Each October, alumni from around the country return to Monteaule Ridge to reconnect and reminisce with old friends during our annual Alumni Weekend. I enjoy this special time of year because it gives me a chance to meet and reacquaint myself with former students, catch up on what is new in their lives, and participate in ceremonies honoring their accomplishments. Our alumni are a wonderful reaffirmation of what we do as a university, and Alumni Weekend gives us the opportunity to show them how proud we are of what they have accomplished since they were students here.

In addition to being a reflection of our past, our alumni represent the future of our university. They are our valued partners, and through their support, they advance Niagara and its mission in myriad ways.

Through their generous contributions of time, alumni help us to prepare students to take their place in the world. They speak to classes, student clubs and honor societies, offering firsthand advice about applying to graduate school or managing the job-search process. They serve as featured speakers for student-hosted events and participate in on-campus career fairs or encourage their companies to do so. They teach specialized courses, offer workshops, and direct theater productions. They work with faculty to help guide curriculum development, ensuring that the skills we are teaching are the ones most desired in the workplace.

Alumni also help our students connect with the business community. From offering internships, co-ops and summer jobs, to hosting off-campus visits and arranging job interviews, they are a crucial link from the campus to the larger world. Alumni serve as mentors and preceptors, and invite students into their places of business to experience a day or two in the field. They arrange tours of top hotel industry properties such as the Waldorf-Astoria and the New York Palace. Once our students graduate, our alumni often offer them jobs.

For students who have not yet decided whether to attend Niagara, our alumni serve as ambassadors of the university by hosting or speaking at accepted student receptions throughout the state and recommending Niagara to students who may be interested.

And many of our alumni pursue their careers at Niagara, using their skills to directly serve the university. Or they choose to volunteer on advisory boards and alumni councils, helping the administration develop plans for the future. They’ve helped the university in developing articulation agreements with other organizations, facilitating opportunities for transfer students to continue their studies at Niagara. Once they have retired or have completed their terms of service, they continue to be ardent supporters, forwarding the Niagara cause in the community.

Of course, alumni financial support is vital. By contributing to your alma mater, you provide the needed funding to advance Niagara’s teaching, research and service missions. Your gifts support scholarships and financial aid, faculty and curriculum development, and technology for classroom study and research endeavors. Niagara University’s success depends largely on this support. And as we continue to move forward with our ambitious capital campaign, “The Promise of Niagara,” your generous contributions are more important than ever to ensure the future of this outstanding institution.

As I noted at the beginning of this column, Alumni Weekend provides us a wonderful opportunity to reminisce about Niagara’s past and look to the future. Another opportunity to celebrate the life and growth of the university is happening in 2010. The Vincentian Community has set aside that year as a year of praise for saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of their deaths. Many activities and events are planned during this observance, which you can read more about in Father John Maher’s Eagle’s Eye column on page 9.

From our illustrious past to our promising future, our alumni have been and will continue to play key roles in shaping Niagara University. I welcome your comments and suggestions at jll@niagara.edu.

Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.
President
On the cover
Christina Crane, ’09, completed an internship this summer at WCBS-TV in New York City. While there, she had an opportunity to visit with Sean O’Boyle, ’85, executive vice president and general sales manager for NBC Universal’s Domestic Television Distribution Division, and Peter Dunn, ’81, president of CBS Television Stations. See pages 8 and 20-21 for their stories.

The Tightrope Walker 13
Dr. John Stranges, university professor, visits a monument dedicated to alumnus William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan.

Alumni Weekend ’09 14
A look at some of the people and events that made this year’s reunion so special.

Honoring Our Outstanding Alumni 16
Niagara honored 10 of its former students during Alumni Weekend ceremonies.
Veterans Welcome at Niagara University

Under the leadership of Bob Swanson, Niagara’s coordinator of cooperative education, the university has been actively pursuing ways in which it can provide a supportive environment for returning veterans who wish to begin or resume their education. One of the first steps in this initiative was participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program, a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, which took effect on Aug. 1. This program makes additional funding available to veterans who choose to enroll in institutions with tuitions that exceed the highest public in-state tuition rate. The university has also created an admissions protocol for veterans and a veterans page on our Web site (www.niagara.edu/veterans/). Niagara is currently working to partner with the Erie County Veterans Service Agency and the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs to obtain a “Veteran Friendly Campus” designation. By meeting this criteria, Niagara will be positioned as a school of choice in Western New York for returning veterans.

For more information, contact Swanson at 716-286-8538 or rps@niagara.edu.

Update — The B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences

The Niagara University board of trustees recently authorized the university to move forward on the development of construction documents for the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences. This phase is anticipated to be complete in March of 2010. In addition, the board authorized the university to hire a construction manager and a commissioning agent to work with the architects on final design decisions. Their involvement will ensure the best possible planning and thinking on the building and also work toward achieving LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) status.

These actions are significant moves toward the construction of the new science center. Fundraising on this project, which is the university’s top capital priority, continues via the “Promise of Niagara” campaign.

SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE — Four international individuals representing the diversity of the hospitality and tourism fields addressed industry issues and offered advice that could be applied to the Buffalo-Niagara region during the ninth annual College of Hospitality and Tourism Management convocation Oct. 22. Jean-Claude Baumgarten, president and chief executive officer of the World Travel and Tourism Council; Carol Coletta, president and chief executive officer of CEOs for Cities; Louise Mitchell, director of Glasgow UNESCO City of Music; and Gerald Lawless, executive chairman of the Jumeirah Group, were also recognized for their outstanding achievements through the presentation of four special awards established by the college. The event, which took place in Alumni Chapel, was sponsored by The Maid of the Mist Corp. with additional sponsorship for 2009 by Buffalo Hotel Supply Co., Inc. Pictured here are Baumgarten and Lawless, who discussed the tourism industry with students in the college prior to the convocation.
On Sunday, Oct. 11, Dr. Mary McCourt stood on a stage at Hudson River Park’s Pier 84 in New York City during the closing ceremony of the Avon Walk New York to accept a $150,000 grant from the Avon Foundation for Women. The grant was awarded in support of her research exploring the development of a new, noninvasive test for breast cancer. About 450 breast cancer survivors were among the thousands who attended the ceremony.

“As I stood there in front of all of those survivors, I was overwhelmed with a connection to them and humbled by their faith in my ability to get some answers,” McCourt, chairperson and associate professor of chemistry at Niagara University, says. “It is rare that a researcher has that opportunity to be so close to that experience. It is one that I will have with me my entire life.”

McCourt’s research will examine if biomarkers collected from urine samples can be used to differentiate healthy breast tissue from diseased breast tissue, potentially replacing mammograms as a primary method of breast cancer screening. McCourt will also investigate the use of these biomarkers in identifying metastatic disease, and whether the methodology could be used to follow the progression of disease and help plan treatment. Dr. Larry Mielnicki, an expert in breast tumor screens and an adjunct professor of chemistry at NU, will collaborate with McCourt on this research, which will be conducted through the university’s Academic Center for Integrated Sciences.

“Avon has provided a tremendous opportunity to help us develop a simple urine test for identifying breast cancer,” says McCourt. “This inexpensive, noninvasive technology will improve health care and make breast cancer testing available to groups of women that are not able to access more expensive technologies.”

Undergraduate students Haley McClory, Charles Smith, Christopher Wirth and Brittany Sumbler will “be key players in this project,” McCourt added.

“This will be a great opportunity to expand Niagara University’s student-faculty research model to a very important health issue,” notes Dr. Nancy McGlen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Niagara’s grant was one of eight awarded to local and regional breast cancer organizations by the Avon Foundation. The organization was founded in 1955 with the mission of improving the lives of women and their families through two key areas of focus: breast cancer and domestic violence.

— Lisa McMahon
Rev. Thomas McKenna, C.M., Joins NU as Assistant to the President for Mission Development

The Rev. Thomas F. McKenna, C.M., former provincial superior of the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission, has been named as assistant to the president for mission development at Niagara University. In this position, McKenna will assist with the university’s efforts to better understand and fulfill its mission as a Catholic and Vincentian institution.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the vice chairman of Niagara’s board of trustees from 1999 to 2008. Ordained in 1970, he received a master of arts degree in philosophy from St. John’s University in 1973 and earned a doctorate in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America in 1982. For 10 years, McKenna taught spirituality as a member of the department of theology at St. John’s. He has also taught at Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya.

McKenna is the author of several articles that have been published in theological journals and has written one book, titled “Praying with Vincent de Paul,” a series of meditations on Vincent’s spirituality.

In 2002, Niagara recognized McKenna for his service to the Vincentian Community by awarding him the honorary degree of Doctor of Pedagogy.

REP. LOUISE SLAUGHTER IS FEATURED SPEAKER AT CASTELLANI GALA — U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY) addressed an enthusiastic audience of museum patrons at the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University’s Seventh Annual Gala, “15 Minutes of Fame! The Andy Warhol Experience” on Saturday, Oct. 17. Rep. Slaughter, one of Congress’ most outspoken and effective advocates for the arts, noted that she was happy “to recognize the important work of both the Castellani Museum and Niagara University as stewards of the arts” at the event, which raises funds for the museum’s many educational and exhibition-related programs for Niagara University students and the surrounding community.

Slaughter also emphasized the importance of the arts to the economy, noting that “arts and culture are important economic assets. They create a hub of economic activity, attracting investments, generating tax revenues, and stimulating local economies through tourism and urban renewal.” She added that in her district, there are more than 1,200 arts-related businesses employing nearly 16,000 people.

