It was one of those “you-had-to-be-there” occasions — the kind of event that pictures and words can’t adequately describe. The occasion was the press conference at which I announced a $10 million capital campaign commitment from B. Thomas Golisano, founder and chairman of Paychex and owner of the Buffalo Sabres.

The announcement prompted the crowd of several hundred people to burst into prolonged applause with a spontaneity that was truly heartfelt. Trustees and advisors, who had been seated in the audience, jumped to their feet, joining with students, faculty, staff, friends and supporters in showing their appreciation for the unprecedented gift, the largest in the more than 150-year history of the university.

In my nearly nine years as president, I had never seen anything like it. Tom Golisano himself seemed overwhelmed by the reaction, and it was only at his insistence that the crowd finally stopped clapping. But the applause began again moments later when it was revealed that the gift would be used to build the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences.

Still, there was more to come. Dr. Nancy McGlen spoke with deep-seated emotion as she described how the gift will radically transform science education at Niagara University. “Mr. Golisano, Tom,” she said, “there are no words that can convey how deeply moved the faculty and I are by your extraordinary generosity. Your gift is both humbling and empowering. We are humbled by your support of what we are doing, and we are more empowered than ever to do our best to make your vision and ours come true.”

Junior biology major Ashley Bantelman, who provided a student perspective, so impressed Tom that he said he would offer her a job interview if she changed her major to business. Ashley did an outstanding job in describing how the opportunity to do research with faculty members benefits both students and teachers.

There was also some good-natured banter that made the press conference a thoroughly enjoyable occasion not only for its content, but for the wonderful spirit of friendship and mutual respect that prevailed.

Tom Golisano is an eminently successful businessman and, as one might expect, he did his homework before making his commitment to Niagara. What he learned about Niagara in the process, he said, “absolutely convinced us that this was a great investment to be made at this university.”

Since the 1990s, Tom’s personal philanthropy has totaled more than $100 million. Most has been directed at educational institutions, hospitals and other organizations in the Rochester area, where his company is headquartered.

This gift to Niagara then, is notable not only for the amount, but for the great expression of confidence it represents in our faculty and staff, in our plans for advancing the sciences, and in our commitment to providing a values-centered educational experience. Tom, by the way, also said he has been impressed by the NU graduates who work for Paychex and by another grad in particular, Dan DiPofi of the Class of 1984, chief operating officer and minority owner of the Buffalo Sabres.

“The Promise of Niagara,” our $80 million capital campaign, seeks to raise $16.5 million toward the total cost of the $25 million science center. Tom’s gift is a substantial step toward that goal. Ideally, his incredible generosity, an endorsement of this university’s plans for the future, will inspire others to support the wonderful transformation that is taking place on our campus.

During the course of his visit to campus, which included a stop at the Gallagher Center for lunch, many members of the university community approached Tom to express their gratitude for his generosity. He obviously enjoyed these encounters, especially the ones with students. Alumni and friends who wish to do the same can write to Tom at the Golisano Foundation, One Fishers Road, c/o Fishers Asset Management, Pittsford, N. Y. 14534.

I also welcome your comments and observations at jll@niagara.edu.

Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., President
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Rochester businessman and philanthropist B. Thomas Golisano recently committed $10 million to NU’s capital campaign, the largest gift in the university’s history. After the press conference announcing the unprecedented gift, members of the university community personally thanked Golisano for his generosity, including students Michelle Clements (left), Eric Walsh, and Ashley Bantelman.

NU Leadership 11
Dr. Peggy Choong, NU’s recently appointed MBA director, is redesigning the program to better meet the needs of students and the marketplace.

The Greening of Niagara 16
Two NU students are spearheading a recycling and environmental initiative on campus.

NU Helping with Study for Trolley System 17
A class in the College of Business Administration is undertaking a feasibility study for Niagara County.

Learning from the Past to Change the Future 18
Dr. Seneca Vaught and several of his students are studying the legacy of housing discrimination in Niagara Falls.

A Few Bad Apples 20
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Junior Nolan Guiffré shares his experiences as a volunteer with the university’s Brothers and Sisters in Christ program.

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Partnership

A new initiative of Niagara’s College of Education will help to prepare a professional workforce for careers in the developmental disabilities field. The collaborative effort between the college and Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara, an organization providing programs and services to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, will provide training to NU students who may be interested in careers in the field.

“It’s a natural link to our current special education programs, which deal with school issues,” says Dr. Debra Colley, dean of the college. “This program will extend that to give our students exposure to a further array of people, issues and challenges.”

The proposed course incorporates a multicategorical model of providing services to individuals with disabilities and is built around the current training OUN provides its staff. Additionally, an infield experience will be offered to students who are interested in working in an intermediate care facility or an individual residential alternative setting.

“We envision the course being taught by someone from the facility and someone from the faculty of the college,” Colley adds.

The college, in conjunction with the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, currently offers a course that prepares students to be coaches for the Special Olympics. The proposed course, Colley says, is a progression of that course, and may lead to a minor specialization in the field.

Freshman 411

A record number of students (nearly 3,300) applied for admission to Niagara’s Class of 2012, with 740, the largest number in the modern history of the university, enrolled for fall 2008. These students came from 305 high schools (including home schools).

The top 10 feeder high schools are:
- Niagara Falls High School
- Niagara-Wheatfield Senior High School
- Lewiston-Porter Senior High School
- Clarence High School
- Lockport High School
- Starpoint High School
- St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute
- Kenmore West High School
- Grand Island Senior High School
- North Tonawanda Senior High School

The freshmen hail from 20 states outside New York, including such distant ones as Alaska, California, Colorado and Texas. Seventeen are international students: 15 from Canada, one from Sweden and one from Jamaica.

Eighty percent of the freshman class lives in the residence halls.

The most popular majors for new freshmen are:
- Business Management
- Accounting
- Education
  (with either a liberal arts or a social studies concentration)
- Hotel Planning and Control
- Biology
- Criminal Justice
- Marketing
- Psychology
- Sports Management

The top names of our incoming freshmen are:
- Matthew
- Michael
- Jessica
- Ashley
- Sarah
- Brittany
- Joseph
- John
- Jennifer
- Christopher

Varsity Village Tradition Returns — Residents of NU’s Varsity Village brought back a beloved tradition when they elected Jessica Prinzing, a junior from Webster, N.Y., mayor of the village Sept. 23. Prinzing faced four opponents in the election, which was the first held since the 1960s. She is pictured here with Sheila Haurath, vice president of student life; Paul Dyster, mayor of the City of Niagara Falls; and the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., NU president. Dyster’s father, Niagara Falls physician Dr. Melvin Dyster, a 1948 graduate of Niagara University, lived in the village as a student.
NU Named One of the Best in the Region by Two Publications

Niagara University is again listed among the best colleges and universities in the North, according to annual rankings released by U.S. News and World Report. It has also been ranked among the best colleges and universities in the Northeast by The Princeton Review.

U.S. News and World Report's Sept. 25 edition listed the schools it selected as best in their respective regions. Niagara was listed 58 among 86 colleges and universities in the northeastern United States that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's degree programs. The rankings, which are based on such factors as peer assessment, retention, graduation and acceptance rates, class sizes, and the giving rate of alumni, also appear in the 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges.

In the Princeton Review, Niagara was chosen as one of 212 institutions recommended in its Best in the Northeast section on the PrincetonReview.com feature, “2009 Best Colleges Region by Region.” The New York City-based education services company also profiles the university in its book, The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2009 Edition. This selection was based on student response to a survey that asked them to rate their own schools on several issues.

NU students also ranked the university favorably in a nationwide survey of effective educational practices. The 2008 report from the National Survey of Student Engagement, which involved 774 four-year colleges and universities, found that both freshman and senior students ranked NU above the national averages in level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment.

RECOGNIZING VINCENTIAN SERVICE — A highlight of Niagara University’s Vincentian Heritage Week was a convocation held on Sept. 22 at Alumni Chapel, during which two individuals were honored for their example of Vincentian service. John Kinner (back row, left), executive director of the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc., received the Caritas Medal, an honor awarded to contemporary leaders who exemplify the charity of St. Vincent de Paul in an extraordinary way. Diane Stoelting (front row, right), coordinator of specialized support services at NU, received the Vincentian Mission Award, which is given to members of the university community who seek to emulate the altruistic spirit of St. Vincent.

Four NU alumni were inducted into the second class of Niagara Legacy - Alumni of Distinction at the event as well. Honorees included Richard Chapdelaine, ’49 (front row, left), chairman of the board of Chapdelaine Companies and a trustee emeritus of NU; and Hubie Brown, ’55 (back row, second from right), a member of the National Basketball Association’s Hall of Fame and former coach of the New York Knicks and Memphis Grizzlies. Honored posthumously were Francis (Tim) Dunleavy, ’41, and the Rev. Michael McGivney. Dunleavy was former president and chief executive officer of ITT and the major benefactor, with his wife, Albina, of Dunleavy Hall. His son, Michael (back row, second from left), accepted the award on behalf of his father. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus and candidate for sainthood, studied at Our Lady of Angels Seminary at Niagara in 1871. Dennis Savoie, deputy supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus (back row, right), accepted the award for McGivney. Pictured with the honorees is the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president.

Leibowitz Named to Business First’s 40 Under Forty

Adrienne Leibowitz, director of sponsored programs and research at Niagara University, has been named to Business First of Buffalo’s 17th annual “40 Under Forty” class in recognition of her professional success and community involvement.

At Niagara, Leibowitz is responsible for the university’s public-funded grant projects; from research and writing to compliance with federal auditing agencies and setting long-range operational goals.

Active in the community, she is a member of the Junior League of Buffalo and serves on the board of trustees for several organizations, including Cradle Beach Camp in Angola, Family and Children’s Services in Niagara Falls, and Lifestyle Farming, a sustainable agriculture organization in Amherst.

In 2007, she traveled to Malawi, Africa, to assist the Malawi Children’s Village, a community-based organization that serves AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children in the Mangochi District of Malawi. The trip was made possible by a $4,180 poverty research and project grant through Niagara University. She has subsequently been named to the Malawi Children’s Village board of directors and serves as secretary of the executive committee. A story on Leibowitz’s experience was published in the fall 2007 Eagle.
Top 10 Wines Under $10

Looking for a nice bottle of wine to bring to your next holiday gathering that won't break the bank? College of Hospitality and Tourism Management advisory council member Burt Notarius, president of Prime Wines Corp., a member of the Premier Group, offers the following suggestions:

Top Ten Reds

2005 Chateau Lavagnac, red Bordeaux, France — This is a wine that rises well above its station and tastes like a $50 wine.

2005 Domaine de la Maurelle Cotes du Rhone, France — This medium-bodied wine is loaded with fresh cassis and red fruit flavors. The smooth, velvety texture makes this very approachable and easy to drink.

2006 Montes Cabernet Sauvignon, Chile — “... oak-spiced raspberry and blackberry aromas offer the clarity, intensity and visceral appeal of a $50 Napa wine...” — Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar, 3/1/08

2007 Maipe Cabernet Sauvignon, Argentina — Plush, fruit-forward, but with fresh herbs, licorice and vanilla adding to the complexity.

2005 Ocaso Malbec, Argentina — An extremely elegant Malbec with fresh blackberry fruit, savory blueberry, palate-cleansing mineral and a super clean, satisfying finish.

