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ON THE COVER:
Drones are used as a tool for research in numerous disciplines at the University.
Photo by Steve Sartori
THE FALL MONTHS ARE ALWAYS ENERGIZING AT SYRACUSE University, with new students arriving, thousands more returning, and alumni coming together to reminisce about their own experiences. This fall was especially exciting and particularly distinctive on so many fronts—from academics to athletics, on the campus and out in the community.

There was one week this fall that embodies what it means to be at a great university, where nearly each day can bring something wondrous or worth celebrating.

The excitement began on Friday, October 13. I will always remember the sound of 42,000 screaming fans packed into the Carrier Dome as our football team defeated the defending national champion Clemson Tigers in a stunning victory. The unlikely win demonstrated the strength of Orange conviction, courage, and commitment.

Those qualities were on display over the next several days, as we celebrated academic achievements that were truly distinctive and even transformative.

For example, Syracuse scientists and researchers have changed the way we look at the skies, explaining for the first time how a spectacular collision of two neutron stars millions of years ago produced gravitational waves, a brilliant flash of light, and elements including gold and silver. The world stood mesmerized by the discovery made by an international team of collaborating researchers, and our faculty received national attention for their involvement.

That same week, one of our professors was recognized with one of the most prestigious global awards in literature. George Saunders G’88, professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, won the 2017 Man Booker Prize for his first novel, Lincoln in the Bardo. The awards were announced on the BBC News Channel, and one of the judges called the novel “utterly original.”

Riding a wave of enthusiasm that week, our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends pledged more than $1.7 million during Boost the ’Cuse, a one-day fundraising effort that far exceeded expectations. Orange pride was on full display coast to coast, with gifts coming in from all 50 states, and countries as far away as Uruguay, Sweden, Oman, and Japan. The funds raised will support the goals of Invest Syracuse, the implementation of the Academic Strategic Plan and our vision of providing each student a distinctive world-class learning experience that prepares them for professional and personal success.

These tremendous accomplishments happened within five days of each other. Yet nearly every day of the year, the hard work is underway to produce these wondrous moments. That’s what it means to be proudly and distinctively Orange—every day is worth celebrating.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
Opening REMARKS

Aerial Perspectives

I GREW UP WITH THE JETSONS AND—AS SINGER-songwriter Steve Earle wonders in his song “21st Century Blues”—“Where the hell is my flying car?” Well, we might be getting there. Self-driving cars have made their way to the road, so perhaps gearing them up to fly is just around the corner.

But once we do, the air space will become even more congested. Look up and look out: Drones are on the loose. And many people have mixed feelings about that. Like any new technology, they have benefits and drawbacks. Admittedly, my first encounter with a drone demonstrated this. We were in our backyard with neighbors watching the start of our community fireworks when we noticed a drone hovering above us. None of us liked the idea that it was up there. We didn’t know who it belonged to or where it was from. And there was nothing we could do about it, except watch its blinking red light and listen to it hum amid the blasts and sprays of color. We assumed it was filming the fireworks and, sure enough, a few days later, an impressive video of the fireworks was posted online. Wow, it was amazing. But still the question lingered: Who thought it was OK to position a loitering drone above our backyard?

While intruding on privacy is certainly an unsettling aspect of drones, they have proven invaluable in many fields. In this issue of the magazine, you’ll learn how SU researchers are studying their applications and employing them for collecting information. You’ll also see some beautiful aerial images taken by Newhouse photography major Chase Guttman ’18, a talented travel and drone photography expert. Whether unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, as they’re also known) are being used by journalists, geologists, engineers, or architects, they can go places and perform tasks that may not have been possible previously. With their bird’s eye view, they provide aerial photos and videos for news organizations, access remote wilderness areas and collect data for scientists, inspect buildings for heat loss, and aid search-and-rescue efforts. Their myriad uses seem to be limited only by the imagination.

Of course, there is still much to be settled. Like, for instance, what happens if one falls out of the sky delivering a package and bops you on the head? That’s one area a group of engineering students and faculty recently explored. On the agenda in Central New York are plans for a safe, 50-mile drone corridor and a facility where the flying devices can be tested, rated, and certified. There are also many law and policy issues up for debate, ranging from their use in military applications to who should have ultimate control over their airspace and flight patterns.

In a crowded sky, collisions can’t be overlooked. Nor can the beauty that drone operators capture sending their machines across mountain ranges and along meandering rivers. There is much to be seen and learned from our use of drones. Let’s just hope our civility and common sense don’t lose sight of that vision.

JAY COX
EDITOR
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PHYSICISTS ARE AMONG A GLOBAL team of scientists to make a revolutionary discovery confirming the origins of gold and other heavy metals whose presence in the universe has been a long-standing mystery. On August 17, just days before the total solar eclipse would mesmerize the country, the Syracuse team witnessed the telltale celestial event: the gravitational waves from the collision of two massive neutron stars in deep space—and the resulting afterglow that signified the process of gold being created from the cosmic smash-up.

The transformative discovery marks the first detection of colliding neutron stars by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and the Virgo gravitational-wave detectors. Even more remarkable, it was the first time scientists were able to see the light from the collision with powerful telescopes that probe the farthest reaches of the universe. The public announcement on October 16 corroborated rumors and speculation about such a possible sighting that began swirling through cyberspace within days after the August event.

Observatory (LIGO) and the Virgo gravitational-wave detectors. Even more remarkable, it was the first time scientists were able to see the light from the collision with powerful telescopes that probe the farthest reaches of the universe. The public announcement on October 16 corroborated rumors and speculation about such a possible sighting that began swirling through cyberspace within days after the August event.

This is the second once-in-a-lifetime discovery to rock the astrophysics world in two years. It follows the February 2016 announcement by LIGO that it had confirmed the detection of gravitational waves—ripples in the fabric of spacetime—in September 2015. Those gravitational waves, which confirmed a final piece of Albert Einstein’s theory of general relativity, emanated from the collision of two black holes some 1.3 billion light-years ago. LIGO’s leading architects—Rainer Weiss of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Barry Barish and Kip Thorne of the California Institute of Technology—were awarded the Nobel Physics Prize 2017 for the discovery, a cause for celebration for their LIGO colleagues at Syracuse and elsewhere around the world. The August detection and observation of the neutron star collision further showcased the evolving role of gravitational-wave technology in scientific discovery. It not only confirmed the origins of one of Earth’s most precious metals, but it also opened a whole new window through which to explore the mysteries of the universe.

“\[I\] would say that this probably will have a bigger scientific impact than that first detection of gravitational waves,” says Duncan Brown, the Charles Brightman Endowed Professor of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences and a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. “The first detection in 2015 opened the new field of gravitational-wave astronomy, but this detection answers many more questions about the universe.” Brown, along with Peter Saulson, the Martin A. Pomerantz ’37 Professor of Physics, and physics professor Stefan Ballmer, co-leads Syracuse University’s Gravitational-Wave Group, which is a part of the LIGO collaboration.

The breakthrough is credited to the unprecedented power of the two Advanced LIGO detectors, one located in Hanford, Washington, and the other in Livingston, Louisiana, combined with that of a third detector, the French-Italian Virgo, located in Italy. The images from the August event—two neutron stars, each roughly the size of Manhattan, crashing at one-third the speed of light—tell the story. “The gravitational waves told us that these were two neutron stars colliding,” Brown says. “They also told us where to point telescopes to see the aftermath of the collision. With telescopes, we can watch the fireworks in electromagnetic waves and see neutron-rich material being thrown off and radioactively decaying. When you watch that radioactive decay, what you’re basically watching is space alchemy. It’s the universe creating gold and platinum.”

The observation settles a riddle that has puzzled scientists for more than 60 years: Where do gold, platinum, uranium, and other heavy elements, known as r-process elements, come from? Scientists had long suspected that they originated from colliding neutron stars; they now have visual evidence.

In the images captured from the collision and its aftermath, the beginnings of those elements show up as a bright flash known as a kilonova. The elements created get recycled into the galaxy as it rotates “over a billion or so years, and they wind up back in future generations of star systems,” Brown says. “At some point in the past, one of these collisions happened, producing gold and platinum, which eventually got recycled by the galaxy into the gold we find on Earth.”

Saulson, a co-founder of the global LIGO Scientific Collaboration, says the first discovery of gravitational waves was thrilling, but
this breakthrough was even more special because it involved hundreds of other astronomers. “They’re thrilled, too,” he says. “It’s a much broader bit of excitement this time around.”

Ballmer agrees. “The complaint I heard from my astronomy colleagues about the first detection was that black holes are, well, black,” says Ballmer, one of the builders of the Advanced LIGO detectors. “As exciting as it was to confirm Einstein’s prediction after 100 years, this breakthrough is a Rosetta stone that brings together the power of gravitational waves and light to probe the secrets of the universe.”

With this discovery, Saulson says with a smile, “we have confirmed that the shiny thing I wear on my finger was formed in the collision of two city-sized atomic nuclei at some distant point in the past.”

In the residue of the collision, observers could see the signs of this space alchemy at work—and the brilliantly glowing, neutron-rich debris that someday billions of years hence will enrich a new planet with veins of gold and platinum. “If you’re wondering how much the gold we saw being made is worth? About $10 octillion—$10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000—at today’s prices,” Ballmer says. “Give or take a zero.”

Brown remembers when he first got wind of the news. “It was about 9 in the morning, and I was in my office, meeting with a colleague. All of a sudden, I saw a bunch of alerts pop up on my computer screen. I unceremoniously threw him out of my office saying, ‘You have to leave now; the meeting’s over.’”

He immediately joined a teleconference with other members of the LIGO team, and they knew within minutes the alert was real. Unfortunately, a glitch in the Livingston LIGO detector data delayed the confirmation needed to localize the source. Fortunately, Saulson and Brown have trained a team of scientists, some located in Syracuse and others spread around the world, who immediately set out to work around the glitch by manually processing the data. Once the cleaned-up data showed Livingston also had recorded the gravitational-wave event, Brown and former Syracuse student Alex Nitz G’15, now a postdoctoral researcher at the Albert Einstein Institute in Germany, helped prepare and dispatch the alert and sky map to telescopes that could zoom deeply into the point in space where the collision had occurred.

Brown is also part of a team at Harvard University that looks for optical flashes via a dark-energy camera mounted on a powerful, 13-foot optical telescope, known as the Blanco telescope. “After we sent out the LIGO-Virgo sky map, I tried to get hold of my collaborator, Edo Berger, at Harvard,” Brown says. “He was in a meeting, so I just kept texting, ‘GO GO GO!’ to his cell phone.”

At the same time, Ballmer was at the LIGO Hanford observatory. “I remember seeing the first source localization maps and realizing that this particular patch of sky would be observable from Chile in just a few hours,” he says. “A few hours later, my email inbox lit up again.”

By day’s end, Saulson says, they had the full story. The Blanco telescope located in northern Chile was one of three observatories to independently detect the flash in a small galaxy—NGC 4993—located 130 million light-years from Earth.

The Syracuse physicists say none of this—the detection of the collision, the visual confirmation, and the signs of gold and other heavy metals emerging from the residue—would have been possible without the unprecedented detection power of the two Advanced LIGO detectors working in tandem with the Virgo detector. “Many of us have invested our careers into making these machines a reality,” Ballmer says. “It is tremendously gratifying to see all three detectors perform so well.”

Saulson still marvels at the remarkable stretch of breakthroughs that are rapidly opening up whole new realms of astronomical exploration. “There’s no question,” he says, “this is going to be the biggest story in science—this year.”

—Carol Boll
Students Design, Prototype, Pitch Innovative Products

LAST FALL, TYLER VARTABEDIAN ’19, AN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING MAJOR, was hoping for a summer internship between his sophomore and junior years. But then he attended a general interest meeting about a new “invention accelerator” offering on campus. Inspired by the New York City-based Invention Factory, Syracuse University was about to launch the program for the first time. “Five minutes in, I was totally sold,” Vartabedian remembers. “I really wanted the hands-on experience.”

The new program, Invent@SU, a collaboration of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the School of Architecture, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), provides students the opportunity to “design, prototype, and pitch” their own inventions. Accepted students (20 on campus, 20 at SU’s Fisher Center in New York City) work in pairs, receive $1,000 for materials, and have access to 3D printers, laser cutters, a machine shop, and professional machinists. In addition, they have personal guidance and help from expert consultants and evaluators. The students also receive a $1,000 stipend and professional assistance with provisional patent applications. At the end of the six-week summer program, students make a final presentation to evaluators—first prize at each site is $5,000; second prize, $3,000.

College of Engineering and Computer Science Dean Teresa Abi-Nader Dahlberg was formerly the dean of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering at The Cooper Union, where two faculty members developed Invention Factory. Physics professor Alan Wolf, who is also a patent attorney, and mechanical engineering professor Eric Lima chose to partner with Syracuse University as the first step of their nationwide expansion of Invention Factory. The on-campus program is supported by SU Life Trustee Bill Allyn G’59 and his wife, Penny Allyn ’60.

Dahlberg was excited about introducing the program here, particularly because students and faculty learn so much through hands-on, day-to-day collaboration. “Industrial designers, engineers, and computer scientists all think about design, but we approach it differently,” Dahlberg says. “Some consider form more than function, some consider function more than form. So it has been an incredibly eye-opening experience for the students, but also for the faculty team to work together across disciplines.”

After completing the Invent@SU program, students seek follow-on guidance from the Blackstone LaunchPad and the Falcone Center for Entrepreneurship. This school year, the program is open to all Syracuse University students, thereby augmenting the SU entrepreneurship ecosystem.

For Invent@SU, Vartabedian and his partner, fellow aerospace engineering major Ryan Twombly ’19, invented a wind turbine designed to operate on the median of highways. “We did research about accidents in rural areas,” Vartabedian says. “We learned a lot of them happen because of poor lighting.” The team designed a turbine, called Lightwave, that would capture the gusts of wind created when cars pass by. The energy could be stored in batteries and then used for street lighting. The team took second place.

First place on campus went to mechanical engineering major Mina Diamantis ’19 and aerospace engineering major Niall Shannon ’20 for their Rockin’Rolla—a new kind of wheelchair. “Our goal was to eliminate tipping in wheelchairs, since it is the main cause of injury, and to increase mobility when traversing over curbs, gaps, or inclines,” Diamantis says. To accomplish this, the team assembled a wheelchair with a front and rear caster wheel and attached a linear actuator, a mechanical device that contracts and expands in a

Serena Omo-Lamai ’20 (left) and Charles Keppler ’18 discuss FibreFree, a microfiber trapping laundry ball. The invention was designed to reduce pollution by collecting microfibers released in the wash, replace dryer sheets, and save energy by reducing drying time. It was honored as one of 20 finalists among 115 products for the international James Dyson Award, which recognizes young engineers around the world.

Photos by Steve Sartori
straight line, enabling one of the caster wheels to lift up.

At the Fisher Center, first place was awarded to aerospace engineering major Kayla Simon ’19 and bioengineering and neuroscience major Elizabeth Tarangelo ’19, who developed In-Spire, a bracelet that dispenses asthma medicine for someone experiencing an exercise-induced asthma attack. The bracelet would eliminate the need to carry an inhaler, and could also be used to deliver other liquid medications. Mechanical engineering major Ruby Batbaatar ’19 and Kalia Barrow ’17, a communications design major, collected second place with Pneu-Strength, a system that raises an elderly or infirm individual from a chair or couch to a standing position. The system consists of an inflatable pillow placed underneath the user, a support structure, and a hose connecting the two. The pillow is designed to provide stability and comfort as it lifts the user up and out of a chair, or back down into the chair. The support structure includes a pump to inflate the pillow, a structure that rests underneath the legs of the chair, and a handle for the user to grasp during inflation and deflation.

No matter how ingenious an idea, inventors need to communicate the problem they set out to address, and how and why the invention works. To address this reality, Invent@SU requires students to hone not just their inventions over the six weeks, but their pitches as well. Dahlberg says a key outcome of the program is the students make great strides in their communication skills. “Watching a student progress from week one to week six is amazing,” she says. “It really is transformative.”

The rigor of the program (invent.syr.edu) and the six-week format require students to focus and make progress each day. “The students are pushed to get to a prototype as soon as possible,” Dahlberg says. “They have to say: I have this image in my head. How am I going to bring it to a tangible thing?” Adam Johnson ’19, an industrial and interaction design major, enjoyed the scope of the program. “It gave us time to think creatively on a problem and dedicated time to work on a project,” he says.

“...It is one of the most powerful forms of alumni engagement I have ever seen. It is a win-win. We bring in alums, people in industry. The students benefit from the advice they receive, and they also convey the tremendous talent we have at Syracuse University.”

—TERESA ABI-NADER DAHLBERG

Professor Young B. Moon, chair of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Professor James Fathers, director of the School of Design at VPA, and Tim Breen, workshop and project manager, who directed this year’s program, assisted the teams throughout the process, including reviewing pitches and asking probing questions that students might expect from evaluators. Volunteer evaluators, many of whom are SU alumni, visited campus Tuesdays and Thursdays to hear pitches and ask questions. Each student received feedback from 32 separate individuals. “It is one of the most powerful forms of alumni engagement I have ever seen,” Dahlberg says. “It is a win-win. We bring in alums, people in industry. The students benefit from the advice they receive, and they also convey the tremendous talent we have at Syracuse University.”

For Tarangelo, the experience was an opportunity to address an everyday problem—one that she would see and think, “Someone should do something about that,” she says. “But then you take the problem and look really deep into it, tackle it, and realize I can do something about that.” In addition to having dedicated time to invent a new product, Tarangelo appreciated the practice communicating about her invention. “I am not the best public speaker, but pitching so many times and so often with the pressure there has helped me build confidence,” she says. “I have grown so much through this.”

—Kathleen Curtis
PROJECT: Not on Stage? Access to the Gig Economy, Infrastructural Competence, and Participation from Underrepresented Populations

INVESTIGATOR: Steve Sawyer

SCHOOL: School of Information Studies

SPONSOR: National Science Foundation

AMOUNT AWARDED: $52,299 (April 2017–March 2018)

BACKGROUND: This research advances current understanding of the ways in which mobile knowledge professionals from underrepresented backgrounds participate in knowledge-driven labor markets—also known as the “gig” economy, or contract-based work. And, specifically, how do these workers draw together and leverage the collection of digital resources—such as devices, software and cloud-based services, storage, security, and interconnectivity—to pursue this project work? Recent studies suggest up to 30 percent of today’s workforce is mobile knowledge workers, and that the boundary between the traditional office worker and this nomadic-type worker is blurring. It also appears this kind of working will be an increasingly larger portion of the future workforce.

While traditional office workers are often tied to specific locales and a sole employer, mobile knowledge professionals work in such places as coffee shops, hotel lounges, airports, and bus stations for multiple clients, often partnering with other independent workers for short-term gigs. Some have routine circuits of travel and can rely on co-working spaces; some are more nomadic. Either way, mobile knowledge workers must organize and reconfigure their work resources, creating “mobile offices” with cognitive space (attention), physical space (room to work), and digital engagement (what is needed to do the work). Digital technologies are the mediator of most work practices, shaping work that requires “infrastructural competence.”

Some of our previous research findings showed us that the livelihood of mobile workers is based on having a substantial amount of professional and social capital. These resources are often homogenous relative to socioeconomic measures such as age, gender, ethnicity, and educational background. If this is so, the gig economy touted by many as an important part of the expanding knowledge economy is potentially difficult for those who have different characteristics from the typically younger, whiter, and well-educated participants. Mobile knowledge workers from underrepresented populations are often characterized by a combination of such attributes as being a refugee, coming from an urban area, being a single parent, being non-white and non-male, and not having an advanced education.

For this reason, our data collection will focus on how these workers create their digital collections and engage in their projects.