For the complete text of Rep. Slaughter’s remarks, visit www.niagara.edu/speeches/.

Moretti Teacher’s Studio, Resource Room Dedicated

Dr. Rita Moretti touched many lives during her years as an administrator in the Niagara Falls City School District and as a faculty member at Niagara University. Her spirit was fondly remembered during the dedication of the Dr. Rita N. Moretti, MS’50 Teachers’ Studio and Resource Room, located on the second floor of the university’s library. A ceremony to mark the opening was held on Sept. 22. The room incorporates technology and areas for collaborative work among teacher candidates and faculty members. It also features a collection of vintage education textbooks, including a mathematics book from 1877, a 1798 reader for children in grades five and six, and a 1794 printing of Homer’s “Odyssey” written in Greek and Latin. The books were the gift of Dr. Sylvio H. Albert ’53, MA’55, Moretti’s friend and colleague.
2009 Class of ROTC Hall of Fame Inducted

Four Niagara alumni were inducted into the Niagara University ROTC Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Oct. 10. They were honored for their professional achievements and their contributions to society in the example of St. Vincent de Paul.

Lt. Col. John R. Fanelli, ’59, a former medical officer and commanding officer of the 18th U.S. Army Security Agency Field Station in Munich, Germany, was commissioned into the U.S. Army Reserves with the 338th General Hospital and volunteered with the 302nd Medical Battalion for NATO. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal and a Certificate of Achievement.

Col. Robert Michael Asiello, ’66, served for 27 years in various positions and earned the rank of full colonel. His awards and decorations include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Lt. Col. Martin R. Loftus, ’57, served in a variety of capacities including executive officer to the deputy chief of staff, logistics for U.S. Army Vietnam; legal adviser to the Commander Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; and staff judge advocate for various major Army commands. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Republic of Vietnam, Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, and Vietnamese Honor Medal First Class.

Family members look on as Lt. Col. John R. Fanelli, ’59, is honored during the ROTC Hall of Fame ceremony.

Varsity Village Elects Seibt as Mayor — Varsity Village students elected Jackie Seibt, a junior from Syracuse, mayor of their “village.” More than half of the 90 residents voted in what was the second mayoral election in Varsity Village since the tradition was restarted in 2008.

Boy Scouts Salute Father Levesque

The Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., NU president, with the “Scouting Salutes” award at the fifth annual Scouting Salutes Award Reception Dec. 1. Father Levesque was honored for his years of service to the local community and for being a strong advocate for scouting.
**Niagara Mourns**

The Rev. Paul Michael Murphy, C.M., a philosophy professor at Niagara University from 1975 to 1981, died Nov. 12 at St. Vincent’s House in Emmitsburg, Md., where he had served as pastor of St. Joseph’s Church since February 2007. Father Murphy, who earned a licentiate in philosophy, was ordained a priest on May 26, 1960. His varied assignments included teaching and serving parish missions, novenas and retreats. A funeral Mass was held on Nov. 16 at St. Joseph’s Church, and a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 18 at St. Thomas More Church at St. John’s University. Interment was held at the Vincentian Cemetery at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Princeton, N.J.

**FOUR HONORED DURING NIAGARA’S VINCENTIAN CONVOCATION —** Two Niagara University alumni and two other distinguished persons were honored as part of a convocation celebrating Vincentian Heritage Week in September. Nerses Krikorian, ’43, a pioneer in this country’s nuclear arms program, and Joe McCarthy, widely regarded in baseball circles as one of the greatest managers in the game, were inducted as members of the third class of “Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction.” Dr. Nancy McGlen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Sister Barbara Pfohl, O.S.F., operations manager for Heart, Love and Soul, Inc. in Niagara Falls, N.Y., were honored with the Vincentian Mission Award and Caritas Medal, respectively, for their extraordinary service to others in the example of St. Vincent de Paul. From left to right: Greg Krikorian, representing his uncle, Nerses; Sister Barbara Pfohl; the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president; Dr. Nancy McGlen; and Dr. Alan Levy, representing Joe McCarthy. Dr. Levy wrote the autobiography “Joe McCarthy, Architect of the Yankee Dynasty.”

**SEVERAL HONORED AT ANNUAL PRESIDENT’S DINNER —** (L-r) Several individuals and a corporation were recognized for their vision, accomplishments and service to their communities during the annual Niagara University President’s Dinner Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Seneca Niagara Casino Hotel Event Center in Niagara Falls. (L-r) Joyce Fink, a former member of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, Inc.; Barbara and Frank Layden, Niagara men’s basketball coach from 1968 to 1976 and award-winning coach and executive of the Utah Jazz; and the Niacet Corp. of Niagara Falls along with Augusta Brannen, Kelly and Joanne Brannen, and Mary and Larry Montani were honored with inaugural St. Vincent de Paul awards for their charitable endeavors. The event, which benefits the university’s scholarship program, was chaired by Michael, ’80, and Carol Cassell, ’79.

*Photo courtesy of James Neiss, Niagara Gazette.*
Major Increases Made to Academic Scholarships

Responding to concerns about the rising cost of higher education, Niagara University recently announced major increases to all of its academic scholarships for freshmen and transfer students entering NU in the fall 2010 semester.

Specific increases to the scholarship program include freshman awards that range from $7,500 to $15,000 per year, and transfer awards that range from $7,500 to $11,000 per year. In addition, all awards are renewable each year the student maintains satisfactory academic progress.

“We know that families recognize the quality and advantages of private higher education but have concerns in this economy about financing,” noted Michael Konopski, dean of enrollment management at Niagara. “These new scholarship levels will recognize students’ academic achievement and make Niagara an even more affordable option.”

To help contain the cost of attending Niagara, the university also offers its nationally recognized Level Tuition Program, which allows freshman students to lock in one tuition rate for all four years of attendance. This innovative program is unique in the area, and it gives participants the assurance of knowing that their tuition rate will not increase over the course of their studies at Niagara. In addition, monthly payment plan options are available to all students.

For more information, contact Niagara’s admissions office at 716-286-8700 or 800-462-2111.

Grant Enhances Campus Safety

The university’s effectiveness in responding to emergencies and disasters will be improved thanks to an 18-month, $398,000 Emergency Management for Higher Education program grant. This grant will enable Niagara to update and strengthen its current campus emergency response and crisis management plan so that it provides a comprehensive, integrated, all-hazards approach to crisis prevention, response and management. In addition, the grant will facilitate a comprehensive systems testing and training of personnel, students, and other individuals and organizations as appropriate to ensure a safer, more secure campus environment.

BON APPÉTIT — Twice each month during the academic year, French faculty in the department of modern and classical languages host a lunch at the Castellani Art Museum for students in their classes. The professors and their students take turns preparing authentic French cuisine for the table of 10, and all in attendance converse exclusively in French during the meal. Here (clockwise from top left) Dr. Henrik Borgstrom, chair of the department; Daphnaella Joseph; Christophe Parant, who was visiting from Angers, France; Megan Kemple; and Nadège Petrie enjoyed a menu that included boeuf Bourguignon with fingerling potatoes, grilled asparagus, sautéed mushrooms and chocolate mousse at an October luncheon.

The Eagle Is Now Online

Visit http://eagleonline.niagara.edu/ for an interactive online version of the Eagle alumni magazine. The Eagle Online provides additional photos, videos and podcasts exclusive to the Web version, as well as links to Niagarans in the news, opportunities for reader comment, and RSS feeds for updates. Take a look and let us know what you think!
Christina Crane, ’09

Billy Joel sang about taking a Greyhound on the Hudson River line to put him in a New York state of mind. Christina Crane was able to get into the same state of mind when she took a ride on the New York State Thruway to do a television internship in the Big Apple last summer.

Crane, who received her bachelor’s degree in communication studies from Niagara in 2009, was awarded the unique opportunity to work at WCBS-TV, the local CBS television affiliate in New York City, through a Niagara connection she made earlier this year. In February, 10 communication studies students were invited to a luncheon with Peter Dunn, ’81, the president and general manager of WCBS. At the lunch, he emphasized the importance of internships and offered Niagara students the opportunity to work at the station. (See page 21 for more on Peter Dunn.)

Crane, who had already completed a few internships, including one at Buffalo’s CBS affiliate, WIVB-TV, applied for the internship. “I knew how valuable they were,” she says. “That, and the idea of living and working in New York City were too good to pass up.” Her application was accepted, and after graduation she was on her way to New York City.

Upon arriving at WCBS, Crane dove right into work. “It was a whole new world,” she says. “Within the first week, I was doing online research for stories and had to create a Twitter account as well.” The social media tool is now becoming a way to get a leg up on breaking news in the industry, Crane says. Ever the eager pupil, she volunteered to go out on stories with reporters to gain more experience. “I didn’t care if it was 3 a.m.,” she says. “I’m the type of person that doesn’t like to sit behind a desk all day.”

Crane hit the streets on stories with Magee Hickey, a veteran New York City reporter, and Emmy-award winning journalist Jay Dow, doing whatever was necessary to assist them so that she could learn from some of the best. “I soaked in whatever they told me,” she says.

The summer of 2009 was filled with memorable news events, including the Bernard Madoff sentencing and the death of Michael Jackson. Crane saw the reaction to both first-hand. She compares the line to get into the Madoff courtroom to waiting for a very exciting ride at a theme park.

