“We should take as a maxim never to be surprised at current difficulties, no more than at a passing breeze, because with a little patience we shall see them disappear. Time changes everything.” — St. Vincent de Paul
Inside this issue

FEATURES
9  A True Niagaran
10 Remembering Bro ...  
12 Supporting Vincentians
13 In Their Own Words
14 A Sage on Monteagle Ridge
19 First Sinicola Memorial Scholarship Awarded
21 Engineering a Legacy

DEPARTMENTS
2  Opening Remarks
4  On the Ridge
8  Living the Mission
22 News from the Nest
26 Alumni Stories
32 Catching Up
41 The Last Word

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Time has a way of passing quickly. It’s difficult to imagine that it’s been 13 years since my inauguration as the 25th president of this wonderful university. A few months ago, as I prepared to announce to the Niagara community that I would be stepping down as president, I was flooded with thoughts of just how much has changed on our campus since that March day in the year 2000, and all that has happened as we all worked together for the transformation of Niagara University.

Back then, we were planning to make major technological improvements to St. Vincent’s Hall, necessary renovations that taught us how to be resourceful in our fundraising. Today, we are grateful for having completed an $80 million capital campaign, easily the most transformative in Niagara University’s storied history. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this extraordinary campaign, for you have helped to make Niagara University better and stronger.

The goals that we set and accomplished over the last 13 years began and ended with our students always in mind. Our students have been our focus, and our labor is for their benefit. We are educating more young people than ever before. Compared with our statistics from 1999, the amount of freshmen at Niagara University has increased by 11 percent, transfer numbers are up 47 percent, and there has been a 48 percent spike in those enrolled in our outstanding graduate programs. Serving more students has been one of our primary objectives, and it will continue to be despite the mounting challenges we face as an institution of higher education. Thank you for the support you have lent us in this regard. We hope that you will continue to help us as we strive to make a positive impact on more students.

A significant factor in the growth of Niagara’s enrollment is the superb quality of our academic programs. We are a leader in active, integrative learning, effectively combining the theory of the classroom with the reality of the workplace. Our reputation for scholarly excellence is routinely praised in prominent national publications such as U.S. News & World Report, the Princeton Review, and Colleges of Distinction. This is a tribute to the excellence of our students and faculty, the depth and breadth of our learning communities, and the willingness of our alumni to contribute to the Niagara experience in so many ways. Niagara University is indebted to all of you in this regard.

Also weighing on our ability to attract students is our community’s Vincentian enthusiasm to educate all of God’s people, regardless of their backgrounds. One of the cornerstones of “The Promise of Niagara” was to generate funding for endowment and student scholarships, something we were successful in doing to the tune of more than $9 million. As a result, over 98 percent of our current students receive some sort of financial assistance, allowing us to bring talented, bright and promising young people to Niagara University. Without the Niagara Fund and endowed scholarships, many of these individuals might not have the opportunity to attend Niagara. We thank you, our alumni and friends, for your outstanding help and generosity.

As a Vincentian university, we have always promised to be faithful to our mission, to be a Catholic and Vincentian university. We are faithful to Catholic teaching, and we try to emphasize Catholic social teaching in many different ways. We seek to inspire our students to serve others, especially those who are among the neediest and most marginalized. We teach that giving back to society is a spiritual value that flows from the long and respected tradition of Catholic social teaching. Our nationally recognized, award-winning service-learning programs provide evidence of our commitment to helping others in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. In 1999, our students performed 35,000 hours of community service. Last year, they contributed more than 56,000. Thank you for remaining committed to our mission.

There are so many people to thank at this particular time that I cannot do everyone justice in the limited space here. Just please know that all members of our Niagara University community appreciate you, every person reading this, for you have each played a role in one of the happiest and most successful times in the history of your alma mater.

Nothing important or great can be accomplished without the hard work of each member of the university community, but much can be achieved when we work together, as hard as we can, all the time. As I have said often, more will always be demanded of us, and we should be generous.

I am happy to say that I will be able to stay on at Niagara University, working in ways that I can assist the new president, the administration and all members of our community. NU has been my “home” for over 40 years, and it will continue to be for many years to come, God willing.

At this particular time, I would like once again to invite you to come visit Niagara University, and to feel free to let me know your thoughts and recommendations. Just give me a call, schedule a visit, or contact me at jll@niagara.edu.

Joseph L. Levesque, C.M.
President
ON THE RIDGE

Dr. Timothy Ireland, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Niagara University, co-authored an article that has been selected as one of the 10 best violence research publications of 2011 by the Psychology of Violence. The article, “Intergenerational continuities and discontinuities in intimate partner violence: A two-generational prospective study,” is listed in the July 2012 edition of the multidisciplinary research journal.

The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president, signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment on Nov. 15, 2012. The pledge signifies the university’s plan to eliminate the campus’s net emissions of greenhouse gases over a period of time.

“Signing this pledge is just one measure of Niagara University’s commitment to creating a sustainable campus community,” said Father Levesque. “We pride ourselves in modeling to environmental awareness in hopes that our students, alumni and friends will join us in addressing the human causes of global warming.”

Eleven students enrolled in NU’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management were involved in several activities at Super Bowl XLVII, such as helping out with the NFL Experience, working on Super Bowl Boulevard, and offering general hospitality services on location. In addition, two alumni had a role during the Feb. 3 game as well: Derek Zeller, ’12, was in the SuperDome taking photos of the event for a website that’s affiliated with the NFL Players Association, and Carmen Ruby Floyd, ’00, appeared in the Tide “Miracle Stain” spot (she’s the Baltimore fan). The commercial can be viewed at http://youtu.be/YoQfBwraMNg.

Assefa Beyene Bassa, a Ph.D. candidate at Andhra University in India and a lecturer at Dilla University in Ethiopia, became Niagara University’s first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence this fall. As a visiting foreign professor for the semester, Assefa worked closely with several sectors on Niagara’s campus, in particular with the College of Education.

“We are thrilled to have the chance to learn from Mr. Bassa, and we are confident that this will lay the groundwork for additional opportunities to internationalize our teaching, scholarship and service,” said the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., NU president. “This initiative directly relates to Niagara’s strategic plan, which identifies the creation of global and international learning opportunities as an important facet of our liberal arts-based education.”

Marek Gawel, an international student from Reutlingen University, Germany, who graduated from Niagara University with his MBA in May of 2011, was selected as the Food Consulting Society International’s JuniorChampion for 2012. Marek’s winning concept of a hybrid hotel and hostel, the “i-hostel,” incorporates the vision “individual & green” and predominantly targets young customers. Marek is currently the general manager of the Best Western Premier Bellevue Rheinhotel in Boppard, Germany, which has been owned by his family for five generations.

This fall, Niagara University received several outstanding recognitions, including being one of only 10 Catholic colleges and universities in New York state — and 96 nationwide — to be selected to the 2012-13 list of top colleges by Colleges of Distinction. The university was also listed among the best colleges and universities in the North, according to U.S. News and World Report, which also recognized Niagara in the area of service learning, and as one of the best colleges in the Northeast, according to the nationally known education services company The Princeton Review.

Thanks to a $299,955 federal grant secured by the World Trade Center Buffalo Niagara, a new resource aimed at helping small businesses secure federal contracts will be housed at Niagara University. The Niagara Procurement Technical Assistance Center will provide mentoring, training and technical assistance to help small businesses in Niagara win contracts from the Defense Department and General Services Administration.

Five individuals were honored during Niagara University’s annual Vincentian Heritage Convocation, held Sept. 27, 2012.

Dr. Melvin B. Dyster, ’48, and Frank Layden, ’55, were inducted into the Niagara Legacy Alumni of Distinction, while Daniel M. Guariglia Jr., ’75, Niagara’s director of facility services, and John K. Spanbauer, ’83, M.S.Ed.’93, director of the Kiernan Center, were honored with the university’s Vincentian Mission Award. The Rev. John Freund, C.M., received an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy at the event, which takes place during the university’s celebration of Vincentian Heritage Week and recognizes the extraordinary contributions of university employees, alumni and community leaders.

Fourteen men and women received certificates of completion in December at the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy’s 54th graduation ceremony — its third on the Niagara University campus.

The NCLEA, Niagara County’s only approved training program for law enforcement officers, began holding classes at NU on Feb. 28, 2011, making Niagara the only four-year, private college in New York to host a full-time police academy. The university’s Office of Continuing Education and criminal justice department undertake coordination of the program on Niagara’s campus.

Niagara University presented the St. Vincent de Paul Award to the Castellani family and to Harold, ’48, and Rose Brown and their children at its ninth annual President’s Scholarship Dinner in November. The award is conferred upon individuals “whose vision, accomplishments and good works reflect the life and ministry of St. Vincent de Paul.”

Christopher Ross, ’82, a member of Niagara University’s Board of Trustees, and his wife, Mary, ’82, served as the chair couple for the dinner, where it was announced that the university had surpassed the $1 million mark in net revenue raised for student scholarships since the event was instituted in 2004.

Congratulations to the 200 graduates of the College of Education’s Niagara University in Ontario program, who received their diplomas Jan. 30 in Toronto. Stuart Auty, president of Canadian Safe Schools Network, provided the commencement address for the event, during which the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., received a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey with his name and the number 13, commemorating his 13 years as Niagara’s president, and the 2013 Ontario commencement. The jersey was a gift from the Ontario program’s students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Eduard R. Tsekanovskii was presented with a special issue of the refereed mathematics journal Mathematische Nachrichten by its editors to commemorate his 75th birthday. All contributed articles reflected the many scientific interests of the Niagara University math professor. The editorial page of this special issue says, “We would fail in our attempt to honor Eduard’s wide range of achievements over the years if we would not also emphasize his beaming and yet so charming personality, his extraordinary sense of humor, his humility and his unique capacity for long-lasting friendships, which reach out to so many corners of the globe.”
Thomas Crowley was named director of athletics for the Purple Eagles in October, bringing nearly three decades of coaching, business and administrative experience to Niagara. Tom previously served as the associate athletic director-internal operations at Butler University for the past five years, where he was responsible for business operations, budget oversight and facilities, as well as game and event operations. He also played a key role in the development of the strategic plan for Butler’s athletic operations. Before joining the Bulldogs, Tom held athletic development positions at Temple University and the University of Vermont. He began his coaching career as an assistant men’s basketball coach at Penn in 1979, helping the Quakers to the NCAA Final Four that year. He also held coaching positions at Xavier, Rutgers, Stanford, St. Michael’s College (Vt.), and Christian Brothers University (Tenn.).

Father Levesque was presented with a Service Award from the Turkish Cultural Center at Buffalo and the Peace Islands Institute in recognition of exemplary services and contribution to the service learning education in fighting poverty. The center was founded in December 2005 by the Turkish-American community in Buffalo to increase awareness of Turkish culture, music, literature and arts in the society; to build strong bridges between Turkish and American peoples based on respect, understanding and tolerance; and to help Turkish immigrants and refugees adapt to life in Buffalo and America.

Dr. Kalen Churcher, assistant professor of communication studies, received a Promising Professor Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, a national honor given to young faculty and graduate students who demonstrate excellence and innovation in teaching. Dr. Churcher received the award during AEJMC’s national conference, where she also presented as a member of the Promising Professors and Distinguished Educator Panel.

Dr. Churcher was also selected for the Scripps Howard Academic Leadership Academy by Louisiana State University’s Manship School of Mass Communication, which brings up-and-coming mass communication professionals and scholars together with seasoned administrators to share administrative strategies and insights.

Read more at eagleonline.niagara.edu
Creating Change Through Art

Ashley Vita Verde loves to make people smile. The 2011 Niagara University graduate had ample opportunities to do just that this summer, as the organization she co-founded, Deep Roots Niagara, elicited laughs, gasps, and yes, plenty of smiles, from tourists and locals alike on Old Falls Street in Niagara Falls.

Ashley and her business partner, Rachel Macklin Olszewski, ’12, brought a variety of street performers, including jugglers, fire spinners, aerialists, clowns, and dancers, to downtown Niagara Falls to complement the activities sponsored by Old Falls Street USA and the Hard Rock Café during the main tourist season. One of the highlights of the summer was a side show to celebrate Nik Wallenda’s historic tightrope walk over Niagara Falls on June 15. Since then, the two young women have been involved with a number of similar projects in the Western New York area, including organizing a circus for Slyboots School of Art and Music and participating in a “salon series” of Friday night performances for the Alt’ Theatre in Buffalo. They also plan to develop an afterschool theatre program at the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center.