2005 Thorn Clark Terra Barossa Shiraz, Australia — “An unreal bargain ... it boasts an inky/ruby/purple color along with deep blackberry liqueur, smoky camphor, grilled meat, and toasty oak notes.” — Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, 10/31/06

2005 Milton Park Shiraz, Australia — “A superb value ... . It reveals copious amounts of blackberries, black cherries, tar, licorice, and a hint of oak.” — Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, 10/31/06

2002 Hopper Creek Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, California — The nose begins with raspberry jelly, cocoa powder and a touch of eucalyptus. The fruit carries through on the palate with just a hint of cedar and spicebox. It is in a word, smooth.

2004 Razon Rouge, Spain — “Suave, ripe, inviting aromas of black raspberry, strawberry preserves and candied licorice. Finishes velvety and sweet, with lingering berry flavors. Really delicious and a top value.” — Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar, 10/1/06

2003 L’Ottavo Chianti Classico, Italy — Lay down a checkered tablecloth, serve up a giant bowl of pasta, and give this Chianti a try — it’s sure to become a house favorite!

Top Ten Whites

2006 Sorrel Chardonnay, California — “A wonderfully exotic blend of tropical fruits and citrus elements that coalesce into a seamlessly textured swathe of flavor ... ” — 93 points, Beverage Dynamics, 8/1/08

2006 Geyser Peak Sauvignon Blanc, California — Overflowing with grapefruit and tangy lemon flavors, this is classic California Sauvignon Blanc.

2007 Menage a Trois White, California — “The enticing aroma of ripe pear, Meyer lemon and apricot tart leads to flavors that are like a bowl of fresh, ripe fruit.” — San Francisco Chronicle, 8/10/06

2006 Chateau la Graviere Entre-deux-Mers, White Bordeaux — Nose of melons and lemon oil lead to a taste richer than Sauvignon Blancs from anywhere in the world at this price.

2006 Vignerons Saumur Blanc, Loire Valley, France — This reliable favorite has prominent flavors of citrus zest, with bold minerality and saline acidity.

2007 Hallopiere Chardonnay, Loire Valley, France — A smooth, full-bodied wine with subtle hints of freshly cut grass and apple.

2006 Amano Bianco — Brilliant straw color, aromas of lime and juicy pear, and flavors of lemon, lime, pear and almond characterize this aromatic, fresh, silky-textured wine.

Dibon Brut Reserve Cava, Spain — Super concentrated, toasty, and loaded with lime, melon and pear overlaid with hints of yeast and earth.

Royal St. Vincent demi-sec, non-vintage, France — Loaded with canned pear, red apple, ripe apricot and honey, it is very difficult not to love this semi-sweet French sparkling from the Loire.
A NU Sound

As Niagara University students return to Monteagle Ridge for the start of another academic semester, a new sound is in the air: "WNIA Mix and More." Niagara's new and improved student-operated radio station, was launched this fall, and it promises to be an exciting addition to campus life.

With a new location in the heart of campus, the Gallagher Center, the station will be highly visible to NU students, faculty and visitors.

"We wanted this location not only for students, but also for visitors to stop and say 'Oh, this is the radio station,'" said Fred Heuer, NU's assistant vice president for marketing and station moderator. He noted that the station's previous location in the basement of Alumni Hall hampered student interest and involvement. Lack of involvement doesn't seem to be a problem this year, however. Heuer noted that he has already received word from more than 50 students who said they would like to get involved with the station.

"We haven't seen this much enthusiasm in a long time," Heuer said. "Last year we were lucky if we had 10 people working for the station. This year, I've just been getting tons of e-mails from people saying they want to do this."

There are different ways for students to get involved with the station, regardless of major. Opportunities include broadcasting, music, production, Web site development, promotions, engineering, and sports. In addition, the communication studies department will offer internships to students who participate.

The station's programming format will be "wide open," according to Heuer. "We're keeping an open mind," he said. "If a student comes to us with an idea, we'll do whatever we can to try and use it. We are here for the students, so you do things that will benefit the students."

Chronicle Rates NU Among "Great Colleges to Work For"

Niagara University ranks prominently among the "Great Colleges to Work For" in a survey released by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Niagara was ranked among the top five institutions in 20 of 27 categories examined in the nationwide survey, which recognizes institutions that have created exceptional work environments.

More than 15,000 administrators, faculty and staff members from 89 institutions participated in the survey.

Niagara was also recognized in 2007 as one of the best places to work in Western New York in a workplace survey conducted by Buffalo Business First.

For more information, visit www.niagara.edu/news/printnews.php?id=080717144733.
NEW AT NU — The familiar snack bar/food service area in the Gallagher Center underwent a renovation over the summer, transforming it into a modern-day food court that features four dynamic food stations. Grill 468 serves traditional menu items as well as Philly steak and chicken fajita hoagies, while W.N.Y. Classics dishes up roast beef on kimmelweck, Polish sausage, pierogis, fish fries, pizza and other local culinary fare. Midtown/Deli offers assorted wraps, specialty salads and gourmet sandwiches, and Freshens features fresh fruit smoothies and yogurt dishes. In addition, the new Gally Market makes shopping for beverages, snacks and quick meals convenient.

Also this summer Niagara Field, a new synthetic turf facility, was installed to provide a state-of-the-art home for Purple Eagles men’s and women’s soccer. The inaugural game was played on Aug. 25, bringing 583 fans to watch the Purple Eagles women’s soccer team take on the University at Buffalo.

Father Walter Dirig, C. M., Former SOLA Rector, Dies at 99

The Rev. Walter F. Dirig, C. M., former rector of the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels at Niagara University, died Aug. 29 at St. Catherine’s Infirmary at the seminary. He was 99.

Ordained in 1939, Father Dirig spent much of his priesthood in seminary work. He taught at N.U. for a year after his ordination, returning in 1952. He was named vice rector of the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels in 1957 and was appointed its rector two years later.

After the seminary relocated to Albany, N.Y., in 1961, Father Dirig joined the university for a time as executive vice president. He also taught philosophy to seminarians of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, who took classes at the university, until 1967.

In recognition of “his long and full life of priestly dedication,” Father Dirig was awarded the Niagara University President’s Medal in 1989 at a reunion of priests who were former SOLA seminarians.
Successful Aging

Senior citizens in Western New York are learning how to improve the quality of their lives thanks to a new program that encourages participants to take charge of their physical and mental health. "Helping Seniors to Engage," a series of four weekly health-promotion classes, is being conducted by Dr. Jamie Pimlott, assistant professor of political science, in collaboration with Dana Bagwell of the Memory Health and Fitness Institute. The program is funded by a Niagara University Vincentian Research and Project Award.

To date more than 50 seniors have completed the classes, which center around reducing health disparities and increasing civic and social engagement among seniors living at or close to the poverty level. Because transportation is often a barrier for these individuals, Pimlott and Bagwell formed partnerships with community centers and organizations, senior centers, outpatient medical clinics, the YMCA, the Elderwood community, and Independent Health to link the classes to already existing on-site programs.

Each week, Pimlott and Bagwell discuss topics of concern to people over the age of 60, including ways to stay physically and mentally active and small but effective changes that can be made to diet and activity level. They also encourage participants to try something new each week, such as sampling a new food, walking around the block, or playing a video game.

"Funwork," which includes readings and a suggested activity, is assigned at the end of each class, and participants are asked to complete and return an "Aging IQ" quiz that records the activities they accomplished that week and the change, if any, in their perception of the issues addressed in the previous week's class.

A unique component of the program is its focus on civic engagement. Research shows that impoverished individuals vote at lower rates than others, says Pimlott. She notes that the classes are designed to increase the seniors' level of political efficacy by giving them the information and encouragement necessary to become more civically active. Participants are asked to contact an elected official about a topic of concern to them, and lists of local volunteer opportunities are provided so that those who wish to get involved in their communities have the information they need. In addition, voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications are made available.

Pimlott notes that the response to the program has been overwhelming. She says that courses will continue through the fall semester, after which she plans to use the research data she receives from this program to procure further grant funding.

For more information on the project, contact Pimlott at 716-286-8337 or jpmilott@niagara.edu.

— Lisa McMahon

CHALKWALK — Jennifer Dunatov, a third-year biology major from Toronto, puts the finishing touches on her sidewalk project outside D unleav H all. The assignment, create chalk art with a microbiology theme, is for Dr. Mark Gallo's microbiology class. Dunatov chose to research Listeriosis, an infection that is transmitted through soil and water and can be ingested by eating certain foods, because of the recent outbreak in Canada. Other topics included Lyme disease; Leptospira, a disease that can affect humans and their pets; and the role of Cyanobacteria in the environment. The assignment challenges students to spend time reflecting on their subjects so that they can present them in a way that conveys their relevance to the public. Gallo notes that this project fulfills the mission of the university's Academic Center for Integrated Sciences, which is to educate the public by disseminating scientific information. For more information on N U's biology department, visit www.niagara.edu/biology/.

Brother Augustine Towey's Collected Poems Published

The collected poetry of Brother Augustine Towey, C.M., has been published for the first time by Arthur M cAllister Publishers of Harpswell, Maine. The volume, entitled "The Poem You Asked For and Other Poems," contains almost the entire body of his previous work, plus several new poems.

Towey, director emeritus of Niagara University Theatre, which he founded some 45 years ago, has authored six other volumes of poetry: "Waiting for Snow in Lewiston," "The Things of Man," "Silences," "Later Enchantments," "The Anna Poems," and "Poems from San Francisco." "The Poem You Asked For and Other Poems" includes an essay by Towey in which he writes of his development as a poet.

In 1996, Towey recorded a CD of his poetry, "Waiting for Snow in Lewiston: An Evening of Poetry," with actors Vincent O'Neill and Josephine Hogan joining him in reading his work. Plans are under way for a second CD incorporating more of his work to be released in the spring of 2009.

"The Poem You Asked For and Other Poems" may be pre-ordered by e-mailing Orders@amcpub.com and writing "Towey" in the subject line. Instructions will be e-mailed to those who place an order.
By Sister Nora Gatto, D.C.
Executive Director
University Mission and Ministry

Missioned for the Mission

"Join the convent and see the world." That's what my Dad always says to me when I call to tell him that I am being reassigned, or "missioned," as we say in the Vincentian family of vowed religious. I've had to make this call eight times, but this time ranks as number one in the category of most difficult.

It is true that I have loved every assignment I have had, from my first as a teacher at Notre Dame High School in Utica, N.Y. (where I had the privilege of working with some of you who are NU alums!), through the streets of Harlem as a school principal, to this university where it seems clear that all of my previous assignments were a preparation for me to be here.

I have been appointed to the provincial council of the Northeast Province of the Daughters of Charity. It is humbling and truly an honor. Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., former provincial and beloved former president of Covenant House, called to congratulate me and told me that this would be an opportunity for me to "do nice things for the sisters." I'm glad she said that, because it helps me answer the question that many have asked me. "So what will you be doing as a provincial councillor?"

Other than that, here's what I know: that I will have left Niagara University by the time you read this. And that as I pack my things and prepare to move to Albany, I will reflect on the past five years as a "Purple Eagle Sister." I match myself up to the mission and ask, "How did I do in the five years I was given?"

Niagara University educates its students and enriches their lives... I recall a night that a student knocked on my door in Lynch Hall at midnight. I confess to you that I was asleep in my chair. I opened the door. She was very upset. Troubles at home and pressure at school were getting to her. She was lonely (a long way from her Cleveland home) and just needed to talk. I listened. That was all she wanted. Is that "educating and enriching"? I hope so and I think so. I will miss nights like that.

... through programs in the liberal arts and career preparation. We were in Brooklyn with the students on the BASIC service trip. Our students were working one-on-one in an after-school program with some of the most disadvantaged and difficult street kids that I had ever encountered. I watched our students make connections with these kids who were in awe of them, college students who cared about them! I could not have been more proud. I will miss these trips.