“The courtroom only has so many seats,” she says. “You are shoulder to shoulder with people and to hear, ‘you are sentenced to 150 years,’ was striking. No one else knew the verdict until we left the courtroom.”

Crane was on hand at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, N.Y., the day “The King of Pop” died. “People were crying and others were singing his songs,” she says. “It was a celebration, but also a mourning.”

Crane’s whole experience as an intern at WCBS was filled with many great lessons. “I learned that you have to be determined and stand out,” she says. As an intern, you cannot just sit back because you will not be remembered, she adds, and it is important to listen to those who have the experience in the industry.

“Never say you don’t want to do something or not go out on a story,” she says, “because you don’t know the opportunities you are going to miss.”

— Jason Mollica
Let Us Now Praise Famous Men ... and Women!

“Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that beget us. All these were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times.” (Sirach 44: 10-11)

As you can see, the title of this article is a twist on a quote from the Book of Sirach. It was also the title for the groundbreaking 1941 book, “Let Us Now Praise Famous Men” by James Agee and Walker Evans, which chronicled poverty in Southern sharecroppers.

We in the Vincentian family have set aside 2010 as a year of praise for two famous people, saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, as we commemorate the 350th anniversary of their deaths. (St. Louise died March 15, 1660; St. Vincent on Sept. 27.) But what we celebrate is not the anniversary of death, but a living flame of faith and hope still burning brightly in their sons and daughters throughout the world.

At first glance, Vincent and Louise had little in common. Vincent was born into a peasant family in southern France. He sought priesthood to escape the dead-end poverty of his peers. Once ordained, he ingratiated himself to the wealthy to attain a comfortable life. Vincent achieved this as a chaplain to the Di Gondi family, but he still felt empty. God intervened, placing poor people in his life who shook him from his complacency. Also, a famous man of that day, Cardinal de Berulle, served as Vincent’s spiritual mentor. Both the poor and the Cardinal pushed Vincent to embrace a life of prayer and service.

Louise, stigmatized because she was born out of wedlock, grew up in sheltered circumstances and married a kind and wealthy man. Yet she was troubled with interior doubts, as she was a spiritual searcher. The sudden death of her husband, loss of income, and care for a difficult young son intensified Louise’s struggles. Enter Vincent de Paul and his vision for ministry in Jesus’ name to the poor, and Louise found an outlet for her energy. Vincent became the spiritual anchor that kept her moored for life.

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What was their “genius”? Deep abiding faith, a spiritual friendship, innovative works of charity, communities and institutions enduring 350 years later: these are the benchmarks we celebrate in this Vincentian Jubilee Year. In starting lay groups of Ladies of Charity and Confraternities of Charity, and two religious orders (the Congregation of the Mission and Daughters of Charity), they succeeded due to Vincent’s grand vision and Louise’s great organizational ability. Both took to heart the words of Jesus: “Whatever you did for the least of mine, you did for me.” (Mt. 26:40)

Vincent’s genius for networking and Louise’s natural gift for organization paved the way to a legacy of charity that still exists.

Because of the enduring nature of their works, Vincent and Louise are not only seen as “patrons” of charitable works (an honorific church title), but “prophets” of charity, as their work has had lasting influence on church and society. Yet, their lives testify not only to how they envisioned and delivered service to the poor, but also to the depth of their spirituality. Louise’s simple prayer: “Lord, grant me the grace to spend this day without offending You or failing my neighbor,” and Vincent’s oft-expressed thought, “Three can do the work of 10 when the Lord puts his hand in it,” both express supreme confidence in God as their source and the summit of all their plans.

At Niagara, plans are well under way to properly celebrate this 350th anniversary of the lives of saints Vincent and Louise. Lectures, discussions, social events, prayer services, and opportunity for service and reflection will fill out this important milestone. But this occasion also offers you, as alumni, an opportunity to learn more about saints Vincent and Louise. If you go to www.famvin.org, and click on the icon for the 350th, you’ll be able to read a monthly reflection that will widen your awareness of Vincent and Louise and the charism of charity that they left for us. In an era of “fleeting fame,” theirs is what I’d call a “keeper.”

By Rev. John T. Maher, C.M.
University Chaplain
Director of Campus Ministry

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men … and Women!
Athletics Hall of Fame Honors Club Football

Niagara University Club Football, the alumni who were key in establishing the program, and several exceptional players were honored at a special ceremony during Alumni Weekend. Organized by Tony Caccomo, ’69, the event was attended by more than 50 former players and their families.

As part of the event, several club football members were inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the university’s intercollegiate sports program: Mark Johnson, ’79; Jeff Pagels, ’81; Jed Pounds, ’77; Ed Renica, ’74; and John Weis, ’78. They were the first to be elected into the Hall of Fame. Organization co-founders Caccomo and Jim Duquin, ’69; Jim DiSanto, ’69; Kathy (Cichy) Mylod, ’69; Patti (Lehman) Burns, ’69; Neil Delisanti, ’67; and Jim Burke, ’67, were also recognized during the event.

Special certificates were given to all former club football players in attendance, and a DVD showcasing highlights of past games was distributed. At the end of the event, Caccomo was given the game ball, in true football fashion.

In honor of the occasion, the group raised funds to purchase two kiosks in memory of their deceased colleagues. The kiosks, which are located in Gallagher Center and Dwyer Arena, showcase the Athletics Hall of Fame members.

From the Ice to the Editing Booth

In the world of hockey, the late Roger Neilson was dubbed “Captain Video” for his ground-breaking use of video to analyze other teams. Niagara women’s hockey forward Frances McPhail is hoping to follow in his footsteps.

McPhail, a senior communications major from Oakville, Ont., has been editing video for her hockey teams for a while, but a work-study assignment as a digital editor in Niagara’s Office of Information Technology is enabling her to take her skills to the next level. “When I started editing videos, it was just taking clips from my (hockey) teams with really simple editing programs and putting them together,” she says. Now, under the guidance of Niagara’s multimedia production specialist, Brian Rock, McPhail is gaining hands-on experience in using professional editing software including After Effects and Final Cut.

One of her favorite projects so far has been producing a video for the biology department on alpine research, because it enabled her to be creative. She says that she and Rock “added some different video elements and effects” to footage of a research trip to Colorado they received from Dr. Deborah Leonard, senior scientist in the department, and Dr. Michael Kotarski, associate professor.

McPhail notes that video has changed the game of hockey. “You are now able to go back and pinpoint exactly what is going on with the plays,” she says. Teams have specific video coaches who record the game, so a coach can see what the team has done right and what improvements need to be made. McPhail’s new coach, Chris MacKenzie, is using edited video of games and practices to help his team improve.

After graduating from Niagara, McPhail, who netted career highs in goals, assists and points last season, is hoping to continue her hockey career as a member of a European hockey league. She’d also like to continue her work with digital editing in preparation for her “dream job” as a video editor for the Vancouver Canucks.
Student Athletes Are Prepared for Life After Sports

Niagara University’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the athletics department and the offices of career development, counseling services and alumni relations, spearheaded the “Life After Sports” initiative that took place Oct. 2 at the Castellani Art Museum. This unique, first-time program was designed to help prepare Niagara’s student-athletes for “retirement” from their respective sport, cope with their loss of identity as an athlete, and identify the transferable skills that can be used to map their career path.

“The Life After Sports initiative was driven by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee,” said Theresa Berg, associate director of athletics. “SAAC requested that this topic be considered for a CHAMPS/Life Skills program. After doing some research on the topic, I recognized the importance of offering such a program and began to reach out to the campus community for feedback and support. It grew from there.”

Niagara University was awarded a $1,500 CHAMPS/Life Skills grant from the NCAA to create or enhance programming focused on student-athlete initiatives and issues. A total of 95 NCAA colleges and universities applied for the inaugural grants; 57 were selected for an award.

Niagara’s program featured keynote speaker John P. Sullivan, a 1993 alumnus and clinical sport psychologist who specializes in helping people achieve excellence in high-stress environments. Other presenters included Dr. Bernadette Peters, NU’s assistant director of counseling services and licensed psychologist; Dr. Greg Hudecki, ’68; Ann (Quigley) Macaulay, ’69; Andy Smith, ’99; corporate recruiter and sponsor Paul Hicks of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc; and Niagara employee relations coordinator Mike Skowronski. Participants were given additional information about career development and counseling services and a list of alumni mentors. The program concluded with a social that gave the student-athletes a chance to interact and network with alumni and guests in attendance.

Feedback on the event from alumni and students was positive. One student noted that “It was awesome to meet alumni student-athletes who were once in our shoes. The speakers had great answers and their experiences were beyond what I expected.”

Women’s Golf Sets Foundation in Inaugural Campaign

Sept. 12, 2009, will long be remembered in Niagara University’s athletic department. It was the day that the women’s golf team teed off for the first time, launching an inaugural season that coach Bob O’Malley calls a success.

“It was a foundation season that you grow from,” he said. “For the seven players, it was the first year of college competition and I think we bonded pretty well as a group.”

Women’s golf, which competes in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, became the 18th Purple Eagle sport in February. The addition of this team helped the conference become eligible for an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Women’s Golf Championship starting in 2012.

As the only Division I women’s team in Western New York, Niagara’s program is garnering a lot of interest among potential players in the area. “Recruits are seeing our Web site and following our progress,” O’Malley, a former assistant athletic director and head athletic trainer at Philadelphia University, said. “There is a lot of excitement.”

