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I had my first experience abroad as a rising senior at Irondequoit High School where I got a scholarship to be an exchange student. That time was transformative. I had never even been on a plane before, nor had I been abroad. Suddenly, I was immersed in a foreign culture in Colombia, South America. I barely spoke Spanish as I began my semester abroad. Yet, I was eager to discover, explore, and learn about a world I never knew existed as a kid from upstate New York.

I returned home with a tremendous appreciation of just how much broader my worldview had become. That experience stoked a passion for getting to know people from all backgrounds. The eagerness I felt then is repeated each summer as my wife, Ruth, and I look forward to our summer travels.

This summer, we traveled to two countries that have deep and meaningful ties to Syracuse University. We met with alumni and students who are living the global experience every day. And we learned a lot.

In Lockerbie, Scotland, we were hosted by families who have entrusted Syracuse University with the education of their children—Lockerbie Scholars who have had their own global experiences because of scholarship opportunities. We stood in the meadow where the nose cone of Pan Am 103 had fallen in 1988. We felt part of the bond forged between the Lockerbie community and Syracuse alumni, students, faculty, and staff, many of whom have made this same pilgrimage.

In Madrid, Spain, we observed firsthand the life-changing impact of one of Syracuse University’s oldest study abroad programs. The Syracuse Madrid center opened in 1972. It offers academic study, internships, service learning experiences, and traveling seminars that are a model for other study abroad programs. I have received enthusiastic reviews from students when they returned from Madrid. I wanted to meet the faculty and staff who provided those inspiring experiences.

I learned again that a global experience goes well beyond classroom study. In Madrid, students participate in cooking workshops, hiking tours, and flamenco workshops. They live with local families who introduce them into a new culture and some common values.

My own experience in Colombia changed the trajectory of my life and enriched it in ways I did not appreciate until years later. I want every Syracuse University student to have the same opportunity I had. That is why we are making a commitment to ensure a global experience for each student through Invest Syracuse: Advancing Academic Excellence and the Student Experience. Invest Syracuse will help fulfill our promise to prepare our students to be engaged citizens who will make a real difference in the world.

Look for more on this exciting and bold plan for our future in the Fall/Winter edition of the magazine.

Sincerely,

Kent Syverud
Chancellor and President
Liberating Potential

THERE IS NO EXACT RECIPE FOR DEVELOPING potential, but the right mixture can change many a life. With the Class of 2021 arriving soon on campus, it’s heartening to think how many of those students will unlock their potential and chart futures for themselves that may have been unimaginable to them a few short years ago.

But what moves people from potential to realized ability usually requires hard work. While some folks make things look easy, what’s often overlooked is their discipline—how much they’ve practiced, studied, experimented in a lab, or worked to achieve an admirable level of success. Encouragement from others to polish that potential can be crucial. Whether it’s merely a few kind words, a quick lesson, or years of guidance, the support of others can provide the boost to help someone believe in themselves and reach for their goals. But support is not always necessary. After all, how many of us have been told that we should think of another plan, another path to pursue. For some, that’s fuel for self-motivation, an incentive to dig in more and work that much harder. Many of us have that innate response to being told no or we’re not good enough—we accept the slight as a challenge and go at it.

As an example, check out the feature article on the cross country team that Coach Chris Fox has built into a national power. Many of his runners, he says, were overlooked or underestimated by other programs. But they found a home here and have come to epitomize the kind of dedicated student-athletes who push themselves to new heights—proving to others that they are fully in charge of maximizing their capabilities. There’s also the case of Kathrine Switzer ’68, G’72, whose determination to run the Boston Marathon in 1967 helped revolutionize women’s sports. This year, as you’ll read on page 62, she completed the marathon on the 50th anniversary of her historic run, showing she places no limitations on her potential.

Of course, many a gifted person has ignored his talents and potential, only to have them wither and never result in a substantial success. If the head isn’t in the game, chances are the potential will be stuck in idle. On the flip side, it can be a liberating moment when effort pays off with progress.

As someone who has worked with students through the years, I’ve always found it rewarding to help them improve their writing skills and develop into professionals. Sure, it comes easier for some than others, but to see students, amid all that is going on in their lives, commit themselves to improvement and doing their best assures me they will find success.

Throughout this issue of the magazine, there is much to learn about how many different members of the Orange family have strived to maximize their potential. For instance, sociology doctoral student Tim Bryant ’15 had his dreams of attending college shattered at a young age because of violence—yet encouragement from an SU faculty member who saw potential in him led him to University College, where he found a support system, took advantage of the opportunities before him, and reclaimed his dreams. Today, his life story is a model of inspiration.
DURING HIS SEVEN YEARS IN THE U.S. ARMY, LEE MORELAND built and led IT teams that provided secure internet, radio, and satellite communications for a combat division in the desert of Iraq; maintained critical server, automation, and communications links for airlifts and VIP flights across Germany and Belgium; and equipped, trained, and supported 25 Civil Affairs teams tasked with responding to disasters in the Asia-Pacific region, while at the same time providing IT support for headquarters at his home base, Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington. And he did it all while in his 20s.

Yet when Moreland interviewed for an internship at Starbucks as part of his transition from the military to civilian work and life in 2016, the boss who would ultimately hire him to manage Starbucks’ technology program in China said he couldn’t tell what Moreland actually did in the Army. “He said, ‘I have no idea what your resume says,’” Moreland says from his Starbucks office in Seattle.

One reason for this communication gap is that the military and private industry speak different languages. Another is that people on one side of the military/civilian divide know little about how things work and what people do on the other. This makes it difficult to understand how knowledge, skills, and experience gained in the military translate to civilian job roles. Plus, it’s hard to convey the breadth, depth, and character-forming impact of military experience on a standard business resume. “No matter how hard you try,” Moreland says, “there is no way you can ever tell that full story on a resume.”

For Moreland and others, that’s one area where the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University can help. The IVMF, through its Onward to Opportunity (O2O)-Veterans Career Transition Program (VCTP), assists post-9/11 veterans, active and transitioning military, reservists, and their spouses in translating military experience and responsibilities into the skills, accomplishments, and competencies recognized by outside industries. The IVMF—in partnership with the Schultz Family Foundation (Onward Veterans), JPMorgan Chase & Co. (Veteran Jobs Mission), and others—also enables veterans and transitioning service members to develop new skill sets and acquire industry-specific training and certifications needed to succeed in the civilian workforce.

When they complete an IVMF program, graduates receive a certificate from SU confirming they have successfully completed coursework and training in a specific career track. They also solidify their connection with the IVMF, the University, and its worldwide alumni community. “They become proud members of the Orange Network, and we welcome them,” says Sue Ballard, associate vice president of alumni engagement. “It is an incredible network—one that spans the globe—and we hope these graduates will stay engaged with Syracuse University, no matter where they live or work.”

Through the innovative programs, research, and initiatives of the IVMF, establishment of the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, and creation of the National Veterans Resource Complex now underway, Syracuse University is continuing a legacy of service to veterans and their families that began when it welcomed thousands of World War II veterans as students under the GI Bill. In his inaugural address three years ago, Chancellor Kent Syverud insisted SU “must, once again, become the best place for veterans,” and the University has acted in a variety of ways to make it so.

Since October 2015, the IVMF’s O2O-VCTP program has provided training, career counseling, and job placement services to nearly 8,000 service members at eight military installations across the United States and online around the world. At the same time, the IVMF and its corporate, institutional, and nonprofit partners have worked to educate industry CEOs, HR departments, recruiters, and hiring managers on what military people—exiting the service at a rate of about 200,000 annually—offer employers. Through partnerships with such companies as Amazon, Citibank, Hilton, Starbucks, First Data, USAA, and others, and links to veterans’ service agencies, such as Hire Heroes USA, the IVMF acts as both liaison and talent pipeline between exiting service members and outside employers. “A lot of it comes down to education, to helping people on both sides become educated consumers,” says J. Michael Haynie, founder and executive director of the IVMF and vice chancellor for strategic initiatives and innovation at SU. “The military is filled with project management professionals. They just don’t have PMP after their names.”

Traits employers say they value in employees are often ones embraced by military personnel and promoted—nay, celebrated and enshrined—by military culture: Loyalty. Leadership. A commitment to team and mission. Flexibility. A desire to serve, help others succeed, and be part of something greater than oneself. Still, business people, recruiters, and hiring managers usually want to know the breadth and depth of a veteran’s knowledge and skills—and industry-recognized

Lee Moreland earned an Onward to Opportunity certificate and now teaches in the program.
certifications attest to that. That’s why the IVMF offers more than 35 training and certification courses across several career tracks, including IT, business management, and customer service/hospitality. “Certification is a door-opener to employment,” says Maureen Casey, the IVMF’s chief operating officer. “In some positions, it’s a requirement. Even where it’s not, if you have an industry-recognized credential, it gives (the hiring manager) a level of comfort about what you know and can do. It can get you an interview.”

Moreland, for instance, who was part of the first cohort of O2O participants at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, earned a Cisco certification as a network technician, even though he holds both undergraduate and master’s degrees in IT and had seven years of experience building and maintaining IT networks for the Army. “Particularly in IT, where you must have expertise in specific domains, technical certificates count,” says Moreland, who now teaches for O2O.

For those who’ve worked for years in their fields while in the military, IVMF training can be a refresher or a chance to fill in skill or knowledge gaps, the testing and certification a confirmation of what they already know. For others, it’s a chance to substitute a certification—or several—for lack of a degree or formal education. For still others, the programs are a way to develop new skills in preparation for a career change.

For Leah Olszewski, the education, opportunities, and support offered by the IVMF have been life-changing. After graduating from the University of Alabama, Olszewski joined the Army in 1997 and is now an officer with the National Guard’s 20th Special Forces Group. Her sister flew Blackhawk helicopters in the Army before leaving to become a federal law enforcement agent. “Particularly in IT, where you must have expertise in specific domains, technical certificates count,” says Moreland, who now teaches for O2O.