Deep Roots originated out of an idea Ashley had to open an arts academy and was officially launched in fall 2011, when she and Rachel worked with the Niagara Falls Aquarium to produce a Halloween-themed show for its annual “Halloween Happening” event. That led to a second collaboration with the aquarium: The Spirit of the Sea, an original production created for the aquarium’s “SEAsonings of Niagara” fundraiser. The show featured sea lions, synchronized swimmers, dancers, and marine mammal trainers.

While many of the performances are intended for children, the topics they tackle are anything but lighthearted. The Spirit of the Sea, for example, was intended as “a commentary on pollution of the sea,” says Rachel. The work they performed for Slyboots told the story of a young man who was in search of eternal life. And the activities they hosted for the Old Falls Street Kids Club encouraged participants to become good community citizens.

“The idea is to use the art to inspire people to do something different,” says Ashley, who performs in Deep Roots productions. “I’m trying to create works of art that will inspire people to stop using disposable plastics, or littering, or Styrofoam. I’m trying to draw awareness to these things.”

Deep Roots’ mission is no less ambitious — it strives to use art to “achieve spectacular things,” incite “positive social change” and inspire an “artistic renaissance,” with the ultimate goal of transforming Niagara Falls into an “international hub of art and creativity.”

In pursuit of this goal, Ashley and Rachel draw upon the skills they learned in their theatre classes and reach out to Niagara University students and to local performers to get involved with their projects.

“The thing about this area is that there are so many talented people in search of work, so we really strive to hire local people,” says Rachel. Rachel, who handles Deep Roots’ behind-the-scenes administration in addition to performing, also attended an “Entrepreneur Boot Camp” co-sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts and New York University for a crash course in the skills needed to run a successful art organization.

This past summer was an “experimental” one, according to the two women, but it served as an ideal launching pad for what they hope will become a community of people who want to revitalize Niagara Falls. They envision planting gardens, painting murals, and even developing an art district. These things, they believe, will give college graduates, particularly those from Niagara University, “a reason to stay,” says Ashley.

“When we say we want to transform the city,” adds Rachel, “we really mean it.”
For more than a decade, theatre students have had the opportunity to spend their summers in London, where they’d take several academic courses, attend professional theatre productions, and visit historical sites.

This year’s study-abroad program gave the students an added dimension: using devised theatre projects to work with mentally and physically challenged adults and children.

The idea was developed with the assistance of Lauren Arena-McCann, ’04, a freelance applied dramatist living in Cornwall, England. Lauren, who received a master’s degree from England’s University of Exeter in applied theatre, had visited NU’s study-abroad students in London the year before to discuss her career and to offer “insider” tips on making the most of their international experience. She so inspired the students and British faculty member Valerie Doulton that Valerie invited her to develop an applied theatre module for the following year’s group of students.

“The reason to incorporate applied drama was to extend the students’ experience of how drama can be used,” Lauren says. “Applied drama leads to diverse career opportunities. With this knowledge, a student need not only think of a performance career, but could think of using performance in a very broad context.”

Lauren tapped into her varied resources to create a curriculum that enabled students to participate in a variety of therapeutic settings and activities, including a visual arts drop-in session for adults with mental health problems, a theatre workshop that explored issues of stress and anxiety, and dance and movement sessions for both adults with learning disabilities and children. They also led two mini-workshops for people with dementia and their caregivers at a Memory Café.

The programs were coordinated through Arts for Health Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, one of the United Kingdom’s leading arts and health organizations.

“I wanted them to see that the method of applied drama/theatre exists outside the commercial heart of London,” Lauren says. “I wanted to show them that singing, rhythm and music are prevalent throughout the English countryside as a way for at-risk children and adults to build relationships, explore new ways of emotional expression and learn how to fit in their own environment.”

The students conducted research for background and best practice information that aided them in preparing for their activities. After, they wrote reflection papers on their experiences and how what they did affected the people with whom they worked.

Michael Wachowiak, ’13, Grace Turner, ’13, and Andrew Adolf, ’13, found that their work with applied drama was a mutually beneficial experience.

“When we began this project two months ago, none of us really knew anything about applied drama, especially nothing about the marginalized groups we would be working with,” they wrote in their paper. “Over those two months we became informed and excited about these groups and getting to work with them. Through our work with them, we also became more informed about ourselves.”

Brianna Lanoye, ’13, also discovered that applied drama had as much of an impact on her as it did the people with whom she worked.

“After this experience I felt like I finally gained some concept of what I am ultimately intended to do with my life,” she says. “Planning and researching how to execute a workshop we created and then finally acting on it and seeing it help others was an amazing feeling; one that I would love to have in my life every day.”

Because this first-time program was so successful, future theatre study-abroad sessions will incorporate the applied drama module.

“I think it’s a great component to have, and it’s also in keeping with Niagara’s mission,” says Dr. Sharon Watkinson who, along with Valerie Doulton and Stacie Withers, another member of the British faculty, developed the theatre London study-abroad program. “This is one other area where our students could use their theatre skills to do something for the world.”

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▲ At the Helston Memory Café. NU theatre student Renee Landrigan, right, helped lead participants through a series of fun and easy physical exercises.

▲ Back row from left: Brianna Lanoye, Andrew Adolf, Celine Keefe, Sarah Hunt, project coordinator for AFHC, Michael Wachowiak, Jayne Howard, director of AFHC, Steven Foote, Grace Turner, Dave Spychalski and Megan Kemple. Front row from left, Renee Landrigan, Keirsten Lynne Greifenstein, and tutor Lauren Arena-McCann, ’04.
Dorothy Gould, M.S.Ed.’66, longtime chair of the English department at Niagara University, passed away on Nov. 16, 2012, at the age of 83.

Dorothy loved life. We will miss her, her chats about her children and grandchildren, her energy and enthusiasm, and the twinkle in her eye — always the perfect lady, and always fully immersed and engaged in everything she did.

Dr. Laurence Boxer, professor of computer and information sciences, recalls that Dorothy was the first woman to be president of Temple Beth Eth, following in the steps of her father, Gene Lunken, and her brother, Paul Lunken. At Temple events, she was often in the center of an extended family, with her husband, Lester, and her own children, Laurie Cohen Blinder, ’76, Jeffrey Cohen, ’81, Keith Cohen, and Wendy Kohlenberg. She was very proud of the link between the Jewish community and NU, exemplified by Marcus Brown’s generous gift in 1882, which is honored by a plaque in Gallagher Center. Indeed, to know Dorothy was to be part of her family, for she inquired of everyone’s welfare, encouraged everyone’s success, and believed the best of each person with whom she came into contact.

With warmth, style, and an insistence on good public speaking skills, Dorothy served as everything from president, to board member, to “go-to person” for the Highland Avenue Redevelopment Plan, Occidental Chemical Corp. (OxyChem), the Hebrew Benevolent Loan Association, the Bay Beach Home Owners Association, Beth Israel’s Sisterhood, and the Niagara Falls Chapter of Hadassah. She gave generously of her advice and skills, always promoting reading, the life of the mind, and the ability of each person to find his or her God-given gifts.

Dr. William Martin, associate professor of English, recalls that both he and Dorothy were morning people, arriving on campus well before 8 a.m. They would often stop to chat about Dorothy’s children and grandchildren, and their many accomplishments and new ventures, or about Niagara’s latest theatre production or basketball game. Dorothy was one of the Purple Eagles’ most avid fans, a season-ticket holder who rarely missed a home game, and who was sought out by some of NU’s most illustrious players, like Calvin Murphy, ’70, and Marshall Wingate, ’72, both on the courts and in the classroom. When she retired from Niagara after 37 years, the basketball team retired number 37 from their lineup of jerseys and gave Dorothy her very own jersey.

Dorothy’s love of sports was matched by her passion for the theatre. On campus, she performed in a number of University Players productions, including Cocktail Party, a faculty-one-act play; Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Martha); The Diary of Anne Frank (Mrs. Van Doam); and The Chalk Garden (Ativia). Off campus, Dorothy was well-known in thespian circles as well, and played the leading role in the Niagara Falls Little Theatre production of The Taming of the Shrew.

Dr. Martin also notes that “we meet remarkably few people whose example makes us better human beings. Dorothy Gould was one of those persons. I recall one of our morning conversations when she told me, ’If you want to do good for someone and more than two people know about it, you are doing it for the wrong reason.’ I have never forgotten her words, and I can only imagine the number of persons Dorothy might have helped over the course of her lifetime.”

However, if Dorothy was one of the two people who knew about your good deeds, others were sure to hear of them shortly — good news traveled fast when Dorothy got hold of it.

Dr. Rita Pollard, adjunct professor of English, Dr. Nancy McGlen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and others observed the breadth of Dorothy Gould’s interests and activities: bowling, tennis, quilting, knitting, crocheting, baking, spending summers at her lake home in Canada, cruising, dancing at various university galas and fundraisers, and hosting inductions for Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society. Dr. Pollard writes that Dorothy “loved her students. I recall how thrilled she was when the Sigma Tau Delta students presented her with a purple and white quilt on the occasion of her retirement. She admired the design and stitching and promised to hang it in her home in Niagara Falls. I also recall the wonderful kugel she baked for one of the honor society’s brunches. I have that kugel recipe now, in Dorothy’s handwriting, tucked between the pages of my favorite cookbook. Dorothy was simply full of life.”

The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, Niagara’s president, said of his good friend, “Dorothy Gould was a Niagara person through and through. Even though she frequently wore purple, she more importantly gave her heart over to Niagara University.

“Dorothy was a wonderful member of the faculty and family of Niagara University, and she taught us much about how to live one’s life well,” he continued. “Thank you, Dorothy, and thanks to your wonderful family, who so generously shared you with us for so many years.”

Dorothy retired in 2003. In 2009, the English department instituted a new award, named for two of the faculty most active in service: the Gould-Pollard Award for Service to the Department. The award is not offered every year; rather, it is bestowed upon students whose collegiality, service and academic achievement are extraordinary.

Dorothy Gould will be remembered for many years as someone who made Niagara University what it is today.
Brother Augustine Towey, C.M., Ph.D., also known as Denis with one “n,” Augustine, Augie, Gus, Gussie, Gussela, and Bro. Most people remember him as Bro. For me, he was “my” Bro, as he always signed notes or cards or poems to me with “Your” Bro. And so, he became “my” Bro for almost 50 years.

I first met Bro in the fall of 1964. He was my teacher for a course in contemporary literature. During the previous summer, my classmates and I heard through the rumor mill that a new, young Vincentian was being assigned to Niagara. This young Vincentian, only 27 years old, was a Ph.D. candidate in theatre from New York University, a poet, and a published playwright. Also, he had lots of directing experience, including summer stock. His name was Brother Augustine Towey. Needless to say, my interest was piqued.

And so, Brother became my teacher. While I had had many good teachers, Bro was an exceptional teacher, the kind of teacher who made me want to go to class, the kind of teacher who made me want to learn and to absorb everything he was saying. Bro opened my eyes to the likes of such poets as Gerard Manley Hopkins, Emily Dickenson, W.H. Auden, the novelist Murial Sparks, and the playwright Eugene O’Neill, among others.

Bro also introduced my classmates and me to some of the “finer” things in life, such as Manhattans on the rocks, Partager Sauvignon Blanc before dinner, double Grand Marniers after dinner, lobster tails at Ye Old Tavern Restaurant when downtown Niagara Falls was thriving, steaks and lobster dainties at the landmark Clarkson House in Lewiston, and liver pâté a la Augustine.

During late spring of our senior year, my classmates and I wanted to give back, to reciprocate, to show Bro how sophisticated we had become. And so, we planned a grand picnic in the park in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We chose an idyllically verdant section of the park overlooking the lower Niagara River. A couple of us took Bro on a long walk, something he was not normally accustomed to as he always preferred to be driven to his destinations. The others set up the picnic table, adorned with an English lace tablecloth, two sterling silver candelabras, sterling silver place settings (compliments of my mom), Waterford crystal stemware, a loaf of fresh-baked French bread, two bottles of Partager, and a bone china serving platter filled with coq-au-vin (first introduced to us by Bro). When we arrived back from our walk, Bro saw the table from a short distance, candles lit and glowing in the late afternoon sun, and surrounding the table his “gals.” A smile flashed across Bro’s face as he proclaimed us his [Bro]die set, his “crème de la crème.” We knew we had arrived.

After Niagara, my mentor, Bro, encouraged me to go on to graduate school, which I did. I received my master’s degree in speech and drama from the Catholic University of America in June 1968. Two months later, Bro called and said there was an opening in the English department and if I was interested, the position could be mine. Well, how did you say no to Bro?

And so I began teaching at Niagara in the fall of 1968. Bro then became my colleague. Of course, it was not until years later that I realized what was going on in Bro’s devious little mind. His vision was to create a theatre department, beginning with a theatre studies concentration in the English department, and...
Sharon Watkinson and Bro at the 45th Niagara University Theatre Reunion in October 2008.

growing to a full-blown BFA program featuring a conservatory approach to actor-training set within a liberal arts curriculum. Twenty years later, in 1988, approval for our program was granted by the State Education Department. And the rest is history.