Freshman Brittany Siechen, a former two-time Section III scholastic champion from East Syracuse Minoa High School, is one of the inaugural members of the Niagara University women’s golf team.
Did You Know?
“The Promise of Niagara” capital campaign has raised $6.7 million in scholarship funds to date.

From Don’s Desk
Niagara University launched its capital fundraising campaign, “The Promise of Niagara … The next 150 years,” in May 2007. I am happy to report that as of press time, the campaign has reached a significant milestone: $60,000,000 in commitments. The economic climate has challenged the effort, but Niagara alumni, friends and corporate and foundation partners have responded with enthusiastic support, including 11 commitments of $1,000,000 or more and 166 above $25,000. While there is much left to be accomplished, the campaign is on track to reach its $80,000,000 goal by Dec. 31, 2011.

By Don Bielecki, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
At this point in the campaign, it seems appropriate to take a look at what we’ve accomplished so far. So the next issue of the Eagle will feature campus achievements supported by the campaign, personal stories of giving back, and an in-depth, mid-campaign review. These stories will give you a better idea of our progress and vision for what is the most ambitious capital endeavor in Niagara’s history, an endeavor that will transform the university and prepare it for its next 150 years and beyond.

Learn About Niagara’s Endowment
Niagara University’s endowment plays a key role in determining how the university moves forward with its strategic and capital plans, yet few really understand what it is and how it factors into the operations of the university. We sat down with Michael Jaszka, Niagara’s vice president for administration–business affairs, to learn a little more about the endowment at Niagara.

What is the endowment, and what is its importance to Niagara?
The endowment is the university’s equivalent of an individual’s savings account. It was accumulated from the generation of operating surpluses over the past years and through fundraising efforts. It provides the university with financial stability.

What does the endowment consist of?
Our endowment consists of individual funds established for a variety of purposes. Some are donor restricted and must be used for the purposes specified by the donors, such as scholarships. Others are unrestricted and can be used at the university’s discretion. Niagara’s endowment is approximately 1/3 donor restricted and 2/3 unrestricted.

How is the endowment used?
Each year, Niagara University limits its spending to 5 percent of the average value of the endowment. This allows the endowment to grow over time.

How is the endowment managed?
We have an investment subcommittee, made up of five members of our board of trustees, which provides advice and guidance. This subcommittee, which meets quarterly, reports to the board’s finance committee. We utilize the services of an investment adviser who assists us in determining our long-term investment strategy and in hiring individual investment managers. Using multiple managers and investment strategies enables us to manage investment risk.

How has the current economic situation affected our endowment?
Between May 31, 2009, and May 31, 2008, our endowment lost nearly 30 percent of its value. The endowment value is rebounding to the point where it is now 80 percent of its May 31, 2008, value.
While attending a conference at Columbia University last spring, I took time to visit a monument in the law school plaza dedicated to the celebrated General William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan. The bronze sculpture, 14 feet tall and set on a 7-foot pedestal, was commissioned by Donovan’s friends, created by the Dutch artist Kees Verkade, and unveiled in 1979. I had completed my graduate studies at Columbia a decade earlier, and had seen the piece a few times while attending conferences there in later years. Recently, the sculpture had been featured in the Columbia alumni magazine, so I decided to take a closer look. In preparation for his work, Verkade studied Donovan’s life closely, and concluded that the “controlled daring” of Donovan’s life would best be expressed by a tightrope walker, in which one figure balances himself precariously on the shoulders of another as the two of them walk the length of a cable.

William J. Donovan, as many Niagarans know, was born in Buffalo to a family living a step away from poverty. He entered Niagara in 1899 and for the next three years distinguished himself as a scholar and orator, at the same time earning the captnacy of the varsity football team. Donovan transferred to Columbia College in New York to prepare for entrance to the Columbia Law School. There, he met and befriended Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who later launched him on a career that led to the creation of the Office of Strategic Services, a revolutionary new organization for gathering intelligence and waging unconventional warfare, and which served as predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency. One of Donovan’s young protégées at OSS was Allen Dulles, later the CIA chief under Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. Dulles remembered Donovan’s “vast interest in the unorthodox, the novel, and the dangerous,” and his success in assembling brilliant and daring minds from academe, business, and the arts — indeed any source — to find unique ways of discovering the mind of the enemy and sabotaging his war effort. Donovan’s exploits as founder of OSS and father of the CIA are too detailed to narrate here. But his legacy continues. General David Petraeus, the head of U.S. Central Command and architect of the new counterinsurgency strategy in Iraq, is a long-time admirer.

But it was Donovan’s heroism in France during World War I that lifted him to near iconic status on the Niagara campus. He seemed the embodiment of the spirit of Old Niagara — intelligent but possessed of character above all. His fierce individuality seemed to have no boundaries; he could rally his men as well as save them from death. He could sustain wounds but refuse to leave the battlefield. And he did it all with a sly half-smile. His decorations in France are a remarkable testimony to his courage: The Distinguished Service Cross; the Distinguished Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster); the Purple Heart (with two oak leaf clusters); and the Medal of Honor. Niagara’s young stalwarts had often modeled themselves after public figures. In 1919, William Donovan was their man. His return to campus in June of that year to receive an honorary degree at commencement was an absolute triumph. When he was awarded the National Security Medal for his service in World War II, Donovan became the only American to have received our nation’s four highest military decorations.

When I think of the triumphs that characterized Donovan’s military and government service and the long absences and family tragedies — the accidental deaths of a daughter and then a granddaughter — that so marked his personal life, I am convinced that Verkade chose his design wisely. Somehow, Donovan always managed to preserve his equilibrium in the face of heart-piercing problems. And as a soldier and spymaster, few men were more calculating. Donovan was no daredevil if, by that term, we mean someone given to recklessness and chance. He disliked the nickname “Wild Bill,” as it seemed to mock his arrival as both a gentleman and strategist, and he could not explain its origin. But the nickname stuck.

Law students at Columbia have been known on occasion to place a mattress below the tightrope walker inscribed with the words: “just in case.” Bill Donovan would probably smile appreciatively at the gesture, knowing all the while that he would always get to the other side.
More than 600 alumni returned to Mont, and 11 to celebrate the anniversary of the school. The weekend featured a variety of events that provided opportunities for alumni to reacquaint with old friends and rekindle memories of campus life.

The weekend started with the 25th anniversary dinner at the Niagara Falls Country Club and campus weekend kickoff event, and Celebration, an exclusive event for members of the class of ’59. Alumni took advantage of the tour of the Castellani Art Museum’s recently acquired Andy Warhol exhibition, and other exhibits. The Friday night Welcome Party and Alumni Reception, the weekend’s “official” kick-off, featured the opportunity to catch up with former classmates and friends.

Saturday’s activities included the ROTC wedding ceremony of marriage vows in Alumni Chapel, the Latino Alumni Luncheon, a special luncheon for members of the university, the nursing alumni reception and Sigmund Freud on campus and a special spiritual service that afternoon. In the evening, members of the class of ’59 attended a private reception that preceded the highlight of the weekend’s activities.

Rounding out the weekend were NU Theatre’s production of Friends and Other Plays by Horton Foote, the annual Memorial Mass. 🕊
Alumni Weekend ‘09

Eagle Ridge the weekend of Oct. 9, 10 provided opportunities for attendees to get some of their best memories of

Annual Alumni Weekend Golf Tournament continued with the Golden Eagle Mass members of the Class of 1959. Many in the Castellani Art Museum to view the arhol Legacy Award photographs and the Back Party in the Gallagher Center, featured a band, refreshments, and the classmates.

CHall of Fame induction, the renewal presentation of the Deans’ Awards, a university’s club football program, and Theta Tau induction ceremony. Tours and service program were offered the annual alumni dinner-dance, a

Theatre performances of “The Dearest of “ and a Sunday morning Alumni
One of the highlights of Alumni Weekend is the opportunity to recognize several of our outstanding graduates for their exceptional professional success and service to the community. Each dean selects an honoree or two from their respective colleges, and alumni are also chosen for the Dunleavy and Alumni awards. These alumni exemplify the leadership and compassion that Niagara instills in its students, serving as inspiring examples and reaffirming Niagara’s mission. This year, the following 10 alumni were honored during the weekend’s activities.
Dr. Rocco LaRocca has spent a lifetime serving his family, his profession, his church, his community, and his country. A dentist by profession, LaRocca started his practice in 1953 at the request of the late Msgr. Pascal Tronolone, pastor of St. Joseph’s Church at the time, who was looking for a dentist to serve the Italian-speaking population in Niagara Falls. LaRocca was also a dental officer to the U.S. Navy in World War II, where he served in the Pacific Theatre and was part of the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns; and in the Korean War, where he was stationed at naval bases in both the United States and in Korea.

LaRocca’s volunteer work is exceptionally notable. He is a Eucharistic minister and an altar server, and assists at funerals for his parish, Divine Mercy in Niagara Falls. He has served the St. Vincent DePaul Society at Our Lady of Lebanon parish since its foundation in 1976, and volunteers at its food pantry, collecting fresh fruit, produce and bread to deliver to individuals throughout the community. LaRocca is also a member of the Niagara Falls Emergency Response Team for disaster preparedness, and coordinates with first responders to give support and medical care, if needed.

Teresa, ’84, and Margaret Niedda, ’85

Teresa Niedda, ’84, and her sister, Marge, ’85, have dedicated their lives to addressing the plight of the poor, exemplifying Niagara University’s Vincentian heritage.

