch of service. Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, ’76, pictured above, the ROTC program’s highest ranking graduate, was the featured speaker for the event.

William T. Gacioch, ’61, Honored With Dunleavy Award

It was 54 years ago that William T. Gacioch set foot onto the Niagara University campus with $450 in his pocket and a dream in his heart. His first visit to NU included a chance encounter with Father Ed Burke, a Vincentian who would recognize this young man’s promise and see to it that Bill realized what he called his “Niagara dream.” Father Burke arranged a series of odd jobs that would help Bill pay his way through school. The two met often to review Bill’s financial progress and his scholastic performance. Before long, Bill would depart from Niagara with a business degree and a bright future.

Just four years removed from college, Bill launched his own business, National Property Management Associates Inc. On several occasions, Bill has said that his business gives him his greatest joy, especially since his wife, Nancy, and children, Michael, David and Katherine, are principal contributors and its only owners. Not only has the company’s success afforded him the luxury of providing for his family, it has also made quality homes available to tenants across the country.

Bill currently operates an automobile dealership in Longwood, Fla., where he sells Rolls Royces, Lamborghiniis and Bentleys, among other high-end cars. A nationally recognized antique and classic car collector, Bill even owns a private automobile museum.

It’s now been five decades since Bill graduated from Niagara but, true to his character, he has never forgotten the kindness shown to him by Niagara and its Vincentian priests and brothers. When the opportunity has presented itself, he’s returned that benevolence with gifts of time and talent as a member of Niagara’s Board of Trustees, and of treasure with a $1 million contribution to the university’s last capital campaign. He has also made significant charitable donations to several local foundations and organizations.

In recognition of his outstanding professional success, exemplary charitable service and enduring loyalty to Niagara University, Bill was recognized with the prestigious Dunleavy Award during Alumni Weekend.

Bill has noted that the excellent, caring approach to students he experienced while at Niagara under Father Burke’s watch still exists today, and has shown by his actions that he is dedicated to ensuring future students have that same experience so they can realize their own “Niagara dream.”
Donna Poirier, ’11, receives honor cords from Cheryl Hayes, M.S.N., ANP, RN, as she is inducted into the Gamma Theta chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the nursing honor society, while Mary Lorich, M.A., RN, looks on.

The annual Alumni Dinner-Dance is always a highlight of the weekend. Attendees, including Don Jones, ’61, and his wife, Sarah Lillian, pictured at top; Tom McCarthy, ’51, and Dick Wojciechowski, ’51, pictured above; Donna Julio, ’86; Barb Monahan Spenner, ’86; Maureen Roach Sammon, ’86; Barb Downs Capriotti, ’86; Betsey Legg Madden, ’86, and Mary Hettler Young, ’86, pictured top left; and Patricia Byrne; Janice Donlon; Joe Donlon, ’61; Samuel Dominick, ’61; and Kathie Dominick, pictured bottom left, enjoyed cocktails, dinner and dancing Saturday night.
At the very heart of any organization is a mission statement, which defines that institution's reason for being. It focuses the purpose of the group and guides the actions of its members.

Within the Niagara University mission statement are words critical to the university's overall purpose. These active phrases should not be taken lightly: “educates its students and enriches their lives,” “prepares its students for positions of responsibility,” “seeks to inspire its students,” and “seeks to develop the whole person, mind, body, heart and soul.”

A closer look at the first sentence of NU’s mission statement carries a subtle, yet powerful phrase: “… informed by the Catholic and Vincentian traditions.” It’s these traditions that drive the university’s purpose and inspire the campus community. And it’s these traditions that define the university’s identity and draw people to Monteagle Ridge.

“I looked at a million schools. I don’t know what it was about Niagara, but this is where I was supposed to be,” says Lisa Paska, ’11.

Through her time as an undergraduate, Lisa came to realize that it was Niagara’s Catholic identity that drew her to NU. “I don’t think I realized it at the time, but it was definitely that. There’s so much love here, so much faith and so much hope. I didn’t see it at first, but I know now.”

Within Niagara University’s current mission statement, there are four enabling goals that further illustrate the deeper purpose of the university. One directly focuses on the university’s Catholic heritage:

*Catholic doctrine and its moral code inspire respect for the God-given dignity of every person and all faith traditions. Students experience the vision and reality of a Gospel-based, value-centered education.*

**Niagara’s Catholic and Vincentian traditions draw people to Monteagle Ridge**

“My mother was a little hesitant about me attending Niagara because it is a Catholic school and I am a Jew,” says Skylar Fairchild, a junior criminal justice major with minors in military science, psychology and American Sign Language. “The Vincentian values are instilled upon us the moment we set foot on campus. It is not about what religion you are; it’s about who you are inside. (Niagara) does not make a religious push; it just uses the values of the Catholic and Vincentian traditions to enforce the well-being of the people of NU. Niagara develops students into adults who are ready for the world and to serve others.”

Students also find that Niagara encourages their spiritual growth, regardless of their religious convictions.

“Although I was not Catholic, through the Campus Ministry program I was able to grow in my own faith and found commonality with many aspects of the Catholic and Vincentian mission, becoming inspired to do more in the local community,” says Michael DeLoia, ’09. “After graduation, this inspiration stayed with me, and I ended up returning to the Republic of Panama to do service work with grassroots organizations and the Vincentian priests.”

The university provides those who are Catholic with the opportunity to continue to grow in their faith and celebrate the rich traditions of the Catholic Church.
“I knew I wanted to attend a Catholic university because I wanted to be free to practice my faith and have that accessibility, such as Mass every Sunday and confession,” says Claire Hogan, ‘11. “As I attended the first Mass held for our freshman class, I remember thinking that I was never alone; God, who was with me at home, was also with me here, and that was the one thing that remained constant.”