Informed by Catholic and Vincentian traditions: We are beginning the second year of our new and exciting program entitled Vincentian Mission Institute. Our group of nine professionals, who represent all areas of the university, recently attended the first collaborative meeting with VMI members from St. John's and DePaul universities. As a team they presented to the others a powerful presentation of what they had learned during the first semester of studying our Catholic and Vincentian heritage. It brought tears to my eyes to see the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise alive in these folks. I will miss the conversations we had and the fire that now burns in the hearts of these "Vincentians."

But perhaps the greatest "mission" test for me is whether or not I made connections with students. They are, of course, the reason any of us is here at N.U. Let me end this article, and my contribution to this Eagle magazine, with a story.

I was walking across campus last week and passed a group of kids playing football. One of them called out to me, "Hey, Sister Nora, go deep." So I put down my bag and put up my arms, caught the ball — to their surprise — and tossed it back in a perfect spiral. (I have three brothers.) It was a delightful encounter and not at all unusual on this wonderful campus. But it was the phrase "go deep" that struck me to the core. That's exactly what I've had to do to accept this new assignment and say goodbye, for now anyway, to all here at Niagara: Go deep inside yourself to where it all began for me and that fire that now burns in the hearts of these "Vincentians."

Thank you to all of you who have left Niagara University but Niagara University never leaves you. I now understand what is meant by a phrase I have heard so many times by so many alumni: "You can leave Niagara University but Niagara University never leaves you." Thank God for that, I say. May the mission of this university always remain central. God bless!
Al Oddo, ’68
Professor of Accounting and Director of University Mission

Al Oddo’s vision for his students is simple, yet profound. “When they leave here,” he says, “they should have a good education and be prepared to go into the world and make a difference.”

Oddo, himself, exemplifies this vision. A 1968 Niagara graduate, he returned to his alma mater as professor of accounting in 1972. He is an accomplished professional, a prolific author of refereed journal articles and books, and a frequent presenter at business seminars and conferences. In addition, he has developed a number of computer software programs and has served as a reviewer for several textbooks.

His service record is equally impressive. Oddo has been a member of the St. Amelia Parish Finance Committee for more than 25 years, the last 12 as chair. He was recently appointed to the Diocese of Buffalo’s Financial Controls Committee for Parish Finances by Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, a group charged with strengthening and monitoring the internal control systems of the diocese’s parishes. In addition to this work, Oddo volunteers with organizations such as Catholic Charities, the American Cancer Society, the March of Dimes, and the Leukemia Society.

“I try to express the university mission in everything I do,” he says.

But perhaps Oddo’s most influential service is at Niagara. For example, since 1978, Oddo has coordinated and taught the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, an Internal Revenue Service-sponsored initiative that offers low-income and elderly individuals free tax counseling and basic income tax preparation. The work is now done as a community service project by NU’s Accounting Society students and the university’s Lambda Chi chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization of accounting, finance and information systems students and professionals. NU has been nationally recognized on two separate occasions for the number of tax returns prepared and the largest amount of money refunded to taxpayers. One of those occasions was in August at Beta Alpha Psi’s annual meeting in Anaheim, Calif. Lambda Chi was honored with the top award from the IRS for preparing the most tax returns, one of only eight awards given nationally this year.

“The VITA award exemplifies Niagara University’s commitment to community service in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul,” Oddo says. “Our students prepared more than 700 tax returns and provided over $500,000 in federal tax refunds to low-income and elderly taxpayers in our community.”

Even more importantly, the experience encourages students to continue volunteering long after they’ve graduated. “We try to nurture that sense of mission as a way of life, not just as something that you do on campus,” Oddo notes. “Our students take with them this sense of ethics and values and especially service to others in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.”

This year, Oddo was appointed university mission director, a role that offers him the opportunity to broaden his vision to the entire university community and to encourage faculty and staff to follow the example of St. Vincent de Paul.

“We want to expand the sense of mission to the wider Niagara community,” he says, “so that everyone on campus has a great appreciation for who we are and what we are trying to accomplish.”

As mission director, Oddo’s responsibilities include familiarizing new employees with the mission and history of the university and with developing and planning activities that promote the university’s Vincentian and Catholic mission. “Mission matters,” Oddo says. “It sets us apart from other universities and flows from our character as a university that is Catholic and Vincentian.”

Oddo’s dedication to promoting Niagara’s mission made him an obvious choice for a recent collaborative effort of the three Vincentian universities in the United States (Niagara, St. John’s and DePaul). He was one of nine individuals selected from Niagara to participate in the Vincentian Mission Institute, an intensive, three-year continuing education program designed to develop successive generations of lay leaders to support their institutions’ Catholic and Vincentian identity. The VMI program emphasizes Catholic intellectual, social justice and service traditions, and addresses the distinctive nature of Catholic and Vincentian higher education with a strong emphasis on Vincentian history, spirituality and service.

“We’re being trained by the top experts in the field,” Oddo says. “After three years of extensive training, we will emerge from this with a pretty solid background in Vincentian mission and be qualified to assume leadership roles that will ensure the existence of the Catholic and Vincentian identity of Niagara.” This experience will also position Oddo to ensure that his vision of the mission being lived through the Niagara community, both on Monteagle Ridge and beyond, will be realized.

— Lisa McMahon
Ed McLaughlin on the Purple Podcast

Ed McLaughlin, Niagara’s director of athletics, recently sat down to discuss the state of the program on NU’s Purple Podcast. Some highlights:

Niagara Field: “I don’t even think we understand the level of impact it is going to have. It has been a tremendous asset for our soccer programs and will be in the spring for lacrosse.”

Status of College Hockey America: “The CHA is in a very big state of flux ... but we are still going to work this year to figure out a solution. It is not an easy solution, though.”

Visit www.niagara.edu/news/ to hear the entire podcast.

Chachko “Gets Focused” with Unique Summer Trip

When opposing batters step into the box and glance up to see a 6-foot-6 flame-thrower getting ready on the mound, the first thought that flows through their brain might be fear. Even intimidation.

However, there is a softer side to Dennis Chachko. The Niagara relief pitcher credits his impressive junior campaign to a simple step that he performs before he steps onto the mound.

“Before I pitch, I like to take a moment to reflect,” Chachko said. “I use that time to focus on life, not baseball. It helps me incorporate my faith into the game and it shakes off the nerves.”

After Chachko kneels behind the mound, he feels open and refreshed. And the Purple Eagles reaped the benefit of that during the 2008 season. He went from the bottom of the depth chart during the preseason to the best reliever on the team in just a few short months. And he credits that to his work ethic and his faith.

Once Chachko’s summer league season was over, he felt that he was called to take the trip of a lifetime. As a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the pitcher spent 13 days in the Bahamas as an instructor for a free sports camp where he was able to teach the children of the island of Spanish Wells bits of baseball, basketball and the Bible.

“It was such a life-changing experience. It was great to give back by using the platform of baseball to reach out for the good of people. It gives you such a warm feeling inside,” he said.

Chachko spent the first weeks of August leading 60 kids in baseball instruction as the head instructor, while helping out in the basketball sessions as an assistant. During the baseball days, the children would learn the fundamentals of hitting, fielding and throwing before a short break to beat the heat and a group discussion.

The theme of the camp was “Get Focused.” During the break, the camp instructors would discuss their beliefs and how they incorporate faith into their sports and their lives.

“We were able to personalize our beliefs and relate our faith to the kids,” Chachko explained. “I talked about my tunnel vision as a pitcher and about the time that I take to get focused behind the mound before I pitch.”

After the brief discussions, Chachko would develop game situations for the kids to play in.

“This made it more fun for the kids,” he said.

After his final season on Monteagle Ridge, the business management/economics and finance double major wants to get into business while doing mission work where he is able to serve others.

“I’m not trying to stand out and talk about my faith to everyone,” Chachko said. “I’m just grateful for the things that I have. This camp was just something that I felt I needed to do, and I really enjoyed it. Helping others makes you feel good, and I learned a lot of life’s lessons while I was there.”

— Kevin Carver

Dwyer Arena, Buffalo to Host 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships

Niagara’s Dwyer Arena, along with Buffalo’s HSBC Arena, will host the International Ice Hockey Federation’s under-20 championships in December 2010 and January 2011. Buffalo, with support from the National Hockey League’s Sabres, will be the primary site, with Dwyer Arena being a secondary venue.

The 10-nation tournament annually features the best junior players under age 20 and is estimated to bring $6 million into the host community.

Dennis Chachko helps a camper reach the basket.
Executive leadership begins in Niagara University’s MBA program. That's not just a catchy tagline, it’s a fact, says Dr. Peggy Choong, the recently appointed MBA director.

Choong's vision for the program is straightforward. “I would like to see our program recognized for the excellent program that it is, in this region and beyond,” she says. And she’s putting the pieces in place to make that happen.

One of her first priorities is to ensure the course offerings enable students to develop leadership, negotiation, interpersonal and communication skills across all business functions. She notes that these characteristics enable leaders to manage relationships, which is the hallmark of effective leadership. “It is this ability that will set our students apart,” she says.

Other initiatives include the addition of a financial derivatives class and a personal financial planning class, and the movement of the advanced portfolio management course to the graduate program. A new online course will be offered this spring. On the horizon as well is the possibility of the program being registered by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, which will enable students to sit for the CFP exam, a “coveted certificate,” according to Choong. “It will give a lot of credence to our program, and we’ll be the only one in the area offering it.”

Choong is planning to enrich the experiences of MBA students by developing an “executive placement” opportunity during which they will be mentored by executives in various organizations. She is also modifying the current study-abroad option into a “global executive visit” where students can connect with leaders in foreign companies. Hands-on experiences with the college’s enterprise resource planning system and through distinctive simulation programs will also engage students. “I am committed to developing the visionary business executive who is able to take a global view of his or her organization and business environment,” she says.

Maintaining the connection between NU and the MBA students, and among the students themselves, is also a priority. “I am committed to nurturing community and networking among our current students,” she says. To that end, she’s been working with the alumni relations office to develop an online site where students can keep in touch with their classmates. “I would like to see our students be able to develop a global network,” she says, “so that they can connect to NU and one another wherever they are.”

In addition to meeting the needs of students, Choong is also continually examining the marketplace to identify areas of need. “I am excited about putting together a health-care concentration to respond to such a need,” she says, noting that the new offering will build upon the existing core disciplines offered in the MBA program. “We then show students how to apply this knowledge to the particulars of the health-care industry.” Choong will be able to draw upon her past experience as a senior researcher in a large health-care organization and her current role as a consultant in this area to develop the curriculum for this new specialization.

Choong is also reaching out to Canadian students, whom she says are “just waiting to get an American degree.” NU’s MBA program will be represented at more than a dozen graduate school fairs throughout the province of Ontario this year.

One thing that won’t change in the MBA program, however, is its focus on and integration of ethics across the curriculum. “It is my hope that our MBA students come out of the program with a values-based moral compass,” Choong says. ✨

— Lisa McMahon

eagle magazine 11
The morning was chilly, but spirits were high as a group comprising members of Niagara University’s board of trustees, advisors, students, faculty and staff gathered on the front steps of the Castellani Art Museum in anticipation of a historic announcement. After a brief welcome and introduction by Robert J. Dwyer, ’65, chairman of the board of trustees, the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., president of Niagara University, took the podium to share the exciting news: Niagara University had received the largest gift in its 152-year history.

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“B. Thomas Golisano, a businessman and philanthropist perhaps best known to Western New Yorkers as the owner of the Buffalo Sabres, has committed $10 million to support construction of a new interdisciplinary science building, a facility that will radically alter the teaching and research environment on our campus,” Levesque said.