Our journey through the years was truly a joy ride, although there were many bumps and curves along the way. Throughout all those years, Bro forged ahead, never taking no for an answer, always taking on new challenges, setting new goals and consistently meeting them with success.

In the early years, when there were just the two of us, we managed to direct and produce two to three shows per year. This was augmented, however, by Bro's brainchild called “The Festival of the Arts,” a two-week intensive exposure to the arts including dance, visual and performing arts, film and cinema, design and architecture and, of course, music. During those years we brought to Niagara's campus legendary actresses such as Lillian Gish and Siobhan McKenna, film and theatre critics John Simon (New York Magazine) and Andrew Saris (The Village Voice), the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, the Alwin Nicolas Dance Theatre, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and so many more individuals and groups. During those years, the festival was the cultural highlight of the spring season, not only for the university community, but also for the Western New York and southern Ontario communities.

Over the course of his career, Bro also successfully forged strong and deep friendships with such theatrical luminaries as Charles Strouse (Annie, Bye, Bye Birdie), John Kander and Fred Ebb (Cabaret, Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Steel Pier, Curtains), Chita Rivera (West Side Story, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Chicago), Debra Monk (Steel Pier, Curtains, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof), David Hyde Pierce (Frasier, Spamalot, Curtains), and the list goes on.

Truly, the real and genuine inspiration for what is now the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre at Niagara University was Bro, a man with a vision whose passion for life, and life in the theatre, fueled his existence. Bro was one unique individual who touched a million lives.

Bro was a vital part of my life for almost 50 years. He was my exemplary teacher, my devoted mentor, my dedicated and compassionate colleague, and my dearest friend. One of my friend’s favorite poets was Gerard Manley Hopkins who, in a poem titled Spring and Fall: to a young child, wrote the following lines:

Margaret, are you grieving
Over Goldengrove unleaving?
Leaves like the things of man, you
With your fresh thoughts care for, can you?
Ah, as the heart grows older
It will come to such sights colder
By and by, nor spare a sigh
Though worlds of wanwood leafmeal lie;
And yet you will weep and know why . . .

Like Margaret, Bro left his earthly Goldengrove on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 2012. He's now resting and rejoicing in the bliss of his heavenly Goldengrove. We who remain “weep,” but we also “know” that we are thankful for the life and legacy of Brother Augustine Towey, C.M., Ph.D., who will forever be in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.
St. Vincent de Paul was an educator and an evangelist who dedicated his life in service to the poor. He was also an accomplished fundraiser. It is this aspect of St. Vincent's charism that five Niagara University alumni are emulating as they work to raise $5 million for the Vincentian Endowment Challenge.

Last year, Scott Fina, '80, and Teresa Niedda, '84, co-assistant directors of the Vincentian Solidarity Office, invited fellow Niagara alumni Joseph Lesenko, '80, and Patrick Glemser, '86, to join a committee that also included Father Sy Peterka, C.M., '72 (who has successfully conducted annual appeals for the Vincentians in Africa over the past several years), and Father Miles Heinen, C.M., VSO executive director. The committee was charged with raising funds toward a $5 million challenge grant that will create patrimony (endowment) funds to support Vincentian vocations and ministries in several provinces and vice-provinces of the Vincentians in Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

“We were looking at alumni in the area who have been part of the Vincentian seminary system from the former St. Joseph’s Seminary in Princeton, N.J.,” explains Teresa. “We were also looking for someone who could reach out to the Catholic business community. Joe and Patrick both fit the bill.”

The two former seminarians immediately agreed to help.

“The numbers of Vincentian priests and brothers have been declining in the United States over the years, but the seminaries of the Vincentians in poorer provinces in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia are overflowing with applicants,” notes Joe. “This project will be key in helping to build an endowment to benefit some of these poorer provinces of the Vincentians.”

The committee is working toward raising the matching funds by the end of 2015 through a variety of events (including a pre-Lenten Mass and dinner that Joe and his wife, Mary, sponsored at their home, and a 50-mile bike ride that Patrick and his wife, Maureen, used to raise both funds and awareness for the cause) and donor outreach efforts.

“Through regular meetings and discussions, our group has expanded our way of thinking and our ideas on how to conduct outreach, and we are trying to identify those people who have a connection and know the Vincentian charism,” says Teresa.

To that end, the committee members are undertaking a number of endeavors, including developing a brochure and supporting materials that explain the Vincentian Endowment Challenge.

Joe has been working to build a cadre of ambassadors who will help to support the project. “I have been reaching out to family, friends, relatives, neighbors, and Catholic business professionals who may have a prospective interest in supporting this meaningful work of the Vincentians,” he says.

And Patrick helped the committee to set up a FirstGiving site so that supporters may make their donations online (www.firstgiving.com/Vincentian). “FirstGiving offers tools and expertise to connect with friends and family and make fundraising less overwhelming — and even fun,” he says.

If successful, the project will support both the continuing efforts of Vincentian priests and brothers who are working with the poor, as well as the formation of Vincentian priests and brothers in these developing countries, where vocations are rapidly growing. Money will also be used in support of the Vincentian Lay Missionaries, the Vincentian Marian Youth, and the Association of the Miraculous Medal.

“I have been to some of the Vincentian provinces that will benefit from the project: Nigeria, Fortaleza (Brazil), and Hungary, specifically,” says Scott. “I have seen both the need and the promise of the Vincentians in these places. The Vincentian Endowment Challenge is a wonderful opportunity to help firm up the financial future of the Vincentian fathers and brothers in places where they are growing but lack financial resources.”

“St. Vincent de Paul was excellent at soliciting the help of other people to do what he said he wasn’t capable of doing alone, so that’s what we want to keep alive,” says Father Gregory Gay, ’76, superior general of the Congregation of the Mission, who oversees thousands of Vincentian priests and brothers working in 88 countries around the world. “To do that, we have to be more willing to tell our story, and it’s a good story to tell. I think these five alumni who have formed this committee are doing that. They know the story, they love the story, they want to tell the story, and they want to help support us so the story goes on.”

To find out more about the Vincentian Endowment Challenge, visit www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en/.

In Their Own Words

The two Vincentian Solidarity Office officials spearheading the efforts to raise funds for the Vincentian Endowment Challenge are Niagara alumni. Their journeys from Monteagle Ridge to the VSO differed, but their passion for the work stems from their shared Niagara experience and their relationships with the Vincentian priests and brothers.

DR. SCOTT FINA, ’80

I am a former seminarian of the Vincentians. I began the seminarian program when I attended Niagara as philosophy major. My studies at Niagara and exposure to its faculty and students substantially added to my spiritual formation and moral perspective, especially a concern for the poor and social justice.

Brother Peter Campbell, C.M., ’81, established the Vincentian Solidarity Office (which officially opened in June of 2002) and recruited me to join him in July of 2004.

Most of my career before the VSO was at two universities: Temple University and St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia (administration and teaching). I also twice previously worked for the Vincentians: one year at the Ghebre Michael Inn (a residential program for homeless men in Philadelphia); and two years at the Vincentian Renewal Center (a former religious retreat-conferences center in Princeton).

It has been fascinating to collaborate with Vincentian fathers and brothers around the world through the VSO. I have worked with Vincentians on projects in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Madagascar, India, Thailand, Taiwan, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Hungary, the Ukraine, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. (I probably missed a place or two.) My work has also brought me to collaborate with Vincentians who are working in the developing regions of Ireland, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Australia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, and the Philippines, and from various parts of the United States.

It is remarkable to see how the core values of the Vincentian charism — love of and preference for the poor, and integration of spirituality/prayer and work — are so consistent across greatly varying cultures and in a plethora of political economic circumstances. I first got to know those core values as a seminarian at Niagara University.

TERESA NIEDDA, ’84

While my career path has taken various twists and turns since my college days, one thing has remained constant and that has been the influence of the Vincentian education that I received.

One influential moment occurred during my sophomore year, when I participated in the BASIC HIP program (Brothers and Sisters in Christ Helping the Indigent Poor) and went to Paw Paw, Mich., to work with migrant farmworkers. It was the first time I had contact with the people who put food on our tables. The experience was so powerful that I knew one day I would work with farmworkers. The experience also instilled in me a deeper sense of social justice.

I graduated with a degree in psychology from NU and then immediately went on for a master’s degree in child study at Tufts University in Boston. After graduate school, I came to Philadelphia, where my sister, Marge, ’85, had been living after being a volunteer in the Vincentian Service Corp in Germantown. I started volunteering with El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA or the Farmworker Support Committee) and worked with Mexican migrant farmworkers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. This later turned into a job with the Farmworker Health and Safety Institute, which was founded by CATA. I had no experience in this new career path and credit my liberal arts education that I received at NU for being able to learn on the job about grant writing, agricultural health and safety, and developing training curriculum for workers.

I feel like I have come full circle from first being introduced to the Vincentians at NU to now working with them at the VSO since November 2009. The focus of my work at the VSO has been with projects in Latin America or with Spanish-speaking Vincentians doing missionary work in Africa. I had a minor in Spanish at NU and am putting it to good use at the VSO.

I have a special place in my heart for the Vincentian community, whose charism and call to social justice has accompanied me along my career path. From the classes I took at Niagara University to my current work with the VSO, the Vincentians have had an impact on my life. The thought of giving back of my abilities to further their work, especially in countries around the world, is especially gratifying about our work at the VSO.
A Sage on Monteagle Ridge —

A Reflection on the Life and Career of Dr. Thomas H. Morton

By Dr. John D. Greene, ’69

The Buffalo environs and the Niagara Frontier are famous (some would say infamous) for their climate. However, with the arrival of September, there is no better place on God’s green earth than Western New York. The days are filled with the residual warmth of the summer, the oppressive humidity has dissipated, the skies are high and azure blue and, if you were to pay attention to the waters of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, you would be treated to a palette of colors ranging from Caribbean blue to an emerald green. So when the Class of 69 arrived on campus to begin its sophomore year in the fall of 1966, students were greeted with the best weather that WNY had to offer. The biology and natural science majors would also be introduced to the biological sciences and to Dr. Thomas Morton for the first time. It was a season of great expectations.
Thomas Harlow Morton, a Massachusetts Yankee, was born in Plymouth, Mass., overlooking Plymouth Bay just north of Cape Cod on April 20, 1906. He graduated from Plymouth High School and, as an undergraduate, attended the University of Vermont, where he developed a keen interest in zoology and a dream to attend medical school. When he graduated from college in 1929, Herbert Hoover was president and the United States was on the cusp of a great depression — life was about to change for millions of people. A highly motivated and accomplished student, Morton's academic performance merited his acceptance to the University of Vermont School of Medicine. However, to pursue his degree, he needed to seek employment to help finance his medical school education. Fortuitously, a friend and former Niagara University student informed him of the availability of a teaching position at Niagara. Morton accepted the position and left for Western New York later that year. In the interim, the dean promised to reserve his place in medical school. The plan was to earn and save enough money to return to UVM and pursue his medical degree. The fates, as is their wont, would dictate a different course — Thomas Morton would never return to Vermont, nor would he ever receive his doctor of medicine.

**Professor and Mentor**

General biology convened for the first time, that September of 1966, on a Monday morning in the amphitheater at the DePaul Hall of Science. Villee's Biology was the textbook du jour. As academic decorum and university regulations mandated, all the men in the class were required to wear sport coats and ties, while the woman wore dresses. To be fair, the faculty followed the same dress code, though in the science department, sport coats were often substituted with lab coats that were infinitely more practical and resistant to formaldehyde and other organic and inorganic compounds.

Dr. Morton, a tall, distinguished, and stately gentleman, entered the amphitheater punctually wearing a seersucker jacket. Professorial in appearance from head to toe, endowed with a shock of silver-gray hair and sporting dark horn-rimmed glasses, he was the quintessential college professor. If Norman Rockwell ever felt compelled to paint a college professor, he could have chosen Thomas H. Morton as his living model.

Though we commenced that fall semester in general biology, many of us would encounter Dr. Morton again in our junior and senior years, both in histology and embryology, respectively. He also led a course in scientific photography that was reserved for graduate students. Soft-spoken and thoughtful, Dr. Morton had an air of both dignity and serenity about him. His lectures were finally honed and delivered with scholarly precision — undoubtedly from years of experience, but also due to his expertise and deep insight and understanding of the academic areas that he taught.