Claire’s thoughts echo those of her parents, Michael and Suzanne Hogan, who graduated from Niagara 35 years ago. Suzanne, who was drawn by “the presence of the Vincentians on campus and the availability of the sacraments and the chapel,” notes that “a Catholic university education was a very important stepping stone from youth to adulthood, giving Mike and me the basis to make decisions that would impact our lives for years to come.”

Employees, too, are attracted by the Catholicism evident across the university’s campus.

“You really believe that people are here for the Catholic and Vincentian mission of the institution,” says Ed McLaughlin, athletic director. “It’s stronger here than any place I’ve ever been. To me that was really appealing, to be able to be in a community where people believe the same things I believe — not just that you want to do right by the students, but the reason why you want to do right by the students.”

Daily interactions with the Vincentians are tangible reminders of the university’s mission.

“This is a special group of confreres,” says Joe Mihalich, men’s head basketball coach. “They show you that you can have God in your life and you can be a good Catholic, but those guys are like a family in itself — they really add to that here at Niagara University.”

A second enabling goal highlights Niagara’s Vincentian heritage:

As a Vincentian university, Niagara draws inspiration from St. Vincent de Paul, who organized his contemporaries to respond compassionately to people’s basic needs. Continuing this tradition, Niagara seeks to inspire its students to serve all members of society, especially the poor and oppressed, in local communities and in the larger world.

Howard Morgan, ’86, entered Niagara as a seminarian, expecting only to continue the Catholic traditions he had experienced in Catholic schools and at Sunday Mass with his family. “I knew the importance of prayers and Mass,” says Howard, “but my world was rocked shortly after getting here and realizing there was more than that to a Catholic education.”

Howard discovered what he describes as “face service” through NUCAP (the Niagara University Community Action Program), a service program that encourages participants to express their faith by action and then share what they experience with others. This, and his work with the university’s Justice and Peace Committee, convinced him that “people walk by faith here. Knowing that it was all driven by your faith and what you were being taught in the classrooms,” made the work he was doing even more meaningful.

In the summer of his sophomore year, a torn Achilles tendon kept Ian O’Rourke from competing as a member of NU’s NCAA swim team. “But I was able to take on new challenges, like going on a BASIC trip to aid and work with the underprivileged in Philadelphia. I soon realized that I wanted to change things for the better. I wanted to make an impact. I was not sure how I could, but I knew that helping others in one way or another was what I was meant to do.”

A crucial aspect of the BASIC experience is the reflection that takes place as part of the program. As Monica Saltarella, ’86, campus minister and lecturer of religious studies, explains, “The reflection piece is really what St. Vincent de Paul says enables us to see Christ in the poor. When you encounter someone from the fringe of society, you may see him or her as repugnant, but when you flip the coin, you see the face of Christ! And hopefully we become Christ for that person as well.”

The university’s faith tradition, noted in another enabling goal, informs the institution as it develops in students a spiritual curiosity:

The university’s commitment to the Catholic faith provides perspective in the search for truth and meaning.

Traditionally, students attend colleges and universities during some of the most formative years of their lives. For many, these years are a time for introspective learning and discovery. At Niagara, students are encouraged to find this truth and meaning, whether it is new to them or a reaffirmation of their beliefs. For Caitlyn Kilkenny, ’11, NU offered the opportunity to reconnect with the beliefs she had learned as a child.

“I’ve always been Catholic, but kind of lost track of it in high school,” she says. She learned about Niagara’s RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) program when she was a sophomore and decided to participate so that she could be confirmed in the Catholic Church. This experience gave her a new understanding and acceptance of her faith. “Doing those classes made me more comfortable in being open in my faith in the NU community,” she says. “When I came here I knew I was a Catholic and I believed in it, but I wasn’t necessarily comfortable with it.”

Others, like Chris Haggard, a senior criminal justice major, are inspired to become Catholic for the first time.

“Becoming Catholic originated from my curiosity to answer questions I had about the religion,” he says. “By learning at NU that faith
is a continuous learning experience, I’ve come to find that I need to strengthen my bond with God throughout my life. One of the most important lessons I could ever learn was that Catholicism is a lifelong learning experience. I’ve realized that I must continue to pursue my curiosity and strive to learn as much as I can.”

Although Niagara has a strong identity as a Catholic university and openly welcomes people who choose to practice the Catholic faith, it continues to inspire the “search for truth and meaning” for people of all religions.

“When I was home in a very non-Jewish area, I would travel with my family to the nearby city with a temple to pray,” says Skylar Fairchild. “When I came to NU and witnessed the power of prayer on students to bring them together, I missed that. Father John (Maher) invited me to his Mass on Sunday night. I sat down and was entranced with his sermon and realized how accepting NU is to any faith.”

Groups like Living in Faith Together (LIFT) offer opportunities for students of all beliefs to come together to talk about how they are living out their faith.

“It’s nice to find other people to talk with about faith,” says Patrick Teixeira, who is a group facilitator for LIFT. “It’s comforting to have someone in your peer group that you can dialogue with. They are in the same boat as you.”

The essence of Niagara’s mission statement can be found in its fourth enabling goal:

Niagara University seeks to develop the whole person, mind, body, heart and soul, for the benefit of one’s personal and professional life.

A key piece of this development happens in the classroom.

“In the business school, students need to be taught all the elements of how to build and manage profitable businesses,” says Dr. James Kling, associate professor of management. “Niagara University business graduates will also understand how a business that creates jobs and pays a living wage is helping to reduce poverty and enhance human dignity. The ultimate goal of a successful NU educated business alumnus is to create enough wealth to not only ‘give back’ to the community but also to be a leader in addressing community problems in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.”