“I am equally delighted to announce that this unprecedented act of generosity will forever be acknowledged in the name of the building, which will be called the B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences,” Father Levesque added. “On behalf of the university, Tom, on behalf of our trustees and administration, and our students, faculty, staff and friends, I offer you a profound thank you. Thank you, a thousand times thank you.”

The contribution, which was applied to the university’s $80 million capital campaign, “The Promise of Niagara,” pushed the amount raised to date past the $50 million mark. Partial funding for the new science center, estimated to cost $25 million, is included in the campaign. The proposed 44,000-square-foot science center will replace DePaul Hall, a facility that has housed the university’s science programs since 1961. The new structure will provide more space and flexibility for today’s integrated learning environment and interdisciplinary approach to the sciences. Biology, chemistry, physics, bioinformatics and computational chemistry students and faculty will all have access to advanced instrumentation either as individuals or as members of a study team.

“It’s all based on the quality of the institution. What matters here is this is a great organization and great institution, and that’s what this gift is based on.”

— B. Thomas Golisano
“Today’s story is about one man’s personal investment in our university and in our region, and the promising future of both.” Don Bielecki, vice president for institutional advancement
Following the press conference, Golisano enjoyed a casual lunch at the Gallagher Center. A number of students stopped by his table to thank him for his generosity and the support he’d given them.

“I want Mr. Golisano to know that he is investing in a quality institution, a university where the theory of the classroom is integrated with the reality of the workplace. Research and teaching go hand in hand, and all of us, teachers and students, benefit as a result of our active learning environment. We do all this in a facility that needs updating. And that makes this gift all the more special. It is an investment in a very good university that will only get better as a result of Mr. Golisano’s generosity.” Ashley Bantelman, junior biology major

“Right here in Western New York, we have found a wonderful friend, a businessman and philanthropist who has heard our vision for Niagara, has accepted and endorsed it, and has stepped forward to support it at a level that is extraordinary in our experience.” Robert J. Dwyer, ’65, chairman of Niagara University’s board of trustees

“This was a great investment to be made at this university.”
— B. Thomas Golisano
WENDT FOUNDATION AWARDS
$300,000 GRANT FOR NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

Niagara University received a $300,000 grant from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation to assist in funding a new science building planned for the campus. The grant from the Buffalo-based foundation will be applied to the university’s ongoing capital campaign, “The Promise of Niagara.”

“We are very thankful to the Wendt Foundation for their generous grant. It is an important step in Niagara’s goal of building our new interdisciplinary science building,” said Dr. Nancy McGlen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “It is also recognition of the impressive work our science faculty members are doing in interdisciplinary teaching and research with students,” she added.

The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation is a private, philanthropic organization that focuses on education, the arts and social services in Buffalo and Western New York.

“The B. Thomas Golisano Center for Integrated Sciences will serve as a source of inspiration for our students to explore the future of scientific study, allowing them to directly observe, as well as more easily participate in, research projects in integrated science. The center will also allow NU to do even more to help grow the biotechnology/bioinformatics industry of the Buffalo/Niagara region. We will be better able to prepare our students in a world-class science education/research complex so that they will be ready to join scientific teams at one of the region’s research institutions or work in one of the new biomedical companies.” Dr. Nancy McGlen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

“Clearly, the support you are providing for the science building is an expression of great confidence in the direction our program is taking. But your gift also represents a major investment in the future of Western New York, a future that Niagara University will help to shape, with your assistance, through the contributions of our students and through the research that will take place here.” The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president

“Going through this process of determining our gift was not easy for the administration, and I have to give a lot of credit to Father Levesque and his staff. We did some research first, then we came and visited, we asked a lot of the preliminary questions, we visited the campus, we saw the site, then the plans and diagrams came out and we started asking questions about the efficiency, we asked a lot of questions about the cost, etcetera, etcetera.

“Now I have to say that Father Levesque and his crew came across with flying colors and absolutely convinced us that this was a great investment to be made at this university.

“Also, another reason we got involved here is we do have a number of graduates that work in Paychex that I know of. If you turn out executives like Dan DiPofi, we’ll probably even make larger gifts at some future date, because he’s been great with the Buffalo Sabres!

“The Buffalo Sabres had a lot to do with us getting involved with Niagara University obviously because of the exposure. As you probably heard, I only saw three National Hockey League games before I got involved with the Buffalo Sabres, and now I spend a tremendous amount of time in this area, and have really gotten to learn a lot about the people, but most importantly to appreciate the great hockey fans and the great people, and anything I can do to help the psyche of Western New York, I’m going to try to do.” B. Thomas Golisano, businessman and philanthropist
Karin Crumb Kosmala are working to make the location of the university's receptacles familiarize both students and staff with World Are the Recycling Bins? contest club, the members held a "Where in the and Kosmala, who now moderates the office, student government, facility planning and engineering coordinator Dave Ederer, April. Working with the campus activities task force to bridge the work the students are doing with that planned by the larger university community. The girls hope to carry their efforts beyond the campus as well. They've joined the Niagara County Environmental Municipalities Commission, an advisory group of the Niagara County legislature. that were placed next to all the bins on campus, noting where they found the bin and the ease with which they found it. Those who returned eight or more surveys were entered into a drawing to win a cash prize. The group also held a bottle and can drive, and "looted" the garbages on campus to remove the recyclable bottles and cans.

This year, NUHOPE members plan to work with the university to implement some of the recommendations McKenney and McGill made following their research. These include adding recycling bins in more accessible locations, participating in the Abitibi Paper Retriever® Community Recycling Program, and developing a recycling program for catered events held on campus. Already, additional bins have been purchased for O'Shea and Seton halls so that two can be placed on every floor. "We're hoping to get the rest of the dorms done this year in a similar fashion," Kosmala says. The group also plans to compete in "RecycleMania," a contest among some 400 colleges and universities to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. A campus composting program is also being considered. "Any waste from Gally, Clet or student kitchens could be put toward that," says McKenney.

NUHOPE members also intend to collect the furniture, rugs, and other items students discard at the end of each semester. Because some of these objectives require funding, NUHOPE members are applying for grants. One member, Catherine Galaloto, is writing a grant proposal as part of her grantwriting course. McKenney and McGill are also planning to serve on the university's newly established "green" task force to bridge the work the students are doing with that planned by the larger university community.

The girls hope to carry their efforts beyond the campus as well. They've joined the Niagara County Environmental Municipalities Commission, an advisory group of the Niagara County legislature.

By Lisa McMahon

Niagara University students saw a strange site on campus one day this past spring. Empty beverage bottles, their labels reversed and inscribed with the instructions “Recycle This,” were strewn across campus. It was part of a clever promotion (which also included posters and Facebook messages) for a new student organization called NUHOPE (Niagara University Helping Our Planet Earth).

The brainchild of then-freshmen Erin McKenney and Sally McGill, the group was organized to help enhance Niagara University’s recycling and environmental efforts. The two enterprising environmentalists had been working with Karin Crumb Kosmala, the university’s facility designer, to research the state of the university’s current recycling efforts and those of other schools so that they could make recommendations to improve Niagara program. The idea of launching a student environmental group evolved from this project.

NUHOPE officially started in the middle of the spring semester. Its first endeavor was to co-sponsor Niagara’s Earth Day events in April. Working with the campus activities office, student government, facility planning and engineering coordinator Dave Ederer, and Kosmala, who now moderates the club, the members held a “Where in the World Are the Recycling Bins?” contest to familiarize both students and staff with the location of the university’s receptacles. Participants were asked to complete surveys and the ease with which they found it. Those who returned eight or more surveys were entered into a drawing to win a cash prize. The group also held a bottle and can drive, and “looted” the garbages on campus to remove the recyclable bottles and cans.

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“Overall,” McKenney says, “we’d like to make the campus a green campus and then extend it into the community as well to help it become more green.”

McKenney and McGill have the following suggestions for those who want to “green” their homes and communities:

1. Buy reusable products. Most grocery stores have reusable canvas bags at the checkout counter. Investing in a good water filter will save you money and keep you from using hundreds of unnecessary plastic bottles.
2. Turn off your computer/television/lights when you aren’t using them. Setting your computer to go to sleep after a set amount of time is a good idea if you don’t want to turn it completely off. Screen savers don’t save you money and energy; sleep mode does.
3. Think before you print. If you really really have to print, use both sides of the paper and recycle all your paper afterward. Most counties take every sort of paper except gray cardboard. (As a matter of fact, once your printer runs out of ink, recycle the cartridges! And when the printer finally dies, recycle that too.)
4. Earth911.org is a wonderful Web site. Just type in anything you want to recycle and it will tell you how and where you can do it in your area.
5. Recycle your plastics and cans too! Keep in mind that plastic doesn’t mean just bottles. You can recycle your shampoo bottles, your milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, yogurt containers … basically any bottle with a recycling symbol on it. And cans also include those tin cans you get green beans in.
6. Most counties have a reuse or freecycle group where you can post your unwanted items so people who want them and are in the neighborhood can drop by and pick them up. This reduces landfill waste and generally just spreads the goodwill around. (Think craigslist.com, freecycle.org, etc.)
It is becoming commonplace for major companies, like Toyota, to ask professor Bill Angus’ students for assistance. This time, however, it was Niagara County’s legislature that needed some advice. Legislator John Ceretto, ‘75, M.S.Ed.’78, a member of the legislature’s Economic Development Committee, asked students in the College of Business Administration for their input on a study about the feasibility of a “people mover,” or tourism trolley system, between Niagara Falls and the Village of Lewiston, N.Y. He had done some research, he said, and “saw that (Angus’ students) had successes in the past in building models for companies.”

According to Angus, the students will set up the project and detail how it could be profitable. The class is another example of how Niagara prepares its students for what to expect in the real world.

**Around the RIM**

Angus, who has been teaching at Niagara for over seven years, has always wanted to give his students the kinds of experiences they will have once they leave Monteaule Ridge. One of the first companies he had his students work with was automaker Toyota. “I was kind of nervous about the whole thing,” Angus recalled. “I didn’t know what the students could produce.” Angus knew he had bright students, but was not sure they could go out and collaborate with those in the corporate world.

He wasn’t let down. “I set the bar high,” he said, “and they exceeded it by a wide margin.”

Toyota used many of the suggestions from Angus’ class in its business models, and came away impressed with what Angus and Niagara had to offer. “Now I’ve got Toyota saying that Niagara students are a cut above the average,” Angus noted.

In 2007, Angus’ class worked with Research In Motion — the company that makes the BlackBerry — on a restructuring of the company. “Their management heard that the university had bright students that could get the job done,” Angus said. Founded in 1984 and based in Waterloo, Ontario, RIM is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of innovative wireless solutions for the worldwide mobile communications market. When they approached Angus, RIM’s management was concerned about its organizational structure.

Angus said at first, his students were apprehensive about having to be responsible for restructuring RIM. “Once they got into it,” he said, “it was amazing to see the work they did. I have never been so proud of Niagara students.”

The students were treated as consultants, even having to go as far as signing a confidentiality agreement. “RIM was sharing information with our students that they did not want public,” Angus recalled. The students loved it because, as Angus put it, they were being treated like professionals.

And since the students were treated like consultants, they could list themselves as such on their résumés.

Recently, RIM management spoke with Angus regarding their reorganization and told him they were amazed how well the proposals were put together. “Those proposals are having a heavy influence on the restructuring of a major company,” Angus said.

**Exploring Niagara by Trolley**

Over the summer, Niagara County received a $2,500 grant from the county’s legislature to study the feasibility of a trolley that would travel between Niagara Falls and the Village of Lewiston. Ceretto approached Angus about having students work on the study. “I am happy to have this partnership with Niagara,” Ceretto said. “These students can certainly look outside the box.”