Teresa’s focus has been on farmworker rights. As director of the Farmworker Health and Safety Institute, a unique consortium of three community-based farmworker organizations in the United States, she oversaw the development and implementation training, as well as the policies and procedures, regarding migrant farmworker rights. And as a member of the state of New Jersey’s Pesticide Control Council, along with other local and national groups, she is an advocate in addressing the environmental and health concerns of farmworkers.

Recently, Teresa began working with the Vincentian Solidarity Office in Philadelphia, assisting the Congregation of the Mission with obtaining funds for its evangelization and service of the poor worldwide. These funds are then used to provide micro-project grants to mission and poor areas where the Vincentian Community serves in order to meet the needs of the poor.

As a volunteer with the Vincentian Service Corps in Philadelphia, Marge became more aware of the needs of the poor and how important it was to direct attention to their situation. Once her year of service was over, she became a member of the VSC governing committee, a position that enabled her to develop programs, select volunteers and their placements, and evaluate the results of their work. Her efforts enabled the program to expand, eventually becoming the largest VSC of the three national centers.

Marge eventually joined her sister in serving farmworkers. She is an administrator of the Farmworker Support Committee, part of the Farmworker Health and Safety Institute. In this role, she advocates for farmworkers and assists with the production of quarterly newsletters and the organization’s fundraising efforts.
Nursing Alumni Council Awards

Anne M. Patterson, ’79
Clinical Excellence Award

Whether she’s administering a research project, implementing a new program, or finding ways to cut costs, Anne M. Patterson, ’79, has learned, “The fact that I’m also a nurse gives me an edge.”

Patterson is currently clinical research officer for the New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C. She oversees the administrative aspects of research studies to ensure that the medical center’s interests are protected, resources are used appropriately, and business objectives are met.

Back in the late 1970s, Patterson was part of a commuter group coming to Niagara from Buffalo. After graduating magna cum laude with a BSN and working a year as a registered nurse in Durham, N.C., for a master’s degree in health administration. Her career has been in the Carolinas ever since, focusing on the clinical aspects of care, much of it in clinical research and financial management. Her hospital operations responsibilities have covered the alphabet, from anesthesia and bone marrow transplant to trauma service and vascular laboratory.

Despite a busy schedule, Patterson hasn’t forgotten the Vincentian tradition of service she learned at Niagara University. Everywhere she has lived, she has been involved in her community, serving groups such as Hospice, the American Heart Association, United Way, YWCA, PTSA and Chamber of Commerce. She is currently president of the Cape Fear Center for Inquiry and chairman of its Strategic Planning Committee.

Dr. Sheila A. Gorman, ’59
Academics Award

A classmate describes Dr. Sheila A. Gorman, ’59, as not only very warm and generous, but very unassuming and low-keyed about what she’s done in her remarkable career. After seeing Gorman’s more than nine-page résumé, the classmate exclaimed, “I realized I knew her and didn’t know half the things she’s accomplished!”

Gorman is now clinical professor emerita in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. After receiving her BSN from Niagara, she served in various nursing public health positions in Buffalo, New York City and Los Angeles before arriving at Columbia University in 1972. She also continued her academic studies there, eventually earning a Ph.D. in 1982. She served in Columbia’s public health program throughout her career, in positions ranging from co-director of the Ambulatory Care Institute, to founding director of the Executive Master of Public Health Program, to clinical professor.

That multipaged résumé lists many honors, board memberships, and grants to study everything from the implementation of Medicaid Managed Care in New York City to training registered nurses for management positions in community health organizations, as well as a long list of publications, research reports and presentations made across the United States.

Now retired, in true Vincentian spirit, Gorman volunteers in a health center in East Harlem, teaching reading to little children and English as a second language to adults. “That keeps me smiling,” she says.

Deans’ Awards

Dr. Carlos R. Jaén, ’79
College of Arts and Sciences

When referring to Dr. Carlos Jaén, ’79, a highly respected family physician and educator, terms such as “well-rounded” and “multi-talented” are somewhat of an understatement. His accomplishments, honors, degrees, professional appointments, certifications, licenses, memberships, and service to his profession and the public, if listed here, would undoubtedly cost several trees their lives. Fortunately, Jaén is all about saving lives. After receiving his B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from Niagara University, he went on to earn his doctoral degrees from the University at Buffalo. Today he is a practicing family physician at the Leonard G. Paul Family Health Center in San Antonio, Texas, professor and chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Since 2002, he has been selected to the Best Doctors in America. Perhaps the only thing more impressive than his well-deserved titles are his interests, which include improving preventative care for individuals of all ages and preventing complications from chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Jaén is passionate about building and studying high-performance primary care offices, and has even served on panels that helped set accepted guidelines for smoking cessation. Jaén has devoted his life to improving the lives of countless others. And even though his new home of San Antonio and the Niagara Region are separated by roughly 1,500 miles geographically, this college is never far from his thoughts.

Jay S. Albanese, ’74
College of Arts and Sciences

You could say that Dr. Jay S. Albanese, ’74, wrote the book on criminal justice. Currently serving as professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at Virginia Commonwealth University, one of the largest CJ departments in the country, Albanese has authored or edited 14 books on various crime topics. His textbook, “Criminal Justice,” is the leading student textbook in the field and is currently in its fourth edition. When he’s not in the classroom or writing, Albanese finds other ways to contribute to the growth of his profession through countless hours of research, consulting, speaking engagements, presentations and volunteerism. He is also a founding member of Criminologists Without Borders, a group of criminologists, researchers, professors and others working in the field who seek to apply scientific findings and best practices to the policies and operations of crime
Learning has changed, and John D. Craig, Ph.D. ’89, has been in the forefront of this transformation. He has pioneered the concept of educational programming as a far-reaching, lasting educational strategy, applying what he’s learned in the classroom to the greater community. As director of education and outreach for WNED, Craig oversees the public broadcast station’s learning services, which include outreach programs tied to WNED and PBS television programming, an opportunity that presents “many creative ways to bridge the gap in achievement and success for all individuals,” Craig has said.

Craig spent his early career years serving our country in the U.S. Navy. Following a six-year term of military service, he would go on to receive both his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Niagara University, and then pursue a career in teaching that began in 1990. He earned his Ph.D. in Education Administration from the University at Buffalo in 1999. In addition to his two decades as an educator, Craig has taken an active role with numerous Western New York organizations, benefiting the community with his impressive volunteerism, fundraising and outreach skills. One of his favorite causes is Lockport Community Services, Inc., a nonprofit organization that has revitalized and created public recreation facilities, including a pool and skateboard park. Additionally, Craig has recently completed a 60-hour documentary on the topic of young adults and financial literacy, and is also involved with WNED’s ThinkBright youth literacy program.

Joseph V. Cresci, ’84
College of Hospitality and Tourism Management

The term “role model” is handed out all too easily in today’s society, in many cases without being earned. Frequently, we see and hear the term associated with professional athletes, television and movie stars, and those who crave the media’s spotlight. And then there are the deserving, those individuals who embrace responsibility yet shun the spotlight’s glare. Their names may not be known worldwide, but their efforts are certainly remembered and greatly appreciated. Joseph V. Cresci, ’84, is that kind of individual ... a role model to his country, to his industry, and to Niagara University.

A member of the Niagara ROTC program, Cresci went on to attain the rank of captain in the Adjutant General Corps of the United States Army and earned the Joint Service Commendation Medal and an honorable discharge in 1998. Professionally, Cresci took the skills that he learned at Niagara University and carved an impressive career in the hospitality industry. In 2000, he founded a company called Food Management Search in Springfield, Mass., where he manages the day-to-day operations for recruitment and employment search projects for organizations within the food and hospitality industries throughout the United States and Canada. While Cresci currently resides in Longmeadow, Mass., Niagara has always felt like “home,” he says. That could explain why, 25 years after his graduation, Niagara continues to benefit from his generosity and talents. Whether assisting the Alumni Association, participating in Career Day, mentoring students, or helping recent graduates and alumni in the job search process, Cresci always answers the call.

Robert M. Fitzgerald, ’74
College of Business Administration

“Learn, serve and lead.” These four simple words accurately describe the mission of Niagara University’s College of Business Administration; yet incorporating those words into one’s own lifestyle is no easy task. Robert M. Fitzgerald, ’74, took on that challenge with vigor, and he is living proof that actions speak louder than words. Like so many other Niagara University graduates, Fitzgerald knows the importance of giving back to the community. Among the recipients of his generosity is the university itself. Whether it’s assisting the alumni relations team, working diligently on “The Promise of Niagara” campaign or just lending a helping hand as needed, Fitzgerald is never selfish when it comes to giving of his time and numerous talents. But Niagara University isn’t the only institution that benefits from Fitzgerald’s community involvement. Now retired and residing in Southern California, Fitzgerald currently serves on the board of trustees for Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services, an organization that provides hope for children in vulnerable situations and guidance for families struggling through tough times. Additionally, he is a member of the finance council for the Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano, a national shrine.

He is also a member of the board of directors of College Savings Bank of Princeton, N.J., and serves as chairman of the bank’s audit committee. He also serves as a trustee for Brandes Institutional Funds, and has served on the board of trustees of the Hotchkiss and Wiley Funds since 2004, where he is also chairman of the audit committee of the Funds.