Ian O’Rourke discovered that his passion for helping others could strengthen his professional development. “I am currently working on my master’s degree. As part of my studies, I am developing a program, and hopefully a book, that will help others reach their goals and dreams. I also help with the project Angel Shoes, which sends gently used sandals from the Cave of the Winds at Niagara Falls over to Third World countries. I am truly amazed at the projects I am working on and I am beginning to finally actualize my own dreams, which draw from my desire to learn, grow, and help others just like St. Vincent once did. Who would have thought time spent helping others would actually benefit us far more than just simply helping ourselves.”

Even after leaving Monteagle Ridge, the Catholic and Vincentian influence remains strong for Niagara’s graduates.

“The mission of Niagara University provides all its students not only with a passion for learning, but also with the resources to serve the less fortunate, to transform their communities, and to succeed in all their endeavors,” says Michael DeLoia. “Today, I work for a university-affiliated food pantry and dining room in Niagara Falls, continuing to serve those living in poverty and working with other groups that strive for social justice.”

And while Lisa Paska may not have recognized that it was NU’s Catholic identity that drew her to become a Niagaran, she sees it very clearly now. “It’s not something that you know until you experience it. I would have never known that I felt that way about my faith unless I’d come here.”
Dear fellow alumni,

Alumni Weekend 2011 is a recent memory. It was great to attend the exciting events and talk to the alumni who came back for the weekend. These alumni were some of the first to see the newest construction project on campus, the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences. This state-of-the-art complex was financed in part by the generosity of Mr. Golisano, chairman of Paychex, Inc., and is a priority of the “Promise of Niagara” capital campaign.

The reunion wasn't the only event bringing our alumni together. The Alumni Relations Office hosted a number of functions over the summer, including Saratoga Day at the Races; a boat cruise on the MoondanceCat on Lake Erie in Buffalo; presidential receptions in Dallas, Fort Worth, Buffalo, and New York City; and golf events in Rochester and Niagara Falls. It also sponsored the Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction award ceremony, which was held on campus Sept. 29. Karen Ballard, '66, was honored with this prestigious award in recognition of her distinguished career in clinical nursing practice, education and organizational leadership. Please join me in congratulating Karen!

On a somber note, U.S. Army Col. Paul J. McCarthy, '60, passed away July 28. Paul was a strong supporter of Niagara University and a member of the NUAA board. In 1995, Paul received NU's Alumni of the Year Award. The Niagara community offers its thoughts and prayers for Paul and his family.

The initiatives I mentioned in my last letter continue to be a main priority for the Niagara University Alumni Association's executive committee and board of directors. These include strengthening existing chapters and adding new ones; continuing alumni involvement on Facebook; encouraging alumni to become active in community service projects; and growing alumni involvement in local and campus activities.

Please continue your active role with these very important initiatives, or, if you are not yet involved, consider becoming a member of our great organization. Contact anyone on our board or in the Alumni Relations Office (www.niagaraalumni.com) to join the NUAA, or to share your thoughts and ideas. Our success is linked directly to your involvement. Please continue to show your pride in Niagara. Go Purple Eagles!

Sincerely,
Martin Byrne, ’78
President, Niagara University Alumni Association

Alumni Events

We have a lot in store for our chapters in the upcoming months. Don't forget to add these dates to your calendar and check out the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com for more information.*

Don't receive our emails about events?
Send your updated information to alumni@niagara.edu!

November
18 Raleigh, N.C. — Sabres vs. Hurricanes Game, RBC Center
   Michael R. Ganley, Esq., ’05
   919.235.0060 • michael@adamsandhowell.com

December
2  Boston — Bentley vs. NU hockey game
   Tony Lista, ’80
   508.951.2641 • tonylista@aol.com
9  Rochester — Geva Theatre, A Christmas Carol
   Mike, ’89, and Dianne Moll, ’89 • 585.924.2414
   mmoll2@rochester.rr.com • dianemoll@rochester.rr.com
10 Erie, Pa. — NU vs. Mercyhurst hockey game
    Timothy Carroll, ’84
    216.479.8655 • timothyjcarroll@gmail.com
    Mary Lou Markowski, ’90
    mlmarkowski@roadrunner.com

February
2–11 Florida Swing

How do I register for an event?
1. Online at the Eagle’s Nest: www.niagaraalumni.com
2. By phone: 716.286.8787
3. By mail: Alumni Relations Office
   P.O. Box 2008
   Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-2008

Check us out online at:

Eagle’s Nest
Niagara University Alumni Community

*Event calendar is subject to change. The listing includes only the confirmed events as of printing. Check the Eagle's Nest for the full listing.
Who Was There


President’s Reception in Dallas, Texas — June 15, 2011 — Gregory Heider, ’92, Frank Nuchereno, ’82, and Ben Tarantino, ’81.


Over the centuries, European immigrants left their homelands to make better lives for themselves in America. Here, they found new homes and established communities around the churches they built, which were adorned with the things that reminded them of the places they had left behind.

Today, Mary Palmeri Holland, ’70, is celebrating the work of these talented artists and craftsmen at the Buffalo Religious Arts Center, a gallery she established in 2008 to collect and preserve Buffalo’s immigrant religious and cultural heritage.

“The impetus for this was in 2007,” she says. “I saw an article in the Buffalo News — it was a big two-page article on all the churches that were closing — and I decided I would visit each of them before they closed.”

During these visits, Mary noticed the beautiful religious art and realized that it would be lost once the building was closed by the Catholic church. “Nobody was trying to protect this religious art and save it for future generations,” she says. Inspired by the movie The Rape of Europa, which documented how the European people in World War II hid their artwork to safeguard it from the Nazis, Mary decided to do what she could to save the artwork and keep it in Western New York.

Her project found a home in the former St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in the Black Rock section of Buffalo. From the moment Mary walked into the Roman basilica-style church and saw the hand-painted murals on the walls, she was determined to save the church as well.

“I saw this church and I felt that we cannot let it deteriorate,” she says. “One year after the heat is turned off in a building like this, the murals would show significant cracks and flaking paint.”