IMPACT: The study’s data will advance our understanding of how mobile knowledge professionals pursue their project-based work. The particular emphasis on the ways in which workers from underrepresented populations do this should provide additional insight and help to deepen and better characterize what we know about pursuing gig-based knowledge work. A second outcome will provide us more detail regarding the ways in which collections of digital resources are assembled and used to support this gig working. Previous studies make clear that these collections and patterns of use have common elements, and we are keen to learn more about advancing policies, innovations, and educational opportunities in support of gig working.

Finally, our research provides us a means to continue to advance data collection methods for studying this kind of work. One of the difficulties in studying mobile knowledge workers is that they are neither a profession nor a particular workforce like, for example, nurses, steelworkers, or police officers. These workers are similar in their mobility, reliance on knowledge over effort, and the project-based structuring of their work. For this reason, our data collection will also include interviews, passive observation, and with permission, the collection of secondary and “trace” data from their devices. Integrating data from digital traces expands what is possible in field-based studies, and we look forward to exploring the options of this approach.

Mobile knowledge professionals settle in locations conducive to their gig work. Above, Professor Steve Sawyer breaks out his laptop in Bird Library’s Pages Cafe.
THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER AT the Syracuse University Libraries holds some of the earliest versions of a pivotal document in the history of women’s suffrage that was written here in Syracuse. In November 1845, the Reverend Samuel J. May preached a remarkable sermon titled *The Rights and Condition of Women* at the Church of the Messiah in Syracuse (the present-day May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society on East Genesee Street). Known as the first of the Woman’s Rights Tracts when published in the United States and Great Britain, this sermon set the tone for the women’s rights movement and was published frequently in the years leading up to the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848.

May’s point of view is summarized in this passage from the sermon: “The Father of the human family, in his infinite wisdom, made man male and female. But he made us co-ordinate, equal in rank, alike rational and moral beings. God created woman to be the companion of man, not his slave, not his menial; not subservient to his will.... He has not given one law to men, and another law to women, but the same law to both.”

In his book *Samuel Joseph May and the Dilemmas of the Liberal Persuasion, 1797-1871* (Temple University Press, 1991), historian Donald Yacovone noted that “Injustice and social disorder would continue, May declared, until women received the vote and ‘are fairly represented, and have an influence, a voice, and, if they wish, a hand in the enactment and administration of the laws.” —William T. La Moy

“God created woman to be the companion of man, not his slave, not his menial; not subservient to his will.... He has not given one law to men, and another law to women, but the same law to both.”

—THE REVEREND SAMUEL J. MAY
TALENT AGENCY | Guiding Young Artists

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (VPA) PAINTING major LaNia Roberts '18 stands before a group of Syracuse area high school students and discusses complementary colors with them. Parked at easels, the students are learning to mix colors and are soon sizing up dimensions for a still life featuring steer horns, a pine cone, a bike tire, a red teddy bear, and more. “Draw first, mix colors, then paint,” Roberts says. “Look, observe, and measure. Plan three steps ahead…”

Welcome to Talent Agency Teen Art Portfolio Development Inc., a pre-college program designed to help young artists from underserved backgrounds harness their talents and create portfolios for college admissions. The initiative, now in its seventh year with support from foundation grants and the Chancellor’s office, also provides SU graduate students and undergraduates the opportunity to work as instructors and enhance their teaching skills. Stroll around the Nancy Cantor Warehouse downtown, where the program is held, and you see art in motion. There is morning drawing instruction on each of the four weekdays of the program, which runs six weeks in the summer and throughout the schoolyear. The 22 participants spend their afternoons focused on a concentration in painting, photography, 3D/sculpture, or digital imagery. Roberts credits a similar program in her native Louisville, Kentucky, for inspiring her to become an artist and now she wants to inspire others. “I have a teacher’s soul,” she says. “I love to teach and enjoy the idea that I might make a difference in these kids’ lives.”

For Talent Agency co-founders Yvonne Buchanan and Dorene Quinn, that shared sense of purpose is important. They look to build the students’ artistic talents from the foundation up, encouraging them to gain confidence in their abilities and explore the myriad offerings of the art world. “Our hopes are that they can demonstrate how creative they are and get scholarships to top art and design programs,” says Buchanan, a VPA studio art professor and video artist. Quinn, a multimedia artist with decades of college teaching experience, says art is the only reason some of the kids will get through school and they want to show them how to succeed. “It’s not for every kid,” she says, “but the kid who’s an artist will just love it and eat it up.”

So far, so good. According to Buchanan, 35 participants have gone on to four-year colleges, including SU, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and Parsons School of Design. “I love this program,” says Tania Williams (below, right), a senior at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler. “The people are really open and want you to do good.”

Talk to the instructors and that sense of community and elevating artistic expression are evident. Assistant director and drawing instructor Asal Andarzipour G’18, a collaborative design graduate student from Iran, says she wants students to “feel courageous making art.” For director Nada Odeh G’18, a Syrian artist and museum studies graduate student, the program is a way to give back to the Syracuse community that welcomed her and her family. “I want to produce art, but I also want to serve the community and this is the best way I can do it,” she says.

At the Talent Agency’s portfolio presentation and open house in August, self-portraits, paintings, and photographs lined the walls, GIFs danced on a computer screen, ceramic figures occupied pedestals, and a colorfully sculptured rooster caught the eye of many visitors. Also featured was a student-animated video, Exquisite Syracuse (view on YouTube), created with visiting artist Gary Schwartz, an award-winning filmmaker and animator. “We’d like to continue building the program,” Buchanan says, “because of the great work that’s being done.”

—Jay Cox

3D/sculpture instructor Chelsey Albert G’18 (left), a ceramics graduate student, offers advice to Julia Lian, a student at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler. Below, students practice figure drawing.
Q&A WITH DANIELLE THOMSEN |

Where Have All the Moderates Gone?

IT’S NO SECRET THAT TODAY’S NATIONAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE is awash in hyper-partisanship marred by uncompromising skirmishes on myriad issues. So, whatever happened to the middle ground? In her 2017 book, Opting Out of Congress: Partisan Polarization and the Decline of Moderate Candidates (Cambridge University Press), Maxwell School political science professor Danielle Thomsen examines why many moderates pass on seeking elected office, leaving the door open for extremists from both parties to join the fray on Capitol Hill.

While many pundits attribute the shift to gerrymandering, partisan primaries, and the influence of big money in politics, Thomsen has a different take. She discussed her research and insights with Syracuse University Magazine editor Jay Cox.

So how did moderates become an endangered species in Congress?

In my book, I look at two processes: member retirement, who is leaving office; and candidate emergence, who is running for office. The decline in moderates—liberal Republicans and conservative Democrats—is because they aren’t running for or remaining in congressional office. It’s difficult to predict who runs for office and who doesn’t, because it’s hard to get data on individuals who didn’t run. I looked at state legislatures because they are a common pipeline to Congress, and my research showed that moderate state legislators are much less likely to run for higher office than ideologues.

Tell me about your theory of “party fit” and its impact on moderates.

The conventional wisdom—if there were conventional wisdom—is that moderates aren’t running because they think they can’t win. There is some of that going on, but there’s more to the story. I talked to former moderate members of Congress who were confident they would win and who had won previously by large margins but who retired. In my book, I point to policy benefits, party benefits, and personal benefits. The size of the moderate faction is very small and as a result their ability to influence and steer the policy agenda is very limited because they no longer have the necessary votes. In addition, party leaders control committee assignments, so will they put someone on a particular committee who’s not a reliable vote? No. Among the moderates I talked to, some said they were demoted to less desirable committees or their requests to change to more desirable committees were not granted. As for personal benefits, if you were elected as a moderate, would you spend time with people who have a completely different ideological worldview than you? There has to be some serious reward or appeal to running and I think for moderates today that’s gone.

The party fit argument is trying to steer conventional wisdom away from the idea that the ideological center is the best seat in the legislature because moderates have the most weight to affect the policy agenda. This was true 40 years ago, when more than half of the members of Congress were at the ideological center. Party fit suggests that the center of the party—or something that resembles the ideology of the party—is the best place to be, and in fact, that is where you see the least number of people retiring and the most people running. If the political center was desirable, I don’t think you would see moderates like Charlie Dent (Pennsylvania) or Richard Hanna (New York) leaving—and I think you would also see more of them running.

Do you see these ideological leanings shifting anytime soon?

I don’t. It is difficult to see how partisan polarization will diminish if moderates do not run for office. One bright spot, though, is that a lot of people care about the problem of polarization and there is motivation to fix it. The fact that California changed its primary system in 2012 shows that people are willing to implement institutional policy reforms to try to address and alleviate it. So far, there is little evidence that these institutional reforms are having the intended effect, but there is a growing interest in changing the hyper-partisan climate in Washington.
Donor Support Boosts the ’Cuse to New Heights

Expectations for Syracuse University’s first-ever day of giving were high, and the Orange community exceeded all of them. By all accounts, the campus-wide Boost the ’Cuse effort, held on October 17, was a resounding success. Thousands of alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Syracuse University made gifts during SU’s 24 hours of giving to ensure future generations of SU students have access to a world-class education.

Launched with an initial goal of 1,870 donors, the day’s results were nearly double that, as 3,568 donors raised $1,769,780. This included a $500,000 challenge made possible by Life Trustee Daniel A. D’Aniello ’68 and his wife, Gayle.

“It’s pretty incredible to see the pride the Orange family takes in giving back to current students,” says Bella Carter ’18, a finance and political science major. “I’ve been so lucky to enjoy so many great experiences here at Syracuse that were made possible by our donors. Our alumni and donor network is incredible.”

Collectively, these gifts are helping SU soar to new heights, as donors supported the part of SU they love most. Gifts came from all 50 states—and from countries as far away as Uruguay, Sweden, Oman, and Japan. Every aspect of a Syracuse education received support during Giving Day, from scholarships to school and college dean’s funds to Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse Athletics, and other units.

The day also served as the official launch of Class Act, the Class of 2018 Giving campaign. “I gave back to the iSchool, where I found a community and I found a home. The school’s immersion trips have been really helpful in guiding me toward what I want to do with my career,” says Chris Yin ’18, an information management technology major. “It’s inspirational that donors want to help students have the same great experiences at SU that they had. This makes me want to help other students when I graduate.”

Among the highlights of the Boost the ’Cuse campaign was a $200,000 gift to the Maxwell Dean’s Fund from Life Trustee Gerry Cramer ’52 and his wife, Daphna, longtime Syracuse University supporters.

The Syracuse University Alumni Club of Southern California gave $100,000 in the form of an endowed scholarship honoring the life and legacy of Olive Hall ’43, G’48. The scholarship, the largest ever established by an SU alumni club, will help SU-bound students from Southern California pursue their academic dreams.

Advocates—more than 200 donors who spread the word about Boost the ’Cuse while inspiring others to give back—were responsible for more than 10 percent of the online gifts made during the event.

Throughout Boost the ’Cuse, challenges highlighting schools, colleges, and units; regions; social sharing; and more were issued to motivate donors. These contributions channeled additional dollars to SU’s most vital areas, including scholarships, the annual fund, and dean’s funds. There were also special challenges that ran throughout the day, including the 1,870th gift (honoring the year Syracuse University was founded), the 2,724th gift (tying into the final score of the SU football team’s win over defending national champion Clemson), and the 3,044th gift, which unlocked a $50,000 challenge gift from an anonymous trustee.

Across the country on that day, gatherings were held at SU’s regional alumni offices: Greenberg House in D.C., SU in Los Angeles, and Lubin House and the Fisher Center in New York City. Alumni clubs in Arizona, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia also hosted gatherings to celebrate alumni philanthropy.

“We are so thankful that the Orange network rallied around Boost the ’Cuse—our first day of giving,” says David Wishart ’07, assistant vice president for philanthropic engagement. “This historic day will enhance the student experience this year and in the years ahead through the funds that were raised for scholarships, as well as academic and student programs.”

—John Boccacino
Learning about the Refugee Experience in Strasbourg

FOR MICHELLE JITUBOH ’17, A SYRACUSE ABROAD SUMMER internship in Strasbourg meant reconnecting with her first language. Growing up, Jituboh lived in Côte d’Ivoire, Tunisia, and Ghana, where she predominantly spoke French. Her advanced knowledge of the language allowed her to intern at the Centre d’Accueil et d’Orientation pour les Migrants (Reception and Orientation Center for Migrants), where she used her French skills in a professional setting. Despite having some reservations at first, Jituboh says, “It was refreshing because that was the only language I could really speak.”

During her internship, Jituboh assisted with the organization’s daily functions, translated documents, aided in conversations, and used her skills in French and English to teach classes to the migrants. Many of them came from the Calais “jungle” in France, an illegal camp of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and East Africa, and were relocated to Strasbourg. According to Jituboh, the migrants enjoyed her presence because they don’t usually interact much with the social workers who assist them at the center. She describes her unique relationship with them as a “different bond.”

Jituboh was one of several students who, through the Syracuse Abroad Program in Strasbourg, interned last summer at organizations devoted to assisting refugees and migrants. Whether during the semester or summer, the Strasbourg program provides its students with the opportunity to gain experience in a desired field in workplaces ranging from astronomical observatories to pediatrics’ offices, from museums to fashion boutiques. “We really try to listen to what the students’ interests are,” says Raymond Bach, academic director of the Strasbourg program.

Forming a unique relationship with refugees was an experience shared by Syracuse Abroad participant Jonathan Williamson, a James Madison student who interned at the Collectif d’Accueil pour Solliciteurs d’Asile de Strasbourg (Association for Welcoming Asylum Seekers in Strasbourg), a similar organization to the CAO. Williamson assisted in translating documents and, along with his other daily tasks, taught classes and planned cultural visits. Williamson says he realized the importance of his interactions with the asylum seekers, knowing he might be their first point of contact in France. He explains that he saw another side of their personalities, different from when they first met, once they opened up and he was teaching them French. “It was incredible to see the change,” he says.

The Strasbourg program has inspired both Williamson and Jituboh to pursue graduate degrees in the future. Williamson, an international affairs and French major with a minor in European policy, plans to go back to France to study international diplomacy. Because of her positive experience providing assistance to migrants at the CAO, Jituboh, who earned bachelor’s degrees in international relations and French, plans to pursue a master’s degree in social work. Apart from providing insight on her future, her time abroad opened her eyes to other people and cultures. “It makes you aware of other things people are going through and mindful of how good your life is going for you,” Jituboh says.

Such insights are what Bach hopes students will get out of their internships. He notes that interning with the Strasbourg program gives students the advantage of getting out of the “academic bubble” and seeing another side of France. In the case of working with refugees and migrants, he believes it’s important for the students to know that people value their work. The experience also allows them to see the country from the perspective of someone coming there and hoping to receive immigrant status. In the process, the students will learn more about their own country, the United States. “It’s not about saying one country is better than another country, or one society is better than another society,” Bach says. “It’s about learning to understand the world in all its complexity with a critical perspective, and that’s really what study abroad ideally should give you.”

—GINA REITENAUER
AMERICASERVES |  
Coordinating Care for Veterans and Their Families

IN FALL 2013, THE UNIVERSITY’S INSTITUTE for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) accepted a challenge from the Robin Hood Foundation and New York City—one that called on its status as a national leader regarding issues impacting military-connected populations. “How could we transform the way veterans, service members, and their families navigate and coordinate the maze of services and resources they have earned, and unlock a better, more efficient, and human-centered approach for service providers to deliver care?” says retired U.S. Army Colonel James D. McDonough, managing director of programs and services at the IVMF.

To answer that question, the institute worked alongside the city’s public, private, and nonprofit leaders to address a fundamental concern: lack of communication and collaboration among the various sectors providing such services as housing, benefits counseling, employment, legal and financial assistance, and health care. The solution was to establish the IVMF’s AmericaServes initiative, the nation’s first community-based, coordinated network of services and care for military-connected members and their families. Based on a collective impact model, the initiative brings AmericaServes staff together with local service providers and funders within a community, supporting them in developing a shared vision and goals for how to best serve their military-connected population, and equipping them with the technological and informational resources to initiate, monitor, and sustain their efforts.

First launched in New York City, AmericaServes now operates in 12 communities across the country, including Charlotte and other North Carolina cities, Pittsburgh, Seattle, San Antonio, and Upstate New York. “Our goal is to apply the University’s resources to communities so they can change the way they serve the people who have served their country and their families,” McDonough says. “That’s a very big idea, commensurate with what the University stands for—rising to the occasion and contributing nationally to innovation to serve people better.”

Three factors key to the success of the AmericaServes model are the use of a shared technology platform, engaged community providers, and the designation of a coordination center within each community—a combination that assures streamlined referrals to services that are the best fit for clients and offers them individualized, human-centered support, while also capitalizing on the strengths of participating providers. At NCServes-Metrolina, Veterans Bridge Home (VBH), a nonprofit organization serving veterans and military families, is the community “quarterback” managing the coordination center for the Charlotte area.

“According to VBH executive director Blake Bourne, NCServes has enhanced the community’s capacity to meet clients’ needs. “With the AmericaServes model, Syracuse University and the IVMF provide the space and the time to sit down and say, ‘Where are we getting things right, where are we not, and how can we better connect one another?’” says Bourne, a former U.S. Army infantry officer. “Ultimately, that time spent makes individual providers better at what they do. And our community can speak to that strongly.”

For Kerri-Ann Burke-Henry, a recently retired U.S. Navy personnel officer in recruiting command, connecting with the NCServes network has helped ease her transition to civilian life. “When I was preparing to retire, I wanted to make sure I was plugged into any and all veteran networks that I could,” says Burke-Henry, who requested services focused on employment and well-being. “NCServes was a great help. For me, coming off active duty, this was the right thing at the right time. And I’m grateful for it.”

Continued growth lies ahead for AmericaServes, with plans to launch networks in additional communities and to further develop the initiative’s capacity to be helpful. “We are involved in a leading practice in this country, and we have a growing requirement to create a broader understanding of what it is we’re trying to do,” McDonough says. “We built networks. Now we’re building community solutions.”

—Amy Speach
Data Scientist
#1 Best Job in America 2016 - 2017
(glassdoor.com)

MS in Applied Data Science @ the iSchool

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ischool.syr.edu/ads
WHILE IT’S HARD TO IMAGINE, THERE was a time when football and basketball weren’t played at Syracuse University. That’s because neither sport had been invented and organized as intercollegiate competition. Fast forward from SU’s humble origins in 1870 to 2017 and suddenly the opportunity exists for contemporary students and faculty to witness a new sporting concept coming fully to life. Removed from dorm rooms and cluttered basements, eSports competitions are filling arenas like the Staples Center in Los Angeles, and top professional “gamers” are making millions in prize money and endorsements.

It’s no surprise then that organized competitive video gaming is rapidly emerging as a major 21st-century interest of collegiate players and forward-facing administrators. In fact, the global growth of eSports as a legitimate sport entity has become so great the Paris 2024 Olympic Organizing Committee has talked of including video games.

According to Jenny Gluck, associate chief information officer for academic services, the University is actively entering that eSports world via recreational forms (for socializing and networking), academic scholarship (history, analytics, and neuroscience), and research (behavioral and performance). “Adoption of video games is happening naturally across the nation,” Gluck says. “Some people ignore or put down electronic games because they think they’re violent, misogynist, and racist, but this variety represents many of the struggles we face in our current political climate. That’s why universities must make an effort to wrestle with these social concepts.”

English professor Chris Hanson teaches several courses that incorporate digital games, including Interpretation of New Media, and Game Histories and Cultures. The classes, which he’s been teaching for more than six years, attract students from every college on campus and always generate a wait list. Interestingly, more than 50 percent of the students are females. He sees a huge upside to SU embracing eSports. “Challenging video games can be used as a catalyst for in-depth learning experiences, but they also provide students with augmented and virtual reality experiential opportunities that were unimaginable only a few years ago.” —CHRIS HANSON

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One of Hanson’s students, English and textual studies major Duncan Lambden ’18, cites competitive video games for their appeal to a variety of skill levels. “They often have low-skill floors and high-skill ceilings,” he says. “This, coupled with the fact that there will very rarely be someone with a disability that doesn’t allow them to play a computer game, means that almost anyone can engage in an incredibly wide variety of friendly competition.”