His professional life is equally impressive. A CPA in New York, Arizona and California, Fitzgerald was formerly the CFO of PIMCO Advisors, a $300 billion asset management firm. Prior to his tenure at PIMCO, he was the chief administrative officer at Mechanics National Bank and an audit partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Financial Services Group.
in the spotlight

Sean O’Boyle, ’85

Sean O’Boyle knew he wanted to go into the television business when he enrolled at Niagara as an English major in 1981. He was fascinated by the behind-the-scenes work he had seen his uncle, who worked at CBS in New York City, do, and says that “being around cameras and just the making of television was interesting to me.” What he didn’t know was that this interest would propel him into one of the top spots at NBC Universal.

Currently executive vice president and general sales manager for the network’s Domestic Television Distribution Division, O’Boyle oversees all day-to-day domestic broadcast sales of first-run and off-network syndicated programs throughout the United States. It’s a job he didn’t know existed when he graduated in 1985 and took a position as a gofer in the CBS newsroom in New York City. His entrée into syndication work came a couple of years later, when he took a job as a sales assistant at the New York office of Orbis Communications, a small syndication company. A sales manager recognized that O’Boyle had a knack for conversation and asked him if he’d be interested in pursuing a career in sales. He was.

His career quickly took off — he was transferred in 1989 to the company’s Chicago office, where he sold movies and shows like “Joker’s Wild.” Two years later, he took a position with Group W Productions, the broadcasting division of Westinghouse Electric Corp., as Midwest regional sales manager. In 1996, he accepted the position of vice president of sales at Eyemark Entertainment/King World Productions, where he helped launch first-run strip programs including “Martha Stewart Living” and off-network sales of “Everybody Loves Raymond.” From there he moved on to NBC Enterprises as vice president of Midwest sales, selling such shows as “Access Hollywood” and “The Chris Matthews Show.” In 2004, following the merger of NBC with Universal Studios, O’Boyle returned to New York City when he was named to the newly created position of senior vice president and national syndication sales manager for the division. In this role, he was instrumental in the local broadcast sales of series including the first-run launch of “Deal or No Deal” as well as “The Jerry Springer Show,” “Maury” and “The Steve Wilkos Show.” In October of 2008, O’Boyle was appointed to his current position.

O’Boyle says he enjoys the work, especially perks like meeting the cast of “The Office” and visiting Martha Stewart at her home in Connecticut. He has discussed parenting issues with Howie Mandell and introduced the late Tim Russert at an event that included Hilary Clinton among its guests. “It’s all part of the job,” he says.

The White Plains, N.Y., native credits Niagara’s sense of community with helping him develop the values and the people skills he needed to successfully pursue his career. Niagara is also where he met his wife, the former Sheila Finnerty of the Class of 1985. In April, O’Boyle returned to Montaegle Ridge to discuss his career with students in the communications studies program, giving them insight into a field that he, himself, discovered only by chance.

— Lisa McMahon
Peter Dunn, ’81

Peter Dunn’s arrival at WCBS-TV was a homecoming of sorts. Dunn, ’81, is president and general manager* of the CBS flagship station for the network for which his father worked decades before.

“That’s the job my mom always wanted for me,” Dunn says, noting that he has childhood memories of coming to work with his father, who was an engineer at the station. “I feel like I grew up at CBS.”

The journey home took longer than expected, however. Dunn had contacted WCBS’s general sales manager shortly after graduating from Niagara’s communication studies program, but the GSM never returned his call. So Dunn took a job at WUTV in Buffalo, then accepted a national sales manager job at WHEC-TV in Rochester and at KATZ-TV in Boston. In 1987, he returned to New York City as an account executive with the ABC Television Network for both ABC Spot Sales and WABC-TV.

“This is where my career really started,” Dunn notes.

In 1997, the Long Island native joined WNBC-TV, starting as an account executive and working his way up to executive vice president of sales in eight years for NBC TV Stations Group.

Dunn’s career took a slight turn in 2004 when he was hired to oversee the operations of CBS’s Philadelphia duopoly KYW-TV and WPSG-TV. Under his leadership as president and general manager, KYW became one of the fastest-growing stations in the country. This success led to his current role as head of WCBS-TV’s flagship station, which has jumped in the ratings to the number two spot under Dunn’s watch.

While his focus is on growing ratings and offering new ways to deliver news (in 2008, the station launched a partnership with local blogs and social media sites serving metro New York to offer embeddable news widgets), Dunn is also committed to enhancing the station’s community-service efforts. WCBS is one of the local presenting media sponsors for the annual Susan G. Komen New York City Race for the Cure 5K Run/Walk each year, and Dunn encourages all staff members to participate in a variety of charitable events.

“We really have a focus on the community at our station,” Dunn says. “We do so much and that is what separates us from the other stations and the national cable networks. I think that if you don’t do it, you miss out on both a business and a personal level.”

Dunn is equally committed to his employees, who share his passion for the work that they do. He says that his leadership style is inspired by the experience he had at Niagara, where people were treated with respect. Dunn extends that respect to his team and facilitates an environment where information is shared among all members. “There’s nothing better than having a great team and learning from one another,” he says.

Dunn also enjoys the opportunity to mentor others, noting that much of his success is due to the mentoring relationships he had with his colleagues. “I was very fortunate to work with some great people,” he notes.

This summer, Dunn helped several Niagara University students obtain competitive internships with his network, and is now working with the communications studies department to make these internships an ongoing opportunity. (See page 8 to read about one student’s experience.)

“Based on my experiences, I knew that the four students we hosted this summer at CBS would be well-rounded and well-schooled,” Dunn says. “I hoped to provide them with real-life experiences that would complement their curriculum at Niagara and give them a competitive edge in this all-too-tight job market. Students today need every advantage to help break through and succeed. It was a pleasure to be able to provide that opportunity.”

— Lisa McMahon

*As of press time, Peter Dunn was named president of CBS Television Stations. In this position, he will oversee the network’s 29-station portfolio.
Fellow alumni,

What do you do when the games stop? When the practices no longer await and “life after sports” begins? This was the focus of a pilot program for junior and senior student-athletes introduced this past October at Niagara. This mandatory program was developed by Niagara’s associate athletic director, Theresa Berg, and sponsored by the offices of alumni relations, counseling services and career development; Niagara’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; the NCAA; and Wells Fargo Financial, Inc.

The program’s keynote speaker, John Sullivan, ’93, a clinical sport psychologist, told the student-athletes about sports consulting services and teamed up with Niagara’s Dr. Bernadette Peters, assistant director of counseling/licensed psychologist, for an interactive group session. I was part of an alumni panel for the question and answer period that followed. Other panelists included Ann (Quigley) Macaulay, ’69; Andy Smith, ’99; and Jessica Turner, ’06. Corporate recruiter and sponsor Paul Hicks, district manager at Wells Fargo, gave an empowering talk addressing how participating in athletics gives applicants an advantage in the interviewing process; and Mike Skowronski, employer relations coordinator in the career development office, ended the program by encouraging our graduates to use Niagara’s networking and mentoring opportunities. For more information on this unique program, see the story on page 11.

Our Niagara University Alumni Association, through the Eagle’s Nest, has launched a new Career Center titled “Alumni Jobs.” This new program features a job search function that lists more than 800,000 jobs and offers tips on writing résumés, cover letters and other career guidance. The program also enables you to post jobs and network with other alumni, and participate in a mentoring program. As American politician John C. Crosby once stated, “Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.” If interested, you can register at the Career Center on the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com.

Also, when you visit campus, be sure to check out the “Wall of Fame” in the atrium of Bisgrove Hall, where all of the Niagara Legacy—Alumni of Distinction recipients’ plaques are displayed. And keep in touch with NU through the Eagle’s Nest for upcoming events all around the country.

Sincerely,
Dr. Greg Hudecki, ’68
President, Niagara University Alumni Association

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Alumni Association
Board of Directors

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Michelle Van de Loo, ’01

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Alumni Chapters

Albany Chapter
Bob Sheehan, ’85
518-441-2758
tjsheehan2002@yahoo.com

Atlanta Chapter
Melinda Smith, ’78
404-934-6135 or 770-935-4511
msfundraiser@bellsouth.net

Boston Chapter
Tony Lista, ’80
508-951-2641
tonylista@aol.com

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Niagara University Is Going South

Staff from Niagara’s alumni relations office, along with the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., university president, will be traveling throughout Florida from Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, 2010, with stops in West Palm Beach, the Villages, Tampa, Sarasota and Naples. Dates and venues to be announced — look for a mailing and/or check out the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com. We’re looking forward to catching up with alumni in the Sunshine State, so plan to attend one of these events. We would love to see you!
Mark Your Calendar

We have a lot in store for our chapters in the months ahead. Please mark these dates on your calendar and check out the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com for more information.*

January
9 Albany — NU vs. Siena basketball game and reception
14 Central New York — Holiday party
23 Tri-State — NU vs. Quinnipiac hockey game and reception
29 Rochester — TV game watch: NU vs. Canisius basketball game and reception

February
1-6 Florida — NU is Going South: alumni events throughout Florida
8 Delaware Valley — NU vs. Rider basketball game and reception
12 Buffalo-Niagara — N-Zone event: dinner followed by basketball and hockey games
26 Tri-State — NU vs. Manhattan basketball game and reception

March
4-8 MAAC basketball tournament in Albany, N.Y.
12 Tri-State — St. Patrick’s Day party
12-14 CHA hockey tournament at Niagara University

*Event calendar subject to change. Check the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com for details on these events and additional activities.