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DOZENS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY were celebrated for their scholarship, teaching, academic achievement, leadership, and service at the inaugural One University Awards Ceremony, held in April in Hendricks Chapel. Chancellor Kent Syverud spoke of the long histories of the awards, noting past off-campus presentations and gaps in time between the awards ceremonies. “It is time to rededicate these honors,” he said. “We rededicate them by conferring these awards once again, in a new ceremony occurring in the heart and soul of our campus, Hendricks Chapel.”

Among the awards presented were the Chancellor’s Citation for Excellence, which was given in several categories, and the Chancellor’s Medal, the University’s highest honor, which was awarded to Sam Clemence, professor emeritus in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and former interim dean of Hendricks Chapel, and his wife, Carolyn Clemence.

It was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Chancellor’s Medal, which recognizes individuals for their trailblazing and extraordinary contributions to the University, to an academic body of knowledge, or to society. “This year, we honor two people who have given of themselves for decades to support a strong, vibrant, and caring University,” Vice Chancellor and Provost Michele Wheatly said. “In the process, they have enriched the lives of countless students, faculty, and staff, and made a lasting impression on all who have known them. That they are part of our University family makes this presentation that much more special.”

The Clemences have been members of the University community for more than four decades, steadfastly supporting students and colleagues. Sam mentored students from all over the world and encouraged students to study in Dubai. Carolyn, a former Navy nurse, quietly accompanied former Chancellor Melvin Eggers to chemotherapy sessions.

Chancellor Syverud acknowledged the Clemences for postponing their retirement to help the University through a key leadership transition at Hendricks Chapel. “For the last two years, Sam and Carolyn have devoted more than full time to the communities served by Hendricks Chapel,” the Chancellor said in a tribute video. “They have been everywhere...and they have helped countless individual students and staff through times of testing.”

For Chancellor Syverud, this wasn’t surprising, saying the Clemences have consistently supported students and the community for decades. “It’s been a wonderful 40-year adventure for us at this University,” Sam Clemence said.

Among the Chancellor’s Citations for Excellence was the Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Charles V. Willie G’57, H’92, one of the nation’s most prominent black sociologists and a champion of social justice. Educator and social activist, he has served as a court-appointed master, expert witness, and consultant in many school desegregation cases. Willie spent a quarter-century at the University, earning a Ph.D. degree in sociology from the Maxwell School and later serving as chair of the Department of Sociology and as vice president for student affairs. In 1974, he joined the faculty at Harvard, where he is a professor emeritus at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.

When Willie walked to the front of Hendricks Chapel to be honored by Chancellor Syverud, he offered a thought that brought reverent laughter from the audience: “You live long enough,” Willie said, “and something good’s going to happen.”

—From Staff Reports
MAXWELL SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR
Farhana Sultana is passionate about one of the most basic and important resources on Earth: water. Through the lens of water, she examines a multitude of social issues related to access to clean water, including health, education, environmental justice, and gender equality. According to the United Nations, 783 million people don’t have access to clean water and almost 2.5 billion lack access to adequate sanitation. Six to eight million people die every year from the consequences of water-related diseases.

In recognition of her decades-long research into water access, Sultana was invited to speak at The Human Right to Water workshop hosted by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Vatican City on February 23-24. She was one of several international researchers, humanitarian workers, government officials, and corporate leaders who presented and debated issues about water insecurity and ongoing global efforts to ensure access to clean water. At the end of the workshop, Sultana and the other participants were part of a small audience to hear Pope Francis address the issues of water insecurity and the human right to water. The Pontiff reinforced the importance of ensuring global access to clean, safe water by working concertedly to implement the human right to water everywhere. He also called for fostering a culture of care, urged policy makers to take action, and stressed the importance of educating young people about the global water crisis. “Being in the same room as Pope Francis was a mixture of intense emotions: awe, respect, gratitude, inspiration, validation, joy,” says Sultana, author of The Right to Water: Governance, Politics, and Social Struggles (Routledge, 2012). “It was simply magnificent to hear Pope Francis in person reinforce the importance of water. His speech resonated with me completely, as he argued that ensuring water access and equity are the most critical actions that we can take globally to address issues of poverty, inequity, and injustice.”

Afterward, Sultana met Pope Francis. She gifted him a pair of handwoven baskets made by women in a craft cooperative in Bangladesh, a country where she did field research during a spring-semester research leave. “I thanked him for all his important work and said I am grateful for his contributions on advancing issues of social and environmental justice,” Sultana says. “He held my hand in both his hands and smiled and then laughed, thanking me several times in return. It was a lovely conversation. I will never forget that.”

Sultana’s workshop presentation addressed linking the human right to water to gender rights. “Women and girls, especially in poor and marginalized communities all over the world, struggle for clean, safe water daily, which affects education levels, societal development, well-being, and prosperity,” she says. “I focused on the important issue of gender rights as being central to the human right to water, and this point was referred back to and highly appreciated by other speakers throughout the workshop.” She also stressed raising awareness and education on these issues, as water affects all aspects of societal development and environmental sustainability.

At the workshop’s conclusion, Pope Francis signed the Vatican Declaration on the Human Right to Water, now an official document of the Vatican. Sultana was a co-signatory. “One of my contributions to the document was having the importance of women and vulnerable people be incorporated into the text,” she says. “This experience has reinforced my desire to continue my efforts not just through my teaching and research, but through the many other services and outreach activities I have always participated in.”

—Ellen Mbuqe
PROJECT:  
Modeling Auditory Responses and Behavioral Outcomes in Preterm Infants

BACKGROUND:  Understanding and describing the sources of variability of auditory neural responses is critical for effective diagnosis of hearing problems and neural integrity early in life. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs, which include newborn hearing screening, medical and audiological diagnosis, and subsequent early intervention, operate in all states and two territories. Each year, nearly four million infants are screened for hearing loss and more than 65,000 infants are referred for diagnostic testing that relies on thorough understanding of peripheral and brainstem measures that change in infancy and early childhood. Current clinical practice compares auditory brainstem response (ABR) Wave V latency to cross-sectional, age-specific norms that have included normal-hearing, normal-developing newborns born at full term, or normal-hearing, non-neurologically involved premature newborns.

Now that large numbers of infants are being referred for diagnostic testing from screening programs, it is apparent that decades-old norms are inadequate for current health care needs. The first problem is that the majority of referred infants are cared for in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), with many of these infants born prematurely. Premature infants often present with co-morbid neurological and/or medical conditions that complicate ABR interpretation. A second problem is that the few cross-sectional normative databases that included preterm infants excluded neurologically involved infants. The third problem is that the population of infants on which the norms were developed is not representative of the diverse range of infants currently cared for in NICUs. More infants than ever before survive premature birth, multiple births, and other medical complications. Because of better medical procedures and technology, surviving premature infants have developmental trajectories that are often different than infants born at term due to motor, cognitive, and sensory impairments.

IMPACT:  Because many newborns now have auditory measures at birth and young ages, we have an excellent opportunity to investigate whether the audiological information can help predict developmental and language outcomes at later ages. Because of the co-morbidity of hearing loss with motor and cognitive delays, the extension of auditory pathway measures to predicting whole-child outcomes is critical, timely, and necessary. Infant auditory brainstem response abnormalities may indicate more diffuse neurodevelopmental problems. Furthermore, recent research has shifted from looking at incidence of neurodevelopmental problems in preterm infants to more focused research describing school, language, and behavioral outcomes. Infant neurodevelopmental problems cannot only be co-morbid with hearing problems, but also may be disguised or misinterpreted as hearing problems that can even manifest themselves during hospital screening.

An expected outcome of this study is that auditory measures will differ among NICU infants with normal hearing and few or no developmental delays, infants with delayed auditory responses, and infants with more global delays in development. This study’s results will improve our scientific knowledge of characteristics of peripheral and central auditory measures across age and link changes with screening outcomes, category of preterm birth, hearing loss, and behavioral and language outcomes.

These improvements will help the fields of audiology, otolaryngology, neonatology, speech-language pathology, and early intervention by providing clinicians with better insight and predictions of outcomes for infants enrolled in EHDI programs. The outcomes from the research will be useful to professionals, infants, and families by improving efficiency of identification and description of hearing and development in the first two years of life, leading to improved information upon which to make rehabilitation decisions.
UNIVERSITY TREASURES |

Early Rockwell Drawings Discovered

FOR NEARLY A HALF CENTURY, TWO ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS created for a history book were tucked away in a package among the American Book Company (ABC) records held by the University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC)—their existence rumored but unconfirmed. Then, last November, after plenty of digging through the company’s files and detective work, the SCRC’s Andrew Saluti ’99, G’09 opened Package No. 846 and found what he was looking for: two original drawings by America’s most celebrated illustrator, Norman R. Rockwell. “I started to find these pieces of information, these bread crumbs, then put them together to where we isolated one package out of 931 in the collection,” says Saluti, chief curator of exhibitions, programs, and education at the SCRC, who was joined in the hunt by archivist Sebastian Modrow. “We found the package, we pulled it, and there they were. I was thrilled, but that was just the beginning.”

For starters, Saluti learned that Rockwell had created the illustrations in 1911 as a 17-year-old in his first year of study at the Art Students League of New York—making them the artist’s first commercial commission for a publication. After more research, including contacting the Norman Rockwell Museum in Massachusetts and other experts, Saluti believes they could be Rockwell’s earliest existing drawings. The signed illustrations—approximately 18 x 24 inches and done in charcoal, white chalk, and pencil—were featured in a chapter on French explorer Samuel de Champlain from ABC’s Founders of Our Country by Fanny E. Coe (1912). Scrawled at the bottom of one: “Champlain visits Indians.” The other depicts Champlain in Quebec, pointing to distant ships. “An English fleet came sailing up the St. Lawrence,” the caption reads.