According to Michael Veley, the Rhonda Falk Professor of Sport Management and director and chair of Falk College’s sport management department, sports in the future will have a heavy emphasis on technology-driven competition. “As competitive video gaming becomes an integral part of mainstream American sports, complete with professional video gamers, eSports will continue gaining exposure,” he says. “In the near future, eSports will become mainstream enough to make purpose-built arenas financially sustainable. With professional leagues formed, college athletics considering sanctioning video gaming as a varsity sport, and worldwide live digital streaming attracting tens of millions of consumers, the business model for eSports will explode with sponsorship and media rights opportunities.”

It’s rare when new collegiate sports—think ultimate Frisbee—are created, but that’s when progressive universities explore how to adopt that sport while improving student life, enhancing academic scholarship, and building a connection to their students. In Syracuse’s case, the development of eSports as a major activity on the sporting landscape is creating dynamic classroom interaction and the likelihood of much further engagement by SU students in the future. —Rick Burton
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DEAN NAMED

Michael Frasciello G'15, a respected leader and long-time advocate for continuous learning, was named dean of University College (UC) in September. He’d served as the college’s interim dean since January, implementing a number of strategies and new programs, including an online and residential bachelor’s degree of professional studies in cybersecurity administration. He also helped create the SU Center for Online and Digital Learning as a One University center of excellence for online education.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Frasciello has also been director of online learning for the College of Engineering and Computer Science and co-directed the University’s Distance Education Work Group. He also served more than a decade as assistant dean at UC. He holds a Ph.D. degree in composition and cultural rhetoric from the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Orange football team engineered one of its biggest upsets in program history when it knocked off defending national champion Clemson, 27-24, on October 13 in the Carrier Dome before a crowd of 42,475. The win snapped the second-ranked Tigers’ 11-game winning streak, which was the longest in the nation at the time. It was also the Orange’s first victory over an opponent ranked that high in the Associated Press (AP) poll since its historic 1984 triumph against No. 1 Nebraska in the Dome. Since the AP poll began in 1936, Syracuse has beaten the defending national champion two other times: 1987 (Penn State) and 1998 (Michigan).

The field hockey team finished its season with a 12-7 record, falling to Michigan, 1-0, in overtime in the first round of the NCAA tournament. It marked the final game in Orange for graduate student Elaine Carey, and seniors Lies Lagerweij, Laura Hurff, Caroline Cady, Erin Gillingham, and Annalena Ulbrich, who helped Syracuse to four NCAA tournament appearances, two NCAA championship game appearances, and the program’s first national title in 2015.

Former Orange women’s basketball star Brittney Sykes ’16, G’17 was named to the WNBA’s all-rookie team. The Atlanta Dream guard was the rookie leader in scoring (13.9 points per game), rebounding (4.1 rebounds per game), and three-pointers made (37).

Gabriela Knutson ’19 won the singles title at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Northeast Regionals, defeating Princeton’s Stephanie Schrage, 6-4, 6-2, in the final. She won six matches without losing a set in the tournament, which was held at the University of Pennsylvania. Teammate Miranda Ramirez ’20 advanced to the semifinals before falling to Schrage.

The name of National Lacrosse Hall of Fame coach Roy Simmons Jr. ’59 is now attached to the position he held for 28 years. Brett Jefferson G’88 established the Men’s Lacrosse Coaches Endowment to name the head coaching position as The Roy D. Simmons Jr. Head Men’s Lacrosse Coach. The announcement was made in October with a statue dedication serving as the culmination of a fundraising campaign to endow the position held by John Desk G’79. A statue featuring Simmons, who guided the Orange to six NCAA titles, and his father, the late Roy Simmons Sr. ’25, was unveiled next to the Enslow Athletic Center. Simmons Sr. was a two-time USILA national champion with the lacrosse team before coaching lacrosse for 40 years. He also coached boxing and was an assistant football coach, helping each team earn a national title and coaching eight boxers to individual national championships.

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New Perspectives on Outdated Laws of War

MANY OF THE DECLARATIONS IN THE HAGUE CONVENTION of 1907—a multilateral treaty defining jus in bello, or the laws of war—address the modern weaponry deployed by the standing armies of the industrial age: the dropping of explosives from balloons, laying contact mines at sea, using soft-point bullets, and launching “projectiles…to spread asphyxiating poisonous gases.”

Today, we might hail as “cutting-edge” an international treaty concerned with war’s latest technologies and tactics, but when the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) at Syracuse University began its project to re-examine the laws of war in 2007—100 years after the Hague Convention—it was clear that many of the declarations were anachronistic. Customary international laws concerned with regular soldiers wearing uniforms with “a fixed distinctive emblem” had become ill-suited to 21st-century campaigns waged against irregular soldiers who blend in with civilian populations, use terror tactics, and don’t recognize international treaties.

Since its inaugural conference in 2007, INSCT’s New Battlefields/Old Laws (NBOL) project has convened international and military law and policy experts to discuss multiple aspects of the laws of war as applied to “borderless,” “postmodern,” and “asymmetric” battlefields, from the duties of states fighting non-state actors and the “legal triggers of war” on new battlefields to foreign terrorist fighters, counterinsurgency operations, and the protection of civilians living among insurgents.

On September 13, as part of the World Summit on Counter-Terrorism in Herzliya, Israel, the 10th Anniversary NBOL Workshop took up “Crisis Management in Times of Transition” and the intersection of asymmetric warfare, cross-border terrorism, and peacetime crises. “Acts of terrorism can be seen in terms of a natural disaster, like a flood or earthquake,” explains INSCT Director William C. Banks. “Our workshop explored possible international mechanisms that could allow nations to respond effectively to terrorist incidents by relying on the tools and processes of disaster preparedness and response.”

Past NBOL workshops have resulted in two books—New Battlefields/Old Laws: Critical Debates from the Hague Convention to Asymmetric Warfare (Columbia, 2011) and Counterinsurgency Law: New Directions in Asymmetric Warfare (Oxford, 2013)—and several related initiatives. The 2015 workshop, for instance, led to INSCT’s ongoing partnership with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and student research in support of UN member states’ efforts to deal constructively with citizens who travel across borders to fight with extremist organizations.

For the anniversary workshop, Banks and co-chair Daphné Richemond-Barak, of the Lauder School of Government in Israel, convened experts in international law and disaster response. “The workshop is a springboard for future projects,” Banks says, “and I will be working with these colleagues more closely in the coming months.”

Meanwhile numerous ongoing conflicts—in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Libya, and elsewhere—continue to underscore the shortcomings of international law’s response to asymmetric warfare, while states’ legal and military responses to novel issues confronting military lawyers on the battlefield often raise more questions than answers. As an example, Banks cites the fallout of the 2015 U.S. attack on a hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, which killed 42 civilians. Banks says he compliments the U.S. military for owning up to the mistake and disciplining military personnel involved. Nevertheless, UN and human rights groups criticized the U.S. military for not fully disclosing its intelligence failures and not criminally prosecuting personnel.

“The U.S. government has made more concessions toward transparency than any other Western government since World War II, but whether we will see more is doubtful,” Banks says. After all, he explains, in the case of a military intelligence failure that leads to a humanitarian law violation, states have a “firm cultural norm to protect their intelligence sources and methods.”

—Martin Walls
INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION |

Saving Darwin’s Finches

THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, ONCE REMOTE AND SPARSELY inhabited, their volcanic vistas home to exotic plants and unique wildlife, have become a highly popular vacation destination. Each year, thousands of people, including tourists and those who work in businesses that cater to the tourist trade, visit the islands or go to live there. Sometimes uninvited—and unwelcome—guests, in the form of invasive species that attack and supplant native populations, come too. One of the most devastating is Philornis downsi (P. downsi), an avian parasite fly native to mainland Ecuador and Brazil. During its life cycle, the parasite literally sucks the blood out of its host population—in this case, the fledglings of a group of bird species collectively known as Darwin’s finches, named for scientist Charles Darwin, who first identified them in 1835.

The fly, now present on 15 of the 17 largest Galápagos islands, is having a catastrophic effect on the avian population, according to Margaret Voss, Falk College professor of practice in the nutrition program. “The most heavily impacted species is the mangrove finch, followed by the medium tree finch,” says Voss, whose research interests are in ecosystem health and food availability. “Nestling mortality from parasitism can be as high as 100 percent in some finch species.”

Voss and her Falk College colleague, Professor Rick Welsh, are co-principal investigators leading a team of research scientists from Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, and the Charles Darwin Foundation. They are studying the impact of P. downsi on the Galápagos Islands finches and working to find ecologically sound ways to control the parasite. Because the birds nest in the Galápagos National Park, an area in which the application of pesticides is prohibited, other methods must be found to kill the flies.

Fertilizer application is also prohibited in the arable areas bordering the park, negatively impacting local farmers, who have a hard time earning a living. An expert in food and agricultural policy, Welsh advises the research team on sustainable agriculture practices, land use, and conservation issues. “We need to develop a management plan based on our best available research to allow local people to continue to live there—as they have for a long time—while preserving their natural resources and taking advantage of the international interest in the islands,” he says. “There needs to be an equilibrium between tourism, farming, and other means of livelihood on the islands, in such a way as to protect wildlife, yet still allowing human activity.”

Voss, who plans a second trip to the islands in spring 2018, stresses the team’s goal of finding answers to the challenging issues facing the people and wildlife there. “If the birds are going to survive and support healthy populations, the people who live near them have to have that same balance in life. It doesn’t work any other way. There are so many pieces to this puzzle.”

—MARGARET VOSS

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—MARGARET VOSS

To continue their research, the team is actively seeking funding from conservation and nongovernmental organizations. Given the alarmingly high nestling mortality among the finches, the researchers realize they are in a race against time to find solutions to the parasite infestation, before it is too late to save the birds. “I’ve worked on a lot of environmental problems that were very serious, but nothing this dramatic,” Welsh says. “We don’t have very much time to figure out what will work to fix the problem. If the issue isn’t solved soon, a species will become extinct.”

—Paula Meseroll
Effective Counseling

BEFORE SHE BECAME A COUNSELOR AND A teacher of counselors, Professor Melissa Luke G’07 taught for a while in alternative education programs for young mothers and other nontraditional students in Syracuse. As she led informal groups and collaborated with other teachers and community agencies to serve the programs’ students, she became aware of the helpful potential—and complexity—of group interactions. “I observed different skill sets across the people we were working with in terms of navigating group interaction in a meaningful way,” says Luke, now Dean’s Professor and coordinator of the doctoral and school counseling programs in the School of Education. “I wasn’t sure how to label it then, but I thought, ‘I would like to understand that a little better.’”

That was the beginning of Luke’s training to be a school counselor, which then led her to pursue a Ph.D. in counselor education at the School of Education. She joined the faculty in 2006, bringing more than 15 years of experience in public schools to the work of preparing future counselors and counselor educators. “The training starts with understanding oneself and how one’s life experiences begin to form the template for how we see ourselves, how we see other people, and how we interact,” says Luke, who holds bachelor’s degrees in English and psychology from the University of Rochester, and master’s degrees in liberal studies from SUNY Brockport and school counseling services from SUNY Oswego. “Additionally, it’s providing increased knowledge, awareness, and skills about individual identities—creating opportunities for supported interaction for particular types of clients—and then training in the skills that will be utilized.”

In her research, Luke concentrates on preparing future counselors to work effectively with populations that historically have not been adequately served in their schools or communities, including students who are the first in their families to attend college, students who are religiously identified, and LGBT youth. For example, her book, Group Counseling with LGBTQI Persons (American Counseling Association, 2015), helps address a lack of literature and counselor training on group work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex clients. In fall 2016, she received the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision’s Publication in Counselor Education Award for the book, which she co-wrote with Kristopher Goodrich G’05, G’09, a faculty member at the University of New Mexico. “In my mind, groups aren’t utilized as much as they should be,” Luke says. “There’s something about a group that creates at least the possibility for us to be more of who we are. As counselors, that creates more opportunities for potential intervention.”

Another focus of Luke’s work relates to the globalization of counseling. Since 2009, she has helped expand counseling in East Africa, efforts that grew from the School of Education’s partnership with Kenyatta University in Kenya. “In the training of their teacher-counselors, there is a lot of book knowledge, but not a lot of practice,” she says. “We’re looking at how to better train people to fill that gap in ways that are culturally congruent and sustainable.”

Ultimately, Luke says, helping her students succeed in the profession she treasures is at the core of everything she does. “For me, this work is so meaningful,” she says. “People have needs. And counseling is really about understanding that at the very fundamental human level and responding, so people can live more of the life they want to live.”

—Amy Speach
Championing Freedom of the Press

AS A PANELIST IN THE OCTOBER 2016 NEWHOUSE SCHOOL symposium, Running for Cover: Politics, Justice, and Media in the Syrian Conflict, Elijah Ali Shama ’19 found himself sharing the stage with some very impressive company, including a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist; the education director of I Am Syria; College of Law professor David Crane L’80, founding director of the Syrian Accountability Project; and Newhouse professor Ken Harper, director of the Newhouse Center for Global Engagement.

Shama, a dual major in broadcast and digital journalism and Middle Eastern studies, offered his thoughts as the founder of the University’s chapter of Reporters Without Borders (RWB), an international organization that promotes journalistic freedom. “Never in a million years did I think I would be on the same stage as Pulitzer Prize winner Roy Gutman and David Crane, the man who prosecuted former Liberian President Charles Taylor,” says Shama, whose career goal is to be a foreign correspondent reporting on stories in the Middle East for a major news organization. “It was a profoundly humbling experience, and I was honored to be there.”

As a first-year student, Shama was inspired to found the Reporters Without Borders chapter at Harper’s suggestion. “My interests in becoming an international correspondent intersected well with Professor Harper’s own experiences in that field,” Shama says. “He’d been asked by RWB to found a chapter at Syracuse and thought I would be a good candidate. The rest is history.”

The chapter aims to financially assist journalists and raise public awareness about those who seek to limit freedom of the press. “We’ve held fundraisers like our Rock for Reporters concert, as well as discussions and panels featuring prominent journalists and speakers on issues facing journalism,” Shama says. “My big goal is to one day bring in Richard Engel, NBC’s chief foreign correspondent—and my personal hero—to speak. That would be a mountaintop moment for me.”

The chapter also works to make the campus community aware of the international organization’s initiatives. Chapter activities include promoting the RWB Press Freedom Index, an annual ranking of countries based upon the organization’s assessment of press freedom records in the previous year, and highlighting the organization’s endeavors to gain the release of kidnapped journalists.

In addition to Reporters Without Borders, Shama is heavily involved with CitrusTV, the SU student-run TV station where he serves as anchor of the station’s Wednesday News Live, and as international contributor for Talking Points, a show featuring discussions of current political topics, broadcast on Mondays. He also runs audio for the Spanish news show Noticias on Sundays. “I spend a lot of time at CitrusTV,” the Miami native says. “It really has become my home away from home—the people there always inspire me to do more or go further.”

As a high school junior researching journalism schools, Shama discovered that Syracuse University always came at the top of lists, and he was determined to attend. “I had to find the money to make it a reality,” he says. He applied for a scholarship from the Posse Foundation, a college access and youth leadership development program, and on the night of the final scholarship interview, he found out he was accepted at the Newhouse School. It was also his birthday. “There is no way I’d be able to attend Syracuse without the Posse Scholarship,” he says. “It’s the reason why I am here. Syracuse University has given me more than I ever imagined.”

—Paula Meseroll

Elijah Ali Shama ’19
Broadcast and digital journalism and Middle Eastern studies major
Founder, SU chapter of Reporters Without Borders
Posse Scholar
Newhouse School, College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School
Excavating Stories

Danielle Schaf ’19

Forensic science, writing and rhetoric, and anthropology major
Fulbright Scholar

College of Arts and Sciences/Maxwell School

LAST SUMMER, DANIELLE SCHAF ’19 SPENT four weeks in England exploring archaeology and studying the history of Roman Britain. The experience deepened her fascination with “voices that haven’t been heard” and intensified her commitment to truthfully sharing “stories that haven’t been told,” she says. Schaf was one of six students from across the United States selected for a scholarship to the Fulbright UK Summer Institute at Durham University, where she practiced excavation techniques, took part in pottery and ceramic analysis, examined skeletal remains dating from 537 A.D., and visited culturally and historically significant sites in England and Scotland. “In our last two weeks, when we were studying 5th- to 11th-century Northumbrian history, it was interesting to see the individuals whose history was missing,” says Schaf, a College of Arts and Sciences junior majoring in forensic science, writing and rhetoric, and anthropology (Maxwell School). “You hear about the monarchy, and you hear about the individuals in the church. But I wanted to hear about the women. I wanted to know about enslaved individuals. I wanted to know about everyday life and everyday people and how they made the city of Durham run—not just the people in power.”

The trip was a first for Schaf, a first-generation college student who hails from a single-parent family in Shelby, Nebraska, and hadn’t traveled outside the States before. Her time abroad, which was funded through the US-UK Fulbright Commission, was “the opportunity of a lifetime,” she says. And it was an important step toward her goals of being a writer and bioarchaeologist—learning and teaching about past individuals and cultures through studying human remains. “I met incredible people with bright, strong minds and got to see things I’d never seen,” says Schaf, a Renée Crown University Honors Program student. “I also learned how problematic it can be to narrate history—and how powerful. I’ll take that into account with my research, now and in the future. I want to be able to narrate the story of someone who has lived in the past and no longer has the ability to voice their own story.”

Another learning opportunity Schaf values is her work with Maxwell School anthropology professor Shannon Novak last spring, conducting research on bones recovered from a 19th-century mental health asylum in Rome, New York. “The skeletal remains I worked with were of an individual who, you could see, was subjected to intense labor that included pain from heavy lifting,” she says. “It was very interesting and gave me the opportunity to talk about structural violence and engage in conversation about the stigma around mental illness.”

In addition to her rigorous academic pursuits, Schaf is enthusiastically involved in student life at Syracuse. She is co-captain of the women’s club volleyball team; a counselor for Camp Kesem, a free weeklong summer camp experience and peer support program for children who have been affected by a parent’s cancer; and a participant in CRU, a campus Christian organization. She’s also an RA, working with first-year students to help make their SU experience as positive as hers has been. “This is my home now and I love it,” Schaf says. “The people here are going to change the world. They already are. They’re certainly changing my world.”

—Amy Speach
Geometric Theorist

HISTORY IS NOT LOST ON MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR William Wylie. He began his undergraduate career at Providence College as a history major, but switched to mathematics and computer science when he realized he was much better at wrestling with equations than essays. He still enjoys history and, in conversation, rolls through the history of mathematics, from Euclid’s ancient geometry texts to the use of equations in today’s sciences. Math, he says, is a living field, a combination of permanence and progress. “I’ve always liked how intellectual curiosity drives mathematics,” says Wylie, a specialist in differential geometry, which involves the study of curves and surfaces. “A lot of the game is figuring out the right questions to ask.”

These days, many of Wylie’s questions focus on helping to develop a geometric theory of Riemannian manifolds with density—a research topic for which he was awarded a five-year, $472,500 Faculty Early Development Program (CAREER) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) last spring. In the 19th century, German mathematicians Carl Gauss and Bernhard Riemann created mathematical models for curved spaces, including manifolds, which are abstract, multidimensional spaces. Einstein put their models to work when he connected gravitational force to the curvature of spacetime in his general theory of relativity. “There are many different curved spaces and Einstein showed us that if one of these spaces is our universe, then it satisfies his equations of general relativity,” says Wylie, who hopes his work will help researchers in other fields solve problems.