Take Networking to the Next Level

The new and improved alumni job board is here! The Eagle’s Nest has partnered with Experience.com, a leader in the field of career placement, to launch our new job board with more than 800,000 listings. This partnership significantly enhances the features of our online community and provides you with:

• Personalized job matches based on your individual member profile
• The ability to post jobs and job details to the Career Center
• Career guidance, including articles, blogs, industry insight, as well as personalized content based on your member profile

• Networking capabilities for business WebCards, mentoring and résumés
• A portfolio tool to define accomplishments, recount personal experiences and upload files that demonstrate qualities and skills beyond what’s listed on a résumé

Alumni Jobs is free of charge, but is available only to registered members of the Eagle’s Nest community. If you have already registered, you can use your same user name and password to log in to the system. If you have not registered, the process is a simple one and takes about two minutes to create your account.

Visit the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com and check out your new job board today!

Buffalo-Niagara Chapter
Nancy Langer ’78
716-836-5188
nnlanger@aol.com
Shannon Bloomquist, ’07
716-316-5873
shannon.m.bloomquist@gmail.com

Central New York Chapter
Marty Byrne, ’78
315-424-7139
Byrneirish7@aol.com
Lisa Sparks, ’95
315-622-3443 or 607-316-1884
Lisa.Sparks@Hilton.com

Central Maryland Chapter
Maureen Becker, ’90
410-744-2400
maureen@ipmba.org

Charlotte Chapter
Jason Stein, ’93
704-332-8407
jstein@carolina.rr.com

Chicago Chapter
“Windy City Purple Eagles”
Lavisse Smith, ’75
630-410-8597
Lavisse.Smith@jostens.com

Cleveland Chapter
Timothy Carroll ’84
216-479-8655
tcarroll@ssd.com
Mary Lou Markowski, ’90
mlmarkowski@roadrunner.com

Delaware Valley Chapter
Ashleigh Cirilla, ’02
585-766-1690
acirilla7@yahoo.com
Frank Fiannaca, ’85
856-665-5600
ffiannaca@usapayrollnj.com

Rochester Chapter
Mike Moll, ’89
585-924-2414
mmoll2@rochester.rr.com
Dianne Moll, ’89
585-924-2414
dmoll@admin.rochester.edu

Tri-State Chapter
Michelle Vandeloo, ’01
917-685-1675
michelle.vandeloo@aig.com

Washington National Capital Chapter
Paul McCarthy, ’60
703-931-6478
paulmccarthy@earthlink.net
Did you know that photos of alumni events from around the country can be found on the Eagle’s Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com? Just click on Photo Gallery to see your old friends!

classnotes
CA&S = College of Arts & Sciences
CBA = College of Business Administration
CE = College of Education
CN = College of Nursing
CH = College of Hospitality & Tourism Management
ITHRA = Institute of Travel, Hotel & Restaurant Administration (pre-CH)
TTT = Transportation, Travel & Tourism (pre-ITHRA)

1950s Donald DeLutis, ’56 (CBA/General Business), left, San Francisco, took part in the Summer National Senior Games at Stanford University, the largest multisporting event in the history of the Bay Area. He was a part of the NorCal Sharks, a basketball team competing in the 75-79 age division.

Walter Engels, ’59 (CA&S), and his wife, Mary Jo (Cofrancesco) Engels, ’61 (CN), Garden City, N.J., were elected trustees of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., for a second year.

1960s Mama Kathleen Flaherty-Robb, ’68 (CN), West Linn, Ore., retired from Oregon Health Services University in 2008. She consulted with the University of Michigan School of Nursing from 2008 to 2009 before beginning her new role as chief nursing information officer at University of Michigan Health Care System in Ann Arbor, Mich., in September.

Glenn G. Viele, ’69 (CBA/Accounting), Albany, N.Y., retired from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance after 20 years as a tax processing manager. He has been a CPA since 1976.

1970s Richard J. Herdlein, ’70 (CA&S), Snyder, N.Y., was selected for a Fulbright Specialists project in France at the Catholic University of Lille in October.

Kenneth P. Giambattista, ’71 (CBA), Las Vegas, has retired from the gaming industry after a 28-year career.

John J. Plant, ’73 (CE), Brooklyn, N.Y., received the FDNY Capt. Timothy Stackpole Award at the Great Irish Fair 2009 in Coney Island this past September.

Frank N. Ingegno, ’76 (TTT), Carmel, Ind., was promoted from United Airlines airbus aircraft landing gear and hydraulic systems engineer to flight operations engineer. His responsibilities include ensuring airline minimum equipment list procedures meet FAA requirements and managing special engineering projects.

1980s Bernadette (Gaughan) DePrez, ’81 (CN), Ooltewah, Tenn., is serving as the chief nurse and operations officer at SkyRidge Medical Center.

Gerard Sclafani, ’81 (TTT), Brooklyn, N.Y., has been promoted to the position of corporate director of travel industry sales with Rosewood Hotels & Resorts.

Jim Connolly, ’82 (CA&S/Social Science), Aurora, Ohio, has accepted the position of senior vice president — retail division, with Technical Consumer Products, Inc.

Frank Lupisella Jr., ’83 (CBA/Accounting), Basking Ridge, N.J., was appointed to the board of trustees for the Wellness Community of Central New Jersey, an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people affected by cancer.

Arthur Bentley, ’84 (CA&S/History), Pleasantville, N.Y., was appointed to the new position of director of business development by J.J. Baker & Bro. Inc. He will work on strategic initiatives designed to drive the company’s customer-focused profitable growth.

Chris R. Inzinga, ’89 (CA&S/International Studies), Webster, N.Y., was promoted to manager of business strategy of the global business and strategic marketing group at the Xerox Corp. He was also elected to a three-year term on the Webster School Board of Education in July 2009.

1990s Jennifer (Jackson) Pierce, ’90 (CA&S), Niagara Falls, N.Y., was promoted from metals group manager to laboratory/operations manager at Test America in January 2009.

Joseph M. Falbo Jr., ’91 (CBA/Accounting), Grand Island, N.Y., was installed as secretary/treasurer by the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants in May 2009. He is also a tax partner with Tronconi Segarra & Associates, servicing the firm’s three offices in the Western New York area.
Stephen Cook, ’92 (CA&S/Biology), Fairport, N.Y., was recently selected president of the Rochester Board of the American Heart Association.

Jennifer (Park) Missland, ’93 (CN), Cheektowaga, N.Y., obtained her CCRN certification in May 2009.

Wendy (Astride) Adams, ’94 (CBA/Management), North Tonawanda, N.Y., was re-elected to a second term as president of the American Business Women’s Association, Niagara Falls chapter, in June 2009.

Kathy (Eddy) Gorton, ’95 (CN), Watertowntwn, Pa., received the Nursing Excellence Award at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa., in recognition of her dedication and compassion for her patients. She is a surgical oncologist coordinator.

Bridget (Foran) Lujan, ’95 (CA&S/Theater Performance), Juneau, Alaska, has been promoted to director in the tax division for Elgee, Rehfeld & Mertz.

Abigail Mitchell, ’95 (CN), Youngstown, N.Y., wrote a dissertation that became a pilot program at DeGraff Memorial Hospital in North Tonawanda, N.Y. The dissertation, “A formal mentoring program for the novice nurse,” was later adopted by Buffalo General and Women’s and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo as well. She recently received the WNY Nurse of Distinction Award for 2009 and serves as the president of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Gamma Theta chapter.

Phil DiPofi, ’96 (CBA), Castle Rock, Colo., was promoted to chief banking officer for COBank, Greenwood Village, Colo.

Barbara Panza, ’96 (CA&S), Richardson, Texas, had an article, “His Word Was His Bond: The Role of the Oath in Thomas More’s Trial,” published in the June 2009 issue of the academic journal Moreana.

Leslie Good, ’99 (CA&S/Math), Rochester, N.Y., graduated in May 2009 with an Ed.D. in teaching and curriculum from the University of Rochester. She is currently the director of STEM at Penfield Central School District in Penfield, N.Y.

Sabrina Nuciarone, ’99 (CBA), Kiel, Wisc., is an adjunct faculty member at Fox Valley Technical College, teaching written communication.

2000s Lee V. Pierce, ’02 (CE/Elementary Education), Lockport, N.Y., was appointed principal of Sheridan Hill Elementary School in the Clarence Central School District.

Gretchen Dizer, ’05 (CA&S/Theater Performance), Albany, N.Y., has been a member of the New York Lottery draw team since June 2008.

Elineth (Sanz) Moreira, ’05 (CA&S/Criminal Justice), Harrison, N.Y., graduated from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in May 2009. She was on the dean’s list and earned a certificate of merit in interviewing and counseling.

Kathryn Sarzyniak, ’05 (CE/English), North Tonawanda, N.Y., graduated in December 2008 from Buffalo State College with a master’s degree in literacy education as a literacy specialist 5-12 and was a finalist for the college’s Action-Based Research Award. She recently wrote and published her first book, “Attitudes Affecting the Black-White Achievement Gap,” which was based on her honors thesis for Niagara University.

Cara Turner, ’05 (CH/Tourism Management), Lewiston, N.Y., has been named special events manager at the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

Jennifer Maria (Kemak) Brown, ’06 (CE/Math), Manassas, Va., received her master’s degree in educational leadership from George Mason University, Fairfax, Va., in May 2009.

Stacey McQuade, ’08 (CE/Mental Health Counseling), Majuro, M.H., recently accepted the position of coordinator of the counseling certificate program at the College of the Marshall Islands, a small country five degrees north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean.