“This is a major discovery not only for Syracuse University, but also for the scholarship on Rockwell’s development,” says Lucy Mulroney, senior director of SCRC. The Rockwell find was sparked by a comprehensive preservation plan that Mulroney initiated last year to safeguard and make more accessible the many significant 20th-century cultural artifacts held by Special Collections, including the ABC records, which feature 20,000 illustrations. “I look forward to seeing what other treasures come to light as we continue our work,” Mulroney says.

According to Saluti, Rockwell was assigned five illustrations for the book, but only these two were published. The book’s art director rejected his first attempt at the English fleet illustration, sending Rockwell back to the drawing board. “This experience pushed him to be that much more of a researcher, to be a meticulous artist,” Saluti says. “He resigned to never let anything leave the studio again until he had thoroughly reviewed it. Obviously the criticism affected him.”

Perhaps most astonishing is the two illustrations survived a treacherous history before coming to Syracuse. The SCRC holdings of the American Book Company—which primarily published textbooks, including the popular McGuffey Readers series—comprise only part of the publisher’s work. A company warehouse fire, circa 1905, claimed a great deal of material and ABC also donated a large amount to the New York Public Library in 1950, Saluti says. Nevertheless, its donation to Syracuse includes correspondence, business records, books, illustrations, and more, dating from 1801 to 1971. Saluti’s interest grew from years of talk among SU’s researchers and archivists about the possibility of some Rockwells buried in the collection. Mystery solved. “When you look at these early examples of his work, they’re not yet at the level of his Boy’s Life illustrations, or the signature work that really propelled him to Rockwellian status,” Saluti says. “But you see the skill of a young artist in the early stages of his career.”

—Jay Cox
Teacher candidates gain insights and experience through NYC program

LAST SEPTEMBER, AT COMMUNITY ROOTS CHARTER School in Brooklyn, Nancy Ivanovic ’17 got to know a lively group of fifth-graders who helped her on her path to becoming a teacher. For weeks Ivanovic was a student teacher in their classroom, which was co-taught by a general education teacher and a special education teacher. The kids called themselves the “Energetic Pugs”—a nickname they created together through a collaborative exercise that helped establish a foundation for success in the school year ahead.

“They went through a whole big voting process together with the teachers to come up with their identity,” says Ivanovic, an inclusive elementary and special education major in the School of Education. “It created an understanding that we’re a community and we’re in this together. And it got them excited to be in the classroom.”

Taking part in that collaborative process was just one example of the benefits Ivanovic gained as one of 14 School of Education (SOE) teacher candidates who student-taught in New York City schools in 2016. The opportunity is made available to inclusive elementary and special education seniors each fall through the school’s Bridge to the City program, a partnership established in 2003 to provide a guided student-teaching experience in a dynamic urban environment and to connect New York City schools with SOE faculty, resources, and graduates. “The Bridge to the City program offers an expansive view of what urban schools are,” says Professor George Theoharis, chair of the SOE Department of Teaching and Leadership. “Many of our students have a real passion for urban education and see teaching as a form of changing the world and making it better and as a form of activism. This program provides them an educational experience that’s intense, powerful, and good for their development. They work really hard—and they love it.”

Students are placed in two different schools—ideally, one in Brooklyn and one in Manhattan, one a charter school and one a more traditional public school—spending seven weeks in a special education classroom and seven in a general education setting. The experience is the culmination of a rigorous teacher preparation program that requires teacher candidates to spend approximately 900 hours in the field before they graduate. “By the time they begin student teaching, they are ready to take over,” says SOE director of field relations Thomas Bull G’90. “And in the schools we work with, they’re allowed to do that in really positive, constructive ways. We’ve formed strong relationships with some of the best schools in New York City—schools that are closely aligned with our philosophies, with what we teach here, and what we talk about in terms of best practice.”

The large number of schools in New York City allows SOE faculty to be selective in developing partnerships that best serve the program’s goals. “We look for strong commitments to inclusive education—of students with disabilities, but also strong commitments to racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity,” says teaching and leadership professor Christy Ashby G’01, G’07, G’08. “And we look for places with constructivist orientations toward learning—thematic and experiential-based learning with an emphasis on faculty and staff collaboration.”

One important partner in the program is the Community Roots Charter School, whose co-founder and co-director, Sara Stone ’99, is an SOE alumna. The school consistently hosts SOE student teachers and has hired several alumni. “We believe that kids learn by doing, and we believe that kids learn when they feel included in a way that supports the unique type of learner that they are and the type of person they are and want to be,” says Stone, who values the ongoing connection with Syracuse made possible through the Bridge to the City program. “We opened with a commitment to inclusion and co-teaching in every classroom. Those foundational beliefs of integration and collaboration are reflected in the expectations we have for our kids, and...
For Ivanovic, student teaching in New York City provided living examples of all that is possible in education and affirmed her devotion to the field. “I loved the program and really owe a lot to it,” she says. “I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, but my way of thinking about teaching and my understanding of the power and weight and responsibility of my role as an inclusive educator have shifted. I’m excited to have my own classroom and help my students believe they can succeed.”

—NANCY IVANOVIC ’17

“Certainly for our faculty.”

Beyond the learning and experience gained through their student-teaching placements, Bridge to the City participants also enjoy the opportunity to become fully immersed in city life. They live together at the 92nd Street Y, a cultural hub that serves as a home away from home for university students from all over the world, and take classes at the Fisher Center, SU’s academic campus in midtown Manhattan. And in spite of very full schedules, they also find time to take advantage of all the city has to offer—from volunteering at the New York City Marathon and being part of the audience at Live with Kelly to going on class field trips to Carnegie Hall, the Met, and the New York Botanical Gardens. “One of the most exciting things for me was getting to see the city, not only for myself, but also through the eyes of my kids,” says Cora Cool-Mihalyi ’16, a University Scholar who completed an extra semester at SU to student-teach in New York. “And I learned a lot about myself—not just as a teacher, but also by being independent and navigating the city. It was kind of like living in New York City as a teacher for three months. It was amazing!”

Another gift of the program is the supportive relationships students build—with one another, and with a network of School of Education alumni living and working in New York City. Those connections—as well as the strong reputation of the Bridge to the City program itself—can help pave the way for them as teachers starting out in the profession. “It’s all about getting students prepared so that, when they take that next step, they are confident and ready to go,” Bull says. “We’re all involved in the education field, so the more we can do to strengthen the field by preparing our students to be teacher leaders, the better.”

—Amy Speach
The University has appointed the Reverend Brian E. Konkol as dean of Hendricks Chapel, Eugene “Gene” Anderson as dean of the Whitman School of Management, and Zhanjian “John” Liu as vice president for research. Konkol and Anderson both assumed their positions in July, while Liu begins on September 1.

Konkol arrives in Syracuse from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, where he had served as chaplain since 2013. In that role, he provided strategic leadership to the Office of the Chaplains and was a faculty member of the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies program. He also served as the faculty liaison to the men’s basketball team.

An ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Konkol has a diverse and global background of service, ministry, and teaching. Prior to his work at Gustavus Adolphus College, he served as co-pastor of Lake Edge Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin. From 2008 to 2012, he served in South Africa as country coordinator of the Young Adults in Global Mission program of the ELCA. From 2003 to 2007, Konkol interned with and later served a parish with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. A Wisconsin native, he holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Viterbo University (Wisconsin), a master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and master of theology and Ph.D. degrees from the School of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Gene Anderson joins the Whitman School from the University of Miami School of Business Administration, where he was the Schein Family Chair in Business and professor of marketing. He served as dean of the school from 2011 through 2016 and oversaw significant advances in its rankings, diversity among underrepresented populations, graduate student enrollment, annual revenue, and fund raising. He also expanded the number of full-time, tenure or tenure track faculty, initiated new degree programs, expanded international and domestic experiential learning opportunities, and launched the Miami Executive MBA for Artists and Athletes.

Prior to joining the University of Miami, Anderson spent more than two decades at the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business, where he held several leadership positions. Anderson’s areas of expertise include marketing and business performance, customer satisfaction, and customer analytics. The Pittsburgh native earned a doctorate from the University of Chicago and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

John Liu comes to Syracuse from Auburn University, where he has played a key leadership role in growing Auburn’s research enterprise, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, overseeing all centers and institutes, enhancing technology development and transfer, and supporting a state-of-the-art research infrastructure, among other achievements. From 2007 to 2013, he served as associate dean for research and assistant director at Auburn’s College of Agriculture and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

A native of China, Liu served from 2004 to 2007 as International/China Programs coordinator for Auburn’s College of Agriculture, helping to facilitate international collaborative relationships and cooperative agreements and coordinate various academic exchange programs and outreach activities. He is a founding member of Auburn’s Cell and Molecular Biosciences Program and has been director of its Aquatic Genomics Unit since 2000. Liu has also been involved with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Animal Genome Program and serves on a USDA panel developing the blueprint for the national animal genomics, genetics, and breeding programs for the next decade. He earned a Ph.D. in cell and developmental biology and a master’s degree in plant pathology from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, and a bachelor’s degree in plant protection from Northwestern Agricultural University, Shaanxi Province, China.

Tracy M. Barash ’89, Andrew T. Berlin ’83, Shelly Lotman Fisher ’80, and Ronald P. O’Hanley ’80 have been elected members of the University’s Board of Trustees. Barash, who became president of the SU Alumni Association Board of Directors in July, is vice president of global franchise management for Turner’s Cartoon Network and lives in Atlanta. Berlin is chairman and CEO of Berlin Packaging and lives in Glencoe, Illinois. Fisher is the CEO of Hope Paige, a national medical I.D. jewelry company, and lives in Villanova, Pennsylvania. O’Hanley is president and CEO of State Street Global Advisors and vice chairman of State Street Corp., Boston.

Broadway producer Stacey Mindich ’86 accepted the 2017 Tony Award for Best Musical for Dear Evan Hansen. The musical garnered nine nominations and won six Tony Awards.