Arriving on campus for the first time in the fall of 1929, Dr. Morton was assigned to the math and chemistry departments, eventually transferring into the biology department in 1934 where he would spend the remainder of his career. He received his master's degree in 1936, followed by his Ph.D. in 1938, both earned at Niagara. By 1943, he had achieved the title of professor and, in 1947, he assumed the chairmanship of the biology department, a position that he would retain through 1974. After stepping down from the chairmanship, he continued to serve the department, on a part-time basis, for the next 17 years, instructing in both histology and vertebrate embryology as well as continuing his photography class. Most, if not all, of the hundreds of slides and photomicrographs employed in those classes and used by generations of students were personally handcrafted by Dr. Morton. When he eventually retired in 1991, after 62 years of service to the university, no one had a longer academic tenure.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he was also active in the community and in university governance. He served on the board of directors for the Multiple Sclerosis Association of Western New York, and was a member of The Health Association of Western New York, as well as the New York Academy of Sciences. In addition, he was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences and a member of the advisory board to the Niagara University Board of Trustees.
A Life in Focus

As one of his first official acts that fall semester, Dr. Morton set up his camera and tripod and took an official portrait of his 1966 biology class, presumably for posterity's sake. Ironically, most of the members of that class were born the year he became chair of the biology department back in 1947. He had to wait 19 years for us and here we were. If he was impressed with that fact, he never let on.

Gardening and photography were avocations for Dr. Morton, but it was photography that provided him with a second career. He was a pioneer in scientific photography, published in photographic journals, and well-known in the scientific community for his work.

His photographic interests, however, extended beyond the scientific and the classroom. He was equally famous for his photography of Niagara Falls and the surrounding area. The Maid of the Mist concession stands and other local tourist attractions were full of his postcards and Kodachromes, and it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of his photos were sold through these venues. One of his photographs of Niagara Falls was used by the U.S. Department of Commerce as the centerpiece of its trade show in Paris in 1962.

Perhaps his most interesting photographic subject was that of a movie star by the name of Norma Jean Baker, also known as Marilyn Monroe. In 1952, Twentieth Century Fox and director Henry Hathaway came to Niagara Falls along with Joseph Cotten and Jean Peters to film the movie Niagara. Monroe received top billing for the film that subsequently jettisoned her into superstar status. She had just turned 26 and this would be film number 19 in her filmography.

No two individuals could possibly be more opposite, but on that June day in 1952 their lives briefly intersected. Employed by the Maid of the Mist Corp. during the summer, Dr. Morton had access to and was very facile in handling the company’s launch boat, a talent that he acquired while working on Lake Champlain steamers as a college student. So when the opportunity presented itself, and with camera at his side, Dr. Morton navigated the launch boat from the American side of the Falls to the Canadian side. With some trepidation he introduced himself to

Henry Hathaway.
Monroe, who graciously accepted his request to have her photograph taken. A series of pictures was created, including the iconic “Marilyn on the Rocks” with the American Falls in the background.

That fall, the pH Club (which Dr. Morton also moderated) assembled for its November meeting. The topic was photography, and there was a record turnout. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Morton showed some of his personal slides, including those of Marilyn Monroe — which might explain the robust attendance. The minutes that were recorded indicated that Dr. Morton was “thrilled with the attendance,” particularly because he had no plan for taking roll call. The final entry noted that the slides were the highlight of the evening and “it showed Dr. Morton’s fine ability to photograph other subjects besides scenery and chick embryo cross sections.”

Extraordinary People Leave Unforgettable Legacies

Today, when you walk into DePaul Hall, there are three prominently displayed oil portraits of former faculty members from the biology department. In the center is a true-to-life likeness of Dr. Thomas H. Morton (no, it was not painted by Norman Rockwell). The other two are of Dr. Lawrence Kiely and Dr. John J. Reedy.
In the basement of DePaul lies an old Kodak carousel containing Kodachromes entitled “Dr. Morton’s Last Lecture.” As might be expected, most of the slides relate to his photography. Not surprisingly, there is only a single photo of himself as a young adolescent in his boy scout uniform.

Dr. Morton died quietly at home on Jan. 1, 1993, at the age of 86. He was predeceased by his wife, Theresa, and daughter, Anne. He was survived by two grandsons.

Though he never achieved his ambition of becoming a doctor, he lent his voice for all those many decades to the teaching profession, where he motivated, instructed, and inspired thousands of students and, in turn, directly and indirectly touched tens of thousands of lives.

During his lifetime, the university recognized his prodigious teaching career and the valuable contribution that he made to the academic community and humanity. In 1979, he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Niagara. Eight years later, he was awarded the Niagara University Medal of Honor, presented by then-university president the Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. The citation read: “We are honoring a man whose courageous devotion to his family, whose scholarship and expertise in his profession, whose thoughtful loyalty to his university, whose enduring dedication to his students, past and present demand a response. Here is not only the witness of years and events and accomplishments, but the testimony of generations of the inspired, the admiring, the grateful.”

Amen.
First Robert “Pepsi” Sinicola Memorial Scholarship Awarded

He was a charismatic Niagara University basketball star who had a smile and a kind word for everyone he met.

But tragically, Robert “Pepsi” Sinicola died just 20 years after his graduation from NU, leaving behind a wife, Judi (Hayes), ’76, and two sons. Wanting to honor his memory and give back to Niagara University in recognition of their 35th anniversary of graduation, several of Pepsi’s classmates formed a committee to establish a scholarship in his name. This December, the inaugural Robert “Pepsi” Sinicola Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Michael Benedict, a forward on the NU hockey team. The sophomore from Eden, N.Y., currently in the Academic Exploration Program, plans to declare a computer science major next year.

“Michael was selected because he is an outstanding ambassador for Niagara University,” said Stephen Butler, associate athletic director for external relations. “He is a clear leader on the ice and in the classroom, and has demonstrated great success in all of his scholastic and athletic activities at Niagara University.”

Michael is the first beneficiary of an idea that developed during a casual get-together at the Jersey shore.

“At that reunion, I realized that one of the guys who would have been there is Pepsi,” says Michael de la Montaigne, ’76, who was a roommate of Pepsi’s. Noting that the class’s 35th reunion year was coming up, he thought that establishing a scholarship in Pepsi’s name would be a fitting and meaningful tribute, as Pepsi was a scholarship athlete. Shortly thereafter, Mike mentioned the idea to several of his Niagara friends, including Brian Hassett, ’76, who agreed to help Mike with the fundraising for the scholarship.

“We wanted to try to do something that would leave a legacy and thought why not honor Pepsi and generate a permanent scholarship for other kids who might not get a chance to go to Niagara without some help,” Brian says.

The two men formed a committee that hosted events and made phone calls to their classmates, hoping to raise $25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship fund in Pepsi’s name. That initial goal was quickly met, and the committee is hoping to double the amount so that additional scholarships can be awarded.

To contribute to the Sinicola Memorial Scholarship Fund, contact Leslie Wise, director of planned giving, at 716.286.8590.
You can make a difference and impact the lives of future students by including Niagara University in your estate plans. Your gift can go to any college or program. You may wish to endow a scholarship to make a Niagara education more affordable for students in need. Or, you may designate your gift unrestricted and allow Niagara University to use your gift where the need is greatest.

Your gift will help prepare our next generation of leaders, educated in the Catholic and Vincentian traditions.

Make a difference in a meaningful way by making a planned gift to Niagara University today.

Become a member of the Heritage Society by including Niagara University in your will. Learn more by visiting http://niagara.givingplan.net or contact Leslie K. Wise, ’82, at 716.286.8590 or through email at lwise@niagara.edu.

Make a Difference and Create a Better Tomorrow
Michael P. Maloney entered Niagara University in the fall of 1963 because, frankly, he had nowhere else to go.

The son of an engineer for the American Bell Telephone Company, Mike and his family moved every two to three years during his childhood, as was customary at the time for “Ma Bell” engineers. In the late 1950s, his father, Francis C., and mother, Frances C. (Sherburne), settled the family in Buffalo so that Mike and his siblings, Kathleen and Mary Ellen, would have a stable home life during high school and college.

Mike attended St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute in Kenmore, N.Y., but admits that he wasn’t the most conscientious high school student. As a result, his grades didn’t reflect his ambition to become a fighter pilot which, for starters, required an engineering degree. Mike was wait-listed by the Air Force Academy, something that he says was “probably for the best since I’m really not officer material. I was always more of a free spirit and visionary.”

“Free spirit” isn’t exactly an application term that opens doors to institutions of higher learning, especially when it’s paired with mediocre high school transcripts.

“No college or university would take a look at me,” Mike says. “It was right then that I decided that if someone would just give me a chance, I would work tirelessly to recover from the errors of my youth.”

That “someone” turned out to be Niagara University — unbeknownst to Mike, his father effectively pleaded his case with admissions director Russell Grauer — and work tirelessly Mike did. Considered an at-risk student when he was granted probationary acceptance into NU, there was something about Monteagle Ridge that lit a fire under the then-18-year-old.

Perhaps it was that moment when Mike, sitting in the gym bleachers during freshman orientation, learned from Grauer that only one of the five people sitting near him would graduate and have great professional success. “That was going to be me, I had no doubt about it,” Mike recalls thinking.

More likely, it was the personal attention that Mike received from the faculty at Niagara, people like Dr. Richard A. Hubbard, chair of the chemistry department; Harold W. Feder, physics professor; and math professor Betty Kimmel.

“It was the teachers that helped me excel,” Mike acknowledges. “They always had time for me. It wasn’t by appointment. I could just stop in to see them and they would spend as much time with me as I needed. They took time with those who wanted to do something with their lives.”

Kimmel, especially, struck a nerve with Mike, who had set his sights on graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. He was impressed by Kimmel’s practical experience, which included a period as an aeronautical engineer at Purdue University. Mike also connected with Kimmel’s husband, Robert, who worked at Bell Aerospace.

Of Betty Kimmel, Mike says, “She was a tough lady, let me tell you, but she imparted on me what it took to be an engineer. A lot of people can take courses, not a lot of people can be engineers. She took the time with me and gave me the foundation.”

Mike spent two years at Niagara before moving on to the University of Detroit to fulfill the remaining portion of the 2+3 engineering program.

Shortly after graduating on UD’s Dean’s List in 1966, Mike was recruited by the Department of Defense. Upon completing the agency’s rigorous, three-day examination, which includes eight hours of reading, writing, polygraph and psychological testing, in addition to interviews with directors, Mike landed a full-time position.

In just a few years, Mike had gone from barely gaining college admission to being commissioned for three overseas tours with America’s oldest and largest government agency. His first 10 years on the job were predominantly spent in three German cities, followed by a three-year tour of duty in the moors near Harrogate, England. (Mike’s wife, Sharon, carved out an impressive career as well, serving as an Army registered nurse who cared for President Dwight D. Eisenhower and several Supreme Court justices at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.)

Mike later added a master’s degree in engineering management from George Washington University, and retired in 1996 as a technical director with the Department of Defense. He has since worked as an independent contractor, including post-retirement stints with the Department of Defense; secured five patents; and is currently on a long-term leave of absence from Hayden Software Consulting Inc., a firm specializing in computer software development and engineering.

Mike and Sharon will often take a month, sometimes two, to travel across the country in their motor home to visit family and friends. This May, the Maloneyes will head east from their home in Lacey, Wash., to donate antiques collected by their ancestors to various museums and historical societies.

As part of that cross-country venture, Mike and Sharon will return to Niagara University, the only higher ed institution that would give Mike the chance he so desperately sought more than a half century ago.

To show their appreciation to NU, the Maloneyes, in their estate plans, established an endowed scholarship — the Betty Kimmel and Sharon & Michael Maloney Science Scholarship — in 2011. It is intended for students pursuing a degree in nursing, computer and information sciences, chemistry, mathematics, biochemistry or pre-engineering (should the program be reestablished). Mike and Sharon also requested that special consideration be given to students who are, like Mike was, deemed potentially “at risk.”

“Niagara University is a really special place to both of us,” Mike says. “It was important for me to do something to remember Betty, who had such an influence on me and kept in touch with me until the day she died (in 1997). If I ever win a large sum of money, there will be scholarships named after Dr. Hubbert and Mr. Feder, too.”
Jeff Dann, ’74: NUAA’s New Leader

Six years ago, as a member of the Niagara University board of advisors, Jeff Dann, ’74, along with fellow advisor Jack Holland, ’58, was charged with reevaluating the need for an alumni association. Their work led to the reestablishment of the association in 2007. This fall, Jeff took on an even larger role with the organization when he agreed to assume the position of president.

He’d been asked a couple of times before, but work commitments, his position on the board of advisors, and family obligations prevented him from accepting the job. Now, he says, with only one year left in his term as an advisor, he is ready to take on the additional responsibility.

“This is an opportunity for me to transition from my advisory board role and put more focus on the association,” he says.