Wylie grew up in Acton, Massachusetts, in what you might call a math-friendly household: His parents were computer programmers on the ground floor of the Boston computer-tech boom in the 1980s. He traces his interest in Riemannian manifolds to a seminar he took while earning a doctorate in mathematics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Before joining the College of Arts and Sciences faculty in 2011, Wylie taught at UCLA and was a postdoctoral lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. He’s also been a visiting scholar at Cornell and has previously received research grants from the NSF and the Simons Foundation. He has given lectures around the globe and enjoys teaching for the interaction it provides. The NSF CAREER grant will also allow him to host two summer workshops for high school teachers and develop a geometry curriculum for SU undergraduates that features an interdisciplinary link to the sciences. “I really enjoy the students,” Wylie says. “With teaching, you get to take something you’re passionate about and share it with people who are enthusiastic to learn. That, to me, is a great job.”

His enthusiasm for teaching is evident when he pulls a clear, plastic sphere from an office bookshelf and draws three points to illustrate the concept of curvature. “Curvature is a number you can compute; it tells me how quickly things are spreading apart or coming together,” he says. “On a sphere, if we started at the North Pole and walked in two different directions to the equator, we’d be closer together than if we had walked the same distance on a flat plane because things are curving in on themselves.” It’s a local to global concept, he says: The world looks flat to the eye, but on a grand scale, it’s spherical. Riemannian manifolds work that way, he explains. Local measurements of curvature can help decipher the global shape. There are many possible shapes in the universe and Wylie is interested in differentiating them. “You try to latch on to something you know and develop it as much as possible,” he says. “You figure out what you can figure out.” —Jay Cox
The Gift of Education

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HIS NEARLY 40-YEAR career at Syracuse University, Thomas J. Walsh G’84 served as events administrator in the Division of Student Affairs. In that role, working closely with student organizations and work study crews at the Goldstein Auditorium, he found the sense of purpose that gave meaning to everything that followed. “I got to know students very well—their challenges, their happiness, and their aspirations,” says Walsh, recently retired former executive vice president for advancement and external affairs at SU. “With these students in mind, to me it always came back to working on their behalf, trying to put things on their path—scholarships and academic opportunities—that would be meaningful to them. That was my touchstone.”

Toward that overarching goal, Walsh joined the University’s development team in 1991 as director of major gifts for Washington, D.C. He expanded his responsibilities in 1995 as joint director of development and federal relations, before his 1999 appointment as assistant vice president charged with strengthening SU’s presence and relationships in New York City. He was named vice president of leadership gifts in 2002, and in 2005 was appointed senior vice president of institutional advancement, leading an expanded division as executive vice president in the successful $1 billion Campaign for Syracuse University, completed in 2012. “The connector was students, but the different positions I had taught me how complex the University is and how many constituencies it has,” says Walsh, who transitioned to the role of special counsel to Chancellor Syverud in 2014. “For the University to optimally function, all those constituencies need to be engaged and feel that their voice is being heard and that they’re a part of what the future is about.”

Known as a gifted orator and storyteller, Walsh drew on his theater background to share his passion for—and inspire others to invest in—the University. “In the theater, you learn through acting training to understand the text and the subtext and the motivations that people have in any given situation,” says Walsh, who earned an M.F.A. degree in drama from the College of Visual and Performing Arts and spent 10 years at Syracuse Stage as dramaturg and main stage director early in his career. “It is absolutely essential that you work collaboratively—demanding collaborations among a complex set of people. And you learn to be very comfortable putting yourself out in public. These skills, the theater develops at a high level. So it prepared me very well.”

Reflecting on his accomplishments, Walsh is quick to point to the contributions of all those who have a stake in Syracuse University. “New buildings, academic programs, and scholarships happen because everybody involved is playing their part brilliantly,” he says. “I had a speaking role, but that’s not the only thing that makes it happen. It all goes back to this extended team. We’re out on the edge of a noble cause working for education, on behalf of students and faculty who are trying to create knowledge. It’s a gift—something very special we’ve been asked to participate in. And it’s very satisfying when you’re successful.”

—Amy Speach

Thomas J. Walsh G’84
Recently retired former Executive Vice President
Division of Advancement and External Affairs

Photo by Steve Sartori
You plan your career.
You plan your retirement.
Now plan to change a life.

Rosemarie Nelson ’90 and Tim Nelson’s ’72 life together began during the first-ever game inside the new Carrier Dome. Since then, the Nelsons have combined their passion for SU Athletics and appreciation for their educations to support students both on the field and off. “We like giving to the University to use where it’s needed most,” they say. “It’s such a positive for the students and a huge benefit to our community.”

Anyone can plan an SU legacy.
You, too, can bring your passion to life at SU. A planned gift—no matter its size—has endless potential to support students’ educational dreams. Whether your gift is one of cash, securities, real estate, business partnership interests, retirement plans, or life insurance—it can truly make all the difference.

Meet the Nelsons and hear why they are committed to sharing their Orange spirit with future generations at changealife.syr.edu/Nelson.

To create your personal Syracuse University gift plan, call 888.352.9535 or email giftplan@syr.edu. It’s sure to be one of the most meaningful plans you’ll ever make.
Invest Syracuse

EXPANDED INTERNSHIP, IMMERSION, AND study abroad opportunities for all students. Strategic integrated academic and career planning. One hundred new faculty positions and a more robust Office of Research. Increased funding for need-based aid and grants to reduce the burden of student loans.

Transformative ideas—emanating from the vision of the Academic Strategic Plan—are now being advanced for the future of Syracuse University as part of Invest Syracuse: Advancing Academic Excellence and the Student Experience. Unveiled this past summer, the $100 million initiative, which includes many aspirations and specific proposals, was developed to ensure the University’s position as an outstanding institution of higher learning that provides all students with a distinctive, world-class learning experience. “Invest Syracuse is the engine for advancing the University’s academic programs and the student experience,” Chancellor Kent Syverud says. “It will elevate our academic excellence, provide an unrivaled student experience, and solidify Syracuse University’s standing as a distinctive, preeminent, global research institution.”

Invest Syracuse follows the University’s academic strategic planning process, during which students, faculty, staff, and alumni helped define a shared vision for the University and identified priorities to achieve those aspirations. The future-
With a new $100 million initiative, the University seeks to advance academic excellence and redefine the student experience

BY KATHLEEN HALEY AND SARAH SCALESE

focused initiative encompasses a set of distinct goals for the University—and an approach to funding its goals—as it looks to meet the needs of students and stay competitive in the rapidly changing landscape of higher education. Under the plan, the University seeks to expand opportunity to exceptional students from all socioeconomic backgrounds; enhance the student experience by strengthening advising, internships, and study abroad; and invest in faculty and research goals. “Invest Syracuse will allow us to accelerate learning, fuel discovery, and cultivate and drive intellectual curiosity,” says Michele G. Wheatly, vice chancellor and provost. “It will further position our students, faculty, and staff for success as they identify solutions for our most pressing global challenges.”

INVEST IN PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
Over the next five years, Syracuse University will invest in the people and programs needed to implement the priorities, which include the following:

Redefining the student experience at Syracuse, beyond Syracuse, and after Syracuse by:

+ Providing comprehensive and integrated academic and career guidance and support so every student has a personalized path to future success;

+ Supporting students through tailored plans to better address mental health, physical well-being, and spiritual needs;

+ Ensuring every student has at least one global learning experience while at Syracuse; and

+ Fostering a cross-campus collaborative that includes alumni engagement, academic and career advising, and advancement offices in the schools and colleges to formalize a networking community that connects students and young alumni to internship and career opportunities.

Advancing discovery and innovation by:

+ Recruiting and hiring 100 additional faculty scholars over the next five years and allocating resources to retain outstanding faculty;

+ Strengthening the Office of Research to offer tangible support to all faculty pursuing scholarship, research, and creative work; and

+ Establishing a Faculty Innovation and Discovery Fund to incentivize faculty to pursue interdisciplinary scholarship, research, and creative work outside the core mission of their academic departments.

Expanding student opportunities by:

+ Launching the intensive two-year Invest Syracuse fundraising initiative, a $40 million campaign focused exclusively on supporting need-based undergraduate scholarships and financial aid;
+ Creating a new named scholarship program focused specifically on valedictorians and salutatorians at high schools from across the country; and
+ Rebalancing student grants and loans so Syracuse students graduate with significantly less debt.

With new programs, enhanced facilities, and an emphasis on the whole student, Invest Syracuse will have a lasting impact on students and their personal and professional growth for future generations. “The Invest Syracuse initiative provides a unique and rare opportunity for the campus community to come together and create a transformative and superb student experience for all students,” says James Franco ’18, president of the Student Association.

Dolan Evanovich, senior vice president for enrollment and the student experience, sees Invest Syracuse as a way to provide an unsurpassed student experience inside and outside the classroom. Among the many new initiatives, plans call for integrated academic and career guidance across all schools and colleges; expanded tutoring; greater internship and immersion experiences; and a combined health, wellness, and recreation facility through the creation of the Barnes Center at The Arch as a central facility in a transformed Archbold gym.

“Students need to learn, explore, and discover in dynamic learning environments on campus and around the world,” Evanovich says. “We want to create exciting possibilities for them to immerse themselves in their scholarship and academic programs—and be prepared for their life and careers once they leave the University. We also want to support and boost their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being through enriching, substantial resources on campus. Invest Syracuse will propel how we engage students academically, prepare them professionally for the long term, and support them holistically as individuals.”

While the University looks to expand and build new areas of opportunity, it continues to value its role of attracting and enrolling high-achieving scholars, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Inclusion is woven through the Academic Strategic Plan and, in turn, Invest Syracuse, which emphasizes the University’s commitment to traditionally underrepresented students. “Families may struggle to make difficult choices when it comes to sending their student to school—weighing their student’s potential with the cost of a college education at a top university. We don’t want them to have to make that choice,” says Rachel Vassel ’91, assistant vice president, Office of Program Development, which administers the Our Time Has Come Scholarship fund benefiting accomplished black and Latino students in need. “Invest Syracuse will help us bring in even more high-achieving students, irrespective of what they can afford. This is especially crucial as we continue to strive to enroll a student population that is diverse and inclusive.”

For faculty, Invest Syracuse will initiate plans to recruit and retain scholars and help invigorate research and academic scholarship across campus. “Invest Syracuse will provide the resources and cultivate an entrepreneurial climate to spark discovery and innovation in all areas of scholarship and creative endeavors—humanities, social sciences, STEM, and the arts. Faculty and students will benefit from new avenues of funding and support to follow their passions and curiosity,” says Vice President for Research John Liu. “This is an exciting time to be at Syracuse University as we launch the various strategies and programs that will enable even greater achievements in all fields.”

**FUNDING GOALS AND SUPPORT**

To fund its goals, Invest Syracuse will require new resources. University leaders have made operational improvements in recent years and have achieved a balanced budget, but increased levels of funding will be necessary to implement the Academic Strategic Plan and the academic plans created in each of the schools and colleges. Invest Syracuse takes a three-pronged approach to funding:

+ Administrative cost savings and efficiencies: Reducing administrative spending by $30 million and identifying additional efficiencies. Administrators have already achieved $20 million in savings.
+ Fundraising and philanthropy: Raising an additional $40 million to support high-achieving prospective students interested in pursuing a Syracuse University education.
+ Rebasing tuition: Establishing a new tuition base for the 2018-19 academic year. For first-year and transfer students entering in fall 2018, there will be a $3,300 Invest Syracuse premium added to the tuition base, in addition to the 3.9 percent tuition increase (pending approval by the Board of Trustees). No current students or first-year and transfer students who entered in fall 2017 are impacted by the premium.
In support of its financial goals, the University launched the Invest Syracuse fundraising initiative to generate funding for scholarships and other forms of financial aid in the next two and a half years. Currently, Syracuse spends about $243 million annually on undergraduate financial aid, of which roughly $9 million comes from annual giving and distributions from the endowment. About 65 percent of SU students receive some level of financial aid, but more needs to be done in terms of funding student aid to continue to make a college education at Syracuse accessible and affordable.

Matt Ter Molen, senior vice president and chief advancement officer, says this fundraising campaign will focus on raising current use gifts as well as endowment, and will include a push to increase total giving and alumni participation. “As we work to accelerate the priorities in our Academic Strategic Plan, Invest Syracuse will enable us to build on our long and distinguished history as a great international research institution,” Ter Molen says. “A key part of that plan is enhancing the student experience. Our fundraising effort will help our admissions colleagues attract and enroll high-achieving students, for whom traditionally, attending a leading research university may have seemed out of reach.”

Several members of Syracuse University’s Board of Trustees have already made gifts or pledged to support the effort. University Trustee Daniel Mezzalingua ’60 and his wife, Kathy, made a $5.25 million gift in support of undergraduate financial aid. The gift will finance scholarships for talented students interested in pursuing a Syracuse University education. University Trustee John Riley ’61 and his wife, Diane, made a $2.3 million gift, as announced in April, to create the H. John and Diane M. Riley Dual Engineering/MBA Endowed Scholarship fund. The fund will provide the opportunity and financial support to undergraduates interested in jointly completing a bachelor’s degree in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and an MBA in the Whitman School of Management. Daniel A. D’Aniello ’68, a University Life Trustee, and his wife, Gayle, pledged $500,000 to match new or additional gifts, which helped launch the University’s first-ever Giving Day on October 17, in support of Invest Syracuse (see story, page 12).

Steve Barnes ’82, chairman of Syracuse University’s Board of Trustees, and his wife, Deborah, have also pledged their family’s support with an annual fund challenge gift of $500,000 to match new and increased gifts made this fall to grow the University’s commitment to opportunity for promising students (see story, page 36). “For more than a century and a half, Syracuse University has attracted high-achieving students from around the globe,” Steve Barnes says. “This new fundraising initiative will ensure students of exceptional talent and promise have the opportunity to pursue a Syracuse University education, regardless of financial means, and graduate prepared to make an immediate impact in the world.”

As part of the process of Invest Syracuse, senior administration leaders are working with various constituent groups to set priorities for advancing the initiative. This has included engaging with the entire campus at three sessions in September and October and encouraging feedback on the Invest Syracuse website (InvestSyracuse.syr.edu). Leaders presented information on Invest Syracuse, heard feedback, and gathered input from members of the campus community to help direct the next steps. Since the first sessions of beginning to chart the University’s future in the Academic Strategic Plan in 2014, the process has focused on hearing from the community on how to create an unparalleled academic experience at Syracuse University that prepares students for professional and personal success.

“It’s a very exciting opportunity for faculty and staff and students at the University—students because we’re really going to be providing an experience that differentiates them in the employment marketplace; for the faculty in that we’re going to really focus on the academic excellence; and for the staff who will support them,” Wheatly said during a session on September 5. “In my mind, it’s sort of the kick starter. It’s the impetus that we need in order to start doing things differently at the University. Or going back to my origins as a biochemist: It’s sort of the activation energy—it’s the $100 million we need to get up to that different level.”

To learn more about Invest Syracuse: Advancing Academic Excellence and the Student Experience, visit InvestSyracuse.syr.edu. Visitors can provide their feedback, donate, offer suggestions about funding priorities, and submit their questions.
As unmanned aerial vehicles become more common in our skies, Syracuse University researchers explore their uses and impact from multiple vantage points | BY BILL CAREY
IT SEEMS EASY ENOUGH: ORDER A $499 DJI SPARK QUADCOPTER ONLINE OR IN person, maybe even splurge on a $1,200 Phantom 4 or some other manufacturer’s model. Break open the box, unfold or snap on the rotor blades, charge the battery, synch your smartphone or hand controller, and “fly through the air with the greatest of ease.”

In the five years since the iconic DJI Phantom 1 arrived onshore, small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)—better known as drones—have wrenched open a Pandora’s box of pitfalls and potential. Drones are a disruptive technology with implications stretching from the legal and policy arenas to commercial, military, and personal applications. They present a multidimensional challenge—and at Syracuse University, they are being tackled in a multidisciplinary way. Faculty, in a host of disciplines, are collaboratively putting drones to use, testing them, experimenting with them, and examining their growing impact in today’s society.

“It’s a testimony to a culture here at Syracuse University that operates both at the cutting edge of the issues and in an interdisciplinary manner,” says Keli Perrin, assistant director of the Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) at SU, which has organized workshops focused on the legal and privacy ramifications of using drones in the local community. “The fact that we have all of these colleges convened around this topic, having regular meetings, is really extraordinary.”

Retailers have sold millions of these whizzing gadgets; the Consumer Technology Association predicts that 1.3 million drones, weighing a half-pound or more each, will be shipped this year, not to mention millions of smaller toy-like aircraft. But where can drones safely fly and who manages that air? Amazon envisions drones delivering packages to your doorstep. But how can Amazon’s and everybody else’s drones avoid crashing into each other or striking people and property on the ground? What would happen if a commercial airliner ingested a drone in one of its turbine engines?

Most drones carry cameras, too, making them potential “spies in the sky,” U.S. Senator Edward Markey of Massachusetts is fond of saying. They present a clear and present danger to personal privacy.

Then there’s the commercial promise of drones, already calculated in the billions of dollars. An aerial pedestal that captures high-resolution still and video imagery at a fraction of the cost and much less risk than a manned helicopter holds promise for many industries. Contractors can use drones to plan construction sites, utilities and energy companies to inspect power

Architecture professor Tarek Rakha (above, right) and Bryan Morris ’16 test a drone. Ian Joyce of the CASE Center (top photo, left) maneuvers a drone outside the Syracuse Center of Excellence as Rakha and research interns Amanda Liberty ’18 and Alice Gorodetsky ’18 of the School of Architecture look on.

Photos (top and facing page) by Steve Sartori; inset photo courtesy of Tarek Rakha
The utility of drones for newsgathering is a topic discussed in the Newhouse School, with Professor Dan Pacheco, Peter A. Horvitz Endowed Chair in Journalism Innovation at the Newhouse School, instructing on their usage. Last spring, Newhouse was one of four locations nationwide that hosted the Drone Journalism School, a workshop sponsored by the Poynter Institute for Media Studies and several other organizations.

A common industry adage is that drones can do the “dull, dangerous, difficult, or dirty” jobs that are either too risky, too expensive, or otherwise impractical using other means. They are indispensable for research purposes.

“In the geosciences and in environmental science, in general, there are lots of places we can’t necessarily get to or places that are hazardous, so UAVs get us there.” —CHRISTA KELLEHER

AT THE FOREFRONT OF AN EMERGING INDUSTRY

Central New York has positioned itself at the forefront of this emerging industry, a status that SU and other institutions are supporting by aligning their research efforts. In December 2013, the Federal Aviation Administration chose Griffiss International Airport in Rome as one of six new unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) test sites to help the agency study the challenges of introducing drones into the airspace system. Griffiss is the headquarters of the Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research (NUAIR) Alliance, a not-for-profit consortium of organizations from New York, Massachusetts, and Michigan that manages drone testing activities in those states.

In December 2015, under the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, the state awarded the Central New York region $500 million in economic development funding, half of which was earmarked for infrastructure spending on the drone and “connected systems” industry over five years. The planned $250 million investment is called the UAS Secure Autonomous Flight Environment, or Project USAFE.

Gryphon Sensors of North Syracuse, a drone tracking system developer whose president, Anthony Albanese G’82, is an E&CS alumnus, was named project lead for USAFE phase 1, to start planning an air traffic control system to manage drone traffic at low altitudes. The objective: establish a 50-mile corridor to safely fly drones between Griffiss airport and Syracuse’s Hancock International Airport. NUAIR is managing the effort going forward.

SU was involved in developing the USAFE concept from the beginning, says Craig Marcinkowski, Gryphon Sensors director of strategy and business development.

Mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Mark Glauser in particular helped plan another ambitious project: the National Unmanned Aerial System Standardized Testing and Rating (NUSTAR) center, a future $60-to-$80 million facility that planners describe as an “Underwriters Lab” for drones that will test, certify, and rate the flying machines for safety and performance.