The Hollywood Reporter ranked the Department of Drama in the College of Visual and Performing Arts No. 4 among top schools for undergraduate study.

Math and physics major Jordan Barrett ’18 and biology and geography major Maizy Ludden ’18 have been named 2017 Goldwater Scholars. Ismael Gonzalez ’18, a neuroscience and biology major, received Goldwater Honorable Mention recognition. Barrett was also the recipient of an Astronaut Scholarship Foundation award, while Ludden was selected for a Udall Scholarship in the field of environmental issues. Jade Rhoads ’18, who is majoring in Russian language, literature, and culture, and geography, was named a Udall Scholar in the field of tribal policy. Environmental engineering major Katie Duggan ’18 was chosen as a Udall Honorable Mention. She also earned honorable mention recognition in 2016.

Tadeusz Iwaniec, the John Raymond French Professor of Mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in mathematical engineering from the University of Naples Federico II, the world’s oldest, public nonreligious university, at a special ceremony in Italy in May.

Two faculty firms from the School of Architecture—Architecture Office and SPORTS—were awarded the 2017 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers. Professors Jonathan Louie ’07 and Nicole McIntosh of Architecture Office, and Greg Corso and Molly Hunker of SPORTS were among the six winning practices in the juried portfolio competition.
Supporting Global Medical Care

SAN DIEGO NATIVE ANDREW RAMOS ‘17 CAME TO THE College of Engineering and Computer Science to study bioengineering and make a life for himself. Now, he is making a difference in the lives of others. Thanks to his efforts founding the University’s chapter of Engineering World Health (EWH), people in underdeveloped countries have the chance to receive better medical care. “Engineers create and develop technology that can have tremendous impact,” says Ramos, president of the EWH campus chapter.

The global organization’s mission is to improve the medical technology and delivery of health care in areas of the world where it is severely lacking, and the students in the University’s chapter are working hard to fulfill that goal. “Our group purchases medical device kits from EWH and assembles them, using soldering and the circuitry techniques learned in class, to produce optical heart rate monitors and electrocardiogram simulators,” Ramos says. The completed instrumentation goes back to EWH headquarters to be shipped to such countries as Nepal and Rwanda, where they are used in training biomedical engineering technician students, as well as diagnostics tools to repair other medical equipment.

Deeply dedicated to bioengineering and enthusiastic about the field, Ramos found ways for the EWH group to engage and inspire others. During National Engineers Week, they talked with students about their work and showcased prosthetic arms they assemble for the Helping Hands Project of Odyssey Teams Inc., an organization that provides artificial limbs to hundreds of thousands of amputees in more than 75 developing countries.

Open to Syracuse University and SUNY ESF students in any major, the EWH group also tutors students from the Syracuse Northeast Community Center mentoring program in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and has hosted them on campus. “We were touring the biology labs and one young girl in pigtails—she was in third grade and couldn’t have been more than 9—said, ‘When I come to Syracuse, I want to study here,’” says Ramos, who will work toward a doctorate in medical sciences at the University of Oxford, England. “It was so moving to me to hear her say that! It makes all the effort worthwhile.”

For Justine Paul ’18, being an EWH member is more than just a line on her resume. “It’s an organization in which I can apply my engineering skills to improve global health by providing meaningful service to patients in the developing world,” says Paul, who joined the group as a first-year bioengineering student. She now serves as chair of the chapter’s EWH design competition team, collaborating with two professors at the SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Nursing to develop a monitor that tracks sleeping positions of preterm infants. The device will have to meet the criteria for the EWH national design competition, which challenges teams to produce a technical solution that can contribute to improved health care in countries with limited resources.

According to the World Health Organization, 15 million babies are born preterm, each year, worldwide. “Premature babies have difficulties sleeping, and their sleep patterns have been linked to developmental issues,” Paul says. Preterm babies are also vulnerable to sudden infant death syndrome, the leading cause of death among infants up to 12 months old. “We plan to submit our entry to the EWH national competition for the upcoming year, since we’re still working on the prototype,” she says. “Being able to develop a cost-effective and user-friendly device would be beneficial for users worldwide—and help save the lives of many newborn babies.”

—Paula Meseroll
Exploring New Zealand’s Earthly Treasures

IN HIS OFFICE IN THE HEROY GEOLOGY Building, Earth sciences professor Paul Fitzgerald pulls a map of his native New Zealand off the wall and spreads it across a table. “Look,” he says, “you’ve got this plate boundary running right smack through the middle…” That’s the Australian-Pacific plate boundary the country straddles, and Fitzgerald talks about subduction zones, the Alpine Fault on South Island, volcanoes, and earthquakes, including the ones that rocked Christchurch and destroyed the inner city in 2010 and 2011.

Syracuse students can now experience New Zealand and its geologic treasures firsthand through Frontiers Abroad, a Syracuse Abroad world partner program that offers undergraduates the opportunity to study either the country’s geology or its contemporary environmental issues (Earth Systems). Both components feature a five-week field camp where students explore unique areas, learn field techniques, do research, and gather data for individual research projects. Following field camp, they spend a semester at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. “They go to all these fantastic locations,” says Fitzgerald, who, along with faculty colleague, Professor Suzanne Baldwin, taught in the geology field camp for a week in spring 2016 as part of the Erskine Fellowships they were awarded from the University of Canterbury. “The good thing is in each location they have a local expert who teaches the students.”

According to Max Borella, administrative director of Frontiers Abroad (FA), the program is affiliated with more than 25 U.S. colleges and universities and drew 50 students this spring semester. It’s also one of several STEM-based programs offered through Syracuse Abroad. Borella cites the field camp as FA’s defining distinction and notes how it builds camaraderie among students and faculty. “During that time exploring and studying New Zealand’s majestic landscape, students and faculty really bond and form lifelong relationships. The program’s family atmosphere definitely makes it special.”

“Exploring and studying New Zealand’s majestic landscape, students and faculty really bond and form lifelong relationships. The program’s family atmosphere definitely makes it special.”
—MAX BORELLA

Sandy Castellano ’18, an Earth sciences major with a focus on environmental science, enrolled in the Earth Systems program this spring semester. As highlights, along with traveling, she studied volcanic outcrops, learned to identify such indigenous species as the Rangiora shrub and the Manuka bush, took courses in Antarctica studies and mineralogy, and participated in a simulated training exercise for a volcanic eruption disaster. For her research project, Castellano examined how ineffective environmental treaties and past economic factors have hindered whale conservation efforts. “The Earth Systems program was the best choice for me because I wanted to broaden my horizons beyond my knowledge of geology,” she says. “And it was great to be around like-minded people who care about the sustainability of the Earth.”

Adam Belkadi ’16, a spring 2016 FA participant, says a class on ore deposits introduced him to geophysical methods relevant to research projects he does for work at Hager GeoScience, a Boston-area geophysical and geological mapping company. He also listed a number of unforgettable experiences, from field camp and fishing adventures to a class on the Maori culture. For his research project, he created a hazard assessment map of the ballistics ejected from Mount Ruapehu, the country’s largest active volcano and a popular skiing and hiking destination. “I was given permission to hike to the summit of Ruapehu, which was moderately active at the time,” he says. “It was a pretty special experience.”

Such experiences are just what Borella and FA director Darren Gravley had in mind when they launched the program in 2008. Gravley, senior lecturer in volcanology and geothermal systems at Canterbury, enjoys teaching students about the country’s variety of volcanoes, their personalities, their geothermal energy, and the role of data in attempting to minimize public danger of eruptions. “The exciting thing is we’re teaching volcanology while standing on the flanks of real, active volcanoes,” he says. “At the end of the day, students are blown away by the fact that they are learning about volcanoes while climbing on top of them.”

—Jay Cox
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FOR THE FIRST TIME, TWO MEMBERS OF THE SYRACUSE women’s basketball team were selected in the same WNBA Draft as guards Brittney Sykes ’16, G’17 and Alexis Peterson ’17 were chosen in the annual draft on April 13. “Over the last few years, we have proven that we have high-level players, All-Americans and professional players,” head coach Quentin Hillsman said. “Their selections tonight are a testament to what we have built at Syracuse. I cannot overstate how happy I am for both players.”

Sykes was the seventh pick in the first round by the Atlanta Dream, making her the highest draft selection in program history. “My mission that I set as a freshman was to make history at Syracuse,” Sykes said. “I did it. It feels good to know that I left my mark here. Now, I am ready to live my dream of playing professional basketball, beginning with the Atlanta Dream.”

Sykes is the winningest player in the history of the Orange women’s basketball program, playing in 101 victories. The Newark, New Jersey, product earned Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Division I Coaches All-America Honorable Mention accolades in her final season on campus. A graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in instructional design, development, and evaluation in the School of Education, she ranks third in program history with 1,846 career points scored.

Peterson was the third selection in the second round (15th overall) by the Seattle Storm. “It is such a blessing to be selected by the Seattle Storm,” Peterson said. “It is crazy to say; I have been wanting this since I picked up a basketball. This really means a lot.”

Peterson exits as the program’s all-time leader in assists (590) and ranks second in scoring (1,978). The Columbus, Ohio, native was named an All-American by three different organizations (Associated Press, espnW, and WBCA) for the 2016-17 campaign. A child and family studies major in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, she was a three-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference honoree and the 2017 ACC Player of the Year.

After the draft, center Briana Day ’17, the program’s all-time leading rebounder (1,124), signed a training camp contract with the WNBA’s San Antonio Stars. A public health major in Falk College, she is the only Syracuse player to notch at least 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

Peterson, Sykes, and Day were instrumental in the Orange women’s 2016 NCAA Tournament runner-up finish and helped guide the team to a 22-11 record and a second-round appearance in the 2017 NCAA tourney.