So she purchased the property and began converting the church into Xavier Hall, one of the few collections of religious art to be housed in a former church. The parish also included a school and a rectory, which Mary plans to use for additional display space.

When Mary bought the church, it already contained an impressive collection of religious art — in addition to the murals, which were painted in the Beuronese style developed by a community of Benedictine monks in Germany in the late 19th century, there were stained glass windows depicting the stations of the cross, the only ones of their kind in the Buffalo area. “These windows are especially notable because they were made in Munich, Germany, by F.X. Zettler in 1911,” Mary notes.

As Mary began collecting the church relics, statues and stained glass windows from the more than 70 churches that were closing, she realized that they had something in common — they were all made by Europeans and they expressed the various religious decorative styles of the countries from which the artists came. Her work took on an additional purpose: to share the heritage of the immigrant people and convey a sense of who they were.

“The more items that come in, the more history we see, the more the stories come through the door,” she says.

In the past few years, Mary has acquired more than 100 artifacts from churches and houses of worship of all denominations, including statues, altar furnishings, linens, a collection of dresses for the Infant of Prague, tapestries, and Stations of the Cross in a variety of materials. There is also a brass replica of the Ten Commandments and a Star of David donated by Temple Beth El.

The center opened for visitors in 2009 and since then more than 1,200 people have come through its doors. The facility has also been available for concerts and weddings. It’s been a labor of love for Mary, whose background in architecture and fondness for old buildings and early European art has given her a unique appreciation for these churches and their religious artifacts. Her hope is that others recognize the exceptional quality and variety of the pieces and that the center becomes a destination for people from around the country.

“People go all over Europe to see churches,” she says, “and if they come here they’ll be surprised at what we have. You don’t have to be religious to enjoy the art. You can just enjoy the beauty.”

To learn more about the Buffalo Religious Arts Center and see some of the artwork, visit www.buffaloreligiousarts.org.
CLASS NOTES

1955
Richard Kossmann and his wife, Irene, celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2011. They are the proud parents of four and grandparents of six.

1965
Pauline (Bumbalo) Fugazzotto received her master’s degree in theological studies from Spring Hill College.

1969
Jeff Sullivan has retired from his position as an economic developer for the City of Albany, N.Y., after 16 and a half years.

1971 REUNION
Keith Foster has been named director of development at West Virginia University College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences in Morgantown, W.V. Most recently, Keith served as director of major gifts at Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College, both in Fairmont, W.V. Keith has completed numerous relationship management and management training courses, and has held professional positions in education, healthcare and manufacturing.

Robert Laver retired in January 2011 after serving 39 years with the U.S. Army in various military and civilian positions.

Mary Anne Shea was awarded the Effective Leadership Award for Women in Business during the June 9 meeting of the Grand Island Professional Women’s Chapter, New York State Women, Inc. The award is presented annually by Advanced Cancer TheranosTx to a woman who “promotes equality and equity for all women in the workplace, inspires women to achieve their full potential, is dedicated to helping women further their education, and fosters the ability of low-income women to attain the tools necessary to obtain their self-sustaining goals.” Mary Anne was a senior customs inspector assigned to Buffalo and Niagara Falls prior to her retirement and has since taken on several pro bono public relations activities for various organizations in Western New York and Naples, Fla. In addition, she has been public relations chairwoman for the Grand Island chapter of NYS Women, Inc., for 29 years.

1972
William Bradshaw, Temple University’s director of athletics, was named an Under Armour FBS Director of Athletics of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. He is one of four athletic directors nationwide to receive the honor, which was awarded during the organization’s annual convention in June. The award is selected by a committee comprising athletic directors, university presidents and conference commissioners. Bill was the head baseball coach at Niagara University from 1972 until 1974 before becoming the university’s director of alumni relations, a position he held from 1974 until 1976.

1974
Marcia O’Kane was hired as executive director of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, Greenwich, Conn. Previously, she was executive director of the Stamford Senior Center, Stamford, Conn., and before that was director of finance and administration at Person-to-Person in Darien, Conn. She has served on several nonprofit boards, including the Women’s Business Development Center. Marcia holds an MBA from Boston University.
1975
Catherine (Murray) Buckley has accepted the position of risk management education coordinator for the University of Maryland Medical System in Baltimore.

1976 REUNION
Sister Emily Therese Bloom has been named to a three-year term on the Hilbert College board of trustees. She is ministry project director of the Learning for Life Program at Gerard Place in Buffalo, N.Y., and also served as the associate general minister of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg. Sister Emily Therese is past executive director of the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and Boys Hope of Florida and has served as intake counselor at the Wyoming County Chemical Abuse Treatment Program and the Wyoming County Jail. She has held various teaching positions at the elementary, high school and college levels, including at Hilbert.

Brian T. Hassett has been appointed president and CEO of the United Way of the Greater Capital Region. Brian, a 31-year veteran of the nonprofit industry, most recently led corporate partnership and major giving programs for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix. Prior to that, he served for seven years as president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona. His earlier responsibilities included positions as CEO of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, and CEO of Valley of the Sun United Way in Phoenix.

1978
Mary Kohnke-Wagner, Esq., an attorney with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman and Goggin in its Philadelphia office, was a panel member at a July 2011 seminar hosted by the Worker’s Compensation Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association. The panel discussed compensation issues for workers at large employers.

Deans Awards
Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott, ’71
Since graduating from Niagara University in 1971, Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott has ascended to the highest levels of the federal judicial system in a remarkable and pioneering fashion.

Judge Scott went on to earn a Juris Doctor from UB Law School and later became the first African-American appointed as assistant United States attorney in the Western District of New York. In 1981, he was selected as the first African-American to hold the title of assistant attorney general in charge of the New York State Department of Law’s regional office. Judge Scott was elected to serve a 10-year term on the Buffalo City Court bench in 1984 and re-elected to the post in 1994. He resigned the position one year later to become the first African-American to preside over the federal court bench in the Western District of New York.