In September, Ceretto and Niagara County Industrial Development Agency chairman Henry Sloma visited Niagara’s campus to discuss the people mover with the students. “I’d like to think we are empowering young minds,” said Ceretto. “They have a stake in this, as well.”

The students, who are grouped into seven teams, have to structure the company and describe how it could be profitable. Their grade will be largely based on the performance of their presentation of this work to Niagara County.

There is much on the line for the students on this project. If they don’t perform, they can be voted off their team. If they are voted off, they fail the class. Just like in the real world: if you don’t do the work, you are fired.

“You can only vote someone off if they aren’t doing the work,” Angus said, noting that he reviews all the notes before anyone gets “fired.”

Currently, students are trying to find a way to develop the project so that taxpayers are not footing the bill. Ceretto’s hope is that this study will be completed by the end of the fall semester. If the results show that the people mover is viable, then students in Angus’ spring semester class will explore extending the routes for the people mover throughout Niagara County.

Ceretto hopes that by July 2009 a pilot for the people mover will be in place.

If past experience means anything, Angus’ students should be able to give Niagara County something to build on. “I have full confidence in the students that they can get the job done,” Angus said.
Learning from the Past to Change the Future

Dr. Seneca Vaught, assistant professor of African and African American history, and several of his students are studying the legacy of housing discrimination in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The project addresses the historical effects of housing discrimination and their continuing contribution to urban decay in Niagara Falls. It is an important project, as Vaught points out, because “it illustrates how history and theory are connected to real-world experiences. Although history is gleaned from the past, it lives in the present and the answers it provides allow us to address contemporary social issues with confidence and courage.”

The Eagle recently talked with Vaught to learn a little more about the research and the next steps in the project.

Q. What interested you in researching the legacy of housing discrimination in Niagara Falls?

A. When I came to Western New York in 2006, I was amazed at the concentration of poverty in a city of this size. I had witnessed poverty all over the United States in places like Mississippi, Alabama, the Appalachians, and even abroad in West Africa — but when I encountered poverty in Niagara Falls there was something extremely disturbing about its presence here. I think that African Americans outside of Western New York consider Niagara Falls to be symbolic, a gateway to freedom, a citadel of equality and racial harmony stemming from the legacy of the Underground Railroad. When I came here and I saw distinct and entrenched patterns of racial segregation, combined with the blight of urban poverty, it deeply disturbed me.

In my classes, some of my students wanted to know why the city has such a high concentration of African American residents when compared to the outlying areas. Some voiced popular but inaccurate ideas about racial and economic issues in the region. Others thought that racial discrimination was a thing of the past, having no connection to the present, or that racial prejudice existed only in the South. I desperately wanted my students to think historically about how the complex problem of race developed over time and is manifest in the present. To do that, I knew that they needed to go beyond simplistic explanations focusing on personal prerogative and interpret the long-term historical impact of policy and cultural practices on real communities, not just read stories in textbooks.

I saw researching the legacy of housing discrimination in Niagara Falls as an opportunity to teach my students about how race and class work in American society in their own backyard. This was a project designed to give students a stake in the local community and to empower citizens whose voices had not been heard. Most importantly, I wanted them to explore and analyze the significance of social justice today and think about what they could contribute.

Q. How was the research conducted?

A. I spent the summer of 2007 talking to residents who had a story to tell about the city and looking at archival sources in the Niagara Falls Library Local History Department — the archivist Linda Reinumagi was an invaluable resource there! I was fascinated by a series of articles I came across in the Niagara Gazette during the late 1960s that explored housing discrimination. I shared these with my students. Two of my classes, one on the modern civil rights movement and the other on historical research methods, were assigned to this project. The students in one class interviewed Niagara Falls residents, the students in the other group researched the archives in the local library. Both groups collaborated with each other throughout the project. One group produced a mini-documentary on housing discrimination and the other group produced a series of research papers on the history of housing discrimination.

Q. What were the findings of this research?

A. Our conclusion is not yet complete but the data collected and interpreted thus far suggests that housing patterns in Niagara Falls reflect institutional and personal prejudices that have been exacerbated in the post-World War II years to the present. Court cases, a list of citizen complaints, discriminatory real estate practices, and the present racial composition of communities reveal that the ideal of racially integrated schools and neighborhoods in the

“I am certainly grateful for students, faculty and administration in an institution where addressing poverty is not only an option but a mission.”

— Dr. Seneca Vaught
city has been a contested goal. Blockbusting, racial steering, and white flight have all contributed to the current demographics of the city. The ethnic boundaries that characterized the city during the early 20th century have eroded to some extent, but the distinctions of race and class remain prominent indicators of a neighborhood’s vitality. While African Americans outside of the region have romanticized the city as a racial utopia, Niagara Falls continues to grapple with issues of racial and economic justice in the present.

Q. What is the next step in the research?
A. There have been a lot of individuals who have been working very hard, for a very long time, to address this problem. Our current research does not highlight their contributions. We would also like to examine the historical evolution of some areas of the city that are racially integrated. We want to determine whether the integration in these areas is a result of conscious cooperation or an unintended consequence of deindustrialization and urban decay.

Q. What do you ultimately hope to accomplish with the research?
A. In January of this year, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Tiffany Rockwood, and Rob Hengesbach (all exceptional students) shared some of the initial findings of this research with state senators Antoine Thompson and George Maziarz in the hopes of stimulating a historically informed policy discussion on the development of Niagara Falls. We hope that this research will get people to think critically about how we have arrived at this juncture in history and to develop a realistic, long-term approach in resolving the current economic and racial crises facing the city. We hope that we are able to educate citizens and policymakers not only about the nature of the problem, but how other communities in the United States are engaged in interracial and multicultural strategies for social change and economic empowerment.
Every fall, I love going to my local farmers market to buy apples. I buy a lot of apples, usually by the bushel basket. These days, when I run into friends and neighbors at the market who know that I’m a finance professor, the conversation eventually gets around to the financial crisis and the government bailout. They’ll ask me what I think caused the crisis — was it greedy Wall Street investment bankers or financial deregulation? What about this bailout of the banks — why don’t they just give the money to the people struggling to make their mortgage payments?

Trying to give an easy answer to that question can be tough. It’s hard enough to explain the credit exposure of the mezzanine tranche of a mortgage-backed security, especially while holding bags of tomatoes, bunches of carrots, and a big pumpkin. But at the market one Saturday, I thought that the apple farmers might help to explain the way that the financial markets work, or sometimes stop working.

Start by imagining yourself as one of those apple farmers. Each fall, you pick, sort and pack your crop. Because you and your family can’t eat all the apples you grow, you take most of them to the farmers market in town. Like any crop, you’ll always have a few apples that aren’t as good — maybe they’re small, or have bruises or insect damage. You’ll pick those out the best you can, and keep them to use yourself. If the basket is nearly perfect, you can charge a lot; otherwise, you might have to cut your prices to sell them.
When you take them into the market, there are lots of other apple growers who set up their stands all around you. When I stroll through the market, I look at what you and the others have to offer. I’ll compare the price you’re asking with how good I think your apples are. If I find a batch I like, I’ll buy one. If not, I’ll move on to the next stand, or decide to go home and not buy any at all.

Banks aren’t farmers, and mortgages aren’t apples, but banks do originate mortgages, and they do take them to the financial markets to sell. Every time they do, there will be some bad ones. These are mortgages that will be foreclosed on, but that gets figured into the price. The buyers of the mortgages in this market are investment banks, like Merrill Lynch or Goldman Sachs, who cook them up, add cinnamon and make applesauce. (No, wait, that’s what I do with apples!) The investment banks put them together into packages called mortgage-backed securities, which they then turn around and sell to other investors, who, as it turns out, are usually other banks. One of the nice features of these mortgage-backed securities is that the investment banks will try to go through the basket and sort out the good and bad loans. They keep the really bad ones so that the buyers think they are getting a basket full of tasty, AAA-rated, mortgage bonds.

But let’s say that this year a new disease affects part of the apple crop. It doesn’t have to be a big part of the crop that is stricken; let’s say only one out of 20. This disease causes the inside of the apples to rot, but it’s not something you can see from the outside because the apple still looks good. In fact, the only way you know it’s rotten is to bite into it.

So there you are on a sunny October afternoon selling your apples, and you hand me one to try. I take a big bite of what I think is a juicy Macintosh apple and yuck! I picked one with a rotten core. The same thing is happening at the other stands. Since biting into a rotten apple is a pretty unpleasant experience, and I can’t tell the good and the bad apples apart, I probably don’t buy any apples at all, even if you lower the price. You and the other growers find yourself in an empty lot with baskets full of what you thought was a good crop.

Most banks thought that making risky subprime mortgages was a good idea. It was a profitable business, and who wouldn’t want to see more people own homes? But two years ago, interest rates started, and home prices stopped, going up. Not a lot really, just about one out of every 20 mortgages was affected. It’s taken a while to happen, but what we’re seeing now is the buyers in the financial markets who have taken their bite and decided to go home. The buyers won’t risk buying mortgage-backed securities, or any other financial product, because they can’t figure out which are good and which are rotten. The financial markets are still open, but it’s very easy to find a parking spot.

With no buyers, apple growers can’t put gas in the tractor or buy fertilizer, and banks won’t loan money to a couple to buy their first house or a business to build a new factory. If this goes on for too long, it’s easy to see that we’ll have a lot fewer apple growers and a lot less business. This is the origin of the financial crisis — we have trillions of dollars in mortgage-backed securities, but no buyers.

So what is the solution? At this point, the U.S. government is making plans on several fronts. One is to buy almost $250 billion of stock in the banks. It’s like you, as the apple farmer, taking on a new partner who throws in a lot of money to get you through this rough patch. We’re not sure how it will work out. Partners don’t always see eye to eye about how the business should be run — try having the United States as your biggest shareholder.

Another way to attack the problem is to get someone to guarantee that all the apples in the basket are good. That’s another important part of the bailout. The government is guaranteeing most short-term borrowings between corporations, and recently announced an expansion to some mortgage securities. But it doesn’t exactly whet your appetite when you know that’s the only way to get anyone to buy.

Finally, remember all those bad apples no one wants anymore? The United States is buying all the suspect mortgage-backed securities, at least $700 billion worth. That number is only an estimate, because nobody knows what they’re worth. In fact, the only way that the Treasury can really help the banks is by overpaying for them and pretending that the disease never happened. The general idea is that once buyers start showing up again at the market, the Treasury can sneak them into new mortgage-backed securities (maybe by putting them at the bottom of the basket where no one will notice).

This is a difficult time for many people because of the uncertainty about the financial market and its effect on their own finances. It’s hard to say what the financial market will look like in just a year’s time. But one thing gives me a lot of hope about the future. As long as people have been growing things, like apples, we’ve always found an effective way for farmers and financial markets to work, and that isn’t likely to stop.

Ed Hutton, CFA, is an assistant professor of finance and the director of the financial services laboratory at Niagara University. He can be reached at ehutton@niagara.edu.
Editor’s Note: Seven students joined NU campus minister Monica Saltarelli, ’86, on a weeklong service project in Little Rock, Ark., through the university’s Brothers and Sisters in Christ program. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, the students served the poor in that community by revitalizing homes that were damaged by tornados, and working in the Vincentian Parish Outreach Center and in a clinic run by the Daughters of Charity. Junior Nolan Guiffré, an English/international studies major from Norwich, N.Y., kept a journal detailing his experiences.