—Anthony Prisco
Five members of the Syracuse track and field team collected All-America honors at the 2017 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon, in June. Justyn Knight ’18 placed third in the 5,000 meters to earn All-America First-Team accolades. It was Knight’s third All-America recognition for the 2016-17 year (see related stories, page 30). Joining him as All-America selections were Paige Stoner ’19 (second team/women’s 3,000-meter steeplechase), Colin Bennie ’18 (honorable mention/10,000 meters), Tia Thevenin ’18 (honorable mention/women’s 100-meter hurdles), and Aidan Tooker ’20 (honorable mention/3,000-meter steeplechase).

Orange basketball forward Tyler Lydon ’19 signed with the Denver Nuggets. He was selected by the Utah Jazz as the 24th overall pick in the 2017 NBA Draft, with his rights traded to Denver.

The Syracuse men’s rowing first varsity eight crew finished in eighth place at the 2017 Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship Regatta in June on Lake Natoma in California. It marked the boat’s sixth top-10 finish at the national championship regatta under head coach Dave Reischman.

The Syracuse women’s rowing team finished in 13th place at the 2017 NCAA championship on Mercer Lake in New Jersey in May. It was the second straight season that Syracuse has placed 13th in the team competition at the national championship regatta. The team placed second at the ACC championship on Lake Harwell in Clemson, South Carolina. The second varsity eight crew placed first and was named ACC Crew of the Year. Coach Justin Moore collected ACC Coach of the Year honors.

Orange midfielders Sergio Salcido ’17 and Nick Mariano ’17 were named First-Team All-Americans by the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA). Defender Scott Firman ’17 was a second-team selection and short-stick defensive midfielder Paolo Ciferri ’17 received honorable-mention accolades. Salcido, ACC Offensive Player of the Year, and Mariano were Tewaaraton Award semifinalists and All-ACC Team selections, along with Firman and faceoff specialist Ben Williams ’17.

The Orange finished with a 13-3 record and advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, where they dropped a 10-7 decision to Towson. Coach John Desko ’79 was voted ACC Coach of the Year for the third straight season. The Orange played in 11 games decided by one goal, winning nine.

Syracuse lacrosse great Casey Powell ’98 will be enshrined in the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in September. Powell, a four-time USILA All-American, is the 27th member of the Orange program to be chosen for the hall.

The Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) voted attack Riley Donahue ’18 to the All-America Second Team and midfielder Natalie Wallon ’19 to the third team. Both players were named to the All-ACC Second Team and ACC All-Tournament Team. They were joined on the ACC All-Tournament Team by defender Kaeli O’Connor ’17, who was an All-ACC First-Team selection. All three players were named to the IWLCA All-Northeast Region First Team. Donahue was also a Tewaaraton Award nominee.

The Orange women finished the season at 15-7 and reached the second round of the NCAA tournament. They advanced to the ACC tournament title game for the fourth straight year, and head coach Gary Gait ’90 was voted ACC Women’s Lacrosse Coach of the Year for the second time in three years.

SYDNEY O’HARA ’17 EARNED ALL-AMERICA Third-Team honors at the utility/pitcher position from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). She is the third player in program history to collect All-America honors. College Sports Madness selected her as a First-Team All-American and she was a top 10 finalist for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award. O’Hara also earned NFCA Mid-Atlantic First-Team All-Region recognition, was SU’s first All-ECAC First-Team selection, and collected All-ACC First-Team honors, becoming the first Syracuse player to win multiple All-ACC accolades. O’Hara led the nation in both batting average (.480) and on-base percentage (.629) at the conclusion of the regular season. She ranked second in saves (6) and strikeouts per seven innings (12.6), 12th in walks (45), and 15th in slugging percentage (.837). The Orange women posted a 31-19 record this season.
AS A FRESHMAN AT THE WHITMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, Logan Margolis ’17 noticed that a fellow freshman in one of his classes was occasionally dressed in suit and tie. It turned out the student was pledging the Xi Tau chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity made up of Whitman School students. It didn’t take long for Margolis to learn more about the fraternity that went far beyond the clothes—notably that the “brothers” (both men and women) were busy, engaged, and often active in other organizations throughout the University. “I could tell that brothers didn’t limit themselves just to one thing,” says Margolis, a double major in management and marketing at Whitman, with a minor in music industry from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “They wanted to be involved across campus.”

Margolis pledged in his sophomore year and found camaraderie with other undergraduates who wanted to excel in business, he says. This past year, he served as president of the chapter, which was established at SU in 2001. The national fraternity was founded in 1907 by business students at New York University, seeking to foster the study of business within universities. In 1975, the fraternity began admitting women. The Whitman School’s chapter has a membership of 60 men and 40 women. It hosts one professional event a week, which might be a presentation by a local businessperson, an interviewing or resume-writing workshop, or alumni sharing their work experiences. Some events are for chapter members only; others are open to the larger community. Service projects include helping prepare meals for Meals on Wheels, sorting clothes at the 315 thrift shop (which supports the efforts of the Syracuse Rescue Mission), Red Cross blood drives, and an annual volleyball tournament, with proceeds benefiting the local Make-A-Wish chapter. In the 2016-17 school year, the fraternity raised $2,943 for charitable organizations.

The Xi Tau chapter has earned the attention of the national fraternity, winning the Niagara Region’s Most Improved Chapter Award, and the Outstanding Service Award for 2015-16. At the same time, MaryAnn Monforte G’95, professor of accounting practice at Whitman and the fraternity’s faculty advisor, received the award for Chapter Advisor of the Year.

Monforte, though, gives all the credit to the brothers, adding that she’s honored to be their advisor. “They are great students,” she says. “They have leadership skills and management skills that are amazing for their age.” Monforte says she feels the fraternity appeals to students who are seeking the collegiality of fraternities and sororities, but are also interested in sharpening their business acumen.

“It’s definitely been important to me. I’ve made lifelong friends. It has given me so much confidence.”
—JENNIFER BENNETT ’17

“This provides a way to develop your professional skills,” she says.

Jennifer Bennett ’17, who double majored in retail management and marketing management, pledged the spring semester of her first year. She says Delta Sigma Pi helped broaden her experience as an undergraduate. “It’s definitely been important to me,” she says. “I’ve made lifelong friends. It has given me so much confidence.” She says when undergraduates face disappointments, which are inevitable—an interview that goes poorly, being turned down for a job, not doing well in a class—belonging to the fraternity means there is always someone to talk to or get advice from. “It’s a strong network and support system,” she says.

Monforte considers the community service component of the fraternity as key. “These young men and women have such a bright future ahead of them,” she says. “But it’s always important to remember there’s something even bigger out there than your own personal success.”
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As educators, Barbara Ambuske Sadowski ’62, G’69 and Robert Sadowski G’69 dedicated their careers to sharing their love of learning with students from elementary school through college. Grateful for the financial support they received while at Syracuse University, they’ve established scholarships for future SU students—hers to benefit mathematics education majors, his for those studying radio-television-film and communication research. “Scholarships are our way of paying it forward,” they say.

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Optimizing Talent

Michael D’Eredita G’95, G’98
Professor of Practice
School of Information Studies

Each day, hundreds of people are affected by what Michael D’Eredita G’95, G’98 does and how he does it. That’s a responsibility he’s very cognizant of and does his best to honor. A professor of practice in the School of Information Studies (iSchool), D’Eredita is also an entrepreneur and consultant who co-founded three businesses, an international rowing coach, and a family man with two young kids. He’s fascinated by human dynamics—how people think, what they do, and how they collaborate, lead, and achieve. And in all he does, he’s devoted to helping individuals and teams optimize their talents and actualize their highest potential. “To me it’s amazing to work with people who are going after their dreams,” he says. “You’re interacting with people while they are having incredible experiences. You’re coaching them through it. And then at some point you’re no longer coaching. You’re just sharing the moment. There’s real meaning there.”

D’Eredita characterizes his educational and professional journey as more of an intellectual pursuit than a clearly defined pathway—a result of saying to himself, “Let me do this and see what it’s about, see what happens.” Following a curiosity about science, he earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from Le Moyne College. He then earned master’s and doctoral degrees in cognitive/experimental psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences before joining the iSchool in 2000, where he teaches courses in organizational behavior and serves as faculty lead for the information technology, design, and start-up minor that he helped to establish. “It was a good fit,” he says. “I fell in love with the school and felt like this is where I belong.”

His role as a professor of practice allows the flexibility to pursue his varied endeavors and to bring a diverse range of expertise to his students. As an entrepreneur, he has co-launched an executive coaching and leadership development company, an analytics firm founded on core concepts he helped to develop, and a design and development company currently focused on the dynamic rowing machine he invented.

D’Eredita’s teaching is also informed by his achievements as a rowing coach in the United States and overseas. At around the same time he joined the iSchool faculty, he traveled to Finland to help establish the country’s first university rowing program and to build and coach the national team. In 2003, he began coaching the national team in Portugal. Having helped Finland and Portugal earn World Championship, World Cup, and international medals, he’s now the high performance director for the Portuguese National Rowing Team. “The rowing front is real, raw organizational behavior in many ways,” says D’Eredita, who began rowing in high school and assisted SU’s rowing team as a graduate student under the mentorship of legendary coach William Sanford ’63, G’70. “It’s peer leadership and teams. I’m helping to create those systems overseas—which involves problem-solving and collaborating on multiple levels with different cultures.”

For his students, he tries to relate those experiences to their futures at the organizations where they’ll work or the startups they’ll establish. “I’m helping students get some insight into behavior, and also giving them perspectives on their careers, and how they acquire the skills to become valued within a marketplace,” D’Eredita says. “It makes teaching fun for me, which is why I do it. And I love it.” —Amy Speach
Reclaiming Life and Dreams

WHEN TIMOTHY BRYANT ’15 WAS GROWING up in a tough New Jersey neighborhood in the ’70s, he enjoyed school and believed that despite difficult circumstances, he was destined to go to college and have a rewarding career. But that notion started slipping away from him at age 9, when he was the victim of a violent crime. He felt like it was ripped away for good when he was attacked again at 14, and his dreams were replaced with raging post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “I found myself unable to function socially for several years, and as a result I was unable to complete high school,” Bryant recalls.