Jeff’s experience with the relaunch of the association gives him firsthand knowledge of what has already been accomplished and what still needs to be done.

“We’ve got some momentum,” he says. “Now we’ve got to really work to create more purpose between the alumni chapters and the board so that our leadership on the association level is working more effectively with our affiliate volunteers who are putting on the local alumni events and being local ambassadors.” He notes that a strong link is vital to achieving the association’s mission of fellowship, networking, and supporting the university so that it can meet its varied needs.

Already, he’s started discussions with Christine O’Hara, executive director of the Office of Alumni Engagement, to develop a strategic plan that coordinates the goals of both the office and the association and provides direction for the next three to five years.

One of those goals is to make the regional alumni chapters, and their ties with the association, stronger. To that end, he’s already asked Jaclyn Rossi, ’08, M.S.Ed.’10, former assistant director of alumni relations at Niagara, to take on the leadership of the Western New York chapter, which had previously been overseen by the alumni office. He also plans to personally visit each chapter leader over the next two years to strengthen the connection and to find out what can be done to increase membership and host additional events and activities.

Jeff would also like to see the association and the Alumni Engagement Office increase their use of social media as a way to communicate with the alumni, and to help identify new value-added services that the association can offer to its members.

Lofty goals, perhaps, but Jeff appears to be the right person for the job. He comes from a “Niagara family” — his mother, Ann, worked at the university for 10 years, and four of his six siblings, including his twin brother, Mike, are alumni. Some of his fondest memories and closest friendships were formed during his four years on Montezuma Ridge, and he even met his wife, Maureen (Hoag), ’74, there. He credits the university with helping him develop as a person and says that the opportunities it afforded him enabled him to excel. He was chosen by his classmates to receive the Niagara Medal at graduation in recognition of his personality, character and academic success, and by December of his senior year, he had been offered jobs by five of the Big 8 accounting firms. Even then, he realized the value of the Niagara network and sought the advice of recent accounting graduates to help him make his decision to accept the offer from Price Waterhouse.

Jeff remained with that organization for eight years, making his way from the audit side to the management consulting services division and finally to a partnership track. He then decided to pursue his entrepreneurial interests and began working with a number of start-up businesses in the life sciences and in medical group management. Currently, he is president and CEO of Sleep Insights Management Services, and co-owner and CFO of Advanced Transcription Technologies, both based out of Rochester, N.Y. He’s also involved in the launching of two new businesses, a telehealth software company and an infusion therapy services company.

“I love the challenge of running a business,” he says. “My priorities are focused equally on the external threats and opportunities that affect the business as well as hiring and managing the internal staff to execute the day-to-day operations.”

He is also dedicated to community service and has been active in his church, his children’s school, and with various professional trade organizations, in addition to his work on the Niagara University board of advisors.

Now, Jeff is eager to give back to the university in another way: helping its alumni relations professionals and the volunteer staff successfully redesign the alumni association into what is emerging to be the future model of these kinds of organizations.

“Our success,” he says, “will be measured by the level of awareness our alums have of the association, their level of participation in their local alumni activities, and the level of annual gift-giving we’re able to achieve with our alumni.”
**Alumni Events**

**April**
- 13: Central New York Chapter — Syracuse Crunch Hockey vs. Rochester
- 18: Buffalo-Niagara Chapter — Darwin-Martin House cocktail party and tour
- 20: Buffalo-Niagara Chapter — Dinner Theater: *Into the Woods*

**May**
- 8: Tri-State Chapter — BPO at Carnegie Hall
- 22: SOLA Reunion at NU

**June**
- 10: NU Athletics Ray Kist Golf Tournament
- 17: Little Three Golf Tournament

**July**
- 27: Albany Chapter — Saratoga Day at the Races

Register for events online at [www.niagaraalumni.com](http://www.niagaraalumni.com) or by phone at 716.286.8787.

The events listed are subject to change and include only those that were confirmed by the date of publication. For the most up-to-date listing and additional information about events, visit [www.niagara.edu/alumni-engagement](http://www.niagara.edu/alumni-engagement), or call the Office of Alumni Engagement at 716.286.8787.

**A New Way to Engage Alumni**

The Office of Alumni Engagement (formerly the offices of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving) has been established to better connect, engage, and involve alumni and friends with Niagara University and one another, in support of the university’s mission and goals as a Catholic, Vincentian university. The office will focus on a number of initiatives, including specific fundraising goals such as increased gifts to the annual fund during anniversary years; efforts to increase the alumni giving rate; and core activities to build relationships between alumni and the entire Niagara University community. In addition, it will outline a new way of thinking, organizing, and measuring success for the Alumni Association, so that it can better meet the needs of alumni, friends, and the university community.

**Your Alumni Engagement Team**

**Christine S. O’Hara, ’88, M.S.Ed.’06**
Executive Director, Alumni Engagement
cohara@niagara.edu • 716.286.8792

Chris oversees the department’s staff, serves as a liaison with the Alumni Association board and chapter leaders, and has direct responsibility for the overall department plan, the annual unrestricted fundraising goal, a portfolio of leadership-level donors, and the parent giving program. (See page 41 for Chris’ vision of the new office.)

**Howard Morgan, ’86**
Associate Director, Alumni & Volunteer Engagement
hmorgan@niagara.edu • 716.286.8772

Howard is the office’s point person for volunteers. He will spearhead efforts to recruit and engage volunteers, manage and develop alumni volunteer programs, and assist in managing chapter leaders. He also will develop and oversee the faculty/staff giving program.

**Jaclyn Rossi, ’08, M.S.Ed.’10**
Associate Director, Leadership Giving
jrossi@niagara.edu • 716.286.8761

Jaclyn is responsible for soliciting leadership-level unrestricted annual gifts and developing a comprehensive young alumni giving program.

**Patricia D. McIntosh, M.S.Ed.’10**
Assistant Director, Alumni & Annual Programs
pdm@niagara.edu • 716.286.8770

Patty coordinates existing alumni and annual programs, activities, and events, including Alumni Weekend, and will work with the office staff and chapter leaders to create and implement new ones.

**Michele Smith-Link**
Assistant Director, Student Engagement & Alumni Operations
micheles@niagara.edu • 716.286.8775

Michele has two areas of responsibility: direct mail and other operational needs of the department, and student-focused initiatives. She oversees and manages SLAM (Students Leaving A Mark), the university’s student giving/education program, as well as student-calling efforts such as phone-a-thon, thank you calls, and event calls.

In addition, the office has two part-time coordinators to assist with its activities. We are here for you and invite you to become more involved with us and Niagara University!
Who Was There — Alumni Weekend 2012


College of Education Luncheon, Castellani Art Museum — Oct. 6, 2012 — William “Rusty” Hick, ’98; Dr. Michael Wendt, ’93; Summer Chapman, ’00; Dr. Dianna Bruno, ’00; Dr. Joseph Rizzo, ’77; Judy Villani, ’95; and Kyle Rufrano, ’03.


Margaret Ranft Day, ’77, honored with Alumni Award

As the eighth of her family’s nine children, one might expect that Margaret Ranft Day’s prospects of attending an institution of higher learning were murky at best. Yet Peggy’s parents, Raymond and Marion, worked diligently to ensure that all nine of their children studied at Catholic grammar and high schools and enrolled at the college of their choice.

Peggy chose to matriculate at Niagara University, where she mimicked her parents’ work ethic both in and outside of the classroom. On the way to earning a bachelor's degree in the natural sciences, Peggy played varsity tennis and volleyball, acted as photo editor of the university newspaper and yearbook, and served as a student government representative and on the Middle States Accreditation team. Peggy was not going to waste a single minute of the opportunity that had been provided for her.

After graduating from Niagara, Peggy enrolled at another Vincentian institution, St. John’s University, where she earned a law degree in 1980. She later took graduate studies courses in public administration at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Peggy has spent her entire professional career in the Northeast, accruing more than 25 years of experience in private and corporate practice. She is presently working as a transition and accommodations specialist in Western Connecticut State University’s Office of AccessAbility Services.

Despite her success and busy schedule, Peggy has never lost sight of the Vincentian ideals that were ingrained in her as a student on Monteagle Ridge. She has provided pro-bono legal services to numerous nonprofit organizations and served as a founding member of the Manhattan Society, a fundraising arm of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is also the founding committee chair of the New Fairfield Land Trust and a volunteer for New York City’s Covenant House, a shelter for runaway children.

Peggy has also been generous to Niagara University. She has served on Niagara’s board of advisors and is currently secretary of its Board of Trustees. Along with supporting a wide range of university programs, Peggy and her husband, John, established the Raymond Paul Ranft Memorial Scholarship in memory of her late father in 2004. It is another way for Peggy to personally carry out Niagara’s mission of helping others.

Daniel, ’72, & Catherine Hauck, ’72, receive Dunleavy Award

Daniel Hauck and Catherine Brinda began dating during their junior year at Niagara University, and were married the August after they graduated. In the 40 years since, the Haucks have made their alma mater prouder by the day, displaying an aptitude for professional success and a penchant for serving those in need.

An avid supporter of Niagara athletics, Dan travels from the couple’s home in Roswell, Ga., to Monteagle Ridge a couple times a year to attend Niagara men’s hockey games, and never misses the team’s home opener during Alumni Weekend. The Haucks’ part ownership of the Gwinnett Gladiators in the ECHL professional hockey league speaks to their love of the sport, a venture Cathy admits is more Dan’s avocation than her own.

Cathy spends most of her free time volunteering at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church, along with several other charitable organizations. By 2007, Cathy was devoting so much time to the church that she was offered, and accepted, a position in its business office.

Dan and Cathy’s ability to pursue so many outside interests stems from their decades of success in healthcare-based professions.

Dan joined his father, Warren, in the family’s pharmaceutical business in the early 1980s before founding his own company in 1991. Dan is now president of Alphagen Labs Inc., a business that predominantly outsources generic pharmaceuticals, but also has its own label on certain products.

While a student at Niagara, Cathy entered into the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, where she was commissioned as an officer and assigned to active duty in California. After fulfilling her commitment, Cathy returned home to work as a nurse at Fairview General and Kaiser Permanente hospitals. When the Haucks moved to the Atlanta area in 1982, Cathy began a 19-year tenure as a level 4 cardio-thoracic surgery nurse at Emory University Hospital before retiring in 2001.

Dan and Cathy’s support for Niagara University extends far beyond athletics. They both served on the executive committee for “The Promise of Niagara” capital campaign, and have established the Hauck Athletic Scholarship and the Biological and Chemical Sciences Fund, which supports the bioinformatics program.
Judge Robert G. Bogle, ’79: Making a Serious Contribution to the Law

By Lisa McMahon, M.A.’09

It was the “Case of the Citified Chickens.” The defendant was a Frenchman who was raising the birds in his Valley Stream, N.Y., backyard. He claimed he was unaware that local law prohibited keeping chickens in the village. After hearing the testimony, the judge, Hon. Robert G. Bogle, ’79, ordered the man to get rid of his chickens and proclaimed his judgment: “No fine this time, with the condition of no further fowl play.”

Clearly, Robert has a good sense of humor. He says it comes in handy to relieve tension in his courthouse, particularly for first-timers who are nervous in the presence of lawyers and all things legal.

That’s not to say his work is always as lighthearted. In fact, the judge, who was the youngest in New York state at the time he was appointed acting village justice of the Village of Valley Stream in 1986 (a position he has been reelected to seven times), has also assisted with some horrific cases that have garnered national attention, including the Joel Rifkin serial killer case and the Colin Ferguson Long Island Railroad massacre. But those cases are few and far between, and the majority of Robert’s time is spent in the Department of Law at the Nassau County Court, where he is chief court attorney. Here, he offers advice to that court’s supreme court judges and supervises four lawyers.

Robert also serves as acting city court judge in the City of Long Beach, as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at C.W. Post College of Long Island, and as a faculty member for the New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics, a group that responds to written inquiries from New York state’s more than 3,000 full- and part-time judges and justices. And if that doesn’t keep him busy enough, he frequently gives lectures for the Judicial Education Program of the Office of Court Administration and has written nine books on criminal procedure that are still in print.

Originally planning a career in journalism and politics, Robert became interested in the legal profession while working at an internship in N.Y. State Senator Norman Levy’s office during his sophomore year at Niagara. Although Niagara did not have a structured internship program at the time, Robert was able to earn the support of professor Richard O’Dea, the chair of the political science department at that time, and Dr. John Stranges, who was chairman of the history department.

“I was really the first student to have an internship off campus at Niagara,” Robert notes.

As an intern with the N.Y. State Senate Labor Committee, which was chaired by Sen. Levy, Robert got to meet and work with lawyers and saw the diversity available in the field of law.