Julie Metz, ’09 (CBA/Accounting), Lockport, N.Y., has accepted the position of staff accountant with Gaines Kriner Elliott.

Brenna Zerfas, ’09 (CBA/Accounting), West Valley, N.Y., has accepted the position of staff accountant with Gaines Kriner Elliott.

Placement and Credentials Files

The Office of Career Development is reviewing its archive of placement/credentials files to ensure the information is accurate and to provide the best possible service to alumni.

Effective Sept. 1, 2009, credentials files established with the university that have had no activity (e.g., updating materials, requesting to send credentials, etc.) for 10 years or more will be destroyed and discarded.

Alumni who established credentials files in 1999 or earlier and wish to keep their files active may do so by submitting a signed, written request by Dec. 31, 2009, to the Office of Career Development, P.O. Box 2041, Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-2041.

The career development office provides a wide range of services to alumni, including résumé critiques, practice interviews, career counseling and more. See www.niagara.edu/career for more information.

militarynews

Maj. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, ’76, Ft. Myers, Va., was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, a certificate of appreciation from President Barack Obama, and his official retirement orders in a ceremony before more than 200 people at the Pentagon in July.


marriages


Margaret Mary Battaglia, ’95, Fairport, N.Y., to Sebastian Curatolo, Pittsford, N.Y., May 2, 2009.
Fond Memories


Keanna Maxwell, ’00, Fredericksburg, Va., to Kenneth Norman, ’01, Queens, N.Y., May 15, 2009.


Christopher Michael Brogan, ’02, Baldwin, N.Y., to Taturi Cava, Baldwin, May 17, 2009.


Felicia Coffey, ’09, Mesa, Ariz., to Adam Kinney, March 31, 2009.

Victoria Derby, ’09, Bowling Green, Ohio, to Richard Carhart, July 4, 2009.

birthsadoptions

Sandra Paul, ’77, North Tonawanda, N.Y., adopted brother and sister, Nicolas David and Wendy Vanessa, from Bogota, Columbia, this past spring.

To Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pierce (Jennifer Jackson, ’90), Niagara Falls, N.Y., a son, Anderson John, May 9, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bucklin, ’91, Geneva, N.Y., a son, Matthew Joseph, June 1, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Justin O’Brien (Krista Holtby, ’93), Westminster, Md., a son, Preston Robert, Jan. 28, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Crago (Victoria Roty, ’93), North Tonawanda, N.Y., twin sons, Mason William and Chase Edward, July 19, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Luis Torres (Renee Asplin, ’94), Orlando, Fla., a son, Austin Peter, March 5, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tony Overy (Pam Olewine, ’94), Macedon, N.Y., a daughter, Marisa Emily, Sept. 1, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Leskiw (Barbara Panza, ’96), Richardson, Texas, a son, Henry Austin, July 23, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Todd Galusha (Leslie Reisinger, ’96), Rochester, N.Y., a daughter, Lucia Marie, July 28, 2009.


Club football player Ed Renica, ’73, with coach Roy Crysler in this picture circa 1970.
To Mr. and Mrs. Tonra (Kelley Butler, '98), Avon, N.Y., a daughter, Matilda Margaret, May 13, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Duane Rinkus, '98 (Shannon Graham, '98), Denver, N.C., a son, Beckett Dennis, May 4, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Sacco (Jenny Lannier, '98), Liverpool, N.Y., a daughter, Lauren Jennifer, June 28, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. AJ Melanson, '99, Atlanta, a daughter, Caroline, May 8, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Steven Goforth, '00 (Rachel Beck, '00), Rochester, N.Y., a daughter, Abigail Grace, Aug. 7, 2009.

To Steve Shragge and Michelle Crawley, '00, Ottawa, Ontario, a son, Samuel Peter, Aug. 12, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bradley Jr., (Carly Crisafulli, '00), Niagara Falls, N.Y., a daughter, Teaghan Marie, Aug. 20, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rob Agan (Erica Doland, '00), Elmira, N.Y., a son, Trevor Robert, March 11, 2009.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tom Leonardo, '00 (Kristin Wolff, '00), Rochester, N.Y., a daughter, Addison Elizabeth, Sept. 4, 2009.

To Renee Marie Neward, '01, Williamsville, N.Y., a son, Jackson Andrew Kenneth, April 30, 2009.


Michael Brown, '71, Santa Barbara, Calif., Sept. 9, 2009.


We Would Love
to Hear From You
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It’s never been easier to join the fun! Check out the new way to connect and communicate with your friends on the Eagle’s Nest, Niagara’s online alumni community, at www.niagaraalumni.com. Groups have arrived at the Eagle’s Nest. They are very similar to what you find on Facebook groups, so you’ll be able to:

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- Post your thoughts via the White Board
- Chat instantly with other group members
- RSVP to group events
- Subscribe to updates about other group members.

So visit the Eagle’s Nest and get started today … everyone is waiting for you.

with sympathy

To Lorraine (LaBarber) McInerney, ’54, San Jose, Calif., on the death of her brother, Jerald J. LaBarber, ’52, April 16, 2009.

To Marilyn (Forker) McCarthy, ’60, Buffalo, N.Y., on the death of her son, Charles McCarthy, Aug. 24, 2009.


To Patty (Salanger) Costello, ’81, Syracuse, N.Y., on the death of her father, John Salanger, Oct. 15, 2009.

To Mary Anne (Cali) Pappalardo, ’81, Youngstown, N.Y., on the death of her mother, Anne Cali, July 24, 2009.

To Brendan Dowd, ’82, Kenmore, N.Y., on the death of his father, James Dowd, Sept. 12, 2009.

To Colleen (Colpoys) Dowd, ’82, Kenmore, N.Y., on the death of her father-in-law, James Dowd, Sept. 12, 2009.


To Colleen (Salanger) Scherer, ’85, Syracuse, N.Y., on the death of her father, John Salanger, Oct. 15, 2009.

To Carol (Salanger) Harris, Syracuse, N.Y., on the death of her father, John Salanger, Oct. 15, 2009.


To Nicholas Moley, ’08, Newfane, N.Y., on the death of his sister, Kristina Moley, July 21, 2009.

ROTC Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 2010 ROTC Hall of Fame class are now being accepted. Nominees must have graduated from NU and participated in NU ROTC with military service ending in an honorable discharge, retirement or funeral. In addition, one or more of the subsequent prerequisites must be met:

- Reached a high-level position of authority, either civilian or military, that is worthy of recognition.

To make a Hall of Fame nomination, please send a narrative of the individual’s achievements, any corroborating documents, and a 5”x7” photo of the nominee (digital preferred) to: Master Sgt. Ian P. Bush, P.O. Box 2024, Niagara University, N.Y. 14109, or e-mail to ibush@niagara.edu no later than May 1, 2010. Please include contact information with your nomination. Awardees and/ or their family members will be notified in June and the induction ceremonies will be held during Alumni Weekend 2010.
The 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea, gave a clue that significant transformation had changed the face of the country. In the early 1950s, as we looked over our shoulders boarding the troop transports, the devastation seemed unredeemable. The buildings were derelict and so were the society and the people who composed it.

Fast forward 50 plus years. While revisiting Seoul as the guest of the Korean War veterans, I saw the tangible results of freedom in the hands of a people whose diligence knows no bounds. I was immediately struck by the massive buildings, both commercial and residential, and the infrastructure of roads, bridges, utilities and all the support systems necessary for an American-like lifestyle.

Make no mistake about it — the Korean people have aligned themselves with the West in general, and America in particular. For example, I didn’t see a single residential window without an air conditioner in it. The business dress of the male population is right out of Wall Street, while the women go to work fashionably dressed and favor designer jeans and stiletto heels for recreational wear. I was so impressed that I didn’t know what to look at next.

The occasion for all this was the commemoration of the onset of the Korean War, June 25, 1950. During the ceremony, Lee Myung-bak, the president of Korea, presented veterans of the United States (including me), Belgium and Columbia with the Korean Medal for Peace. His emotional presentation included an expression of his gratitude for all that the United States has done for his country over the years, starting with giving them the gift of freedom. Many diplomats and military representatives in the consortium allied to them, including the American hierarchy, were in attendance. After the ceremony, a wreath was laid at the American monument.

During my time in Seoul, I visited the Korean War Memorial, where I spotted the names of our Niagara KIAs on their respective state plaques. I also went to Panmunjom and the Truce Building, the landing beaches of Inchon, now occupied by the docks and buildings of a busy port. Unfortunately, I was not able to visit my primary battle site, “Old Baldy.” Believe it or not, the trenches and bunkers have been dismantled and 50 years of growth have made the scene almost pastoral.

I encourage any Korean War veterans to consider a trip to Seoul. It will put your life in proper perspective, regardless of your achievements in the civilian world. If you served in Korea from June 25, 1950, through Dec. 31, 1953, you are eligible to take the tour, which is organized by Military Historical Tours (703-590-1295).
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You never write …

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- **NUws and Events:** get the latest news from the Ridge and register for upcoming alumni events.
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- **And much, much more:** message boards, photo albums, and chats!

To register on the Eagle’s Nest, visit [www.niagaraalumni.com](http://www.niagaraalumni.com) and click “First-time Login”* in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Follow the on-screen prompts and you’ll be reconnecting with old friends in no time!

**Call us at 716-286-8787 or e-mail us at alumni@niagara.edu with any questions.**

*Your first-time login code is located above your name on the address label above.