He struggled with what his life had become, but little was understood about PTSD at the time. “I was living and operating in ‘survival mode,’” he says, as he tried to comprehend and treat his disorder. This led him to massage therapy, which can help individuals heal from grief and trauma. He completed a GED, became a licensed massage therapist, and assumed this path would be his life’s journey.

Then Sandy Lane, Meredith Professor of Public Health and Anthropology at Falk College, walked into the Syracuse spa where Bryant was working, and his life turned in a bold new direction. Lane recognized his intellectual potential and passion for helping people. She encouraged him to pursue a degree at University College through the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which provides support for students whose circumstances might prevent them from attending SU. It is the only program of its kind for part-time students in New York State. “HEOP not only provides the financial means to return to school, it gives students the necessary tools to acclimate into the academic environment,” Bryant says. “It is a tremendous support system.”

Inspired by Lane’s encouragement, Bryant enrolled in Falk College as a part-time student. “I wasn’t confident I’d succeed, but I knew I had a golden opportunity,” he recalls. “I entered with an open mind, determined to see what would unfold.”

What unfolded would surpass his wildest dreams. He made the dean’s list every semester on his way to a bachelor’s degree in public health in 2015. He traveled to Europe and Africa, and was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, the honor society for nontraditional undergraduates. And he received one of SU’s highest student honors—the Chancellor’s Award for Public and Community Service—for a smoking cessation program he and three classmates created for the Syracuse Community Health Center. In 2016, national recognition came from the University Professional and Continuing Education Association, which named Bryant the Outstanding Continuing Education Student of the Year.

Last year, Bryant learned his educational journey was far from over. He was admitted to the Maxwell School’s Ph.D. program in sociology, with four years of funding. He is currently engaged in research in the sociological aspects of inequalities based on race and sexuality, and how they affect physical and mental health. “To be pushed intellectually, especially in an environment where others are sharing the experience, is exhilarating,” he says. “I think I’m right where I need to be—in a space between inquiry and illusion, where all the magic happens.”

As limitless possibilities stretch before him, Bryant reflects on what brought him to this point. “Success is not determined by achievements, but rather by facing fears, perseverance over obstacles, and doing the very best you can,” he says. “I would say I have reclaimed something that I believed was stolen from me as a young child. It took a lot of work, but finally, through education, I have hope for the future once again.”

—Mary Beth Horsington
Elizabeth Cohen
Political Science
Professor
Senior Research Associate, Campbell Public Affairs Institute
Maxwell School

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH COHEN GREW UP IN AN academic family in Princeton, New Jersey, with parents she describes as “extremely politically engaged and highly intellectual.” From a young age, she expected to one day follow in their footsteps in her own way. “It was a really lovely, rich environment—we were constantly talking to each other about politics and human behavior,” says Cohen, a faculty member in the Maxwell School’s political science department since 2004. “So when I went to college, it was very natural to be thinking about the world in a way that tries to abstract and look for patterns and big-picture types of things.”

As an undergraduate at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, Cohen studied philosophy, sociology, and political science. “Then I just really fell in love with political theory and the possibility of thinking about social justice, and how to advance the interests of people who haven’t been represented and maybe haven’t been enfranchised,” she says. Her next step was graduate school at Yale University, where she earned master’s and doctoral degrees in political science. “An early advisor in graduate school got me thinking and writing about issues related to citizenship and immigration,” says Cohen, a first-generation American whose mother and grandparents came to the United States as refugees. “It was a transitional moment.”

Since then, Cohen has written extensively on matters of citizenship and immigration. In her book *Semi-Citizenship in Democratic Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), for example, she explores why liberal democracy seems to generate groups of people that have some—but not all—of the essential rights of citizens. Her latest book, *The Political Value of Time* (Cambridge, 2017), studies why time figures so significantly in people’s access to rights, including an examination of the waiting periods required in political procedures. “In my work, I like to be able to point something out that was in plain sight, but nobody had noticed,” says Cohen, who teaches courses in political theory, immigration politics and citizenship, and politics and power. “The process involves paying close attention to politics, looking for what isn’t being observed, and then trying to deduce from studying various examples what it actually means.”

These days, that work becomes especially relevant, Cohen says, during what she calls a time of “deep, deep uncertainty” about the status of non-citizens living in or trying to enter the United States. “We have entered a period in which there’s public support for becoming a more closed society, in particular with respect to people who want to enter the United States from other countries,” says Cohen, who is also a senior research associate at the Maxwell School’s Campbell Public Affairs Institute. “Historically, in periods when we have wanted to close ourselves off in these different ways, it has not gone well. It has not enhanced our economic status, it has not enhanced our society, and it tends to have lots of bad effects. So I’m very concerned.”

The answer, she believes, hinges on continuing to share the understanding gleaned from thoughtful research and study. “I have a very strong sense that there are things we know—for example, the impact of immigrants on the economy—and I want to get that out there in a form that is accessible to people,” she says. “I think that is the best possible channeling of our energies now.”

—Amy Speach
International Fluency

FREDERICK “RICK” CIERI III ’17 SPENT HIS SENIOR YEAR learning Portuguese in Brazil after a Boren Scholarship pamphlet caught his attention in the international relations department office. The scholarship, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provides funding for U.S. undergraduates to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to American interests. Intrigued, he researched the scholarship and applied, but months went by without a response. Assuming he wasn’t going to receive the award, Cieri began making alternative plans for his last year as a Syracuse student. “By the end of my junior year, I’d completed all my coursework except for my senior research project,” says Cieri, who serves as a global ambassador for Syracuse Abroad. “When I finally did hear back from Boren, I was surprised and thrilled—but had only three months to get ready to head off to Brazil for a year.”

A native of Waterloo, New York, Cieri has always been interested in other languages. In middle school, he started learning Spanish and French. “By high school, I was taking French and Spanish simultaneously,” he says. “At Syracuse, I picked up Italian and now Portuguese.” He believes the ability to speak to people in their own language will be a tremendous asset to him in his goal of a career in international law and diplomacy. “For me, languages have become the best gateway to learn about other cultures and make relationships,” says Cieri, who majored in modern foreign languages in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) as well as international relations in A&S and the Maxwell School.

Before arriving in Brazil, Cieri knew little about the country and its culture, but soon found many similarities to life in the United States—and quite a few differences. “Soccer is much bigger in Brazil than it is in the States, and at university, the teaching style is quite different,” he says. “Professors usually stand and lecture for the entire class session—and the classes are three to four hours long. It was rather tricky to adapt to this style.” He also found the learning to be a two-way street. “If they know I’m an American, Brazilians want to practice their English with me,” he says. “They often ask where I am from in the United States. When I say I’m from New York, they assume I am from New York City. Little do they know I have never lived in New York City and there is so much more to the state!”

While in Brazil, Cieri had the chance to visit several cities, including a weeklong traveling seminar to Salvador, Bahia, the heart of the country’s vibrant Afro-Brazilian culture. But he devoted most of his free time to exploring São Paulo, the largest city in the southern hemisphere. Even after a year there, he still has a list of things he’d like to do and see and plans to return in the future. But that will have to wait: For 2017-18, he will work as an English teaching assistant in Madrid, Spain, through a scholarship with the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. After that, he is keeping his options open. “At some point, I will fulfill my Boren Scholarship requirements by working in the U.S. government for at least a year,” says Cieri, who is researching law and graduate schools in the United States and abroad. “My long-term career goal in international law could include serving as a politician, Foreign Service officer, diplomat, educator, or representative with the United Nations system,” he says. “I would especially love to work at promoting recognition of human rights worldwide.”

—Paula Meseroll
Model Hearts

Through stem cell research in his Syracuse Biomaterials Institute lab, Professor Zhen Ma and his team are growing human hearts so they can find better ways to fix them when they break.

BY SARAH DIGIULIO
SARAH MOORE ’19 PAUSES TO THINK OF A WAY TO describe the work she’s been doing since January in biomedical engineering professor Zhen Ma’s lab at the Syracuse Biomaterials Institute (SBI). “It’s sort of like taking care of a fish,” says Moore, a biomedical engineering major. Except the “fish” is actually dozens of real heart cells that have been engineered from human stem cells and are now growing in petri dishes in the SBI labs in Bowne Hall. Throughout the spring semester, Moore would stop in the lab daily just to check on the cells she was responsible for. “You need to feed them and change out the solution that they sit in,” she says.

The goal is to get the cells to grow consistently, so she and the other lab members can study the growth patterns and figure out the formula for what keeps the cells—known as cardiomyocytes—alive. “They’re finicky,” she says. “One day we’ll have beautiful beating heart cells—and the next day they’ll be dead.”

Once Moore and the other lab members are able to keep the heart cells growing long enough, the plan is to use them to study how various heart diseases develop and to test how a patient’s heart cells will react to a specific drug before that patient actually receives it.

The science is there in terms of turning stem cells into heart cells, says Ma, the Samuel and Carol Nappi Research Scholar in the Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The challenge—and the question Ma’s team is trying to answer—is the engineering one: How do you make the heart cells that have been engineered from stem cells grow in the same way and with the same structures as real heart cells?

“Basically we want to use stem cells to build a mini-heart in a lab in a cell culture dish,” Ma says. “It’s a matter of using microtechnologies to build the microsystems that force the cells to grow into three-dimensional structures that resemble a real heart. A cell is typically 10 microns in length, with a micron equal to one one-millionth of a meter, Ma explains.

It’s these engineering questions that led Ma to Syracuse in the first place.

From Electrical Engineering to Stem Cell Research
Ma comes to the stem cell research field with a background in electrical engineering, which he studied as an undergraduate at Tianjin University in China. He moved toward medicine while pursuing a master’s degree, also at Tianjin, where he worked on building medical instruments that measured blood glucose levels. And that led him into the field of biophotonics at Clemson University, doing research for a Ph.D. “Basically it was building and using optics instruments to study biological questions,” says Ma, whose dissertation focused on heart physiology, stem cell biology, and the interactions between heart cells and stem cells.