“I immediately decided I would shift gears over toward law, but still keep an interest in politics and in journalism as well,” he says.

That interest motivated Robert to run for Student Council and to write for the Niagara Index. In his junior year, he became editor-in-chief, a position that gave him a platform to advocate for change on campus. He says that this experience gave him the ability to write persuasively and to back up his arguments, skills that have served him well in his career.

After graduating cum laude in 1979, Robert attended Hofstra University Law School.

“I went back to Long Island because I figured that if I was going to have a legal, professional career, I should stay close to people who already knew me,” he says.

His first job was as deputy county attorney, handling the county’s civil defense cases. Less than two years later, the village justice position became available, and Robert has served in that role ever since.

“This year I break the record for the longest serving judge in the Village of Valley Stream, and one of the longest serving judges in the New York metropolitan area,” he says, noting that this is one of his two greatest professional accomplishments. The other? “Contributing to the body of law” with his books.

“I never thought I’d write a book, and I’ve written nine law books so far,” he says. “I wrote a four-volume set on criminal procedure; a one-volume set on village, town and district courts; and a three-volume form book for judges on criminal procedure and lawyers. I always liked to write, but I never thought I’d be able to write that much that extensively.”

Married 26 years to his wife, Kathleen, whom he met at another Niagara alum’s graduation party, and the father of two boys, Robert volunteers in his community as well. He’s an officer in the Knights of Columbus (“I can thank Niagara for my involvement in the Knights,” he says), is active in his church, and has been involved with what he calls his “real passion,” the Boy Scouts, since he was a child. He says that his father’s death (when Robert was just 11 years old) made him realize how valuable time is, and gave him the determination to use the time he has to the best of his ability and to make a difference in the world.

“I’d like to be remembered as someone who served his community well, and at the same time was a good father and a good husband,” he says. “I’d also like to know that I made a serious contribution to the law.”
Vanessa Barron, ’78: A Life of Service

Maybe if Vanessa (Houston) Barron, ’78, hadn’t been opening the mail that day in the guidance office of her high school in Philadelphia, she never would have seen the beautiful campus photos in the Niagara University brochure. But she did, and those photos so intrigued her that she decided to apply.

And maybe, if Maj. Salvatore Albino, M.S.Ed. ’76, of the Niagara University military science department, hadn’t been so persistent, Vanessa never would have enrolled in the ROTC program. But she did, and that led to a 31-year career in the military.

These two decisions were life-changing ones for Vanessa. “The time I spent in the military made me the person that I am today,” she says. “Everything that I do ties back to my experience in the military.”

Commissioned shortly after graduating from Niagara with a degree in transportation, Vanessa worked in a number of jobs with TWA and Northwest Airlines while serving her country both on active duty and as a reservist. Vanessa participated in the Gulf War, Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and held positions including detachment commander, personnel staff officer, brigade operations officer, and instructor for the NATO CICIMIC Officers Course. She also served as the Cultural and Environmental Affairs Team chief in the Humanitarian Operations Center in Kuwait, a role in which she was instrumental in sponsoring the first People Actively Volunteering for their Environment (PAVE) Conference. This conference brought Iraqi University students and professors to Kuwait to interact and exchange ideas with their professional counterparts. Following that, she was chief of the Public Facilities Team, where she developed a concept for internship programs with civil corporations to provide soldiers with on-the-job training in the areas of public transportation, public communications and public utilities.

That military experience, as well as the master’s degree in education that she received in 2011, prepared her well for her current role as a program manager for the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program. The federally funded TTT program provides transition assistance to eligible military personnel seeking second careers as K-12 teachers in public schools serving low-income families.

Part counselor, part coach, Vanessa works with veterans to help them determine if a career in teaching is for them, drawing upon her own experience as an assistant to the vice principal at a middle school in Coatesville, Pa. She also advises them on the critical subjects currently in demand, because having certification in one of these areas will make them more marketable.

“I know what it takes to be in a classroom,” she says, noting that she often advises those considering this career change to substitute teach to help them determine the grade level and subject they may want to teach, or to coach a sports team or volunteer in some other way with a school before deciding if teaching is the right career for them to pursue. “There’s more to teaching than just standing and lecturing. We want veterans to go into the classroom, but only if that’s what they truly feel they want to do.”

While she acknowledges that this career might not be for every veteran, she believes that veterans have a special skill set that makes them excellent teacher candidates.

“I think they make the best teachers because of the qualities they bring to the classroom,” she says. “They’re used to diversity, they have leadership skills, they have great management skills, and they make great role models for today’s youth.”

Vanessa also works with school districts throughout New York and Pennsylvania to match veterans with openings. This can be a challenging task, especially when the opening is in an unusual subject area.

“Languages is one of the critical subject areas,” Vanessa notes, “and I’ve had a school contact me looking for a Mandarin teacher.”

It can also be difficult convincing districts to hire one of the retrained soldiers, but Vanessa says that once they do, they typically want to hire more.

She references a former drill sergeant who was hired by a school in Philadelphia. Initially considered too strict, she soon earned a reputation as a fair teacher who truly cares about her students’ success. Families now request that their children be placed in her class.

Vanessa notes that her program has had particular success with charter schools. One, in fact, has established a program with TTT called Project at Ease, which enables veterans to serve as engagement coaches while working toward their teacher certification. The engagement coaches, who are considered part of the staff, provide security while interacting with the students throughout the day and during after-school activities. They also serve as coaches for athletic events.

The married mother of two, who met her husband at the Transportation Officer Basic Course in Virginia, sees her work as giving back to the veterans who served this country and hopes to continue it long into the future.

“I enjoy what I’m doing,” Vanessa says. “I welcome the opportunity to provide this service to veterans. I feel I am also making a difference in the students’ lives through the veterans that go into the classroom.”
While working side by side with volunteers from the Clinton Global Initiative, Veronica had the opportunity to meet former President Bill Clinton.
Superstorm Sandy is an emotional topic for Veronica Cassidy Barry, ’89, to talk about. After all, both her childhood home and the home of her sister, Sheila, ’93, in Belle Harbor, N.Y., were damaged during the storm surge that hit this Rockaway peninsula suburb on Oct. 29. But she’s channeled her grief into something positive: volunteering to help her neighbors in numerous ways.

“I’ve had the opportunity to play matchmaker,” she says. “I’ve been fortunate to be able to connect the have-nots with the have-nots.”

She’s driven the 45 minutes from her home in Douglaston almost every day since the storm, handing out food, assisting with toy drives and Christmas parties, and helping people get in contact with the organizations that can help them. She spends most of her time working with the relief centers and efforts being coordinated by her home parish, St. Francis de Sales, and by Navillus, a contractor in New York City that was involved with the building of the 9/11 memorial at the World Trade Center.

Veronica’s selfless efforts belie the fact that her family has also suffered from the storm. She tells of the day she visited her family home with her 82-year-old father. The basement was submerged in ocean water, sewage, oil, and sand, and priceless personal items, like baby clothes and her Niagara yearbook, were floating in front of the house. She notes that her parents have had to rent an apartment because they don’t know how long it will be until they can return to their home.

At first, she says, they thought it would be fun. Oct. 29 was her parents’ 46th wedding anniversary so, after she helped to evacuate them, everyone gathered at her house to celebrate.

“We had a little cake for them and it was kind of fun, everyone was in the house,” she recalls. “We never thought that all this time later we’d still have no electricity, we’d be missing windows ... We never thought things would be this bad.”

And so Veronica decided to help. That very day, she met volunteers from Navillus and told them about Mighty Mikey, a six-year-old boy with cancer who lived down her parents’ street. The men immediately went to his house to help clear the debris.

That’s how things have been working in Rockaway, she says.

“People are looking for someone to be in charge, so when they see a familiar face they just go to you,” Veronica says. Her knowledge of both the local organizations and people who have needs has made her a point person for the volunteers.

When a friend brought her a generator, Veronica gave it to neighbors who needed it. When that generator needed gasoline, she enlisted the help of a friend in the National Guard. That same friend came through for her when she learned of a baby on Long Island who was on a ventilator powered by a generator.

Midshipmen from the Newman Club at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, where Veronica has worked for the past seven years, stepped up as well. Joined by the plebe class, nearly 300 of these young men and women arrived in eight school buses that they paid for themselves to do whatever they could to help. They’ve been there several times since.

Veronica was able to obtain heaters for an apartment building that had been without heat for six weeks, and urged St. Francis de Sales to expand its relief efforts beyond the parish when she saw how much help was needed around the peninsula. She even coordinated the delivery of kosher food to the two relief centers it set up.

Veronica’s husband, Jay, and daughters Kiera, Cassidy, and Clare, joined her in distributing food on Thanksgiving Day, forgoing their family dinner so that they could help others to have holiday dinners of their own. Her daughters have been so inspired by their mother’s work that they organized a volunteer project at their school: making ornaments to decorate the Christmas tree that was featured in footage at the 12.12.12 Concert for Sandy Relief.

Understandably, Veronica has had little time to reflect on her experiences and the impact the volunteers have made on her community. Yet she is quick to note that her Niagara experience was a motivating factor.

“Niagara instilled the mission of St. Vincent de Paul: how individuals can help other individuals, and how service is part of who we are,” she says. “All I’ve been saying this whole time is that you don’t have to be part of a big organization. You just have to show up and be willing to help and people will give you something to do. Even if it’s just helping someone smile, or talking about their experience, it makes a huge difference.”

Anyone who wishes to donate to Rockaway’s recovery can go to www.graybeards.com.
1961
Frederick J. Scullin Jr., senior judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, was honored by the Onondaga County Bar Association at its 137th annual dinner in October. Judge Scullin received the Ruger Award in recognition of his "singularly outstanding achievement in the devotion to the principles of our system of justice." He was appointed a federal judge in March 1992 after serving a decade as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of New York, and became chief judge in April 2000. In March 2006, he attained senior status.

1962
Joe Wolf was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 17 in recognition of his more than 40 years as athletic director for St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. During his tenure, Joe added teams St. Joe’s had never fielded before and added additional levels to existing sports.

1963 REUNION
Dr. Anthony Dardano has been reappointed to a three-year term as associate dean for academic affairs and voluntary professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. In addition, Dr. Dardano will continue as chief medical officer of the 493-bed Delray Medical Center in Delray Beach, Fla., and physician advisor on medical ethics for EWTN, the Catholic Television Network.

1965
Robert Martinez was appointed ambassador of the Asturian language by José B. Álvarez of the Initiative for Asturian, an organization that works for the defense and promotion of the Asturian language. The Asturian language predates Spanish and is the native language of many in Asturias, a province in northern Spain. Bob also was recently granted dual citizenship (U.S. and Spain) in September.

1967
Fred Jelinek was honored with a silver medal by the Association for Rescue at Sea, Inc., for an outstanding rescue he performed as a volunteer with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The award was presented at the AFRAS annual ceremony on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4, 2012.

1968 REUNION
Lt. Col. Ken Evers retired in August 2012 after 17 years as a captain with Atlas Air. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Roswell, Ga.

The Honorable Joseph Valentino was appointed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the Fourth Department by New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Justice Valentino was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, Monroe County, in 2001, and he is currently the supervising judge for Criminal Term Courts, Seventh Judicial District, a position he has held since February 2011. Prior to his election to the Supreme Court, Justice Valentino was an acting county court judge from March 2000 to December 2001, an acting family court judge from June 2001 to December 2001, the presiding judge of the Rochester Drug Treatment Court from 1997 to 2001, and Rochester City Court judge from January 1983 to December 2001.

1972
Sam Iraci Jr. has accepted the position of executive director of Buffalo Civic Auto Ramps, a nonprofit organization that has a contract with the City of Buffalo to do business with property owners to provide parking. He previously served as administrative assistant to the mayor of North Tonawanda.

1973 REUNION
Bobby Miller was honored for his outstanding basketball career as both a player and a coach by the Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association in November. Bobby played at Norwalk High School, Norwalk, Conn., and at Niagara University, then spent one season playing for the Gold Coast Stars, a semipro
team out of Stamford, Conn. He then embarked on a coaching career, serving as coach at both NHS and Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. He was also a head coach on the collegiate level at Norwalk's two junior colleges, guiding the men's basketball program at both Norwalk Community College and Norwalk State Technical College.

1974

J. Michael DeVoria has joined Alliance Bank N.A. as senior vice president and senior credit officer. He has more than 35 years of experience in commercial banking, most recently with Five Star Bank in Warsaw, N.Y.

Howard Spencer, president of Spencer-Vromoche, Inc., reports that his company will be installing the laboratory interiors for the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences at Niagara University. He notes that the new building puts Niagara in the company of other universities that have committed to the study of science and invites all alumni to take time to see the building when it opens this fall.