“There’s interim NUSTAR capabilities that we’re already getting up and running now, utilizing lab space at Syracuse University and other local partners,” Mar-
cinkowski says. “We’re doing basic things like drop testing and also beginning to do some cyber assurance testing. The thought would be that we don’t need to wait a couple of years until the final NUSTAR facility is built.”

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH APPROACH

Last fall, SU received state funding under the first phase of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) to advance research into drones and their many applications. Professor Gurdpip Singh, associate dean for research and doctoral programs at E&CS, conducted a campus-wide call for proposals that generated 18 suggested projects from several schools and colleges. In January, E&CS, the Office of Research, and representatives of the URI awarded more than $230,000 in state funding for six collaborative research projects—money the URI supplemented with $100,000 in shared facilities and support. “One of the things that I’ve been trying to do is bring all of the folks together,” Singh says. “The research required to build unmanned systems is really a multidisciplinary exercise—it’s not just from an engineering and computer science perspective. You are basically looking at the development of the platform, but you also have to look at the policy and regulation aspect, which is what the folks over at the College of Law and Maxwell School look at. We don’t want the policies and technologies to be developed independently.”

The outreach has produced ongoing relationships in addressing the many challenges drones present, according to INSCT’s Keli Perrin. “The engineering school has done a good job of convening us, and they’ve also convened all of us with the local and private sector folks several times,” she says. “We all got to know each other. I met a couple of colleagues from the iSchool who were doing privacy work I hadn’t heard about, so we invited them to our law workshop.”

In March, INSCT and the College of Law hosted a UAS law and policy workshop that assembled legal and other experts to discuss the doctrine of preemption as applied to drones—that is, whether the FAA trumps state and local governments in controlling where and how they are flown. The workshop participants ultimately could not make a consensus recommendation on the issue, exposing the incertitude that exists. A federal court ruling in September may have nudged along the national debate; in Singer v. Newton, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts ruled the FAA’s “careful regulation of aircraft safety” preempted the city of Newton’s attempt to regulate drones.

Newton’s motivation for drafting a drone ordinance was to protect the privacy rights of its residents—another issue the workshop tackled. According to the workshop report: “It was generally accepted among workshop participants that while there could be federal legislation about privacy and UAS, the FAA traditionally has no equities in the privacy debate, and in many ways, privacy is an issue reserved for the states.”

In late March, INSCT and the Maxwell School organized a public workshop on drones at the Fayetteville Community Center that drew 40 Syracuse-area residents. They strongly supported using drones to fight crime, respond to emergencies, search for missing persons, and other applications. “However, most participants were troubled by the possibility of UAS being used to monitor people, and were concerned about invasions of privacy, an inability to identify the operator of the UAS, and personal and public safety,” the workshop report states.

If drones are going to be responsible robotic citizens to begin with, the FAA requires they comply with the same rules as manned aviation to stay safely separated from other aircraft and not endanger people or property on the ground. Human pilots must “see and avoid” other aircraft; the equivalent standard for drones is to “sense and avoid” other objects either automatically, or inform their ground operators with ample time to dodge a collision. Until sense-and-avoid technology is proven, the FAA generally restricts commercial drone operators to daytime-only flights within the pilot’s visual line-of-sight, below 400 feet, and never over people—conditions that are seen as limiting the industry’s growth. Hobbyists are held to recommended safety guidelines.

SENSOR GUIDANCE

With Upstate Revitalization Initiative and University funding, mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Amit Sanyal and electrical engineering and computer science professors Makan Fardad and Senem Velipasa are developing an autonomous flight controller for drones—an autopilot of sorts that combines inertial navigation (ac-
We are able to use these drones to immediately identify where problematic issues are—where the biggest bang for the buck is, basically. The drone is faster, it’s cheaper, it gives information beyond the regular audit, so we are able to build energy models using the full drone flight.”

— TAREK RAKHA

Architecture professor Tarek Rakha (right) and Bryan Morris ’16, a mechanical engineering graduate, work with a drone at the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Lab. Rakha studies building heat loss to improve energy efficiency. He uses a drone with a thermal imaging camera to capture images, such as the one of South Campus buildings (below). Acceleration and rotation) and pulsed-laser, or Lidar (light detection and ranging), sensors to understand its position and orientation in three-dimensional spatial motion. With that information, the system calculates “trajectories” or flight paths to steer a drone between points of interest or away from collisions.

The controller does not depend on satellite-based geo-location via the GPS system—ubiquitous for positioning applications but not always available or dependable. “We have localization inside an environment with no GPS, in a GPS-denied environment—indoor or outdoor,” Sanyal says. “Outdoor could be in between tall buildings in an urban canyon, under a bridge; and indoors could even be in inside tunnels, like subway tunnels. We created a generic system which can be used in all these applications.”

Sanyal and Sasi Prabhakaran, one of his former Ph.D. students at New Mexico State University who did post-doctoral research at SU, founded Akrobotix, an autonomous autopilot startup company that in March was among six finalists awarded a total of $2.75 million in the inaugural round of the Genius NY business accelerator competition. (Ascent AeroSystems, co-founded by Peter Fuchs and E&CS graduates Jonathan ’07 and Nathaniel Meringer ’07, was another winner.) Sanyal and Prabhakaran were also instrumental in building the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Lab, an indoor drone-testing cage replete with an optical tracking system and an “ad hoc” wireless network for capturing telemetry readings, at the downtown Syracuse Center of Excellence.

Prabhakaran, wearing a bright-yellow Akrobotix T-shirt, was working the exhibit hall at a drone industry conference in Las Vegas in September. The fledgling, Syracuse-based company had two full-time employees, both SU graduates, he said. “Today I made a lot of contacts. I got leads for three new developmental and licensing contracts,” Prabhakaran reported. “Everything looks super optimistic now. We’re also planning to hire a few more graduates from the business school at SU.”

The groundbreaking research into drones continues. Sanyal is one of four co-principal investigators on a project led by electrical engineering and computer science professor Qinru Qiu that was awarded a $400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation this summer. That project will use inputs from different sensors to inform neural network-based obstacle avoidance by drones.

HEAT-MAPPING DRONES

School of Architecture professor Tarek Rakha, E&CS professor Velipasalar, and iSchool professor Yang Wang participated in a heat-mapping drone project that was awarded funding from the Upstate Revitalization Initiative. The objective: fly drones around buildings to detect where outside air may be breaching the “building envelope” because of insulation issues, degrading the structure’s energy efficiency.

With 40 percent of U.S. homes built before 1970, we are living in an aging building environment, which amplifies the importance of energy efficiency, Rakha notes. “Typically speaking, in the disciplines of design, we are attempting to retrofit or change existing buildings to become better performing,” he says. “We need the means to
assess buildings rapidly. What we’re doing is attempting to create synergies between traditional building energy auditing techniques that engineers use and develop workflows that rely on drones to inspect buildings in a rapid way to identify thermal anomalies, to be able to tell where deterioration happens, to build digital models that represent such thermal performance.”

Deploying a dragonfly-like DJI Inspire 1 drone fitted with a FLIR Zenmuse XT thermal imaging camera, the researchers created digital models that flagged anomalies in South Campus buildings, informing “computer vision” analysis of the structures. Rakha and Velipasalar focused on designing computer vision processes, or workflows, to automatically detect such anomalies; Wang studied the privacy implications of flying drones around buildings.

Having completed the heat-mapping drone project, Rakha continued using the resulting workflow process to conduct building envelope diagnostics of South Campus buildings, supported by the University’s Campus as a Laboratory for Sustainability funding.

Another way to conduct an energy audit is to perform a “blower door” test using a powerful fan to pull the air from a structure, creating a pressure differential that exposes leaks, or to have a person walk around with a thermal sensor, Rakha says. All things considered, he doesn’t believe drones are a novelty. “It may seem like a novelty, however, there is a need,” he says. “You could have multiple buildings or neighborhoods that are experiencing energy inefficiencies. That means owners of buildings are not equipping the buildings with good insulation. We are able to use these drones to immediately identify where problematic issues are—where the biggest bang for the buck is, basically. The drone is faster, it’s cheaper, it gives information beyond the regular audit, so we are able to build energy models using the full drone flight.”

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

Graduate students and faculty from the Earth sciences, geography, and civil engineering departments have conducted state-funded and other projects using drones mounted with cameras, says Kelleher, a hydrologist by training. Drones have helped project teams analyze water temperatures on Onondaga Creek using a thermal camera and to trace the source of turbidity, or cloudiness, caused by suspended sediments in Skaneateles Lake, southwest of Syracuse. “We were up on Skaneateles Lake—there are turbidity plumes that come off the lake,” Kelleher says. “It’s Syracuse’s source of water and it’s unique in that it’s unfiltered. With the drought two summers ago, there was some worry about the size and location of these turbidity plumes when there’s a large rainstorm coming through.” More recently, the lake has experienced blue-green algae toxins, which could be the subject of future study, she says.

The researchers used an RGB camera that captures imagery within the red-green-blue color model to determine if color saturation indicates the degree of turbidity in a plume; this fall they planned to apply a multi-spectral imaging camera capable of detecting wavelengths invisible to the human eye. They mainly have used a quadcopter drone with four rotors as the truck to carry a camera. But earlier this year, they acquired a hand-launched eBee flying wing that flies preprogrammed sweeps over the area of interest. “It’s cool; it does like a dolphin motion,” Kelleher says. “You throw it in the air and it turns off when you take a picture, so it does this dolphin-moving-through-the-waves thing.”

Kelleher has surveyed literature in the field to identify other researchers using drones in hydrology. “There’s not a lot published, but more and more people are using these things,” she says. “We’re keeping up; we’re doing alright here at Syracuse.”

She and Maxwell geography professor Jane Read are developing a course that will bring together other schools at SU in examining the legal and policy ramifications as well as the scientific applications of drones. “The ethics as well as the science,” Kelleher says. “I am totally geeked about this stuff; I’m on board.”

Bill Carey ’82, a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Newhouse School, is an aviation journalist based in Washington, D.C., and the author of Enter the Drones: The FAA and UAVs in America (Schiffer Publishing, 2016).
Counting on Success

From his Central New York roots, Board of Trustees Chairman Steve Barnes became a global executive and philanthropist who honors the University’s influential role in his life

BY CAROL BOLL  | PHOTOS BY STEVE SARTORI

WHEN HE WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GROWING UP IN CENTRAL NEW York, Steve Barnes ’82 did what a lot of kids that age do when they want to earn some extra income: He got a part-time job at a local restaurant. Barnes quickly proved himself to be a smart, hardworking leader, and in his senior year, Friendly’s restaurant offered him a spot in its manager-trainee program. But he had other plans.

Barnes has always had bold ambitions, and he has proven time and again that he has the skills and tenacity to achieve them. Today, Barnes is an internationally successful corporate executive, serving since 2000 as a managing director at Bain Capital, one of the world’s leading private multi-asset alternative investment firms with more than $75 billion in assets. Since joining the company in 1988, he has headed up several of Bain Capital’s portfolio companies, in the process making a name for himself as a shrewd and entrepreneurial leader with a unique capacity to grow and build great companies. He also has been a deeply engaged and generous backer of organizations and institutions around the world that spur opportunity for others to advance their own dreams.

Chair of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees since 2015, Barnes counts Syracuse University among those institutions. Over the years, he and his wife, Deborah, have provided leadership support for numerous prominent University initiatives, including a gift for
the planned renovation of Archbold Gymnasium into a comprehensive health and wellness center. He does it, he says, because he recognizes the role Syracuse University played in helping him achieve his own dreams of succeeding in business and seeing the world. “At Syracuse we like to say, ‘Step onto campus, step into the world,’ and that was really what it was like for me,” Barnes says. “I was a local student, and suddenly I had friends from all over the world. I was exposed to all different kinds of courses, and I listened to all kinds of different viewpoints. It really opened my eyes. And I think that ultimately afforded me the confidence to take on greater challenges.”

He was the first in his family to attend a four-year college. His father had been accepted to Syracuse University, but the unexpected death of his own father derailed those plans, and he would spend three decades working as an electronics technician for General Electric instead. Barnes’s mother worked as an administrative assistant to the principal at an area elementary school. “My parents were great role models in their commitment to hard work, their entrepreneurial spirit, and in giving back,” Barnes says.

Gregg Marcellus ’82, a close friend and former classmate, remembers much the same spirit in Barnes. “Steve was always ambitious and a really hard worker,” Marcellus says. “But he was really funny and easygoing, too. And he never gets flustered. He’s always been able to see the big picture and live life with a positive attitude. It’s a special quality—and a trait that I think has helped him succeed.” But Marcellus says Barnes also proved himself to be a serious student. “He was clearly very smart,” Marcellus says. “He was studying accounting and finance, and he was extremely quick with concepts. He just had all the earmarks to do really, really well.”

**Turnaround Expert and Global Traveler**
Barnes landed a job with PriceWaterhouse LLP directly out of college, and a few years later he was tapped to help a client with a troubled acquisition. The client was an emerging Boston-based company, Bain Capital, and its partners were so impressed with Barnes’s work that they offered him a position. Over nearly three decades with Bain Capital, Barnes was the CEO/president of several of the firm’s portfolio companies, including Dade Behring Inc., Executone Business Systems Inc., and Holson Burnes Group Inc. His turnaround of that company prompted Inc. magazine and Ernst and Young in 1995 to name him one of the top entrepreneurs in the country. A few years later, Crain’s Chicago Business named him to its annual list of Top 40 Under 40, which highlights leaders under age 40 who are considered to be among the
Steve and Deborah Barnes and their children enjoy traveling abroad to perform service work for nonprofit organizations that assist communities in critical need. They’ve helped with projects in such countries as Kenya, South Africa, and India.

Barnes now heads up Bain’s North American Private Equity business, which currently owns or invests in more than 40 companies around the world. Previously, he co-led Bain Capital’s European Private Equity business and founded and led the firm’s Global Portfolio Group. The Central New York youngster who once longed to see the world now has a passport thick with stamped pages, and deep connections and close friends around the globe. “Most of the companies I ran were very international,” Barnes says. “So I would spend about a week in the U.S. and a week outside of the U.S. I was just constantly traveling. Dade Behring, for instance, had operations in 20 countries.”

His love for travel extends into his affinity for service work as well. For the last 10 years, he, Deborah, and their children have traveled abroad to support the work of international nonprofits in communities of critical need. Much of their focus has been on Kenya and the work of WE, an international nonprofit that advances sustainable development and education in several of that country’s Maasai and Kispigis communities. They have helped build schools and hospitals in the Maasai Mara, supported educational scholarships for girls, taught in classrooms made of sticks and mud, and funded farmland development to promote sustainable solutions to food scarcity. Beyond Kenya, they have volunteered in an AIDS orphanage in South Africa and taught in rural schools in Mumbai, India.

Those service trips started when the couple’s eldest child turned 16. In honor of the occasion, they traveled to Maasai Mara, and during the trip they met the founder of WE. Barnes was impressed by the group’s vision and has been a steady supporter since. Kim Plewes, a senior advisor for WE, says Steve and Deborah Barnes have been generous champions of the organization in a number of ways. “Steve has always sought to understand the underlying root causes that are limiting the potential of communities,” Plewes says. “And he wants to look for creative solutions that will have a maximum long-term impact. He brings his business experience and expertise to his philanthropy and, as a result, everybody benefits.”

Boosting SU
The couple are also involved in numerous philanthropic activities in the United States, most of them focusing on children, health care, or education. He is a former chair of the board of Make-A-Wish of Massachusetts and currently serves on the boards of Children’s Hospital Boston, New Profit, and MV Youth. Barnes says he’s a big proponent of giving back and of trying to make the world a better place. This belief also drives his involvement with Syracuse University, where he has served on the Board of Trustees since 2008. In 2010, he endowed what is now known as the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities as well as the Barnes Professorship in Entrepreneurship, both in
I am a big believer in a healthy body, mind, and soul. So I think that if the University can have one of the leading-edge health and wellness centers in the country, it’ll be able to attract and retain great students and allow those students to be better able to succeed.”

Steve Barnes stands in the balcony overlooking a workout space in Archbold Gym. Thanks to a gift from Barnes and his wife, Deborah, the gym will be transformed into a dynamic health and wellness complex known as the Barnes Center at The Arch.

the Whitman School of Management. He was a founding co-chair of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families and a founding investor in the Orange Value Fund, a $4.1 million student-run portfolio. The family has also provided support to the Remembrance Scholarship Fund and the McLane Legacy Fund, which supports disability initiatives and the Office of Disability Services, and they recently made an annual fund challenge gift of $500,000 to match new and increased gifts supporting the University’s Invest Syracuse $40 million campaign to increase opportunities for promising students to attend the University.

Last May, he and Deborah gave a $5 million gift to create the Barnes Center at The Arch, a state-of-the-art health and wellness complex and a centerpiece of the Campus Framework. “I am a big believer in a healthy body, mind, and soul,” Barnes says. “So I think that if the University can have one of the leading-edge health and wellness centers in the country, it’ll be able to attract and retain great students and allow those students to be better able to succeed. There’s a lot of anxiety on college campuses these days, and creating a place where students can actually destress and find balance is a really good thing.”

As chairman of the Board of Trustees, Barnes puts those same skills that have powered his success in the corporate world to work for the University. “Steve has brought extensive experience in organization management to the chair of the board,” says Chairman Emeritus Richard Thompson G’67, H’15, who preceded Barnes as chair and now serves as a Life Trustee. “That experience has been demonstrated time and again on long-range strategic planning discussions as well as issues demanding immediate attention. Leading a board of so many professionally successful volunteers requires a variety of skills. Steve allows vigorous discussion of issues—but skillfully brings them to a constructive conclusion without shutting off different opinions.”

Reflecting on his journey from his early days in a small town to global business executive, Barnes attributes his success to several factors: a penchant for positive thinking (“It doesn’t matter how many times you get knocked down; it’s how many times you stand back up,” he says); a capacity to relate to all kinds of people; a commitment to giving back; and a willingness, always, to dream big and believe in the possible—even when it might not be evident to others.

Barnes says his dream now is to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for Syracuse University—a place he credits with opening his eyes to the world and launching him into it. He wants to help generate the same kind of opportunity for future generations of students. “I think that attracting and retaining great students and helping them achieve what they want to achieve is incredibly important,” he says. “And if my support for the University and service on the board can advance that objective for multiple generations to come, then Deborah and I will have succeeded in our mission to leave this as our legacy.”
Capturing the WORLD

Newhouse photography major Chase Guttman travels the globe in search of inspiring images.
PICTURE THIS: A GIFTED YOUNG artist is on assignment in Wyoming, photographing the solar eclipse from what he calls an “Oregon Trail-like procession of wagon trains.” The month is August, the year 2017. Yet as Chase Guttman ‘18 brings his skill, perspective, and thoughtful attention to documenting all he beholds, he seems to be lifted beyond both place and time. “There are these wagon trains and these cowboys all gathered together in this pasture. You can see the sun as it starts to disappear and the light across the horizon of the Great Plains is intensified,” says Guttman, a Newhouse photography major. “I was land-yachting on his lap in the Mojave Desert at 3 months old and traveling with him for an extensive amount of my childhood—learning photography and travel and, really, love for the world,” he says. “I got my first real camera when I was about 12 years old. But I think I was always immersed, whether it was experientially or intellectually, in what was going on around me. Photography was what came of that in the long term. It was a natural progression.”

Guttman is not only well-traveled but also widely published, and his work has garnered lots of accolades. He is a three-time recipient of—and the first American to win—the Young Travel Photographer of the Year award, an international competition judged by museum curators and magazine editors, and was named a World’s Top Travel Photographer by Condé Nast Traveler and a Rising Star by Instagram. Together with his father, he received the 2017 Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Storytelling and Exploration—a lifetime achievement-level honor.