Throughout his career, which also includes 29 years as a lecturer in UB’s Law School, Judge Scott has been invested in the community, serving on numerous boards dealing with education, domestic violence, healthcare, racial justice and indigent prisoners.

College of Arts & Sciences
Daniel J. Kossmann has been appointed chief financial officer for GFI® Software, a leading IT solutions provider for consumers and small and medium-sized businesses. Daniel will be responsible for GFI’s global financial strategy and operations, as well as the company’s information technology, legal and human resources functions. He has more than 30 years experience in financial management and extensive experience in the role of CFO for both publicly traded and privately held technology companies.

1979
Santina Lamont has been named director, medical management, at Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic Health Plan. In her new position, Santina will have statewide responsibility for overseeing utilization of services and ensuring that members receive access to appropriate care. Previously, she was the director of inpatient use management and quality for HealthNow New York Inc.

1980
Denise (McLerran) Seigart is associate dean for nursing education at Stevenson University in Baltimore.

1982
David M. Jachimiak was appointed chief information officer at Fallon Community Health Plan, a healthcare services organization in Worcester, Mass.

1983
Fredrick Wasiak has joined the staff at the Somerset Hills YMCA as chief operating officer. Fredrick has more than 20 years of YMCA professional experience and a strong track record in budgeting and fiscal management, financial and community development, program development, facility improvement and expansion, and staff/volunteer development.

1984
Regina Marie Maffeo DeGennaro recently earned a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) with clinical focus in oncology nursing.

Karen (Siembida) Howard has been appointed vice president, strategic initiatives, for the Columbus McKinnon Corp., a global designer, manufacturer and marketer of hoists, cranes, actuators, chain, forged attachments, lift and other material handling products serving a wide variety of commercial and industrial end-user markets. A certified public accountant, Karen was most recently vice president, finance and CFO for the company.

1986 REUNION
David P. Kraus has been named director of KeyBank’s contact centers and is currently a senior vice president for the organization. He has been with the bank since 2006.

1987
Carolyn Lawless, CPA, has been promoted to vice president of the Estate Planning Council of Central New York. Lawless was previously secretary of the council.

1992
Daniel Richards has been named the new principal of Melrose High School, Melrose, Mass. He was previously an assistant principal at Belmont High School, Belmont, Mass.

1993
Pam (Swanson) Spremulli has illustrated her second children’s book WOOF!, which introduces young readers to a variety of dog breeds. Her first children’s book, Letter Birds, earned her the Mom’s Choice 2010 Gold Distinguished Illustration Award. She continues to show her work in galleries in New York and Cleveland, Ohio. She is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and of the Northern Ohio Illustrator’s Society.

1979 Deans Awards
Dr. James J. Finnerty, ’51

Dr. James J. Finnerty earned his medical degree from New York Medical College in 1955 and entered the medical profession through his internship and residency at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y. He became the chief of obstetrics/gynecology and deputy hospital commander at the United States Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

Dr. Finnerty then went on to enjoy a successful medical career in private practice, as an attending physician, and as the chief attending obstetrics/gynecology at the House of Good Samaritan Hospital in Watertown, N.Y.

Dr. Finnerty returned to the classroom, first at the University of Virginia, and then at the Albany Medical Center, where he still teaches. He was presented with the Outstanding Teaching Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching by the Mulholland Society, University School of Medicine in 1992. Dr. Finnerty was also honored with the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Excellence in Teaching Award from the APGO Medical Education Foundation in 1994, 2002 and 2004.

Throughout his career, Dr. Finnerty maintained a focus on all members of society through his research, writing and presentations.

1984
Regina Marie Maffeo DeGennaro recently earned a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) with clinical focus in oncology nursing.

Karen (Siembida) Howard has been appointed vice president, strategic initiatives, for the Columbus McKinnon Corp., a global designer, manufacturer and marketer of hoists, cranes, actuators, chain, forged attachments, lift and other material handling products serving a wide variety of commercial and industrial end-user markets. A certified public accountant, Karen was most recently vice president, finance and CFO for the company.

1986 REUNION
David P. Kraus has been named director of KeyBank’s contact centers and is currently a senior vice president for the organization. He has been with the bank since 2006.

1987
Carolyn Lawless, CPA, has been promoted to vice president of the Estate Planning Council of Central New York. Lawless was previously secretary of the council.

1992
Daniel Richards has been named the new principal of Melrose High School, Melrose, Mass. He was previously an assistant principal at Belmont High School, Belmont, Mass.

1993
Pam (Swanson) Spremulli has illustrated her second children’s book WOOF!, which introduces young readers to a variety of dog breeds. Her first children’s book, Letter Birds, earned her the Mom’s Choice 2010 Gold Distinguished Illustration Award. She continues to show her work in galleries in New York and Cleveland, Ohio. She is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and of the Northern Ohio Illustrator’s Society.
1994
Rita G. Alexyn, a partner at Spencer Gleason Hebe and Rague P.C., Wellsboro, Pa., has been named to a three-year term on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Board of Governors. She represents Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga and Union county lawyers. Rita is a member of the PBA House of Delegates and serves on the PBA Commission on Women in the Profession. She is also a member of the Tioga County and Lycoming County bar associations.

2000
Nathan Handrahan was named head women's hockey coach at Ohio State University. The former Niagara University hockey player served as an assistant coach under current Niagara coach Dave Burkholder from 2001 through 2004. He then joined Robert Morris University men's ice hockey program as an assistant coach, a position he held for two years before taking over the RMU's women's hockey program.