1975

Thomas Slaiman retired in July after 40 years as a teacher and administrator. For the past 20 years, he served as principal of Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School in the Cheektowaga/Sloan, N.Y., school district.

1976

Brian Hassett was recently appointed to the executive leadership council of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern Saratoga County.

John Sheehan was promoted to purchasing manager at Fresenius-Kabi, USA, at its Grand Island, N.Y., office. The pharmaceutical company specializes in generic injectable drugs for cancer and critical care patients.

1977

Col. (Ret.) Mark Lindon and his wife, Jacqueline (Baum) Lindon, ’77, report that they are enjoying retirement in their new home in Longmont, Colo.

1978 REUNION

Cynthia Kelly has been promoted to director of mental health services for Rochester Rehabilitation. Cynthia, who brings 28 years of mental health experience, 19 of which have been in a supervisory role, will oversee and supervise a comprehensive range of personalized, patient-focused, mental healthcare services, which now include employment counseling, support, and training. She previously served as mental health center director for the organization.

Deborah Wydysz joined UB/MD Internal Medicine's cardiology division, working with a team of 10 cardiologists.

1979

Carol Cassell joined the Buffalo Healthcare group of Freed Maxick CPAs as a senior manager in healthcare strategy and performance improvement. She most recently worked for CTG. She also spent 12 years with Independent Health as executive vice president.

Matt Giuliano has joined Actelis, The Broadband Acceleration Company, as senior vice president of worldwide sales and customer service. He brings more than 30 years of experience in the telecommunications and networking industries, most recently serving as senior vice president, sales and business development, at Purcell Systems. At Actelis, Matt will be responsible for domestic and international sales as well as worldwide customer support and service.

1981

Steven Aiello was reelected to the Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees as vice chair in July.

Felicia Corp was promoted to coordinator for admissions and recruitment by St. Joseph’s College of Nursing, Syracuse, N.Y. In this role, Felicia will be responsible for identifying and initiating activities and processes directly related to recruitment and admission of students, including high school visits, college fairs and pre-admission visits.

Veronica White was named New York City Parks Commissioner in September 2012, replacing longtime commissioner Adrian Benepe. In this role, she will oversee the department’s vast system of 1,700 parks, 500 community gardens, and 14 miles of beaches. An environmental lawyer by training, Veronica most recently served as the first executive director of the Center for Economic Opportunity, which was created in 2006 under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to find innovative ways to address poverty.

1982

David Gramza, CPA, accepted a position as director of accounting with Northcentral University, headquartered in Scottsdale, Ariz. NCU is an online university offering students post-graduate education.

Hometown: Albany, N.Y.
Degree: B.S. in communications
Current job: Owner, El Loco Mexican Café and The Orchard Tavern & Restaurant

My best memories of NU are: the lifelong friendships and trying to learn the card game Pitch in Varsity Village.

My favorite hangout was: the “Green House” on Chestnut Ave. (our off-campus house) and the N.U.S.G.A. office.

My favorite part of my job is: seeing our employees succeed and move on to bigger and better things in their professional lives.

When I’m not working, you’ll find me: finding ways to justify trips to Mexico or Ireland as “research”!

I still want to learn how to: play Pitch.

I decided to become a chapter leader because: I’ve been involved in the chapter since graduation and have met and been inspired by many fellow alumni who show great passion by attending nearly every alumni event we’ve had. Niagara provided me with a great platform for succeeding in this world and being a chapter member and leader is doing my part to keep Niagara the great institution that it is.

Our chapter is planning: a dinner party in the spring, and our annual Saratoga “Day at the Races” in July. A golf tournament and fundraiser are in the works for the summer, too, and we have many other ideas in the pipeline!

Alumni should stay connected to Niagara by becoming involved in their local chapters because: being a chapter member is an opportunity to relive some great Niagara experiences with people who know it best. No matter what year you graduated, joining a chapter is important for your career and social life. Our alumni are smart and successful people who love to have a good time. They are also some of the most passionate NU fans you’re going to meet!
Theresa DeConinck Gration recently relocated with her husband to a 9-acre horse property in Golden, Colo., in the foothills of the Rockies. She is external relations director covering the United States for MCI Group, a globally integrated association, communication, and event management company.

1984
Dr. Timothy R. Bronson retired in December from his position as director of counseling at D’Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y., after 28 years of service. His full-time focus will now be on his private mental health counseling practice in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Susan (Farley) Fregoe, M.S.Ed.’86, is a science teacher at Hope Hall School. Hope Hall serves at-risk students and those with learning disabilities in grades 3 through 12 from 19 school districts in the Greater Rochester Area.

Christopher Viscardi was inducted into the 2012 Auburn Alumni Hall of Distinction during its inaugural ceremony in October. Chris is an award-winning screenwriter and producer of television and film. He and his writing partner wrote the films Alvin & the Chipmunks, The Tale of Despereaux, Angus Thong’s and Perfect Snogging, and Snow Day, as well as the award-winning Nickelodeon TV series The Adventures of Pete and Pete.

1985
Jodi Boland has been appointed director of sales for the Hampton Inn, Fall River/Westport, in Massachusetts. She will assist the hotel in all aspects of sourcing and servicing sales activity for the hotel and/or banquet facilities. Jodi joined the Hampton Inn from Master Connection Associates, where she was a sales coach for seven years. Jodi’s past experience includes sales management positions for Cambridge Suites Hotel and Sutton Place Hotel Kempinski, both in Toronto.

Michele Schaefer joined LocalEdge as a digital media executive. She will handle business-to-business and outside sales, focusing on online advertising solutions and print media advertising sales. She previously served as manager, new small group sales, for Independent Health.

1986
Peggy Davis has been appointed director, clinical services, The Primary Connection, by Independent Health. In this role, she will work closely with primary care physicians and Independent Health’s practice management team to implement innovative medical management programs and processes designed to achieve seamless coordination of care and improve the patient experience and health outcomes, which will lead to lower healthcare costs. She will also oversee the practice care coordinator team. Peggy was previously the director of health promotion at Independent Health. Prior to joining Independent Health in 2008, Peggy was the director of nurse quality at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and director of clinical quality improvement at Kaiser Permanente.

Monica Saltarelli was selected as one of 11 Women of Distinction by the Tonawanda News for her dedication to teaching and helping the area’s youth. She is a campus minister and professor of theology at Niagara University.

1987
Eric M. Hemmings has been promoted to branch chief/ liaison officer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He served in the internal affairs unit prior to this promotion. Eric also served as field examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department for many years and served as director of audit services in the public accounting industry. He has held the positions of EVP/CFO for two financial service companies and earned an MBA/MS and holds three professional certifications. He resides in Virginia Beach with his wife, Michelle (Valentino), ’88, and two daughters, Hannah and Hayley, and a son, a very large chocolate lab named Sundance.

Greg Setter joined the board of directors for Financial Executives International. He is with Rosina Food Products Inc.

1988 REUNION
Donald Gessner recently retired from the NYPD and relocated to Bradenton, Fla., where he was hired as a deputy in the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office.
Laura Miller has been selected to serve as the new director of the Bureau of Parking for the city of Rochester, N.Y. She has more than 20 years of experience in transportation and parking administration, serving most recently as the director of parking for the Athens Downtown Development Authority in Athens, Ga., for the past four years. Prior to that role, Laura served as a regional operations manager for Park ‘N Fly Inc., in Atlanta.

1990
Daniel P. Downing was appointed vice president of retail lending at Walden Savings Bank. He was previously executive vice president for VirtualBank in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

William Kennedy was recently elected a partner in the Buffalo-based law firm of Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola LLC. He brings more than 19 years of litigation and trial experience to the firm’s insurance defense litigation group, and has widespread experience litigating construction-site accidents, as well as products liability, premises liability, motor-vehicle (including motorsports) actions, and property-damage claims.

Mike Solimano was named president and general manager of Killington and Pico resorts in Vermont. He formerly served as vice president of finance at the resort.

Wendi (Gibbs) Strangis recently became the general partner of LarkinGibbs, LLC, certified public accountants.

1993 REUNION
Krista (Holtby) O’Brien is an assistant professor of English at Howard Community College in Columbia, Md.

1994
Amorita McClam is a partner in 2 Sisters Cosmetics LLC. The company, which offers a toxin-free, eco-friendly nail polish line, launched in September.

1995
Susan Swiatkowski, director of marketing for Old Falls Street USA, was named to the 2012 Business First of Buffalo’s 40 Under 40 class, which represents a diverse group of rising leaders in Western New York.

1996
Roger DuPuis II has joined Go Lackawanna as a reporter, covering Scranton and portions of Lackawanna County. Roger was formerly city hall reporter and assistant metro editor at The Times-Tribune, Scranton, Pa., and a reporter and editor at the Ithaca Journal, Ithaca, N.Y.

Joanne McKee has been named assistant vice president, financial resources, at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. She most recently served as interim vice president, finance, at Brock University. Before that, Joanne held the position of associate vice president, finance, at Brock, and was director of financial services at Niagara College. She is an active member of the Council of Finance Officers — Universities of Ontario, and was the recipient of the COFO-UO Distinguished Leadership Award in 2011.

1998 REUNION
Michael Gutchell was named associate principal at Shenendehowa High School in Clifton Park, N.Y.

1999
Jason Kasparian was named athletic director and assistant principal at Port Huron Northern High School, Port Huron, Mich. He spent the last two years as athletic director at St. Clair Shores South Lake. He also was the assistant principal at South Lake Middle School, and began his career in the district as a teacher in 2001.

David Wald was appointed North American sales manager for PCB Piezotronics, a global leader in the design and manufacture of force, torque, load, strain, pressure, acoustic, and vibration sensors. In this new role, David will oversee all sales and marketing initiatives for the North American territory, including the development and oversight of the regional sales model for both test and industrial divisions. David was formerly sales manager with Viatran Corp.

2000
Mike Colao joined Rural Metro as zone finance manager. He will assist all operations and billing departments, focusing on the compilation and analysis of financial information utilized in strategy to correct and enhance operational practices and improve financial results for Rural/Metro’s East Zone.
Elizabeth Irving has been promoted to group marketing events director with Reed Exhibitions, the world’s leading events organizer. In her new role, Liz will continue to be responsible for growing and managing the Jewelers’ Circular Keystone integrated brand strategy across seven JCK properties, including JCK Marketplace and JCK Magazine, while taking on additional duties, including mentoring junior marketing directors and senior marketing associates, identifying training needs for all levels and disciplines within the marketing community, and analyzing current processes and procedures to drive innovation and continued evolution of the marketing team.

Theresa Schuey was promoted to the position of safety director at the Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine at Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Lewiston, N.Y. In this new role, she will oversee and manage the safety, maintenance, and compliance policies and practices of the hyperbaric staff and equipment.

2001

Joelle Paban is executive assistant to the chief operating officer at Tribridge in Tampa, Fla.

Emily (Abriola) VanBrocklin wrote a short film, Just Grade, which received six awards in the Nashville 48-Hour Film Project, including best screenplay and first runner-up for best film. It was also recently screened at the Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival in California. Emily is currently a theatre arts teacher at Sycamore High School, Pleasant View, Tenn., and has been actively involved in both the live theatre and independent film communities. Under her stage name, Emily Steele, she has acted in numerous theatrical productions, several indie films, and an online sketch comedy series called Common Sense for Dummies, which she co-founded, writes and produces.

2002

Kay Dekker was appointed director of hospice services at Niagara Hospice. She has held several executive administrative positions in healthcare, most recently regional director of operations and compliance administrator at The Hamister Group in Erie County. There, she was responsible for the overall operation of three assisted living facilities and the largest certified home healthcare agency in St. Lawrence County. Prior to that, she was chief operating officer at Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara in Niagara County, where she provided residential oversight for 150 individuals and the provision of services to 800 individuals with developmental disabilities.

2003 REUNION

Capt. Michael Stock was selected as the executive officer to the United States Security Coordinator, U.S. Consulate General, in Jerusalem.

2004

Maria Bertola is an executive assistant with Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc.

Julie (Venditti) Lanigan is an occupational therapist with the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan in Detroit.

Andy Maillet received his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Rochester in May 2012. He is the coordinator of the Greece Central Middle School Re-Engagement Center.

2006

Julie (Kwasniak) Sutton is a recruiter with Kenexa, a global provider of business solutions for human resources.

2008 REUNION

Brittany Hillary, MBA’09, was promoted to senior accountant by Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner, an Amherst, N.Y., accounting firm. She has been with the firm since 2009.

Robert Ingrasci was inducted to the board of associates at Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Lewiston, N.Y., on Dec. 13, 2012. Bob is a senior accountant with Lumsden McCormick, and has been with the organization since 2008.