Sunday, Aug. 17

The eight-person group from BASIC has been in Arkansas for just over a day now. On the first day, we received an impressive welcome from the Vincentian Fathers and the Ladies of Charity. They showed us the remarkable sites that Little Rock has to offer, including the Big Dam Bridge which runs about a mile across the Arkansas River and is the largest bridge of its kind in our country. We also were able to hike up Pinnacle Mountain and get a full view of the city from the top. These walks were just a little bit of conditioning for the work we had ahead of us.

Our host, Father Tom Stehlik, C.M., had made arrangements for us to stay each night at St. Joseph’s Home, a large building that was formerly an orphanage. Many of the local Arkansans tried to convince us that the building was haunted, and we fell for it the first couple of nights. The five-story building contained more rooms than we were able to explore in the short week that we were there (including a small tower with an overview of Little Rock). The whole atmosphere of the state was enough to get us all excited about the upcoming week.

Monday, Aug. 18

The one thing about Arkansas that has impressed me more than anything is the “laid back” attitude that everyone here seems to have in common. The schedules that they keep are very loose, so the environment is virtually stress free. Our hustle and bustle New York attitudes were quickly deprogrammed after just a couple of days in Arkansas.

This attitude was evident when we visited a food pantry in downtown Little Rock. In New York, when we normally visit someplace like a food pantry, there is a sense of urgency regarding
the problems we seek to address. However, in Little Rock, it was quite different. Here, the people realize that just as much can be accomplished by slowing down and taking their time. While we organized food, we saw the people who were waiting in line speaking to one another. When their names were called several minutes later, they had already met someone new whom they otherwise would never have had the opportunity to meet. The communication between the volunteers and the visitors at the food pantry and thrift store was also remarkable, compared to what we were used to. They know full well in Arkansas that the most important things can only be accomplished by slowing down.

Our two education majors, Stephanie and Mary, were especially excited that we went to Central High School and its museum, which told the story of the “Little Rock Nine” and their fight for educational equality. It was an impressive place that reminded us of racial struggles that occurred not too long ago. A Daughter of Charity named Sister Joan gave us a tour of the state capitol and she talked about legislation and how it affects the marginalized. The Arkansas legislators meet only every other year! Arkansas really is a very poor state!

**Tuesday, Aug. 19**

The theme of the day today was the homeless situation in Little Rock. We began our day by sitting in on a committee meeting which was planning a homeless outreach event to provide food, clothing, showers, and other necessities to people throughout the city. After that, we were able to see the problems firsthand, and had lunch at a soup kitchen. That experience was unique because rather than serving food, we were being served, and were able to speak with the homeless people. Everyone in the group heard very interesting stories, ranging from a couple who recently celebrated their 15th anniversary at Pizza Hut, to a man whose plan was to find buried Aztec gold in Arizona.

The most powerful experience of the day was when we visited a homeless camp on the outskirts of the city. More than a dozen tents were set up in a small community. The whole place was very dirty with trash scattered across the whole settlement. However, the tents and the close proximity to other people made it a better alternative than sleeping on the streets. Despite their destitute state, the people at the camp were very happy to speak with us and tell us about their lives. The images at the camp are some that I am sure we will all carry with us for quite some time.

**Wednesday, Aug. 20**

After morning prayer, we ventured out for a tour of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, which was most interesting. You cannot go out to Little Rock without making time to step back in history and reflect about the Clinton years. We also drove out to Gluden to experience the Daughters of Charity ministries, primarily at the clinic. What an impressive clinic! It provides medical and dental care for people of all ages, as well as a wellness center where people can exercise and learn about nutrition. The sad part is that the clinic is very short-staffed. It is always looking for doctors and nurses who are willing to volunteer even a couple of weeks of their time!

After the tour, the Daughters of Charity invited us to their home for a delicious lasagna dinner. It has been nice getting to know the members of the Vincentian family. Father Tom lives with Father Jim Ward, C.M., who is a nurse at the men’s prison as well as a member of the Vincentian Council; Father Carlos Lozada, C.M., from Columbia; and Deacon Arnold Hernandez, C.M. They have all been very warm and welcoming.

One of the projects NU’s BASIC group tackled was constructing decks that would provide access to trailer doors.
Thursday, Aug. 21

Today, it finally came time to remove our collared shirts and sneakers in exchange for boots, safety goggles, and working gloves. The small town of Center Ridge was located 45 minutes outside of Little Rock and had suffered considerable damage from tornados. We were informed that during the peak of the season, 54 tornados slashed through Arkansas in only two days. This is more than one new tornado every hour!

The damage was noticeable immediately when we saw trees that were easily three feet in diameter uprooted from the ground. The pleasant country homes that one graced the road were replaced by trailers with doors that could be accessed only by climbing onto buckets.

After seeing the damage firsthand, we were all more than ready to do whatever we could to restore this small town to the condition that it once enjoyed. We were assigned to work with a local carpenter, Harold, who had come out of retirement after the tornados due to the desperation of the town. Despite this untimely return to his profession, Harold instructed our completely inexperienced group with a permanent smile on his face. Out of the eight of us, only one had ever picked up a nail gun before. However, four short hours later, we all were admiring a brand new deck that we had built completely from scratch.

After we returned to the old orphanage, Father Tom asked us if we would be so inclined to weed the front gardens at St. Joseph's. He wanted to give some dignity to the place and also prepare the grounds for a vegetable garden that is a dream of the Ladies of Charity. The Ladies of Charity are in the process of negotiating with the Diocese of Little Rock to turn the orphanage into a much needed outreach center. The garden beds were much improved after we worked together.

Friday, Aug. 22

After seeing what we were truly capable of on Thursday, we all seemed to have caught the bug for carpentry. As soon as we arrived on site, everyone broke up into groups almost immediately without even having to be instructed. We were asked to build another deck, and this time, the project took us only two hours.

At this point, building decks for tornado-affected houses seemed to be in our blood. No one was ready to retire so early in the day, so we broke up into two small groups. One group headed down the road to assemble a brand new shed for a small family. The rest of us were assigned the mission of constructing two doors to replace a pair that had been shredded by the tornados.

As we drove away that day, we couldn't help but turn around to look at this town one more time. We certainly weren't able to fix all the problems the tornados had caused in the two short days we were there, but we all walked away with something that we will carry with us forever. For most of us, the last two days were the most physically demanding we had experienced in quite some time. We realized that the whole experience was about much more than how many decks we could put together. We sent the message to this community that there were people in the world who cared about their predicament. They were not alone.

Father Tom had a closing Mass with the Ladies of Charity during which we could share what the week meant to us. The Ladies of Charity hosted us at the Diocesan Formation Center for a real home-cooked Southern meal. It contained all the favorites such as fried chicken, catfish, green bean casserole, corn, sweet potato casserole, and kuchen (a German coffee cake) for dessert. Father Tom presented us with Arkansas shirts and the Ladies of Charity taught us the Arkansas Razorback Hog cheer! Later that evening, Father Tom presented us all with miraculous medals that he got in Paris and told us the story of the medal.

Our week in Arkansas was an awesome one, and one that we will not forget. We walked away with a heaping dose of Arkansas hospitality and the knowledge that no matter what happens in life, there are always amazing people who will stay positive despite the adversity they are confronted with. As long as we are willing to reach out to each other in pure kindness, none of us will ever be alone.
Even though it was almost 50 years ago, Louise Summers remembers well her first days as a teacher at School 4 in her native Buffalo. Having received her teaching degree from the State University College at Buffalo, she applied for a teaching position in the city’s school system. Any elementary school would be fine, she thought, except for two.

While in high school and college, Louise had worked as a cashier at the Loblaw supermarket in the First Ward, an old Irish/Polish neighborhood that was in transition. Because she knew a lot of the people there, she thought it would be difficult for her to maintain discipline in the classroom if she were sent either to schools 4 or 28.

Opening her letter of appointment that summer in 1959, Louise was disappointed to learn that she would be beginning her more than 30-year teaching career at School 4.

“I cried for four days,” she said.

What she thought would be a liability, however, turned into an asset when one day a parent came to school extremely annoyed that her child had been disciplined. Encountering Louise, she said, “I know you.”

Remembering the woman from Louise’s days as a cashier, she greeted the parent by name. The anger vanished instantly, the woman’s tone changed, and she asked, “Honey, what did he do?”

From that point on, everything improved for the young teacher. “The parents knew me, and they gave me a break,” Louise recalls. “Once I gained their trust, we became friends forever.”

Louise taught in the Perry Project area for 17 years before moving on to the Waterfront School behind City Hall. She remained there until retiring in 1995, raising two children during the course of her career with her husband, Tom.

Louise’s vast experience teaching children in inner-city schools was much on the mind of her family this summer, when they surprised her with a wonderful 70th birthday present. Her son, Dr. Thomas A. Summers of the Class of 1984, and his wife, Jennifer, committed $30,000 to establish the Louise Summers Award. The award will be given annually to a graduate student in the College of Education who also earned an undergraduate degree at N.U., and who has demonstrated a commitment to inner-city and high-needs school districts.

“That’s where the need is greatest,” says Louise. She added that a graduate student was designated for the award because, “By that time, you know where you want to be.”

Dr. Tom Summers, a partner in Windsong Radiology Group of Williamsville, N.Y., said several factors inspired him and his wife to fund the award at this time. “We wanted to do something for my mother while she could see it being done, participate in it, and enjoy the opportunity to see those who benefit from it,” he said. He added that without his mother’s commitment to his own education, “I would not be in a position to give back at this time.”

After graduating from Niagara, Tom attended Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, earning his medical degree in 1988. He spent six more years in training before beginning practice in 1994.

A member of Niagara University’s Board of Advisors since 2004, Tom said that in addition to honoring his mother, he hopes the award might serve as an example for other alumni. “Ideally,” he says, “it will motivate others to step forward and do more for the university.”
It has been said that the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing will become the greatest Olympics in history with its location, athletes, and with the state of global relations. Cortland native Dustin Cutler was right in the middle of it. Cutler is the assistant director for Olympic Catering Services Project for ARAMARK Corp. The company provides professional and food services, facilities management, and uniform and career apparel to health-care institutions, universities and school districts, stadiums and arenas, and businesses around the world. "Working in the Olympic Village was a very gratifying and rewarding experience. Many people would say that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I have been very fortunate to be able to participate in two of the largest events in the entire world: Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008," said Cutler. "Needless to say, a day interacting with our multicultural staff and athletes from 204 different countries is not your typical day in the office." This is the second Olympics Cutler has worked at for ARAMARK, the company which has been contracting to provide food services to the Olympic Games since 1968. After receiving an associate's degree in business administration from Herkimer Community College and a bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management from Niagara University in 2004, Cutler researched who was preparing and serving food at the Olympic games in Athens and submitted his résumé. The company liked what it saw and sent him to be a supervisor in Athens from July to October 2004. "Athens was a tremendous experience for me, taking on a supervising role," he said, adding that it is hard to compare the experiences with two completely different cultures and a longer stay in Beijing. Cutler was in Beijing from March 1 until Oct. 1. While he was there, he watched as the entire Olympic Village was built. He also visited the Great Wall of China and took trips to remote islands.

"I never thought I would come to Asia in my whole life," he said. "It's a different environment here. You can feel the emotion of the people when you look in their eyes. Loyalty, dedication and devotion; that's what I think of when I think of China."

But the majority of his time was taken up with work. ARAMARK had five dining venues in the Olympic Village, one of which seated 6,000 people at one time and was the length of three football fields. The company served more than 35,000 meals a day. By the end of the Olympics and Paralympics, ARAMARK served approximately 3.5 million meals to athletes, coaches, staff, officials and media guests in all five dining venues, approximately 28,000 of which were from the Olympic Village alone. This was the largest Olympic operation ARAMARK had undertaken, creating more than 800 recipes on an eight-day rotation, featuring Asian, Mediterranean and other international cuisines.