2003
John Celock has accepted the position of state politics reporter and Patch liaison for The Huffington Post, based in its Washington bureau. He previously served as the launch editor of Westfield Patch in New Jersey, a community-specific news and information platform dedicated to providing comprehensive and trusted local coverage for individual towns and communities. John is an award-winning journalist who has covered a variety of beats including New York state politics, New York metropolitan-area real estate development, and community issues throughout Northern New Jersey. His first book, The Next Generation: Young Elected Officials and their Impact on American Politics, was published in December 2010.

Jeffrey P. Cervoni Jr. has been appointed an assistant principal in the Lake Shore, N.Y., central school district. He previously served as a supervisor of instructional programs for career and technical education at Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES Carrier Center. Jeffrey started his career as a technology teacher in the Alden and Sweet Home, N.Y., districts and worked in the Depew and Frontier, N.Y., districts.

2005
Ashlee Burrs accepted a job in the Civic Engagement and Diversity Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in July 2011. She will be working with students on the Rebel Pride Council and planning major events such as Premier UNLV and homecoming.

Megan Weber was recently promoted to director of sales for Hampton Inn Buffalo-Airport by Buffalo Lodging Associates, a hotel development and management organization. Megan began her hospitality career in 2003 at Buffalo Lodging’s Hampton Inn Buffalo/Williamsville, where she held the position of guest services representative for two years. From there, she went on to become the manager on duty for Hilton Garden Inn Buffalo-Airport, executive housekeeper for Sleep Inn Buffalo/Amherst, and then front office manager for Fairfield Inn & Suites Buffalo-Airport, all owned by Buffalo Lodging Associates.

2007
Monica Jean Prunty has accepted the position of tax manager for Global Water Resources in Phoenix, Ariz.

Eric Wells, a teacher in the Osceola County, Fla., School District, was recently named a scholar for the National Urban Special Education Leadership Initiative and will begin course work toward a doctor of education degree at the University of Central Florida.

Deans Awards

Edward D. Riedlinger, ’71

Edward D. Riedlinger retired from GMAC Commercial Mortgage in 2006 after having been employed by the company and its predecessors in some form for the preceding 29 years. He had served in many positions during his nearly three-decade tenure, beginning as a loan analyst in the income property loan division and finishing as the managing director/regional manager of the firm’s production division.

His journey toward becoming an executive with one of the world’s largest commercial banking firms began at Niagara University, from which he graduated with a B.S. in commerce in 1971. Ed spent two years in the Army, earned an MBA at the University of Connecticut, reluctantly turned down a teaching offer at Niagara, and ended up in the Philadelphia area, where he still lives today.

Ed is a past president of the Delaware Valley chapter of NAIOP, the commercial real estate development association, and served on its board of directors for more than 10 years. Today, he remains active in many similar organizations in the Philadelphia region.
CATCHING UP

Fond Memories

L-r: Classmates Ed O’Grady, ’54; Pat Gallagher, ’54; and John "Sparky" Moore, ’54; aka the NU “Garbage Crew,” in front of Varsity Village with the 1935 Ford truck they used to collect the trash.

Deans Awards

Edward J. Marinucci Jr., ’86

Throughout a 44-year career as an educator, Edward J. Marinucci Jr. was known for his incessant focus on children most in need and his dedication to the community.

Ed earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Buffalo State College and completed Niagara University’s educational leadership program in school administration and supervision. His determination and enthusiasm for education led to his progression from English teacher (North Junior High School) to assistant principal (LaSalle High School) to chief educational operator (Stella Niagara Education Park) to principal (Niagara Middle School).

In 2004, Ed became project director of the Teacher Quality Enhancement grant, a U.S. Department of Education-funded program that provided opportunities for veteran teachers to work with Niagara University faculty and teacher candidates. This project focused on closing the student achievement gap and became an exemplary national model for school-university partnerships, one that brought recognition to Niagara University and to its College of Education.

Ed retired when the grant period concluded in 2009, at a time when he was considered by many to be among the most talented educational administrators in Western New York.
Natalie Martinez was named a tax staff accountant at the Batavia, N.Y., office of Freed Maxick and Battaglia. Natalie was previously a tax consultant with Tax Technologies in Williamsville, N.Y.

**MARRIAGES**


Lucas Avery, ’97, married Brianne Amend on May 21, 2011.

Angela Marie Harding, ’01, married Jason Grasman on July 9, 2011.

Anthony M. Castelletti Jr., ’04, married Stacey Poole, ’06, on Nov. 27, 2010.


Katherine M. Tees, ’08, married Daniel Dolan on July 9, 2011.

**BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS**


Ted Ritter, ’87, and wife, Susan, welcomed a daughter, Dorian Caroline, on March 8, 2011. She joins big sister, Jayne.

Kevin and Teri (Duffy) Burns, ’91, welcomed adopted son, Jack Henry III, on April 24, 2011.

David and Allison (Kosier) Faul, ’93, welcomed a son, Emerson Michael, on April 2, 2011.


Jessica A. Testani, ’96, and Michael Messersmith welcomed a daughter, Lucy Rose Messersmith, on June 16, 2011.

Alicia M. Wittman, ’96, and Colin Reich welcomed a son, Gaige Liam Reich, on March 7, 2011.

Mark and Sarah Michele (Arnold) Heslin, ’97, welcomed a son, Timothy Edward, on April 23, 2011.


John P. and Lara Kathleen (Brown) Jacob, ’98, ’01, welcomed a daughter, Natalie Kathleen, on April 13, 2011.


Sam and Laurie S. (Racki) Cione, ’00, welcomed a daughter, Onalee Ann, on Feb. 8, 2011.

---

**Deans Awards**

**David R. Froelke, ’71**

David R. Froelke is currently senior vice president of the Related Companies, responsible for managing a mixed use collection of properties that include Time Warner Center in New York City, CityPlace in West Palm Beach, and Sowwah Square in Abu Dhabi. He also has executive responsibilities for Columbus Sponsorship, the company’s business unit tasked with developing sponsorship and experiential opportunities across its national portfolio.