It was right around the same time induced pluripotent stem cell technology was being developed. “I knew induced pluripotent stem cell technology was the next step for stem cell technology,” Ma says.

The body’s stem cells can duplicate themselves and gen-
erate other kinds of cells, Ma explains. There are two types: adult stem cells and embryonic stem cells. Most adult stem cells are found in bone marrow, though each tissue has its own tissue-specific adult stem cells called “progenitors,” Ma says. Adult stem cells have limited research use, however, because they can only replicate into one specific type of tissue. Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, have exponentially more research potential because they can grow into any type of tissue or organ. But embryonic stem cells can only be taken from human embryos—and myriad ethical issues arise in using such embryonic stem cells for research.

Enter human induced pluripotent stem cells. They are human blood or skin cells that have been reprogrammed back to the embryonic stem cell-like state, so that the stem cells can now duplicate and generate any type of tissue or organ. “I wanted to get involved in this field,” Ma says.

And SBI was looking for a stem cell researcher to join its team. “The mission of SBI is to develop knowledge and technology related to biomaterials, smart medical devices, and biomaterial and tissue constructs,” says Dacheng Ren, SBI’s interim director, the Chemical Engineering Graduate Program director, and Stevenson Endowed Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering. “Dr. Ma’s work fits perfectly.”

And since Ma started in August 2016, he’s hit the ground running, Ren says.

**How to Study Broken Hearts**

Ma’s lab—the System Tissue Engineering and Morphogenesis (STEM) lab—is currently pursuing two major projects. One focuses on growing developing heart cells that will allow researchers to better study what causes congenital heart disease (any problem with the structure of the heart) in developing fetuses. These diseases represent the most common birth defect, affecting nearly 40,000 infants born in the United States each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The engineering challenge is combining biochemical and physical cues to mimic the way real heart cells grow, so stem cell-derived heart cells grow the same way in the culture dish, Ma says. Once the team can get the model to grow, they’ll be able to study why certain genetic mutations cause specific malformations of the heart.

Once this model is developed, another potential application is for pharmaceutical companies to be able to test whether certain genetic mutations cause specific malformations of the heart.

**A Bioengineering Learning Experience**

PLANSKY HOANG G’20, WHO IS IN her second year of the chemical engineering doctoral program, spends at least 20 hours a week in the lab monitoring the stem cell-derived heart cells and analyzing data, plus more time on lab-related work outside of Bowne Hall. “What interested me in Dr. Ma’s work was how we can take advantage of stem cell engineering to model tissue development and apply that to study disease progression and toxicity screening of new drugs,” Hoang says.

She’s working on engineering developing heart models. “The goal is that using these models we can make pharmaceutical drug screening more efficient and eliminate failed drug candidates earlier in the development timeline,” she says.

Working with Ma and the team has taught her to be a more open thinker and well-rounded scientist, says Hoang, who plans to stay with Ma through the end of her program.

Biomedical engineering major Sarah Moore also plans to continue working in Ma’s lab at least until she graduates in 2019—and potentially after if she decides to pursue a graduate degree at SU. “We’re like a little family,” she says, referring to Ma and the other lab members. If she has a question when no one else is in the lab, she’ll send a quick text and her fellow lab members are quick to help or come in to show her the ropes, she says. “Working in Dr. Ma’s lab has definitely changed my perspective a lot, seeing how everything functions and what [research] life looks like outside of school.”

Spending approximately six hours in the lab each week added a challenge to her course load this past semester, she says. But the experience helped with time management and serves as motivation to continue with her degree, which at times can be grueling, she says. “It’s taught me what the work of a bioengineer actually is.”
CLOSE-UP LOOK

Researchers in the STEM lab at Bowne Hall experiment with heart muscle cells—cardiomyocytes—created from human induced pluripotent stem cells. Pictured here are some images taken by Professor Zhen Ma.

1. Micro-patterned triangular colonies of human induced pluripotent stem cells.
2. Heart muscle cells derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells.
3. Heart micro-chamber. The cardiomyocytes are the red areas in the centers, and the connective tissue (fibroblast cells on the outside) is green.

HUMAN INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS are human blood or skin cells that have been reprogrammed back to the embryonic stem cell-like state. This allows them to duplicate and generate any type of tissue or organ.
tain life-saving drugs that an expectant mother might need to take actually pose a risk to a developing fetus—such as chemotherapy drugs for a mom-to-be with cancer, Ma explains. “The science is important because it offers us a way to study how the heart forms, outside of the body, so we can better understand the biological process.”

The lab’s other major project is the development of personalized drugs for patients with genetic defects that cause heart problems. The team wants to figure out how to generate heart cells from stem cells from a patient’s blood sample, transforming them into heart muscle tissue that can then be used to test drugs tailored to that patient’s genetic defect. The lab-grown heart muscle tissue will have the same genetic defect as the patient, Ma says. “So we can minimize the risk of a drug that we give a patient if we can test the drug on the patient’s live heart tissue in the lab first.”

Ma’s team is currently working with induced pluripotent stem cells from humans that have been engineered to feature the genetic mutations that cause long QT syndrome—a condition where the heart’s electrical activity doesn’t function properly and can cause dangerous, uncontrollable problems with the rate and rhythm of a person’s heartbeat. The condition affects approximately one in 7,000 people in the United States and can be fatal. The team is also investigating human induced pluripotent stem cells that have been genetically edited to have the genetic mutations that cause hypertrophic cardiomyopathy—a common condition that can affect people at any age and can cause high blood pressure, irregular heart beats, and sometimes sudden cardiac arrest. The next step, Ma says, is looking at even more genetic mutations and how they lead to other heart diseases.

Collaboration Makes It Possible

One of SBI’s unique features that makes Ma’s work possible is the collaborative atmosphere. Ma has been working with biomedical and chemical engineering professor Pranav Soman to build some of the materials Ma’s team needs for its research. Soman’s work focuses specifically on biomedical 3D printing of materials that range in size from an inch to even smaller than the microscale required for Ma’s work.

Nature makes “fantastically complex” things—and current manufacturing technologies are way behind that, Soman says. “My philosophy is that if we can remove the limitation of what we can make, we can have a direct impact on the entire field of biomedical engineering.”

For Ma’s team, Soman’s task was to create a mold that could be used to grow a ring of heart tissue. To do this, Soman drew the design using 3D modeling software and input those instructions into a 3D printer, which produced the mold. It’s cylindrical in shape with a post in the center that the stem cell-derived heart cells can form a ring around (the whole thing is just a few millimeters tall and wide).

Ma’s team uses the molds to create the heart models to study long QT syndrome, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and other heart diseases caused by genetic mutations—and test what drugs work. “The collaboration with Dr. Soman gives us the diversity and flexibility to generate different cardiac tissue structures for different disease modeling purposes,” Ma says.

If a researcher had to figure out how to make this type of mold on their own, it might take six months to a year, Soman says. But that’s the benefit of the collaborative environment at SBI, where you have someone with expertise in 3D printing working alongside other researchers. “It’s a fantastic environment for research,” says Soman, whose team is also contributing to other projects with applications for kidneys and bones.

Both Ma and Soman hope the collaboration continues. They also hope it will open up new grant opportunities to get funding from external sources. Ma’s work is currently supported by the Nappi Research Scholar funding. “The best way to go forward is to join hands and join forces,” Soman says.

And that collaborative force is already moving Ma and his team closer to their research goals. “The technology is here,” Ma says, “and it’s allowing us to study the heart outside of the human body and better understand the biological process of how it forms.”
RUNNING STRONG

Coach Chris Fox helps Syracuse set the pace as a national power in cross country

By SCOTT PITONIAK
“They told us to swing for the fences, win it all. That bat became a good luck charm, a constant reminder of our goals.”
—CHRIS FOX

AT A PICNIC BEFORE THE START OF Syracuse University’s 2015 cross country season, several alumni presented Chris Fox with a Louisville Slugger baseball bat. The symbolism was not lost on the Orange cross country coach. That fall’s NCAA championship race would be run on a course in Louisville, Kentucky. “They told us to swing for the fences, win it all,” Fox recalls from the stands at Manley Field House. “That bat became a good luck charm, a constant reminder of our goals.”

The Orange wound up hitting it out of the park that November in the Blue Grass State, winning the national championship as Justyn Knight ’18, Colin Bennie ’18, and Martin Hehir ’15, G’16 recorded top 10 finishes. SU’s first cross country title since 1951 was the fulfillment of a goal Fox established when he took over the dormant program in 2005.

“We knew we were good—we hadn’t lost a meet that fall. But Colorado had a strong team—they had won two national championships in a row—and we were a little worried about our number four and five runners,” Fox says. “Our upfront guys ran incredible, and our next runners (Philo Germano ’18 and Joel Hubbard ’16) ran the races of their lives. Philo and Joel ran down people in the last mile they shouldn’t have been able to run down. It was like a World Series where your eighth hitter winds up with five home runs. Just an incredible day.”

Although Fox’s vision had been realized, that national championship wasn’t the end of the journey, but merely another leg. “I guess I’m like most coaches: I’m driven, I reset, I don’t live in the past,” he says. “I want us to contend every year. It would be great if we could emulate what John Desko [’79] has done with SU lacrosse. I’d like to see us win a few more.”

With the return of five of his top seven runners, including All-Americans Knight, Bennie, and Germano, Syracuse will enter this season as a favorite to capture another title, and continue an amazing run for a coach who has transformed the Orange from also-rans to leaders of the pack.