Guttman is the author of The Handbook of Drone Photography: A Complete Guide to the New Art of Do-It-Yourself Aerial Photography (Skyhorse Publishing, 2017), and has contributed to such publications as National Geographic, Travel + Leisure magazine, and the New York Daily News, where he was an intern for two summers. “Travel is one of the things that gets me going every day. And every single night, sometimes,” he says. “I’m trying to bring a new modern millennial spin to travel photography, storytelling, and journalism in general. That’s why I’m excited about the future.”

There have been plenty of weird and wonderful adventures along the way—riding an ostrich and diving with great white sharks, consuming whale blubber and drinking a cocktail garnished with a severed human toe, and sleeping in a hotel made of ice and on swamp platforms above alligators. There have been quietly meaningful moments as well—glimpsing the enduring love shared by a local farming couple in their 80s, or capturing a silent exchange between an Amish father and son. “Above all, I try to just appreciate what I have around me, while I have it around me,” Guttman says. “A lot of things are fleeting in life and moments are the number-one thing I want to cultivate. I do that partially through photography, but it’s super important to see through your own eyes as well.” —Amy Speach
“As a photographer, I’ve always been fascinated by perspective—it’s what lends itself to new imagery and to seeing things in a new light. That’s why drones are such a game changer to me. They allow you to appreciate the breadth and scale of your world.” — Chase Guttman ’18
Lombard Street, San Francisco

Vineyards and pastures, Lompoc, California

Cypress Tree Tunnel, California
Local shepherds huddle along the cliffs of Maletsunyane Falls, Lesotho.

A fiery explosion brightens the night sky as molten iron atomizes in the air at the Rock Fire festival in Barre, Vermont.

Amish boys,
Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania
Maid of the Mist journeys through the thundering veil of Horseshoe Falls on the Canada-U.S. border.

The Linn Cove Viaduct on the Blue Ridge Parkway traces the contours of Grandfather Mountain near Asheville, North Carolina.
THE WAER CONNECTION

‘The Miracle Microphone’ chronicles the campus radio station’s 70-year history as a training ground for notable broadcasters

BY AMY SPEACH

WHEN SPORTSCASTER IAN EAGLE ‘90 WAS INDUCTED into the WAER-FM Hall of Fame in August 2013, he pointed to the SU radio station’s “incredible history” and the ways being a part of that story changed his life and career. He reminisced about the pride he felt as a Newhouse student and how that was heightened at WAER, where a sense of professionalism prevailed. “You didn’t want to let your predecessors down,” said Eagle, longtime announcer for the YES Network and CBS Sports who covered SU football, basketball, and lacrosse for WAER as a student. “There was a certain level of excellence that was expected. And because of that, you worked even harder than you thought you were capable of working. I learned about dedication. I learned about this craft. I learned about this business. And nothing that I’ve achieved in this business would have been possible without WAER. It’s that simple.”

Eagle keeps some illustrious company as an appreciative WAER alum. Now in its 70th year, the station was the launching pad for the careers of many prominent broadcasters, including Ted Koppel ’60, H’82, Dick Clark ’51, Bob Costas ’74, H’15, and Mike Tirico ’88, to name but a few. To help celebrate that legacy in honor of WAER’s anniversary, a documentary was created to explore the station’s origins and history. Titled The Miracle Microphone: The Impossible History and History Makers of WAER Radio, the one-hour film, which premiered on campus in September at the station’s anniversary celebration and Hall of Fame ceremony, was produced by Scott MacFarlane ’98. "WAER has a long, robust, and eclectic story to tell, and its footprint in the broadcast industry is unrivaled,” says MacFarlane, an Emmy-winning investigative television reporter for NBC in Washington, D.C., and recent WAER Hall of Fame inductee. “It’s easy to go to WAER’s list of alumni and find this Mount Rushmore of people—broadcasting icons and people at the upper echelons of sports broadcasting. And there are hundreds of other high-impact, incredibly successful figures in broadcasting and communications who came out of WAER, whose names are too numerous to iterate. I can’t think of another university organization anywhere that so dominates the industry for which it is training people.”

ALWAYS EXCELLENT RADIO

The film chronicles WAER’s development from the infancy of the radio industry in the 1930s, when the University initiated a pair of courses that grew into the Radio Workshop. With support from General Electric, the station was launched in April 1947 as WJIV-FM from its studios at Radio House, a set of prefabricated houses near the steps to Mount Olympus. Three months later, the FCC gave the station permission to continue operating and to change its name to WAER—call letters attributed to the honorary radio fraternity Alpha Epsilon Rho and to the station’s motto: Always excellent radio.

That was the start of a story that transpires over seven decades, seeing WAER evolve from having 2½ watts in power to 50,000, from a seven-hour broadcast day to a 24-hour one, and from being largely student-run to becoming a member of National Public Radio (NPR). There were periods of financial struggle and personnel challenges, as well as progressive adjustments in music, news,
and sports programming. And there were facility changes from Radio House, to Newhouse, to its current location at 795 Ostrom Avenue. But one thing that remained constant was students’ passion for the place. “From the start, WAER was something students wanted to be a part of,” says MacFarlane, who spent three years creating the documentary. “Every generation was emotionally connected to it. People lived to be at the station and were inseparable from it.”

According to Joe Lee, WAER director and general manager, one goal for the film was to present a comprehensive picture of the station’s past—something that hasn’t been available before now. “A lot of people come through and reminisce about their student days at WAER, giving us bits of history,” says Lee, who marked his 25th year at the station in October. “And so we have these stories that are floating around, some written down. We thought the best thing to do with that was to put it together and leave some documentation from a certain interpretation of what the history of WAER is and was—not just the who is who and who did what, but how the station transitioned through the years and who was instrumental in overseeing those transitions. Now you’re able to look back and see the full story.”

HONORING A LEGACY
Research for the documentary began in 2014, a yearlong process—led by MacFarlane with help from staff at University Archives, the Belfer Audio Laboratory and Archive, and WAER—that revealed the station’s history through primary documents, photos, and recordings. That picture grew even clearer the following year, as MacFarlane interviewed more than 50 people related to WAER’s story. “Then in 2016 was the writing and editing, which was the hardest part—trying to synthesize all of this content and get every voice in there,” he says.

Among those whose voices are shared in the film are Lawrence Meyers, an early faculty advisor who was there at the station’s inception; Laura Hand ’71, television news anchor and community relations director at NBC in Syracuse and WAER’s first female news director; Ed Levine ’78, CEO of Galaxy Communications in Central New York, a former WAER DJ and senior staff member and recent Hall of Fame inductee; and Lakshmi Singh ’94, midday news anchor for NPR news and the film’s narrator. The documentary also takes great care to express the voices of those who were active at WAER in 1983 during the tumultuous transition from being a student-run operation to one that is professionally staffed, including that of ESPN sportscaster Sean McDonough ’84. “It bothered me when the station changed that there was going to be less opportunity for the people who followed,” said McDonough at his Hall of Fame induction in August 2014. “But what I’ve seen is that it’s still a great place. And I’m really appreciative of the people who run it.”

Today, WAER thrives as a commercial-free, listener-supported public media organization that is licensed to the University and serves the greater Syracuse area with NPR programming and local news, eclectic music, and SU sports coverage. Broadcasting at 88.3 FM, the station is staffed by full-time professionals who, each semester, educate, train, and supervise as many as 120 student volunteers who want to enhance their academic experience in broadcast journalism and sports broadcasting. “Our students tell us all the time that they know the station’s legacy,” Lee says. “They look at our Hall of Fame alumni and that provides a little extra pressure on them to perform well and represent the station and the University to the highest degree.”

Both Lee and MacFarlane hope the documentary provides a thorough portrayal of WAER’s history, one that honors all those who played a part in it and inspires new generations to come. “Year after year, through changes in management, infrastructure, and philosophy, WAER remains a great radio station and keeps doing this amazing thing of producing elite broadcast talent,” MacFarlane says. “It’s miraculous that anything could be that self-sustaining and successful for so long. And it looks like it’s got another 70 years ahead of it.”

VIEW THE DOCUMENTARY
The film will air locally this winter on television station WCNY, and is expected for release by the station in the coming months. For more information, visit waer.org.
REASONS TO BE PROUD

I’VE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD TO be Orange. And as I sit to write this column, I’m certain that my Orange pride has never been greater.

I felt it in October when I had the privilege of emceeing the Arents Awards Celebration during Orange Central. The Arents Award is given to our most outstanding alumni. It was exciting and humbling to share the stage with four of Syracuse University’s best—Tom Coughlin ’68, G’69; Daniel A. D’Aniello ’68; Diane Nelson ’89; and Mary Spio ’98. If you have yet to experience the Arents Awards, I encourage you to watch the video features on this year’s award winners at orangecentral.syr.edu/arents. The energy at the event was palpable, and the evening paved the way for a spectacular Orange Central weekend that saw record-breaking attendance numbers.

I felt Orange pride inside Club 44 during the Generation Orange Celebration, also held that weekend. Some would say that Generation Orange, our graduates of the last decade, represents the future of alumni leadership at Syracuse University. I say that Generation Orange represents the present. Our youngest alumni have the opportunity to take the lead in giving of their time, sharing their talents, and evangelizing how important it is to give of their treasure, in any way they can. I am immensely proud of our Generation Orange Leadership Council and the work they are doing to engage our young alumni.

I couldn’t have been prouder as I led the annual fall meeting of the Syracuse University Alumni Association Board of Directors. Our board is a diverse group of alumni leaders representing five decades of graduating classes and more than a dozen states from California to New York. Our group is full of energy and committed to ensuring that every one of Syracuse University’s 241,000 alumni has the opportunity to stay engaged with their alma mater.

And finally, I couldn’t contain my sense of pride as I watched the #BoostCuse day of giving campaign soar to an amazing conclusion, with more than 3,500 donors and $1.77 million raised in 24 hours. I was proud, but not surprised, that every member of our SUAA Board of Directors donated. We firmly believe in leading by example, and I want to express my gratitude to my fellow board members and more than 3,500 other supporters who recognized the importance of turning their memories into opportunities for the next generation of Syracuse students.

So, I encourage you to show your Orange pride. Stay connected, get involved, and proudly declare: GO ORANGE!

Tracy Barash ’89
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association

CLASS NOTES
NEWS from SU ALUMNI

SEND US NEWS OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

To submit information for Class Notes via the internet, go to cusecommunity.syr.edu and register. Items will appear in the magazine and in the Class Notes section of the online ‘Cuse Community. Items can also be sent to Alumni Editor, Syracuse University Magazine; 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308; Syracuse, NY 13244-5040.

40s

Mary Stavridis Brookwell ’48 (A&S) and Frederick E. Brookwell ’49 (WSM), who were married by Dean Noble at Hendricks Chapel in 1949, celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in June. Fred writes: "...in the Navy, survived D-Day and landed on Omaha Beach, age 92 now, still playing golf.”

Dorothy Scott Gibbs ’48 (A&S) received the 2017 Pioneer Award from the Estes Park Museum Friends and Foundation in May, acknowledging her family’s deep roots across many generations in Estes Park, Colo., and Rocky Mountain National Park. A former teacher of French, German, and Latin, Gibbs is founder and president emerita of the Arthur Rackham Society, which honors the acclaimed illustrator of such classics as Peter Pan and The Wind in the Willows.

Marie C. Palmiotto ’49 (A&S) celebrated her 90th birthday in June with her daughters and grandchildren.

50s

William Skye ’53 (A&S), G’55 (EDU) retired in 1988 following a 34-year career in education, including 18 years as an assistant principal at Watertown (N.Y.) High School. A former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and a 1992 SU Letter Winner of Distinction for football, he received the Carthage, N.Y., Citizen of the Year award in 1995. In 1996, he was inducted into the North Plainfield (N.J.) High School Alumni Hall of Fame, recognizing his decades of distinguished service to his country, community, profession, and alma mater as an athlete, coach, teacher, administrator, volunteer, and community leader.

60s

Conrad E. Campbell ’56 (A&S), a retired U.S. Air Force Reserve colonel living in Medway, Ohio, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Air Force Academy for his work as an admissions liaison officer. He has assisted high school students in the academy’s application process since 1980 and has had at least one cadet on campus every year since.

Arnold P. Etelson ’59 (A&S/MAX) is continuing in his 50-year career as a magistrate in Rockland County, N.Y., having served as a village justice in Spring Valley, a town justice in the Town of Ramapo, and currently as village justice in Montebello.

Robert Karmon ’61 (A&S), a playwright, poet, short story writer, screenwriter, and professor emeritus of literature and creative writing at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y., wrote ISAAC (Pleasure Boat Studio: A Literary Press), a novel inspired by a true story about a young Jewish man’s survival during and following WWII.

F. John Paul “Scotty” Andrews ’63 (A&S) had a 30-year career in international banking and development finance with such organizations as Citicorp and International Finance Corporation: World Bank Group, among others. During that time he lived overseas, in New York City, and in Washington, D.C. He spent 18 years at four universities, including Syracuse. He has traveled and worked in several countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa, and served for three years as a U.S. naval officer with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and an admiral’s staff in what was then the American Canal Zone in Panama. Now retired, he lives in Daniel Island, S.C., where he enjoys being near his kids and grandkids.

NOTES

*All notes are submitted by alumni and are printed with the same formatting as provided.*

Mary Stavridis Brookwell ’48 (A&S) and Frederick E. Brookwell ’49 (WSM), who were married by Dean Noble at Hendricks Chapel in 1949, celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in June. Fred writes: “...in the Navy, survived D-Day and landed on Omaha Beach, age 92 now, still playing golf.”

Dorothy Scott Gibbs ’48 (A&S) received the 2017 Pioneer Award from the Estes Park Museum Museum Friends and Foundation in May, acknowledging her family’s deep roots across many generations in Estes Park, Colo., and Rocky Mountain National Park. A former teacher of French, German, and Latin, Gibbs is founder and president emerita of the Arthur Rackham Society, which honors the acclaimed illustrator of such classics as Peter Pan and The Wind in the Willows.

Marie C. Palmiotto ’49 (A&S) celebrated her 90th birthday in June with her daughters and grandchildren.

William Skye ’53 (A&S), G’55 (EDU) retired in 1988 following a 34-year career in education, including 18 years as an assistant principal at Watertown (N.Y.) High School. A former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and a 1992 SU Letter Winner of Distinction for football, he received the Carthage, N.Y., Citizen of the Year award in 1995. In 1996, he was inducted into the North Plainfield (N.J.) High School Alumni Hall of Fame, recognizing his decades of distinguished service to his country, community, profession, and alma mater as an athlete, coach, teacher, administrator, volunteer, and community leader.

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Ronald Goldfarb ’54, L ’56 »

Legal and Literary Pursuits

RONALD GOLDFARB MIGHT GIVE THE GUY IN THE DOS EQUIS ad a run for his money as one of the more interesting men in the world. He’s been a prosecutor, defense counsel, author, literary agent, migrant farmworker advocate, speechwriter...even hostage negotiator. He’s anchored that varied and full career around one firm rule. “I represent only those clients who—or whose work—I believe in,” says Goldfarb, a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Law. “That isn’t standard lawyer policy, but it is my idiosyncratic governing principle.”

After law school, Goldfarb was commissioned as a U.S. Air Force judge advocate general and prosecuted or defended in some 35 trials. He represented the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on many books and television projects. He worked with Cesar Chavez on a federal court investigation into U.S. Labor Department policies for migrant farmworkers. As an organized crime prosecutor in the Department of Justice under Robert F. Kennedy, he tried a case involving collusion and conspiracy to falsely arrest and disgrace a former NFL quarterback running a political campaign, who was drugged and put into bed with a stripper. (According to Goldfarb, the ruling set a precedent that might apply to the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.) RFK later hired him as a speechwriter during his successful run for the U.S. Senate.

As counsel in a trial challenging conditions at the Washington, D.C., jail, Goldfarb helped negotiate a hostage crisis when inmates took over the facility and held the commissioner of corrections hostage. He and others met with prisoner representatives throughout the night—national TV cameras lighting the scene—to help resolve their complaints. He called the federal judge in charge of the case in the middle of the night and convinced him to hold an emergency court hearing to listen to the prisoners’ grievances. The judge ordered conciliatory mediation procedures, and the hostages were released unharmed. “It was a very dramatic event, one I shall never forget,” Goldfarb says. “And, when our case was tried, we were able to get the court to order reform measures at the jail.”

The Washington, D.C., attorney is an accomplished writer. Two of his books, After Conviction (Simon & Schuster, 1973) and Ransom: A Critique of the American Bail System (Harper & Row, 1965), argue for reforms in the correctional and bail systems. Another passion is the tension between confidentiality and disclosure in government. Goldfarb followed up his book, In Confidence: When to Protect Secrecy and When to Require Disclosure (Yale University Press, 2009), with work as an editor and contributor to After Snowden: Privacy, Secrecy and Security in the Information Age (Thomas Dunne Books, 2015). “In both books, I pointed out that five national commissions stated that the government rules on classification are vastly overused, and as much as 90 percent of classified records need not be classified,” he says. “This leads to leaks and cynicism about what the government is hiding—from the people the government works for.”


“I have no interest in retiring, and I’m lucky to be able to remain active on the tennis court, as well as in the court of public opinions,” he says.

—John Martin
Joseph Bruchac G'66 (A&S), one of the most respected and widely published Native American authors in children’s literature, wrote Arrow of Lightning (Lee & Low Books), the third and final volume in his award-winning Killer of Enemies science fiction series for young adults.

James J. Magee G'66 (SWK), College of New Rochelle professor emeritus of counseling and gerontology, wrote A Particular Providence: Linked Tales of Rain Finding the Family Tree (CreateSpace), a novel composed of related stories of an Irish American family’s “courage, fidelity, and humor.”

Mark Rosenholz ’67 (A&S/MA), G’73 (WSM) of Albany, N.Y., wrote Animals Become Chatty: Alphabet Alliterations for Children (Amazon Digital Services), a picture book that “provides a perfect opportunity for parent and grandparent, or older child or adult, to explore together the world of words and images with younger children or siblings.”

Robert L. Kravitz ’69 (NEW/VA), a rabbi who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., was elected to a two-year term as president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Phoenix. Also named senior chaplain of the Scottsdale Police Department, he was highlighted in a full-page feature in the Scottsdale Independent newspaper for his community involvement.

Phyllis Thomas Finger G’70 (NEW) retired after more than 40 years of teaching in the public schools of Easton, Pa. Her career included coordinating many Odyssey of the Mind teams, leading 15 summers of Pennsylvania Regional Summer School for young adults.

William V. Fioravanti ’70 (SDA) wrote A Sicilian’s Journey (CreateSpace, 2014), a nonfiction account of the life of his grandfather, starting in Sicily and following him through his arrival in the U.S. and his experiences in the small Upstate New York towns of Johnstown and Gloversville.

Henry Markiewicz ’71 (WSM) completed his 12th season as a guest services representative for the Arizona Diamondbacks Major League Baseball team at Chase Field in Phoenix in September. Formerly a senior consultant in the IT, management consulting, and health care industries, he now enjoys part-time consulting, as well as golf, travel, volunteering, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Charlotte P. Paul ’72 (NUR), G’73 (NUR/EDU) retired in 2001 from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania as a full professor, having served for 23 years as a professor in nursing. She was recognized by Marquis Who’s Who with the 2017 Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding accomplishments and contributions in nursing and education.

JAY T. STRATTON ’73 (A&S) wrote Pomona’s Lost Children: A Book of Uncommon Antique Fruit Trees (Chautauqua Gorge Press), a cookbook and farm memoir that tells the stories of more than a dozen old-fashioned fruits, delving into ethnobotany, mythology, and linguistics as well as the cuisine of our ancestors.

Arlie Hall Corday ’74 (A&S/NEW) of Charlton, Mass., wrote Cinderella Shoots the Moon (CreateSpace), a coming-of-age novel that “aims to give a voice to a mostly forgotten and sometimes forsaken population—teens growing up in rural America.”

David Jauss G’74 (A&S) wrote Nice People: New & Selected Stories II (Press 53), a companion volume to Glossolalia: New & Selected Stories (Press 53, 2013), a professor emeritus at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, he teaches in the low-residency M.F.A. in Writing Program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. He has published 10 previous books.