Previously, David served in managerial roles for the Westfield Corp. Inc., Urban Retail Properties Inc., and The Charles E. Smith Companies. He has been credited with developing major commercial, retail and shopping centers in Chicago (North Bridge), Los Angeles (Century City), Arlington (Crystal City) and Boston (Copley Place).

After spending 14 years as a board member for the Rochester Institute of Technology’s School of International Hospitality and Service Innovation, David joined the faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1998. In addition, David has lectured at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and participates in several programs offered by Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, including its Mentorship and Alumni Advantage programs.
CATCHING UP


Donald R. Case, ’50, passed away April 10, 2011.


Dr. Ralph F. Parisi, ’58, passed away April 14, 2011.

Eric, ’01, and Jennie (Gentile) Daniels, ’01, welcomed a son, Nathaniel Anthony, on March 16, 2011.

Jared M., ’02, and Jennifer (Curro) House, ’02, welcomed a son, Caleb James, on Aug. 11, 2011.

Tyler and Heidi (Muller) Maloney, ’02, welcomed a son, Brixton Patrick, on April 28, 2011.

Ken Morse, ’02, and wife, Stephanie, welcomed a son, Charlie, on Feb. 16, 2011.

Frank and Sarah H. (Saladyga) Sardina, ’03, welcomed a daughter, Gianna Nicole, on June 14, 2011.

Tim and Kathleen J. (Crough) Siracusa, ’03, welcomed a daughter, Natalie Jean, on Jan. 12, 2011.


IN MEMORIUM

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

Dr. Carmelo Sapone passed away June 24, 2011. Dr. Sapone was a longtime member of the faculty of Niagara University’s College of Education. Our condolences to Michael Konopski, dean of enrollment management at Niagara University, on the death of his stepmother, Kathleen Konopski, July 27, 2011.

Thomas J. Hart Sr., ’37, passed away July 8, 2011.


Donald R. Case, ’50, passed away April 10, 2011.


Dr. Ralph F. Parisi, ’58, passed away April 14, 2011.

Nursing Alumni Council Awards

Marcia M. Barnes, ’49

Marcia M. Barnes began her career at Buffalo General Hospital immediately following her graduation from Niagara. After spending time there and at Veterans Administration Hospital, Marcia returned to Niagara in 1965, this time as a sophomore clinical instructor in the College of Nursing.

In 1968, she became a pharmacology instructor at Millard Fillmore Hospital’s School of Practical Nursing. Two years later, Marcia moved to Nardin Academy to serve as an educator, tasked with designing lesson plans in health education for students in grades four through eight. Her innovative curricula were regarded so highly that New York referenced them when instituting a statewide health ed program.

Beginning in 1988, Marcia volunteered her nursing services to assist retired adults in Ocala, Fla. She performed as a community health nurse for a decade, while also publishing articles in the local community newsletter and establishing an annual community health fair.

In 2010, Marcia returned to Monteagle Ridge once again, this time to launch a six-week educational seminar intended to heighten public awareness of the effects of diabetes on a person’s lifestyle.

Clinical Excellence Award

Marcia M. Barnes, ’49

Marcia M. Barnes, ’49, Clinical Excellence Award

Marcia M. Barnes began her career at Buffalo General Hospital immediately following her graduation from Niagara. After spending time there and at Veterans Administration Hospital, Marcia returned to Niagara in 1965, this time as a sophomore clinical instructor in the College of Nursing.

In 1968, she became a pharmacology instructor at Millard Fillmore Hospital’s School of Practical Nursing. Two years later, Marcia moved to Nardin Academy to serve as an educator, tasked with designing lesson plans in health education for students in grades four through eight. Her innovative curricula were regarded so highly that New York referenced them when instituting a statewide health ed program.

Beginning in 1988, Marcia volunteered her nursing services to assist retired adults in Ocala, Fla. She performed as a community health nurse for a decade, while also publishing articles in the local community newsletter and establishing an annual community health fair.

In 2010, Marcia returned to Monteagle Ridge once again, this time to launch a six-week educational seminar intended to heighten public awareness of the effects of diabetes on a person’s lifestyle.
CATCHING UP

John “Kenny” Barrett, ’59, passed away June 20, 2011.
Thomas Brown, ’59, passed away July 8, 2011.
Charles Tarricone, ’60, passed away June 20, 2011.
Our condolences to Sheila (Thornton) Summers, ’61, on the death of her husband, Robert Summers, Sept. 5, 2010.
Our condolences to John Tracinski, ’63, on the death of his mother, Lottie Tracinski, April 20, 2011.
Dr. John J. Hughes, ’67, passed away April 22, 2011.
Our condolences to Jeff Sullivan, ’69, on the death of his father, Frank Sullivan, March 29, 2011.

Nursing Alumni Council Awards

Margaret Campbell-Kotler, ’71

Since graduating cum laude from Niagara University and adding a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Margaret Campbell-Kotler has put her nursing education to great use. She began her career as a public health nurse in the Westchester County (N.Y.) Department of Health, where she focused on infant and child health. During this time, Margaret also lectured at Catholic University, Columbia Union College and Purdue University.

In 1987, she organized and delivered training programs on senior mental health and substance abuse recognition for the Montgomery County (Md.) Department of Health and Human Services. She was also instrumental in the passage of House Bill 559, which made it unlawful for a person to deprive a “vulnerable” adult of property through deception, intimidation or undue influence.