The most difficult aspect of Cutler's job, though, was interacting with the thousands of athletes, trainers and coaches from 204 countries, and his co-workers of 7,000 managers, chefs and servers from 14 different countries. "It challenges me as a manager to motivate and accomplish a common goal," he said. "A lot of the funny things that happened were when I didn't have my translator and tried to communicate with people that didn't speak English; it was like playing charades."

Although he had moments of chaos and confusion in Beijing, Cutler said he liked the challenge. "For me, it is very inspiring to learn from other cultures and it helps me learn about myself," he said. "From a foodservice perspective, we hosted the largest event in the world. I will never forget this."

Cutler said he plans to be a world traveler. "Hopefully the company will allow me to do so," he added.

Between his time in Athens and Beijing, Cutler worked in Philadelphia for ARAMARK Corp. At the time of this interview, he was not sure where the company would place him. But Cutler remains optimistic. "Through hard work, dedication and perseverance I firmly believe that everyone can achieve their personal goals in life."
Fellow alumni,

Since its founding 152 years ago, Niagara University has graduated many distinguished alumni. Last year, we initiated Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction to recognize them for their outstanding accomplishments and excellence in their fields of endeavor, for living lives that mirror the Vincentian ideals of the university, and for having a positive and lasting impact on society.

At a ceremony in Alumni Chapel on Sept. 22, Hubie Brown, ’55; Richard Chapdelaine, ’49; Francis “Tim” Dunleavy, ’41; and the Rev. Michael McGivney were honored as the second class of Niagara Legacy. They join the Rev. Msgr. Nelson H. Baker, ’07; Jerry Bisgrove, ’68; Rev. Lt. Thomas M. Conway, SOLA Class of 1934; Gen. William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan, Class of 1903; Robert J. Dywer, ’65; James V. Glynn, ’57; Dr. Lawrence D. Jacobs, ’61; and Robert B. Wegman, ’41, as members of this prestigious group.

We also honored a number of our alumni at this year’s Alumni Weekend. George Wiegars, ’58; John Riordan, ’58; James Boldt, ’73; Gretchen Varney, ’78; Kevin Clarke, ’73; Anne Marie Powell Moebe, ’78; Mary Viehmann Jezewski, ’63; and M aureen Kelly, ’78, were honored with Dean’s Awards for their distinguished careers and service. Bernard Stack, ’53, who left Niagara after three years to attend law school, received his NU degree as well. A highlight of the day was when Bernard led us all in singing the NU fight song, “Here’s to Old Niagara.”

NU alumni celebrating 25- and 50-year anniversaries of their graduation were recognized with silver and gold eagle pins during Alumni Weekend as well. In all, more than 650 NU alumni attended the reunion and enjoyed reliving some of the most memorable years of their lives.

We have a busy schedule of events planned to provide additional opportunities for alumni to get together throughout the year. Visit our alumni Web site, the Eagle’s Nest, at www.niagaraalumni.com to find out more about chapter and on-campus events, and to keep up with what’s happening at Niagara University.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Hudecki, ’68
President, Niagara University Alumni Association
2000s

Kevin Hartman, ’78 (TTT/Transportation), Midlothian, Va., has been named senior vice president — strategy for UPS Freight, in Richmond, Va.

1980s

Beverly Jacobs, ’81 (CE), was recently honored with the Community Service Award at the Civic Recognition Awards ceremony in Burlington. She was nominated in 2004, 2005 and 2006, and won the award in 2004. Volunteering has become more than a full-time job since an early retirement in 2001.

Mark Laurrie, ’84 (CA&S/Political Science), Niagara Falls, N.Y., has taken on a new responsibility within the Niagara Falls school district. He will now work out of the central administration building to coordinate all building operations for schools across the district.

Madeline (Maietta) Rowan, ’84 (CA&S), Chamblee, Ga., was named small business administration division head and senior vice president of the Buckhead Community Bank in Atlanta.


Melinda (Robinson) Whitford, ’88 (CA&S), Gaspé, N.Y., has been accepted into the doctoral program in science education at SUNY Buffalo. She was also awarded a full graduate assistantship and was selected as a UB presidential fellow beginning in fall 2008.

1990s

Mari (Werba) Collins, ’91 (ITHRA), Carver, M ass., has accepted a position as a broadband sales professional in Plymouth, M ass., for Comcast. Her responsibilities include acquiring new customers for cable, high-speed Internet, and phone services.

Timothy V. McGrath, ’92 (CA&S/Biology), Lewiston, N.Y., is spearheading the expansion of the and Shoulder Center of Western New York into Niagara County through a new affiliation with Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. M McGrath is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand and shoulder surgery.

John E. McKenna, ’92 (CE), Grand Island, N.Y., earned his Ed.D. in educational administration at SUNY at Buffalo in May 2008.

Theresa Lang, ’93 (CBA/Marketing), Chicago, has been任命 manager director of Nordski, U.K., and South Africa with InfoPrint Solutions, a joint venture between Ricoh and IBM.

James R. Spanbauer, M.S.Ed. ’94 (CE), Niagara Falls, N.Y., accepted the position of chief educational administrator at Niagara Falls High School, effective September 2008.
Kathleen M. Ellis, ’95 (CE/English), Niagara Falls, N.Y., has accepted the position of director of curriculum and instruction with the North Tonawanda school district.

Stephanie Finney, ’97 (C&A&S), South H arrow, Iowa, has joined the M.A. in Higher and Professional Education Programme at The Institute of Education, University of London.

Shannon Allport, ’99 (C&A&S), Syracuse, N.Y., recently completed her doctorate in clinical psychology and accepted a psychologist position at Elmcrest Children’s Center in Syracuse. She will be working as part of the diagnostic unit and supervising a sexual abuse specialized services unit.

Jim DeVivo, ’99 (C&A&S), Woodbridge, N.J., was accepted into the Ph.D. program in educational theater at New York University and received the Lowell S. and Nancy Swortzell Graduate Scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year.

2000s Rev. Bill M. White, ’00 (CE), Woodstock, Ontario, has graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Huron University College in London, Ontario, and was ordained in the Anglican (Episcopal) Church on July 4, 2008.

Joanna Garvey, ’01 (CE), Guaynabo, P.R., opened her private practice in Guaynabo in August 2008. She is studying for boards in chiropractic neurology through the American Chiropractic Neurology Board.

Colleen Malchow, ’02 (C&A&S), Cheektowaga, N.Y., accepted a position at Lewis & Lewis, P.C., representing injured workers in workers’ compensation law.

Christie McGee-Ross, ’02 (CE), Cheektowaga, N.Y., will join Geneseo Community College’s staff as women’s basketball coach/sports information specialist.

Danielle Perko, ’02 (C&N), Richmond Heights, Ohio, was promoted to head nurse manager of a neurology, neurosurgery and orthopedic spine division at University Hospital’s Cleveland Case Medical Center. She is currently working on a master of science degree in nursing health-care administration at Kent State University.

Tiffany Rae Olin, ’03 (CE), Lockport, N.Y., finished her fifth year of teaching middle school math at Medina Central School in June 2008. She also earned her master’s degree in sports psychology from Capella University in May 2008.

William T. Brown, ’05 (CE), Niagara Falls, Ontario, was named full-time assistant coach for the University of Guelph Gryphons.

Emily Murphy-Van Cleeg, ’05 (CBA), Hazel Park, Michigan, graduated with a J.D. degree, cum laude, from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and an LLB from the University of Windsor Faculty of Law in 2008.

Dan J. Pautz, ’05 (C&A&S), Camillus, N.Y., recently graduated from the University of Buffalo Law School with honors. He accepted a position as an associate with the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, in their Syracuse, N.Y., office.

Mara J. Campo, ’06 (C&A&S), Rochester, N.Y., was promoted to assistant account manager with Travers Collins and Co., a Buffalo-based marketing communications firm.

Tom M. Gruhalla, ’06 (CE), Goldsboro, N.C., was named the varsity boys’ soccer coach at Clayton High School, Clayton, N.C.

Mark S. Spooner, ’06 (CH), was named by Longwood University in Farmville, Va., as the program’s new assistant soccer coach.

Argilio D. Tiberi, MBA’07 (CBA), Fenwick, Ontario, was appointed as the new academic vice president of Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Gregory L. Witul, MBA’08 (CBA), Niagara Falls, N.Y., was awarded the Am-Pol Eagle Citizen of the Year Award on April 6, 2008, for finding and coordinating the return of the Maria Sklodowska-Curie Medalion to the University of Buffalo. In 2007, Witul found the medallion for sale on Ebay.

“During the winter of 1963, when the heat would shut down in venerable House 5, senior classmates would huddle together in Andy O’Connell’s room to pass time playing pinochle. The top prize, as always, was a pitcher of beer at the legendary Ontario House,” remembers Henry Poreda (pictured second from right), who submitted this photo. Also pictured (l-r) are Andy O’Connell, Mike Fischette, Phil Caponera and Jack Scirocco. Poreda notes that the five men remain friends.
2008 Class of ROTC Hall of Fame Inducted

The following individuals were inducted into the Niagara University ROTC Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Oct. 11.

Maj. Patrick DeBiase, '42, (posthumously) served in the Quartermaster Corp during WWII and was a supply officer on General Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff. DeBiase was awarded the Bronze Star for his activity with the services during the Battle of the Bulge.


Col. Richard J. McManus, '52, served in the 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 11th Airborne Division, and the 101st Airborne Infantry Division. His deployments include Combat Operations in Korea and two tours in Vietnam, as well as an assignment in Berlin. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Col. Richard M. Rodney, '52, served in the 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and the 25th Infantry Division. His deployments include Korea during the post-truce period and combat operations in Vietnam. He served more than 32 years of active duty and has been honored with the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Lt. Col. Daniel J. Pautz, '80, served in the 411th Military Police Company, the 720th MP Battalion, and various units within the reserve forces. He has more than 24 years of military service and has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal.


Robert Petch, '50, Easley, S.C., was recognized with the Freedom Team Salute Commendation by the United States Army in May 2008 in tribute to his service in the U.S. Army, the Society of the First Infantry Division. The commendation symbolizes the partnership between the Army, its soldiers, their families, and veterans.

Lt. Col. Peggy Miller, '84 (CN), Canandaigua, N.Y., recently returned from a 2007-08 tour in Iraq. She is currently a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army Reserves (Nurse Corp) and functioned as a psychiatric nurse practitioner with a combat stress team. Her civilian job is as a nurse practitioner at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center.

Michael J. Gawkins, '87 (CBA), Fayetteville, N.C., has been promoted to colonel and is currently assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Jeffrey J. Abramaitis, '91 (CBA), Stafford, Va., was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with combat operations in Al-Anbar, Iraq, while deployed with the United States Marine Corps in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Dennis G. Bates Jr., '91 (CA&S), Hilton, N.Y., was promoted to the rank of major on Aug. 12, 2008, in the New York State Army National Guard.

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Emily Murphy, '05, Hazel Park, Mich., to Jonas Van Cleef, '05, Detroit, April 19, 2008.

new arrivals

To Mr. and Mrs. Larry Scheg, ’68, Modesto, Calif., a daughter, Adillene Christy, Aug. 12, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. David Foster (Vera Provenzale, ’87), Pittsford, N.Y., a son, William Christopher, July 2, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mielo (Karen Celentano, ’90), Massapequa, N.Y., a daughter, Francesca Rose, May 29, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Greg Den Haese, ’90 (Maureen Klotz, ’92), Valrico, Fla., a son, Brady Alexander, July 16, 2008.