Scott Langdon was signed by the San Francisco Bulls Professional Hockey Team as part of its inaugural roster. He is entering his fifth year of professional hockey, having most recently skated for Allen of the Central Hockey League and Lake Erie of the American Hockey League in 2011-12. The San Francisco Bulls Professional Hockey Team officially took the ice as an expansion team of the ECHL on Oct. 12. The Bulls are the ECHL affiliate of the NHL’s San Jose Sharks.

2009

Megan (Baumler) St. Denis is a research chemist with Kinex Pharmaceuticals in Buffalo, N.Y.

2010

Tara (Waddell) Clapp has joined the University of Wyoming’s department of psychology as an assistant lecturer. She has been a school psychology specialist in Forrest City, Ark., since 2010.

Mary McKinnon was selected by Hockey Canada to serve as a referee for the 2012 national female under-18 championship, which took place in British Columbia in November and featured eight regional teams. Mary is a Level 4 official with the Hockey Canada Officiating Program, and worked the lines at the 2012 Esso Cup national midget female championship in Charlottetown, PEI.

Jason Nobili was hired by the Mississauga Steelheads of the Ontario Hockey League as assistant general manager and associate coach. Jason has vast experience coaching at all levels, including time in the Ontario Junior Hockey League, Ontario Hockey League, East Coast Hockey League, and internationally with Hockey Canada.

Robert Powaski III was recognized by Business First as a 30 under 30 winner for his accomplishments in his career at Alliance Advisory Group, his commitment to the community, and his volunteerism.

2011

Crystal Bojanowski, MBA’12, joined Lumsden & McCormick LLP as a staff accountant. She worked as a summer tax intern at the firm and in her new role will focus her work on commercial businesses and exempt organizations.

Ashley Hubbard, MBA’12, joined the Buffalo EAS department of Freed Maxick as an entry-level staff accountant.

Caitlyn Kilkenny, MBA’12, joined the Buffalo EAS department of Freed Maxick CPAs as a staff accountant. She previously worked as a finance and purchasing specialist for HealthNow New York, Inc.

Jordan L’Grett was named a staff accountant at Lumsden & McCormick. He will serve commercial businesses and exempt organizations.

Andrew Norris, MBA’12, has been hired as an assistant for the commercial team within The Bonadio Group, where he has been interning since January 2012. Prior to joining The Bonadio Group, Andrew worked as a constituent relations aide with New York State Senator George D. Maziarz’s office.

Stephanie Robinson was promoted to senior accountant by Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner, an Amherst, N.Y., accounting firm. She joined the firm in 2010 as a staff accountant.

Scott Rosenheck, MBA’12, joined Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner as a staff accountant.
Jonathan Smaldon is an account manager for the Syracuse Crunch of the American Hockey League. He is responsible for personal season ticket and group sales.

Stephanie Stevens, MBA'12, joined Freed Maxick CPAs as an entry-level staff accountant in the Buffalo tax department. She had been with Tax Technologies Inc. as a tax/client service intern and specialist since June 2011.

**2010**

Emily Aguilar is pursuing a master's degree in fine arts, drama, and theatre for youth and communities at the University of Texas at Austin.

Caitlin Cima joined Freed Maxick CPAs as an entry-level audit staff accountant.

Kaitlyn Johnson joined Freed Maxick CPAs as a staff accountant.

**MARRIAGES**


Jenna-Marie Mango, '07, M.S.Ed.’08, married Rick Masi on July 14, 2012.


Jeffrey St. Denis, '08, married Megan Baumlter, '09, on March 24, 2012.


**BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS**


Michelle (Stevens) Perry, '96, and her husband, Edward, welcomed a daughter, Paige Elizabeth, on May 6, 2012.

Todd, '99, and Sara (Chapman) Bush, '00, welcomed a daughter, Mackenzie Rae, on Oct. 9, 2012.

Sarah (Wolcott) Nelson, '00, and her husband, Matthew, welcomed a daughter, Kaitlyn Anne, on Aug. 14, 2012.

Nicole (Indiano) Scherberger, '00, and her husband, Bryan, welcomed twins, Carley Jean and Bryan Carmen, on May 17, 2012.

Joelle (Leszczynski) Paban, '01, and her husband, Mario, welcomed a daughter, Stella Grace, on July 25, 2012.

Tracy (Keller) Ficorilli, '02, and her husband, Ryan, welcomed a son, Santino Christopher, on April 23, 2012.


Julie (Venditti) Lanigan, '04, and her husband, Sean, welcomed a daughter, Mallory Marie, on June 8, 2012.

Andy, '04, and Meredith (Plakenghorn) Mailet, '04, welcomed a son, Tyler Andre, on Jan. 12, 2012.

Jennifer (Gerenski) Kelly, '05, and her husband, Brandin, welcomed a son, Alexander Edwin, on Sept. 25, 2012.

Michael, '09, and Lindsay (Kriger) Johnson, '08, welcomed a son, Dennis Cooper, on Feb. 6, 2012.
IN MEMORIAM

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

For expanded obituaries and an opportunity to leave your condolences, please visit the Eagle online at http://eagleonline.niagara.edu.

* Expanded obituary available.

** Samuel Kranitz, ’37, passed away on Aug. 13, 2012.

Matthew S. Janik, ’50, passed away on Sept. 7, 2012. Our condolences to his son, Peter Janik, ’76; to his daughter, Mary Jo (Janik) Tartaglia, ’83; to his son-in-law, Thomas Tartaglia, ’81; to his grandson, Daniel Tighe, ’06; and to his granddaughter-in-law, Melissa Neild, ’06.


Our condolences to Walter Rooney Sr., ’51, on the death of his wife; and to Walter Rooney Jr., ’80, on the death of his mother, Dolores Rooney, who passed away on Nov. 9, 2012.


Our condolences to Robert Porvaznik, ’52, on the death of his wife, Clare Porvaznik, who passed away on Aug. 18, 2012.


Mary Lois Eames, M.A.’54, passed away on Dec. 15, 2012.


Irvin Schulte, ’54, passed away on Aug. 21, 2012.


Robert Boorady, ’56, passed away on Oct. 18, 2012. Our condolences to his daughter, Lynn Boorady, a member of Niagara’s Board of Trustees.


Francis J. Flynn, ’59, M.S.Ed.,’63, passed away on Nov. 27, 2012. Our condolences to his wife, Helen Flynn, ’61; to his daughter, Elaine (Flynn) Nowak, ’91; and to his son-in-law, Matthew Nowak, ’90.


Our condolences to Marilyn (Shaknaitis) FitzGerald, ’61, on the death of her husband, Michael FitzGerald, who passed away on Nov. 13, 2012.


Dr. Michael DiDato, ’64, passed away on June 21, 2012.


Nicholas Reed, ’66, passed away on July 19, 2012.


John Wolff, ’68, passed away on June 17, 2012.

Our condolences to John S. Kelley, ’71, M.A.’74, on the death of his mother, Stephanie Kelley, who passed away on Aug. 6, 2012.


Catherine Fracassi, ’74, M.S.Ed,’75, passed away on Nov. 14, 2012.


Our condolences to Laurie Cohen Blinder, ’76, and to Jeffrey Cohen, ’81, on the death of their mother, Dorothy Gould, longtime faculty member and former chair of the English department at Niagara University, who passed away on Nov. 16, 2012. (See page 9 for a tribute to Dorothy.)

Patricia (Everett) Clarke, ’76, passed away on Oct. 22, 2012.

Our condolences to Linda Tatko Cooper, ’77, on the death of her mother, Caroline Tatko, who passed away on June 21, 2012.

Joseph E. White Jr., ’78, passed away on Nov. 15, 2012.

Marcia Rajczak, M.S.Ed.’80, passed away on Nov. 19, 2012.

James P. Kaicher, MBA’81, passed away on May 12, 2012.

Deborah (Paolini) Erbacher,’83, passed away on April 1, 2010. Our condolences to her sister, Margaret Paolini, ’81.

Our condolences to Gary Sankes, ’85, on the death of his brother, Jeffrey Sankes, who passed away on Dec. 1, 2012.

Gary A. McCunn, ’87, passed away on Aug. 11, 2012.


Aaron A. Grant, M.S.Ed.’96, passed away on Nov. 4, 2012. Our condolences to his wife, Marion Grant, M.S.Ed.’97.

Our condolences to Claudette Walck, ’02, M.S.’03, M.S.Ed.’05, on the deaths of her great aunts, Nina Sciuk and Alice Walck, and her cousin, Father Paul Nochelski, S.J., who passed away in 2012.

Save the Date
Niagara University Reunion Weekend
Oct. 11-13, 2013

Reunion Classes for Years Ending in 3s and 8s
Special Weekend Recognition of NU Service-Based Organizations

Reunion Highlights:
Golden Eagle Mass and 50th Celebration
Class of ’53 Mass and 60th Celebration
Welcome Back Social
Alumni Golf Tournament
Campus Tours
Service Project
Athletic Events
Dinner-Dance

Be on the lookout for more information at www.niagara.edu/alumni-engagement
I am very pleased to announce some of the exciting changes happening in alumni relations at Niagara. We’ve got a new name — Office of Alumni Engagement — new ideas, and new staff to help make your alumni experience even better! (See page 23 for more information about the office.)

As a two-time graduate of Niagara University — I received my bachelor of science degree in hospitality management in 1988 and my master of science degree in education, administration and supervision in 2006 — I know well and am fully committed to Niagara University and all that it offers. In addition, many of my family members have studied at and/or graduated from Niagara, beginning with my dad, Donald J. O’Hara. He was a 1950 graduate and would be incredibly proud that I have been given the opportunity to serve the university that contributed to the person he was. The most recent member of the family to attend Niagara, one of dad’s great nephews, will graduate in 2015. The legacy continues!

I began working at Niagara in 2002 in the grants office. After a year and a half, I moved into the Office of Annual Giving as its director. Over these past 10 years, I have had the privilege of being a part of the evolution that has been taking place at Niagara. The new Office of Alumni Engagement is an important part of this evolution, as it will enable us to offer additional opportunities for you to connect with and support your alma mater while strengthening the fellowship among alumni, students, faculty, and the entire Niagara community.

I am excited about the many new initiatives that we are working on, including developing additional chapter events, exploring international travel opportunities, and inviting our alumni to take on leadership roles within their chapters and their communities. My vision for the new office is to engage, involve and connect with as many people as we can. I want our alumni, and the entire NU community, to know that they have a lifelong bond — Niagara. And while this is a common bond, we are aware that our alumni have very different interests and needs, so we will be offering events and services that are designed for specific groups.

Another important change will come about through the Niagara University Alumni Association, under the leadership of the NUAA board of directors. The NUAA will become a volunteer-driven organization, where members are encouraged and empowered to build and manage their own chapter programs. Niagara presently has 12 alumni chapters around the country and will be adding several more — including two in Canada. These alumni chapters will offer athletic-focused activities, travel programs, networking, volunteer service opportunities, educational workshops, and more. In addition, Niagara has developed a new parent group that will be working in various volunteer capacities, including recruitment and ambassador programs. I envision our volunteer base, made up of parents, friends and alumni, to assist in the connection that is so important.

Working with offices across campus is vital in the effort to connect, involve and engage our Niagara community. We have already started partnering with the offices of Career Development and Admissions to involve alumni from across the country in recruitment and career services efforts, and our new office will allow us to coordinate our activities to an even greater extent.

Communication is key to all of these efforts, so we will be connecting with you in a variety of ways, including direct mail, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. We’ll keep you informed about what is happening on campus, and we invite you to share with us what is happening in your lives. We look forward to the conversation!

The foundation for all these new ideas is the relationship between Niagara University and its alumni. As we move forward in the Office of Alumni Engagement, we will continue to build on these relationships so that we can make your alumni experience an engaging one!

Christine S. O’Hara, ’88, M.S.Ed.’06
Executive Director, Alumni Engagement
As a member of Niagara University’s Alumni Association, you already know that NU provides a great learning experience, steeped in the Catholic and Vincentian tradition.

If you know a high school student who is looking at colleges and universities, or a current college student looking to transfer, please tell him or her about the many great benefits of becoming a Purple Eagle. Whether it’s the outstanding job or graduate school placement rate, the personal attention each student receives, the active campus life, or the university’s commitment to service and integrated learning, Niagara provides students with an education that makes a difference.

For more information, contact the Niagara University Office of Admissions at 716.286.8700, 1.800.462.2111 or admissions@niagara.edu.

98
Percent of graduates employed or enrolled in graduate school within one year of graduation.

12:1
Student-faculty ratio, allowing for a highly personalized education.

99
Percent of our incoming freshmen who receive financial aid. The average award is over $24,700.