Barry R. Kogut ’74 (A&S/MA), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018 and in the 2017 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Thomas Moore G’75 (A&S), a spiritual scholar and psychotherapist, wrote Ageless Soul: The Lifelong Journey Toward Meaning and Joy (St. Martin’s Press), his 25th book.

Joanne E. Romanow ’75 (FALK), a partner at Boston law firm Casner & Edwards who practices in the area of family law, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018.

Paul T. Czepiga ’77 (WSM), L’84 (LAW) of Madison, Conn., is a member of the advisory council for the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants and chair of its trust, estate, and gift taxation interest group. He is a principal in the law firm of CzepigaDailyPope.

Lynn F. Monahan ’77 (A&S/New), a journalist and editor of Maryknoll Magazine, wrote Pistocchio: A Tale of Love in the Andes (In Extenso Press). His debut novel, set in 1980s Peru during the time of the Shining Path guerrilla uprising, is about the relationship between an American priest and a Peruvian school teacher.

Robert Olmstead ’77 (A&S/EDU), G’83 (A&S) wrote Savage Country (Algonquin Books), a novel set in Kansas against the backdrop of the 19th-century buffalo hunts. He is a creative writing professor at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Scott Pitionak ’77 (NEW) wrote Let’s Go Yankees! An Unforgettable Trip to the Ballpark (Ascend Books), a children’s book described as “a heartwarming tale of sharing a love of baseball with the next generation of fans.”

Sam Zamarripa G’78 (MAX), president of Intent Solutions in Atlanta and an SU Life Trustee, wrote The Spectacle of Life—The Obit and Obit. Published by Floricanto Press, a publisher of books committed to furthering Latino/Latina culture, his debut novel charts the journey of protagonist Otto Cristobal Almeida—and his miraculous manuscript—across culture and time, toward redemption.

Carl Patrick Burrowes G’79 (NEW), director of the Institute for Research and Policy Studies at the University of Liberia, wrote Between the Kola Forest and the Salty Sea, the first scholarly history of the Liberian people before 1800; and Black Christian Republicanism, which features the life story and collected writings of Hilary Teage, the primary architect of Liberia’s independence. Both books were published by Know Your Self Press in 2016.

George F. Bellows G’80 (WSM), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Buffalo office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018.

Melissa Croteau ’80 (FALK) is chief business development officer at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney law firm in Washington, D.C.

Kevin M. Young ’80 (A&S/MA), an attorney at Tucker Ellis in the firm’s Cleveland office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018.

Edwin J. Kelley Jr. L’81 (LAW), G’81 (WSM), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018 and in the 2017 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Valerie Ann Leeds G’81 (A&S) was guest curator for George Sotter: Light and Shadow, the largest retrospective ever mounted on the art of Pennsylvania artist George Sotter (1879-1953). The exhibition was organized in association with the James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, Pa., where it is on view through the end of 2017. Leeds also co-wrote the accompanying publication, which documents Sotter’s creative life as a stained-glass artist and painter.

Peter DePietro ’83 (NEW) won the International Award for Excellence for his article, “Tech in Europe: Cultural Reboot,” which was published in the International Journal of Technology, Knowledge & Society.

Alfredo Rivera ’84 (A&S), a geriatric psychiatry doctor in Aurora, Colo., was recognized in 5280 magazine’s “Top Doctors in Denver 2017” list.

Amy Engelhardt ’87 (VPA) made her Off-Broadway debut as composer/lyricist of Bostard Jones, a rock musical based on Henry Fielding’s 1749 social satire, The History of Tom Jones, A Foundling. The raucous farce about the entitlement to the pursuit of happiness regardless of one’s birth circumstances enjoyed a sold-out limited run this summer (amyengelhardt.com).

Dawn Aikman Dinnan ’88 (NEW) is director of communications at Latham Centers Inc. in Brewster, Mass., an international leader in special education and residential treatment of children and adults with disabilities.

Sean Rosebrugh ’89 (ARC) is a principal and higher education practice leader at Steinberg, an architecture, urban planning, and interior design firm in Los Angeles. He brings more than 28 years of experience designing and planning for colleges and universities.

Bob Hocking ’90 (A&S), a writer and photographer residing in Vernon, N.Y., wrote Life Won’t Pass Me By, a collection of 44 observational essays, and Conversations, featuring more than a dozen interviews. Published by Amazon Digital Services, both books draw from his My Bockpack website in celebration of its 14th anniversary (inmybockpack.com).
Paul J. MacArthur ’90 (NEW), a professor of public relations and journalism at Utica (N.Y.) College, co-wrote Olympic Television: Broadcasting the Biggest Show on Earth (Routeledge). The book includes an overview of Olympic television history, interviews with NBC personnel, findings from 20 years of U.S. Olympic television content analysis, and an examination of how nationalism drives Olympic viewing.

Brian J. Butler ’91 (A&S/MAX), L’96 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018 and in the 2017 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Leigh Cohen ’91 (WSM), a Merrill Lynch financial advisor, was named a resident engineer with JMT Inc., Kevin Hahn-Keith ’95 (SDA), a resident engineer with JMT Inc., and international military contracts development for multiple domestic and international military contracts.

Alexander B. Rossino G’92, G’99 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018 and in the 2017 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

George R. McGuire ’91 (E&CS), L’96 (LAW), an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in the firm’s Syracuse office, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2018 and in the 2017 Upstate New York Super Lawyers list.

Jennifer Coulombe ’03 (NEW) launched Sat Nam baby, a New York City-based socially conscious line of play and yoga clothing for kids under 5 and babies (satnambobe.com).

Tito Bottitta ’04 (IST), Jared Novack ’06 (VPA), and Mike Swartz ’06 (FALK) are co-founders of Upstatement creative digital studio in Boston. The firm received six Innovation by Design 2017 awards for FastCoDesign for innovative work in digital design, including projects for the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Penguin Random House, and Michael Bloomberg’s New American Economy.

Steven Lord ’05 (VPA) and his wife, Lauren, announce the June 2017 birth of their daughter, Kaitlin Irene. They reside in Staten Island, N.Y., where he is a teleport operator for Encompass Digital Media, a global telecommunications distribution company.

Christopher Tom ’06 (ARC), an architect with expertise in educational facilities, museum environments, and multifamily residential projects, is an associate in the Baltimore office of Cho Benn Holback, a Quinn Evans Architects company.

Ross Hogin G’07 (VPA) is art director at NAIL, a new Seattle-based magazine that celebrates the ideas and perspectives of creative professionals (nailthemagazine.com).

Amy Pelletier Timpano ’07 (VPA) and Scott Timpano ’07 (EDU) announce the birth of their daughter, Tessa Belle, in August. They reside in Beacon, N.Y., where Amy works in marketing for the Blue Book Building and Construction Network, and Scott teaches fifth grade in the Beacon City School District.

Susanne Gruening Angarano ’08 (VPA) is a principal and senior interior designer at Ashley McGraw Architects in Syracuse.

Michelle L. McClafferty ’09 (A&S/MAX) is an attorney at Burr & Forman law firm in Birmingham, Ala.

Matthew Marinelli ’17 (ARC) is a project coordinator at SOSH Architects in Atlantic City, N.J.
Colline Hernandez-Ayala ’89 »

The Rewards of Sharing Knowledge

Colline Hernandez-Ayala loved to draw and paint as a child. She describes her maternal grandmother as a great artist who was an early influence on her. “She did a lot of drawing,” Hernandez-Ayala says. “She always had her pastels close by.” Hernandez-Ayala originally thought she might go to art school, and then travel and paint. “That was not really what my dad had in mind for me,” she laughs. “He had a more practical idea of what to do with the creativity.” Her father had emigrated from Trinidad to the United States, studied math at Howard University, worked in management, and encouraged her to put her artistic skills to use as an architect. “My father was right,” says the School of Architecture graduate who is a partner at GTM Architects in Bethesda, Maryland.

When Hernandez-Ayala came to Syracuse from suburban Washington, D.C., she spent a semester in the College of Arts and Sciences, building a portfolio, before she enrolled in the School of Architecture. Once there, she discovered that, while she liked the drawing and design aspects of the field, other elements critical to architecture—the heating and cooling systems of buildings, for example—were difficult to grasp. She remembers longtime professor Kermit Lee ’57, the first African American architect she’d ever met, as being a constant source of support. “He helped me through a lot of challenging times,” says Hernandez-Ayala, who was a member of the Student African American Society and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Hernandez-Ayala—the only black woman in her graduating class—began her professional career working on high-rise commercial structures at the large and prominent firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in Chicago. When the economy took a downturn the following year, she and many other recently hired architects and designers were let go. Hernandez-Ayala decided to stay in Chicago and, after freelancing for a few small firms, found her way to Urban Design Associates, a minority-owned firm. “Every one of the architects there was African American,” she remembers. “I had never seen anything like it. Raymond Broady, the firm’s founder, was a trailblazer who was forging his own way. Working there, and joining organizations like the National Organization of Minority Architects and The Rainbow Push Coalition helped me visualize what I could be.”

That vision is one she wants to empower others with. In September, at the University’s Coming Back Together reunion for African American and Latino alumni, Hernandez-Ayala was honored with a Chancellor’s Citation for distinguished achievement in architecture and dedication to advancing diversity. She credits her family—husband, Michael Ayala, and sons, 14-year-old Noah and 7-year-old Nicolas—for their support in the success she has achieved. A member of the School of Architecture Advisory Board, she is the lead donor of an endowed scholarship benefiting African American and Latino architecture students. Along with other School of Architecture alumni, she wants to create work, internship, and mentoring opportunities for students of color, as well as provide scholarship money. “I have learned so much from so many who mentored me, and I want to share that,” Hernandez-Ayala says. “We can offer that knowledge and that kind of support to the next generation.”

At GTM Architects, which she joined in 2004, Hernandez-Ayala leads the firm’s multifamily/mixed-use studio working on large urban redevelopment projects. “Each project is unique, but they all have the same story,” she says, “an urban neighborhood near transit and the city center, that may not have seen any new investment in decades and is now seen as prime real estate.” Hernandez-Ayala says strong collaboration between developers and community members can result in a project that brings affordable housing options, retail, and open space to a neighborhood. The best projects marry purpose with work, she says. “What we do does help people and change things for the better.”

—Kathleen Curtis
CELEBRATION | CBT 2017

The University’s Triennial Coming Back Together reunion, organized by the Office of Program Development, brought a record-breaking 800 black and Latino alumni to campus September 14-17. They connected, celebrated, and created new opportunities for students by raising $1 million for the Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholarship fund.

Among the highlights:

1. Former Orange basketball great Carmelo Anthony received the Chancellor’s Medal for Philanthropy at the CBT 2017 Dinner Gala, held at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

2. Broadcast journalist Soledad O’Brien gave a University Lecture and also spoke with students in Newhouse professor Robert Thompson’s class.

3. and 5. Alumni had fun reminiscing and networking.

4. NBA legend and former Detroit mayor Dave Bing ’66, H’06 delivered the keynote address at the dinner gala.

6. Many former Orange stars came together to play in the first-ever CBT Celebrity Basketball Classic, a benefit for the OTHC Scholarship fund.

7. Otto revved up participants in the Chancellor’s 5K Run/Walk/Roll.

To learn more and view videos of the event, visit programdevelopment.syr.edu/cbt-2017-wrap-up/.
Mario Mercado ’99  »

Innovation for an Ancient Sport

When you’re passionate about something where there’s no guarantee of the outcome, you’ve got to commit yourself to the process and go for it,” says the Bronx-born Mercado, who still lives in New York City.

That attitude, plus the grit, discipline, and mental and physical toughness forged by years of wrestling as a youth, at SU, and beyond have equipped Mercado to risk and rise above failure, overcome obstacles, and drive toward goals in the face of uncertainty, indifference, and opposition. Good strengths to have when you’re building a sports technology company and trying to convince a hidebound, low-tech wrestling culture with traditions rooted in ancient Greece to embrace an innovative, high-tech piece of equipment.

The Mercado is a new kind of wrestling headgear—a lightweight, snug-fitting helmet made of impact-resistant foam—that Mercado says is designed to help protect millions of amateur wrestlers worldwide from concussion and other head and facial injuries. It’s the product of years of research, development, and testing begun when Mercado was a coach and graduate student at New York University and continuing today through BATS-TOI (pronounced bah-tua, French for “fight” or “overcome”), the startup Mercado founded with collaborators in engineering, biomechanics, and neuroscience at NYU and Columbia, where he is pursuing a graduate degree in sports management.

THE LESSONS OF WRESTLING WEREN’T LOST ON MARIO Mercado: Success demands sacrifice. Hard work pays off. When you’re knocked down, get up. Seize opportunities. Believe in yourself. Build your team. Reach for the dream. But remember: There are no guarantees. “When you’re passionate about something where there’s no guarantee of the outcome, you’ve got to commit yourself to the process and go for it,” says the Bronx-born Mercado, who still lives in New York City.

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Introduced at the fall 2016 Grapple at the Garden, a high-profile wrestling tournament featuring NCAA Division I teams, The Mercado and BATS-TOI (batstoi.com) have been attracting attention from sports and business media (Sl.com, Forbes.com, FastCompany.com) and interest from wrestlers, mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters, and participants in other combat and concussion-prone sports here and abroad. “We’ve got some of the top rugby teams looking to use it,” says Mercado, a College of Visual and Performing Arts graduate. The military and law enforcement have shown some interest in using The Mercado in tactical training situations as well, he says.

The team at BATS-TOI is working on a multisport version and exploring variants tweaked to fit other individual sports. BATS-TOI even has a wrestling video game in the works, a collaboration with U.S. wrestling icon Dan Gable. While diversification may be desirable if not inevitable in today’s startup world, Mercado says he and his team remain focused on a singular core goal: to make the best wrestling headgear possible, and to have it become the industry standard for fit, performance, and protection. As sales, promotion, and distribution grow, The Mercado is gaining a hold at more events, camps, and training gyms.

Mercado, appointed last year by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the New York State Athletic Commission as a deputy commissioner to help regulate boxing and MMA events, has spent nearly three decades in wrestling. He’s been a competitor, coach, promoter, and entrepreneur. He’s faced challenges—a year after recruiting him, SU announced it was dropping the wrestling program; a decade ago, a failed attempt to get wrestlers worldwide to trade their traditional singlets for a two-piece uniform he designed left him broke and miserable. World-renowned MMA fighter and coach Renzo Gracie, whom Mercado calls “my older brother,” helped him get back on his feet and back to wrestling. Since then, Mercado’s had more ups than downs. He feels fortunate to still be part of the sport he loves. “I’ve been a mat rat since I was a scrappy little kid,” says Mercado, who now stands 6-foot-3 and weighs a solid 215. “Always will be.”

—Jim Reilly
CELEBRATION
Orange Central 2017

ALUMNI FROM NEAR AND FAR RETURNED TO CAMPUS
October 5-8 to celebrate all things Orange at this year’s
homecoming and reunion.

1. Four exceptional alumni were recognized for excellence and innovation in
their fields with the Arents Award, the University’s highest alumni honor. Pictured
(from left) are Chancellor Kent Syverud, recipients Daniel A. D’Aniello ’68
(business and philanthropic leadership), Diane Nelson ’89
(entrepreneurialism), Mary Spio ’98 (innovation), and Tom
Coughlin ’68, G’69 (athletics
and philanthropic leadership),
and Tracy Barash ’89, SU
Alumni Association president.

2. Melvin A. Eggers Senior
Alumni Award recipient
Warren “Cookie” Kimble ‘57
receives congratulations from
Dr. Ruth Chen and Chancellor
Kent Syverud.

3. Saturday’s Orange Central
Tailgate before the football
game vs. Pittsburgh featured the
traditional SU Marching Band performance on the
steps of Hendricks Chapel.

4. The Class of ’67 celebrated its 50th anniversary.

5. The Einhorn Family Walk—a striking new campus landmark supported by a gift from
University Trustee Steven ’64, G’67 and Sherry Einhorn
‘65 (left, with family)—was dedicated during a Saturday morning ceremony.

FOR MORE ON ORANGE CENTRAL,
visit orangecentral.syr.edu/2017-highlights/index.html.
Advancing academic excellence and the student experience is the goal of Invest Syracuse, a five-year, $100 million initiative that will:

- **Redefine the student experience** at, beyond, and after Syracuse, through increased opportunities for academic and career advising, study abroad, and alumni connections.

- **Advance discovery and innovation** by recruiting new faculty scholars, retaining outstanding faculty, and providing the tools for innovative teaching and groundbreaking research.

- **Expand opportunity** for all students of talent and promise from across the socioeconomic spectrum, with $40 million dedicated to increasing financial aid.

Learn more about this bold vision and how you can support it at investsyracuse.syr.edu.

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE. INVEST SYRACUSE.**

**ORANGE CONNECTION**

**Bettering Education in Sierra Leone**

As a child in Kabala, Sierra Leone, Sheku “SAM” Kargbo G’85, G’86 dreamed of going to school in the United States and using that education to better where he came from—a place where some people live on a dollar a day. “When we were growing up, I learned from my father that my education is not really for me, it’s for my community,” Kargbo says.

He first came to the United States to study at SUNY Oneonta, where he earned a bachelor’s degree, and later received master’s degrees from both University at Albany, SUNY, and SUNY Oneonta. At SU’s School of Education, he earned a Ph.D. degree in teacher education and a master’s degree in higher education. Now retired and living in Reading, Pennsylvania, Kargbo is motivated by his childhood dream. After spending years at various universities working in positions ranging from assistant professor to director of research, policy, and program development at the SUNY System Office, he has been working on improving his high school alma mater in Kabala. He began with a focus on the library, which had been “out of commission” for more than 20 years. Through an alumni group’s fundraising effort, the secondary school’s library was rehabilitated, but still lacked books. To stock the library, Kargbo reached out for book donations in Reading, and to communities beyond.

One woman who responded to his inquiry was Annie Schmidt ’85, a library media specialist at Conrad Weiser High School in Robesonia, Pennsylvania. Her school, along with others, donated books to Kargbo to be shipped to Sierra Leone. Additionally, Conrad Weiser provided science supplies and such technological devices as desktop computers, overhead projectors, and calculators. Schmidt says the school also held a “Jeans Day,” in which staff paid a small fee to wear jeans to work one Friday. The proceeds went toward scholarships for students in Kabala to attend the secondary school. According to Schmidt, Kargbo’s passion for helping his community back in Sierra Leone rubs off on you. “He’s very inspiring to me—to know that when you see something that needs to be fixed you don’t just sit and wait for somebody else to do it, but empower yourself to make a difference,” says Schmidt, a Whitman School of Management graduate.

While Kargbo and Schmidt had not interacted previously, they discovered they were both Syracuse University graduates in 1985 and had been on campus at the same time, when Schmidt was an undergraduate and Kargbo was working toward his doctorate. Now, Kargbo describes Schmidt as his partner in this project and feels they “share a passion.”

As for the big picture, Kargbo knows he must begin with “baby steps,” but he is also working on creating a nonprofit organization as well as developing a college in Kabala. He hopes to not only improve the education of youth in his hometown, but also to aid those in poverty. According to Kargbo, his determination to help and guide youth began at Syracuse University. As an assistant director in Shaw Hall and later a director of Sadler Hall, he worked with youth and adults to create a living and social space for students that blended with academic development. “I grew as an individual, I grew as an educator, and I grew as a leader,” Kargbo says. Now he is using those skills to improve the lives of those in his home community. —Gina Reitenauer
Breona Jones-Rice ’19 started observing open heart and thoracic surgeries when she was still a high school student. Her passionate interest in biotechnology—and strong support from the Ruth and Herbert Meyer Scholarship—opened a door to Syracuse University, the school of her dreams.