To Alicia Wittman, ’95, East Aurora, N.Y., a daughter, M. adeline Frances Reich, Aug. 18, 2008.

To Jim Correnti Jr. and Amy Bayerl, ’97, Boston, a daughter, Mia Katherine, April 19, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. David Hojnacki (Eileen McGinn, ’97), Williamsville, N.Y., a son, Dominic David, July 6, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rupp (Karen Celentano, ’99), Havertown, Pa., a daughter, Anna Carmella, June 9, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Todd Janicki, ’99 (Jennifer Celebucki, ’99), Dublin, Ohio, a daughter, Erika Katherine, Aug. 19, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Klee, ’99 (Stephanie Watts, ’01), Elmira, N.Y., a son, Thomas David, May 31, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Steve Parsons (Jennifer Ruettimann, ’99), East Amherst, N.Y., a daughter, Kaitlyn Emily, March 17, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zolitsch, ’99, Jersey Shore, Pa., a daughter, Adrienne Dorothea, July 12, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. ChristopherConnor (Angela Carlson, ’00), Snyder, N.Y., a son, Nolan Christopher, July 4, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bill White (Michele Newman, ’01), Grovetown, Ga., a daughter, Maia Isabel, Dec. 8, 2007.

To Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D’Aleyle (Suzanne Olney, ’01), New Britain, Pa., a daughter, Emerson Elaine, May 30, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erik Gallineau (Kristen Fritz, ’02), Tonawanda, N.Y., a son, Aiden Robert, Aug. 22, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Murphy, ’02 (Jennifer Corbett, ’03), Auburn, N.Y., a daughter, Payton Riley, May 28, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ty Parmentier (Kathy Meder, ’03), Sanborn, N.Y., a son, Gage Ryan, June 11, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eric Wells, ’03 (Kate Sarkisian, ’04), Kissimmee, Fla., a son, Jacob Bryan, Aug. 12, 2008.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Bedette, ’06 (Shauna Morrow, ’06), Grand Island, N.Y., a daughter, Emmalynne Rene, July 8, 2008.

deaths

To have a Mass celebrated at Alumni Chapel, call NU’s campus ministry office at 716-286-8400.


Clifford O. Peterson Jr., ’50, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Sept. 6, 2008.


James P. Cough, ’61, Toledo, Ohio, July 6, 2008.


Clifford O. Peterson Jr., ’50, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Sept. 6, 2008.


James P. Cough, ’61, Toledo, Ohio, July 6, 2008.


with sympathy

To John Venuti, ’43, Clearwater, Fla., on the death of his wife, Angela Venuti, April 23, 2008.


To Jolie Routhier, ’80, Greenlawn, N.Y., on the death of her mother, Clara Mary Routhier, July 26, 2008.

To Thomas E. Comerford III, ’88, Vestal, N.Y., on the death of his father; and to Laura (Mollen) Comerford, ’88, Vestal, on the death of her father-in-law, Thomas E. Comerford Jr., June 11, 2008.

To Christopher Coyer, ’93, Las Vegas, on the death of his father, Richard Coyer, Aug. 7, 2008.


To Holly Lowden, ’08, Webster, N.Y., on the death of her father, Ronald A. Bryant, Aug. 21, 2008.

Alumni Weekend ’08

For more photos from this fun-filled weekend, visit the photo gallery at www.niagaraalumni.com.

Save the Dates

**December**
- Dec. 4 Tri-State Holiday Party
- Dec. 7 Central Maryland NU vs. Loyola
- Dec. 9 Atlanta Holiday Party
- Dec. 11 Central New York Holiday Party

**January**
- Jan. 17 Buffalo-Niagara Alumni N-Zone Event
- Jan. 24 Albany NU vs. Siena
- Jan. 31 Tri-State NU vs. Manhattan

**February**
- Feb. 3 Orlando Villages Luncheon
- Feb. 4 Tampa Alumni Reception
- Feb. 5 Sarasota Alumni Luncheon
- Feb. 7 Naples Alumni Mass and Reception
- Feb. 21 Chicago Bin 36 Winetasting
- Feb. 26 South Florida Alumni Reception
- Feb. 27 Atlanta Game Watch NU vs. Siena
- Charlotte Game Watch NU vs. Siena
- Rochester Game Watch NU vs. Siena
- Feb. 28 Palm Beach Alumni Reception

*Event calendar subject to change. This listing includes only the confirmed events as of printing.

Calling all Classes Ending in 4s and 9s: Don’t Miss Alumni Weekend ’09

Mark your calendar for Oct. 9, 10 and 11, 2009. If you are interested in assisting the alumni relations office in the planning of your reunion, please contact Jennifer Coppola at jcoppola@niagara.edu or via phone at 716-286-8773.
Words to Live By

It has been three decades since I took Dr. Sam Pappalardo’s classes for the master’s degree in education/school counseling, but his words back then still ring true today: “No matter how they’re acting, they’re doing the best they can.”

Dr. Pappalardo told us to remember that axiom when confronted with difficult students, clients, people in general. It was our challenge to help them do better. This principle provided me with patience and empathy.

The Vincentian Fathers' tradition of helping the poor and handicapped has led me to a variety of rewarding opportunities. For example:

- As a placement specialist in Niagara Falls in the 1970s, I was frustrated with developmentally disabled trainees struggling to fold sheets and do cleaning at big hotels. As I drew pictures of their job-duty schedule, because they couldn’t read, I remembered, “They’re doing the best they can” to function in a foreign place, the world of work.

- As a vocational evaluator in California in the 1980s, I felt disdain for injured workers I thought were exaggerating pain for a bigger settlement until I remembered, “They’re doing the best they can” to make up for lost abilities and wages.

- As a psychiatric nurse on an adolescent unit in the 1990s, I chastised a pretty teen for being “flirty.” I was appalled at my judgmental attitude when I remembered that she was a victim of sexual abuse. She was “doing the best she can” to interact with boys the only way she knew, until taught otherwise.

- As a nursing instructor in the early 2000s, I felt angry toward a young mother who refused to take care of a patient with a contagious disease “because I’ll take it home to my kids.” Then I remembered, “She’s doing the best she can,” as a single mom, to develop a career and protect her kids.

- As a psychiatric nurse today, when I get frustrated with frequent flyers (patients who repeatedly enter and exit an imaginary revolving door to our behavioral health and chemical dependency hospital) I remind myself, “They’re doing the best they can” to stay safe, sane and sober.

Dr. Pappalardo also told us that, “When you encounter anyone with a disability, no matter how odd they look or act, they’re more like us than different.”

He advised us to appeal to the highest element within them, to deal with their universal need for love and empowerment. He explained that the most seemingly handicapped or insane person has a healthy or sane part deep within, which can be reached and developed. Again:

- The young man without arms who entertained us at a banquet in Niagara Falls in the 1970s was “more like us than different,” when he enjoyed well-deserved applause.

- The mentally ill patient, convicted of murder and confined to a psychiatric hospital in Buffalo in the 1980s, was “more like us than different,” when he bragged about his daughter, “Penny.”

- The sheltered workshop clients in the 1980s in California, who took pride in cleaning old appliances, sorting clothes, unloading trucks and stocking thrift stores, were “more like us than different,” experiencing the dignity of work.

- The schizophrenic man at my current hospital, walking through halls, laughing due to hallucinations, seems out of touch with fellow patients who are not nearly as impaired. Yet, when they honored his birthday with cake and ice cream, he was “more like us than different” as he beamed due to the recognition.

“Personal Growth Experience,” a required class, encouraged meditation and journaling. I was inspired to write to my ex-fiancé’s parents, thanked them for treating me like a beloved family member, and got closure after years of unfinished business. Today, I encourage psychiatric patients to release their thoughts and feelings onto paper, versus cutting themselves, punching walls, or hurting others with words or deeds.

Saturday nights, we often attended Niagara University Players’ performances. All were excellent, but one made an indelible impression, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.” I have seen it several times since, but never have the beauty of the songs, the depth of the characters, and the energy and enthusiasm of the performances equaled that of those students, who were the epitome of self-actualization. Today, as I encourage my patients to find their passion, follow their dreams and develop their talents, I remember the fervor of those performers.

“Perennial Realism,” another course, has helped me refute people’s atheistic beliefs due to the prime mover argument. Whenever I hear debates about creation versus evolution, I believe in my soul that God was, is and always will be the first cause of events in the universe.

Far away from Niagara’s halls of ivy, and despite years of textbooks, professional journal articles, lectures, labs and work experiences, “Help your fellow man,” “They’re doing the best they can,” “They’re more like us than different,” “Meditate and journal,” “Find your passion,” and the “Prime Mover” principle still direct my life.
The Niagara University alumni relations office is pleased to announce the following travel opportunities for our alumni in 2009. These trips are available for purchase at a reduced alumni rate:

**Bermuda Cruise**
Sunday, May 31–Sunday, June 7, 2009
Bermuda’s famous hospitality, turquoise waters, pink sand beaches, lush gardens, and pastel-colored cottages await you. Enjoy the clip-clop of Bermuda’s horse-drawn carriages on the historic cobblestone streets of picturesque St. Georges. See the rich British heritage of Hamilton — from the “bobby in the cage” directing traffic, to the delightful Front Street shops, to experiencing “high tea” British style. Leave the New York area on a deluxe cruise ship and enjoy a memorable vacation to an island paradise, experiencing mouthwatering cuisine, fabulous nightly entertainment, exciting casino gaming and pure relaxation.
Cost: Price per person (double occupancy) ranges from $1,099-$1,539 based on accommodations. Full payment due by March 3, 2009.

**Caribbean Family Delight**
Saturday, July 11–Saturday, July 18, 2009
Our “Caribbean Family Delight” is the perfect summer vacation for the entire family. Spend a full week enjoying the sun, sand and facilities of a spectacular deluxe oceanfront resort — the Marriott Resort & Spa in St. Kitts, which offers exceptional facilities and a wonderful children’s camp. You can select two included activities: snorkeling, kayaking, catamaran, sunset cruise, a visit to the rain forest, a ride on the St. Kitts Scenic Railway, or a cruise to the sister island of Nevis. There’s golf on the resort’s unique 18-hole course (several holes border the Atlantic Ocean and several border the Caribbean Ocean), a fitness center, the Emerald Mist Spa and the Royal Beach Casino. And, of course, there’s the gorgeous beach and three tropical pools.

**Aspen Adventure**
Sunday, Aug. 16–Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009
Aspen is one of the “hottest” destinations for active individuals who enjoy the outdoors and beautiful mountain settings. Our trip combines both included activities and an ample amount of leisure time to allow you to enjoy your magnificent surroundings at your own pace. The package includes a welcome cocktail reception, a sunset tour of the “High Country” featuring dinner and music as the sun slowly sets behind Mount Daly, and an outdoor concert at Snowmass Mountain. In addition, you will be treated to an introductory “breakfast briefing” and your choice of any two adventure activities: white water rafting on the Shoshone Rapids section of the Colorado River; mountain biking for novices or beginners; hiking led by certified instructors; downhill biking, an effortless and scenic gentle biking experience beginning at Maroon Bells, the most photographed peaks in America; guided horseback riding through majestic countryside for riders of all levels; golf; Theater Aspen; and an outdoor yoga/hike class featuring open air Hatha Yoga amidst inspiring scenery atop Aspen Mountain.
Cost: $1,899 per person, double occupancy. Initial deposit of $300 due by April 30, 2009. Final payment is due no later than June 16, 2009.

For further information or to book any of these trips, please call the alumni relations office at 716-286-8787 or e-mail us at alumni@niagara.edu.