In 2008, Margaret was selected to manage the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center’s Office of Education in Richmond, Va., where she oversaw a national education program on traumatic brain injury. Earlier this year, she became the acting program manager for caregiver training and education in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Leadership Award

John Brian “J.B.” Griffin, ’83, passed away Aug. 29, 2011.
Our condolences to Loretta (Powell) Schoenfeldt, ’83, on the death of her husband; and to Haley Schoenfeldt, ’11, on the death of her father, David J. Schoenfeldt, June 15, 2011.
Our condolences to Sandra Jayne (Elliott) Baker ’90, on the death of her husband, William Baker, June 11, 2011.

Our Apologies
To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gutmann for publishing the announcement of the birth of their daughter under the name of Michael’s father, Thomas. The correct listing should have read: To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gutmann, ’01 (Kimberly Costello, ’02), Charlotte, N.C., a daughter, Madelyn McNally, Sept. 8, 2010. We are sorry for the error.
Growing up, I was the youngest of four boys. I have often remarked that I am a “survivor” of being the youngest, a mark of pride given the amount of teasing I was subjected to growing up!

My brothers and I were raised to be well-educated and active in sports and the arts. As an athlete, I learned the value of hard work and goal setting from my track coach, which I then transferred to my studies. This value was reinforced by my parents, who would encourage me to continue to work hard, even after achieving success, by saying: “Don’t rest on your laurels!” As a result, I developed an internal motivation and perseverance that has sustained me through the years.

Despite my motivation, school did not come easy to me in my early years due to many eyesight problems requiring corrective surgeries. In fact, I was held back in first grade in order to set a better learning foundation for my future, a decision my mom made and one that I am forever grateful for, although not so much at the time it happened!

These early experiences influenced my desire to pursue a career that would enable me to help students understand that learning is a process, that we all develop at a different pace, and that it is important to have a variety of interests, intellectual pursuits and abilities to be a well-rounded person.

While working 30-40 hours a week as a bank teller, I attended classes before work and evenings to earn my B.A. in communication studies from California State University, Sacramento. I went on to earn an M.A. in communication studies from West Virginia University, and a Ph.D. in organizational communication, with a concentration in management, from the University of Oklahoma. Each of my degrees focused on the study of individuals in organizations and provided me with an excellent liberal arts learning foundation. I concerted my studies with research to better understand the enterprise of teaching and learning. Although my background is somewhat eclectic, it has prepared me well to understand and appreciate the breadth of learning opportunities offered on the NU campus.

In June, after more than 25 years in higher education and positions including dean of graduate studies and research at Emporia State University, assistant vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Los Angeles, and dean of the College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences at Gannon University, I was named Niagara’s vice president for academic affairs. I had known of NU as a highly regarded competitor while at Gannon. Each time I interacted with individuals and committees from campus, my appreciation for the university increased, confirming that Niagara is a special learning community — a community that intentionally emulates all of the traditions of a Catholic and Vincentian university. The day Father Levesque called to offer me the VPAA position will always be a benchmark memory in my career and life. I enjoy Father’s discerning leadership style and am fortunate to seek counsel from my colleague, Dr. Bonnie Rose, since she continues to serve NU as the executive vice president.

As vice president for academic affairs, I will be looking for opportunities to elevate the university to new levels of academic excellence, expand the diversity and scope of its programs and student populations, and increase its national and international profile, while advancing the university’s Catholic and Vincentian mission. I am pleased that Niagara’s academic philosophy mirrors my own: that all students should experience a liberal arts-based education. The ability to critically evaluate information, develop an informed opinion based upon knowledge and research, and clearly articulate an opinion both in writing and presentation is an invaluable set of skills and abilities that will sustain students for the duration of their careers. In fact, I firmly believe that the liberal arts thinker is more likely to have the skills to adapt to a changing marketplace as well as be a career changer when the marketplace dictates such events.

I am happy to report that the exceptional tradition of providing a liberal arts-based degree at NU continues and the faculty embraces this philosophy regardless of college affiliation from within the university.

Before I came to Niagara, I was impressed with the university’s commitment to excellence in higher education and service to the student population and the region. Today, I continue to be impressed with the faculty, programs and members of the NU learning community. We are continuously working to refine current programs and strategically develop new programs to assure our students can remain competitive. The current academic vision for Niagara University includes: an increase of learning opportunities pertaining to global perspectives, diversity, and study abroad; expanding offerings to adult and nontraditional students; growth of current graduate programs and development of new ones; and the development of online and distance education initiatives. The premise of these initiatives is in response to the reality of competition in higher education requiring NU to diversify the academic portfolio of our curriculum in order to meet and exceed enrollment growth goals. I am pleased to report that the Vincentian mission and tradition of service that attracted me to NU also continues, as evidenced by our national recognition for service learning. I look forward to working with everyone on campus to challenge ourselves not to “rest on our laurels,” and I encourage alumni and friends of NU to contact me at downs@niagara.edu to discuss how we might work together in support of NU and our learning community.

Dr. Timothy Downs
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Eagle’s Nest Goes Mobile!

The Alumni Relations Department is “appy” to announce the launch of the Eagle’s Nest mobile app. Stay connected on your smartphone by following the directions below.

1. Open your Internet browser
2. Go to http://www.niagaraalumni.com/mobile (*Note: you must insert the http://)
3. Save the webpage as a favorite and add it to your home screen
4. Check out all the app has to offer and stay connected to NU anywhere you are!

Scan the bar code to instantly access the app!

“For people like me, scholarships don’t just provide an education, they provide an opportunity to live.”

Casey Smith, ’12
Finance Major

The Niagara Fund is an opportunity for alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents and friends of the university to come together to make a difference in the quality of education and services the university provides.

Whether you give when a student calls you during the Phonathon, in response to a letter, by electric funds transfer, or online, you are helping our students by contributing to the excellence of a Niagara University education.

And don’t forget to have your gift matched, so your employer contributes, too!

A gift to the Niagara Fund is a gift to the “Promise of Niagara” capital campaign.