As a biotechnology major, she’s eager to conduct hands-on research and eventually pursue a pharmacology degree, so she can one day help develop new and lifesaving drugs. And, as the first in her family to attend college, she aspires to become “one of the many who gives back to those who invested in her.”

Read more about Breona and learn how you can invest in SU students who believe in the possibilities of a better world. Visit changealife.syr.edu/breona or call 315.443.1848.

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IN MEMORIAM

Notices of deaths must be accompanied by a copy of an obituary or memorial card.
Send to: Alumni Editor, Syracuse University Magazine; 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308; Syracuse, NY 13244-5040.


1940 Frank B. Barick, Thomas Christoff, William B. Groff, Helen O’Neill Parker 1941 George B. Bailey, Ruth Dempster Bailey, Mary O’Neill Parker 1940

1941 Katherine Federer Flattery, Mary Dempster Bailey, Mary O’Neill Parker 1941


Gerald T. Halpin ’50, a University Life Trustee and leading developer in the Washington, D.C., area, died on August 14, 2017, in Jackson, Wyoming. He was 94. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Halpin enrolled at Syracuse University on the GI Bill, earning a bachelor’s degree in economics.

A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Halpin began his career in real estate with Atlantic Research Corporation and went on to establish numerous companies, most notably West Group Management LLC, a real estate development firm. As the company’s founder, president, CEO, and chairman, he oversaw the development for West Group affiliates of more than 13 million square feet of office, retail, residential, resort, and industrial space in Tysons Corner, Virginia. He was also founder and chairman of World Resources Company, a global metals recycling business; founder of AFCO, an on-airport cargo facilities company; and owned and operated Lost Creek Ranch, a guest ranch and spa in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, now run by his family.

Halpin, a noted philanthropist, was a longtime supporter of the University, serving on the Chancellor’s Council, the College of Engineering and Computer Science advisory board, and the national committees for the Schine Student Center and the Crouse-Hinds Hall building campaign. He was also involved with many nonprofit organizations, especially ones associated with the environment. He is survived by his wife, Helen Richter Halpin ’50, children Peter, Christina, and Michael, and five grandchildren.

Vincent P. Rigolosi ’54, a champion boxer for the Orange whose professional career encompassed law, politics, and real estate, died on July 15, 2017, at Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck, New Jersey, after a brief illness. He was 85. Rigolosi, also known as “Rigger,” earned a boxing scholarship to Syracuse and was a three-year letterman, serving as team captain his senior year. He was the second of three brothers who were outstanding boxers at Syracuse under legendary coach Roy Simmons Sr. ’25. In 1953, he was the Eastern Intercollegiate middleweight champion and battled his way to light-heavyweight titles in the Sugar Bowl and Orange Bowl tournaments. Active on campus, he performed in the Boar’s Head Theater Society’s 1954 musical revue Up in Lights, was elected “Mayor of Marshall Street” by his classmates, and was the class orator.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in political science, he served in the U.S. Army for two years and then received a law degree from New York University. In 1965, he was elected mayor of his hometown, Garfield, New Jersey, and was active in Democratic Party politics at the county, state, and national levels, including serving as a delegate to four presidential conventions. Rigolosi held numerous positions in the legal profession, including senior partner at a law firm. He ran a mortgage-banking corporation and most recently operated VPR Enterprises, a real estate and investment firm. He remained active in his local community and was a member of the SU Alumni Association. An SU LetterWinner of Distinction, he established an endowed scholarship in his name for student-athletes and, along with his brothers, the Rigolosi Family Room in the Hall of Languages. Rigolosi is survived by his wife, Eleanore, his brothers, Dr. Robert Rigolosi ’57 and Dr. Ron Rigolosi ’65, and a large extended family.

Samuel I. “Si” Newhouse Jr. ’49, chairman of Advance Publications Inc. and the influential leader of the Condé Nast magazine empire, died October 1, 2017, in Manhattan. He was 89. Newhouse studied at Syracuse University and then began his career with Advance Publications, the media company founded by his father, Samuel I. Newhouse, whose support of the University led to the establishment of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

In 1961, Si Newhouse joined Condé Nast, which his father acquired in 1959, and became chairman in 1975. Throughout his publishing career, he kept Condé Nast at the forefront of the magazine industry, revitalizing, acquiring, and launching a number of magazines—among them Architectural Digest, The New Yorker, Vogue, Vanity Fair, and WIRED.

In 2003, the S.I. Newhouse Foundation and the Newhouse family helped fund the construction of the third building in the Newhouse Communications Complex, following Newhouse 1 (1964) and Newhouse 2 (1974). At the 2007 dedication ceremony, Newhouse called the school “one of the glories” of SU, spoke of its students educating themselves to be practitioners of the First Amendment, and said, “Newhouse 3 embodies the ideal of freedom of the press.”

Newhouse was also a prominent art collector and longtime supporter of the arts and culture. He is survived by his wife, Victoria; his children, S.I. Newhouse III and Pamela; his brother, Honorary Trustee Donald E. Newhouse ’51, ’H’16, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.
Q&A

Warren Berger ’80 »
The Art of Questioning


What’s the first question I should ask you?

Why the interest in questioning?

I’m an SU Newhouse grad, and have made my living for the past 30 years as a freelance journalist and book author. Questioning has been one of the primary tools of my trade. But what I now believe is that all of us, not just journalists, should be asking more—and better—questions. It can help with your career, your relationships, your life. It can help you solve problems on a personal level, and at a macro level maybe even change the world.

You’re reviving the word’s original meaning—from the Latin *quaerere*, to seek, to inquire.

I think of the question as a vehicle that enables us to seek and search. And I believe some questions are much more powerful than others—I call those “beautiful questions.” A beautiful question is not only curious but also ambitious. It is a question with a larger purpose. When you look at a problem and ask, “Why does it have to be this way? What if we tried something different?”—you are beginning to ask beautiful questions.

That seems to fit with today’s focus on innovation.

In my research, I traced many innovations—such as the cell phone and the Polaroid camera, or startups like Netflix and Airbnb—back to their origins, and discovered that breakthroughs often start out with someone asking a challenging question. They grapple with that question, sometimes for years. When they finally arrive at an answer, the result is innovation.

How does their approach to questioning characterize successful people?

Successful people are not afraid to ask questions even when—especially when—the answer is unknown. They’re willing to embrace uncertainty. This enables them to keep moving forward—learning, growing as a person, innovating in their business. Successful people also take ownership of their questions—they stay with them.

Is knowledge-based work changing the business culture, to embrace more questioning?

Continuous change is a big issue right now. Since my book came out, I’ve been getting hired to speak at some of the top companies in the world, because they’re wondering, “How can we get the people in our organization to ask more questions, to be more open-minded and curious?” They see these as critical skills—no matter what industry, people now must keep questioning what they do, learning, and adapting, just to keep up.

How do people get better at asking questions?

The best way to become a better questioner is by asking more questions. I do group exercises that I call “question-storming”—like brainstorming, but it’s all about generating questions focused on a specific issue. It helps build proficiency, but it’s also fun—and it can really change the way you think about the issue or problem that is the focus of your questions.

What question are you currently asking yourself?

How might I find ways to encourage more questioning, both in business and in schools? That’s a very ambitious question, and should keep me engaged for years. I recommend everyone try to come up with a beautiful question of your own, something you can pursue over time.
Casey Hanewall G’05 »

A Foundation for Leadership

CASEY HANEWALL, A SENIOR STRATEGY ADVISOR TO the CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, oversees the organization’s long-term strategic planning. It’s a role that focuses on improving the foundation’s culture and that he describes as unique, quirky, and unlike any other he’s had during his 8½-year tenure at the nonprofit. “It’s not what people traditionally consider strategic planning,” says Hanewall, who started in the position in January. “What is the shared identity that makes the Gates Foundation unique? How do we bring that to life?”

The foundation improves, he says, by learning from its successes and celebrating its work, which changes as the needs of the people it serves change. “We want to figure out how to get more creative in thinking about who we’re serving day in and day out to meet those evolving needs,” Hanewall says.

That’s no small task. The foundation is run by more than 1,500 employees and has doled out more than $5 billion annually for the past two years (and $41 billion since its start in 2000). Grantees come from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and more than 100 countries worldwide. It supports programs to improve maternal and newborn health in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and India; clinical research to find more effective drugs or vaccines for malaria, TB, polio, and other diseases; reducing homelessness in the state of Washington; and much more.

Hanewall’s career goals have changed over the years, but his desire to help others on a global scale has not. He grew up in Boulder, Colorado, and had never been outside of the United States until he studied abroad for a year in Chile as an international relations major at Georgetown University. He had always enjoyed learning about different cultures and envisioned a career in diplomacy. His time in South America changed that. “I fell in love with the people and the culture and the language,” Hanewall says. “But at the same time I was heartbroken. Some of the poverty I saw was unexpected.”

What was so heartbreaking, he says, was that the problems other parts of the world face are ones that have already been solved in the United States—from vaccines to housing solutions to employment opportunities. That experience launched him on a career of international development. He conducted research on financial services best practices for Latin American companies for two years at the Corporate Executive Board in Washington, D.C. He spent four years with D.C.-based Chemonics, designing and managing international development programs to reduce poverty in Latin America. And during two years with the National Democratic Institute, he launched and oversaw new democracy development programs.

But Hanewall wanted bigger opportunities for growth—and he saw studying public administration as the way to reach them. “My own realization from my international development work—whether it was reducing poverty, improving economic opportunities, or fighting disease—was just how critical public governance was in terms of getting the outcomes we wanted,” he says.

Thirteen years ago, that led him to the Maxwell School, where he earned a master’s degree in public administration. The lessons he learned—from statistics coursework to tax policy and finance—are still crisp in his mind and useful in his day-to-day roles. It’s also where he learned the soft skills of leadership, which have had the most impact on his career, he says. There were valued interactions with faculty and others who were open, creative, and professional. He learned to be curious, humble, and how to take risks. “We also learned ways of thinking, problem solving, dealing with challenges, and looking for opportunities,” he says.

It’s those values that make for good leadership and success—whether it’s in the halls of Maxwell or fighting poverty and disease in Africa, Hanewall says.

—Sarah DiGiulio
Linda Tatar Landau ’76 »

Orange Pride, Arizona-Style

LINDA TATAR LANDAU MAY HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO follow in her mother’s footsteps to Syracuse University, but once she was accepted into the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications as an advertising major, she immediately embraced her role as an SU ambassador. It’s a role she has cherished ever since—even though she admits she applied to Syracuse to appease her mother, Sonya Tatar ’49, a lifelong SU fan and dedicated donor to the University. The family lived in Gloversville, New York, a small city located 112 miles east of Syracuse, and Sonya Tatar would take Linda and her siblings to Archbold Stadium to watch some of SU’s greatest football talents: Ernie Davis ’62, Floyd Little ’67, and Larry Csonka ’68. “My love for Syracuse University was engrained in me from an early age,” Landau says.

Today, as president of the Syracuse University Alumni Club of Arizona, Landau is passionate about spreading her love of the Orange to the more than 2,100 alumni who call Arizona home. “When I was a student, I never missed a football or basketball game, and I was always the last person to leave the stadium,” recalls Landau, who has season tickets for SU football and women’s basketball, even though her home is more than 2,300 miles away. “Sports helped me feel connected to Syracuse. Back in my day, the lack of social media really did make it harder for us to stay connected after graduating.”

While distance has presented challenges when it comes to connecting alumni with their alma mater, Landau is proud of the work her club has done—including football and basketball game watch-es, National Orange Day community service projects, professional development events, and New Student Send-Offs. “Every time I see someone wearing a Syracuse T-shirt or hat, I know I have to connect and engage with them,” says Landau, who has been the Arizona club president for nearly six years. “I assumed there might be some boundaries when it comes to spreading my love of SU here in Arizona, but I haven’t crossed any boundaries yet.”

Recently, Landau was driving in Scottsdale when she saw a car with an SU license plate holder in front of her. She followed the car for nearly five miles until it pulled into a driveway. When the couple got out, Landau introduced herself as the Arizona club president and immediately went to work recruiting them to join the local club. “I told them I’m not a stalker, but I’m just so passionate about Syracuse University,” Landau says with a chuckle. “They were so happy to meet a fellow Syracuse graduate. The other day as I was walking around my neighborhood, I saw another car with an SU license plate holder and met an alumnus who earned his master’s degree from SU. They’re really always excited to learn there’s an alumni club in Arizona.”

Landau grew up in a philanthropic family, with her mother faithfully donating to her alma mater for 65 years until her death three years ago. Her parents donated a sculpture that sits in the Syracuse Stage/Drama Theater Complex. When her mother passed away, Landau donated a locker in her honor in the women’s basketball locker room inside the Carmelo K. Anthony Center.

Whether it’s time, their talent, or their treasure, Landau is a big proponent of giving what you can. “You don’t always have to be connected from the day you graduate,” says Landau, who works as a Realtor for Realty One Group. “You can always come back. My goal has been to build those connections for our alumni so they feel a strong bond with their alma mater.”

—John Boccacino
Honorable Engagement

AS A CHILD GROWING UP IN THE 1960S IN THE SMALL town of Scottsville, New York, Theodore A. McKee watched the nation’s turbulent news unfold and made a decision to pursue a law career. “I still have vivid images of fire hoses being turned on peaceful marchers in Birmingham, Alabama, and of college students sitting in segregated lunch counters and getting ketchup poured over them and being insulted just because they were demanding the right to eat in a public accommodation,” says McKee, a Syracuse University Trustee who is a federal appeals court judge in Philadelphia. “I grew up with an eye toward seeing the law as a vehicle for restoring rights, vindicating rights, and making sure that the Bill of Rights actually had some meaning. The law seemed like the best way to go about building a career where I could engage in something meaningful that would be of service to the community.”

That goal led him to the College of Law, where he graduated magna cum laude, earned honors for outstanding academic performance, and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. “I have a very warm place in my heart for the College of Law,” says McKee, who holds a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Cortland. “It gave me the education that has allowed me to be successful, and I hold my education second to none in terms of its quality and the commitment of the professors.”

He began his legal career at a Philadelphia law firm before entering public service in 1977, first as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, then as deputy city solicitor in Philadelphia and general counsel to the Philadelphia Parking Authority. In 1984, McKee was elected to a 10-year term as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, during which he chaired the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission. Nominated by President Clinton, he was sworn in as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals Third Circuit in 1994 and was chief judge of the Third Circuit from 2010 to 2016. He is the fourth African American to serve on that bench, which hears cases related to human rights and immigration issues, labor disputes, and criminal and civil law. “I’ve been on the federal bench now for going on 24 years,” McKee says. “And occasionally I will still come across an issue of law I’ve never seen and thought about before that I have to learn. That makes it interesting.”

His commitment to public service includes serving on the board of directors of the Vera Institute of Justice and several other nonprofit organizations and as a member of the Temple Law School Board of Visitors. He was an advisor to the American Law Institute’s project to revise the sentencing provisions of the Model Penal Code and on the Criminal Law Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference.

A Syracuse University Trustee since 2007, McKee is also an honorary member of the College of Law Board of Visitors. He was recognized with the Syracuse Law Honors award at the college’s reunion in October for distinguished achievement and contributions to the law school, the University, and the profession. “Syracuse is a remarkable institution,” says McKee, pointing in particular to the University’s relationship with the community and its efforts related to diversity and to veterans’ education. “It’s a great law school and a great university. And I’m honored to be a part of it.”

—Amy Speach
Remembering Coach Mac

BY SEAN MCDONOUGH

WHEN I WAS COMING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL I DESPERATELY wanted to go to Notre Dame. I was an Irish Catholic boy from South Boston transfixed on the lore of the Golden Dome, but God had a different plan for me—it involved Syracuse and our legendary football coach Richard F. “Dick” MacPherson. Coach Mac, who passed away on August 8 at age 86, had an immense impact on my life.

I first met Coach Mac in fall 1980. I was a student working in the sports information office and went to the press conference where he was introduced as the new football coach. It was the first time I watched my fellow New England native work his magic, with his usual charm, humor, and direct manner of speaking. But it was after he spoke that I saw the real magic of the man as he took the time to greet everybody with earnest interest and sincerity. I waited a long time for my turn, and Jake Crouthamel, our longtime athletic director, introduced me and told Coach I was the son of Boston Globe sportswriter Will McDonough. At that moment my first handshake with Coach Mac turned into the first of many bear hugs. “Your dad is one of the greatest men I’ve ever known and if you’re his kid, you must know something about football,” he said. “We’re going to talk about what Sean McDonough can do to help me get this football program turned around.” He said he’d call me and he did. For the next 3½ years I worked in the football office and Coach treated me as he did everyone else he encountered—like I was the most important person in the world to him.

But, after that first year, I thought it was all going to end because I couldn’t pay my bill for the next semester. I called Coach Mac. I told him I appreciated all he had done for me, but I wasn’t returning to Syracuse. He asked me how short I was and I told him. Before we hung up, Coach expressed his disappointment, wished me well, and told me we’d keep in touch. Within a day or two, a call from the University informed me I was receiving a $4,000 academic scholarship for the coming semester. When I called to thank Coach, he denied any knowledge of my sudden good fortune and expressed delight that I’d continue to be part of the Syracuse community and the football family. I’ll always be grateful to him for his extraordinary kindness and the amazing example he set.

Here he took a football program that had been down for a long time and completely turned it around. We all remember so many great moments from his 10 seasons here, especially the 1987 season in which he was the consensus pick for national coach of the year: an 11-0-1 record and the 16-16 tie in the Sugar Bowl with Auburn. As Orange kicker Tim Vesling ’87 said after the game, “Our coach would have gone for the touchdown.”

Faith, family, and football were the highest priorities in Coach’s life. Hall of Fame coach, even better family member, friend, and citizen of this community. Syracuse and Central New York have never had a better representative or a better ambassador than Coach MacPherson and they never will.

Newhouse graduate Sean McDonough ’84 is the voice of ESPN’s Monday Night Football. This tribute is based on the eulogy he gave at Coach MacPherson’s memorial service in Hendricks Chapel.
JUSTYN KNIGHT ‘18 SECURED HIS PLACE IN SYRACUSE history as the first Orange cross country runner to win a national title. With a strong kick in the final kilometer, Knight moved into the lead and captured the 2017 NCAA Division I Men’s Cross Country Championship in Louisville on November 18, covering the 10K course in 29:00.11.

For the All-American from Vaughan, Ontario, it was the crowning achievement in a remarkable collegiate cross country career that featured three straight top-four finishes in the NCAA meet. After placing 143rd as a freshman, Knight was fourth in 2015 (helping lead SU to the NCAA team title in Louisville) and runner-up in 2016.

“Every single experience helped me get through this race today,” Knight said. “Freshman year when I got 143rd, I really cramped up bad. I fell back and gave up. I used that experience today when I started cramping up. My sophomore year when Edward Cheserek [Oregon] and Patrick Tiernan [Villanova] pulled away from me, I let them go and tried to stay back in my comfort zone. That kind of came back to help me over here. Last year, with Tiernan, I tried to keep the gap as close as possible, but toward the finish I let him go a little bit more. I brought that experience over here. Every single year that I’ve experienced NCAA championships it all molded together in creating this championship.”

Knight completed the 2017 season undefeated. En route to the NCAA crown, he won his second straight Nuttycombe Wisconsin Invitational and ACC titles and his third consecutive NCAA Northeast Regional Championship.

Coach Chris Fox’s Orange, which won its fifth straight ACC and Northeast regional titles this season, finished 13th in the NCAA meet. In the NCAA women’s 6K race, Paige Stoner ‘18 placed 17th—the best showing in SU women’s cross country history—to earn All-America honors. The Orange women were 26th overall. —Jay Cox
One for the record books!

Thanks to the more than 2,200 alumni and friends who celebrated Orange Central weekend. It was unforgettable, and we can’t wait for next year! Want to be part of the planning? Learn more about joining a 2018 reunion committee at orangecentral.syr.edu/reunioncommittees.