THE MAKING OF A DISTANCE RUNNER
Growing up in Martinsburg, West Virginia, a commuter town about 90 minutes west of
Washington, D.C., Fox dreamed of becoming a basketball star. But his small stature—he stood just 4-foot-11 and weighed only 70 pounds when he entered the ninth grade—forced him to reconsider. “Genetics made the choice for me,” he says. “The funny thing is I probably would have considered anything but running. Didn’t like it at first. But I started having some success as a 13-year-old. And I had a high school coach, David Ambrose, who saw something in me right away and showed me all the opportunities the running world could offer. So, I just followed that path.”

By his senior year, Fox had become a scholastic All-American and was competing in international races. He was familiar with some runners from his area who had attended Auburn University. That, along with the coach’s pitch that Fox could play a role in helping the Tigers rise from the ashes, convinced him to accept their scholarship offer.

The man who grew up following running legends such as Jim Ryun, Dave Wottle, Frank Shorter, and Steve Prefontaine wound up becoming a pace-setter himself, earning collegiate All-America honors six times. More than three decades after graduating with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, he still holds some Auburn records.

Fox’s goal was to become an Olympian, but he failed to qualify in five attempts. He did, however, make a nice living as a professional runner, competing in track and field events here and abroad, winning several national road races.

Syracuse cross country runners (top left) huddle before the B race at the 2015 Coast-to-Coast Battle in Beantown (top right). All-American Martin Hehir ’15, G’16 (570, above) celebrates with teammates after SU won the 2015 national title in Louisville. Adam Visokay ’17 (607, left) and Kevin James ’20 (600) compete in the 2016 NCAA championship in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Photos (top left and right and bottom) courtesy of SU Athletic Communications; middle photo by Kerby Lee
while competing for teams sponsored by Nike and Brooks Sports. Along the way, he posted personal bests of 3 minutes, 59 seconds in the mile and two hours, 13 minutes in the marathon.

Fox’s first taste of coaching occurred when he was recuperating from an injury in 1984 and took over the University of North Carolina men’s cross country team. The Tar Heels won the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) title a year later and finished fifth at the NCAA championships. Despite his success—Fox was named ACC Co-Coch of the Year in 1985—he still yearned to run, so he returned to the pro racing circuit after three seasons in Chapel Hill. “That Carolina experience kind of let me know I could coach if that’s what I wanted to do later on,” he says. “I enjoyed it.”

He ran professionally into his late 30s, but eventually grew tired of being away from his wife and young children for long stretches. In 2002, he jumped at the opportunity to coach the middle- and long-distance runners at Auburn. Although he loved being back at his alma mater, the experience wasn’t as rewarding as he had hoped. “I loved Auburn, but it’s a sprint program—that’s the emphasis,” he says. “I didn’t really have the support for us to become as good as I wanted us to become, so it was frustrating to me professionally.”

EXCEEDING EXTRAORDINARY EXPECTATIONS

When Daryl Gross took over as athletic director at Syracuse in 2004, he made it a priority to upgrade the school’s so-called “Olympic” sports programs, including cross country. Many viewed SU cross country as a no-win situation—the biggest deterrent being Syracuse’s reputation as a snow capital. But Fox envisioned otherwise. And after interviewing for the job, he was even more convinced it was a place where he could put everything he had learned about running to full use. “Daryl gave me the support I needed,” Fox recalls. “He said, ‘Take all this and be extraordinary.’ That was his big slogan: ‘Be extraordinary.’” He said, ‘Win some conference championships, make it to nationals, and I’ll be happy.’”

On his first day as Orange cross country and track and field coach, Fox hired Brien Bell, a former La Salle University cross country runner and assistant coach who would become a key figure in SU’s evolution into a national running power. “I had known Brien for a while and knew we shared the same philosophies,” he says. “Brien didn’t flinch when I said I wanted to win national championships. He saw enormous potential here, just like I did. I liken Brien to (former longtime SU basketball assistant) Mike Hopkins [’93]. Same type of loyalty and impact. And Adam Smith, who we added about six years ago, also has played a big role.”

One of Fox’s first program-building strategies was to turn Syracuse’s much-maligned climate into a plus. “I told recruits that from May through Thanksgiving, you won’t find better running conditions in the country,” he says. “When you’re at a southern school, like Auburn, it can be brutal. It’s so hot, you have to
JUSTYN KNIGHT ’18 HAS EARNED
All-America honors in cross country and
track and field seven times, establishing
several school records along the way.
He was the pace-setter for a Syracuse
University cross country team that won
the NCAA championship in 2015 and
finished third last fall.

And the good news is that he may
have saved his best for last. With a strong
finishing kick in his senior year, Knight can
add to his legacy as the greatest distance
runner in Orange history. His sen-
sational junior year included three top-three
finishes at NCAA championship meets:
a second-place in the 10-kilometer
cross country race, a second in the
3,000-meter indoor race, and a third in the
5,000-meter outdoor race. Knight
will enter 2017–18 as the favorite in each of
those events. His return, along with
several veteran teammates, will make the
Orange the leading contender for another
NCAA team title in cross country.

“I believe in setting almost impossible
goals for myself,” Knight says. “I think by
putting the bar so high you almost can’t
see it, it forces you to work even harder,
push yourself to the limit. And if you wind
up doing the nearly impossible instead
of the impossible, you’ll still be pretty
happy with what you achieve.”

One of his lofty goals includes com-
peting in the Olympics—he missed quali-
fying for the 2016 Summer Games in Rio
de Janeiro by one second—and winning
a gold medal in the 5K. “To achieve that
would be the ultimate,” says Knight, a
native of Vaughan, Canada, a Toronto
suburb. “Do that and people will say you
are the best in the world.”

Syracuse cross country and track
and field coach Chris Fox believes an
Olympic medal is within reach if Knight
continues to progress the way he has his
first three seasons on the Hill. Last May,
he ran the 5K in 13 minutes, 17.51 sec-
onds—the fastest clocking in the world
in that event in nearly a year. “People
forget that Justyn came to running
relatively late,” Fox says of the young
man who has been the Atlantic Coast
Conference’s Cross Country Runner of
the Year the past two seasons. “He didn’t
really start doing this until his sopho-
more year of high school, so he’s still learning
about training and preparation and race
strategy. And he’s only 20 years old. He’s
just entering his running prime. He has a
good 10, 12 years of world-class running
in front of him.”

Knight is completing studies for a
bachelor’s degree in sport management from
Falk College of Sport and Human Dy-
namics. His goal is to become a guidance
counselor. “Ever since I was young, I’ve
enjoyed helping people work through
challenges so they can realize their po-
tential,” he says. “I definitely believe it has
helped me become a better teammate.
I’ve had people encourage me along the
way, and I try to do the same.”

run either very early in the morning or after the
sun sets. Yes, things can be a little rough here in
January and February, but our kids deal with it.
It makes them mentally tougher, which is one of
the things we look for in prospective runners.”

Fox’s early pitches were similar to the ones
used to lure him to Auburn in 1979. “We told
recruits they could be responsible for building a
program from scratch and taking it to a national
level,” he says. “Of course, a lot of kids aren’t
going to find that appealing. They’d rather go
somewhere with an established reputation. We
get more no’s than yeses early on. But we also
managed to get some kids to buy into what we
were selling. We landed a few state high school
champions, and each year a few more trickle in.”

Fox also has played up Syracuse’s outstand-
ing academic reputation. “We’re not quite Har-
vard, but we’ve been able to land kids who were
good enough to get into Harvard and other Ivy
League schools,” he says. “They realize they can
still get a world-class education here, while com-
peting against the best runners in the country.”

His experience as an elite runner also came
into play. That—and his philosophy. He and Bell
believe in developing strong runners by run-
ning the hilly courses and roads in and around
Syracuse. “There definitely is a method to their
madness,” jokes Knight, a two-time cross coun-
try All-American and two-time ACC Cross
Country Runner of the Year. “When I first
started running those hills, my feet were on fire.
It was really demanding. But that type of training
helps you develop physically and mentally.
It makes your legs stronger and it makes your
mind tougher. You feel stronger than your oppo-
nents throughout the race because of what
you’ve been through in practice.”

Over time, Fox has tweaked his approach. The
coin now targets training to individual runners,
rather than forcing everyone to train the same
way. “It’s not a one-size-fits-all,” Knight says.
“Every runner has different strengths and weak-
nesses, so it makes sense to fit the program to the
individual rather than the other way around.”

The coach with the psychology degree
spends as much time developing his runners’
minds as their legs. “He really, really cares about
us as people,” Knight says. “He’s a guy you can
talk to about things other than cross country
and track. He does a good job of reading people,
and knowing when to talk to you if he senses
something is bothering you.”

Fox is thrilled his teams have won four con-
secutive ACC and NCAA Northeast Regional
titles and have three straight top-five finishes

The Orange’s World-Class Runner
at nationals. But he’s equally proud that they also annually win school and NCAA academic awards for cumulative grade point average and graduation rates. “We have a couple of kids in med school, another who is an FBI agent, and another who is a Methodist minister,” he says. “But we also take chances on some kids who weren’t great students in high school, but who have great potential as runners and people. I get just as big a kick out of seeing them graduate as I do the kids who are going on to med or grad school.”

OVERLOOKED AND UNDERESTIMATED

By his fourth year at SU, Fox had fulfilled Gross’s goals of winning a Big East Conference Championship and reaching the nationals. Though pleased with his program’s progress, Fox had his sights set on a bigger finish line.

Landing a world-class runner like Knight in 2014 was a seminal moment. “I equate it to (SU men’s basketball coach) Jim Boeheim [’66, G’73] recruiting Carmelo Anthony,” Fox says. “Justyn is our Carmelo Anthony. He’s a once-in-a-lifetime talent. He’s the type of runner that can take you to the Promised Land immediately, which he did. And the great thing for us, is that unlike Carmelo, who rightly left for the NBA after winning the national championship his freshman year, we get to have Justyn all four years.”

Knight finished fourth at nationals in 2015 as SU placed three runners in the top 10 for the first time in program history to win its first team title in 64 years. He was a pace-setter again last year, finishing second for the third-place Orange. Knight and his teammates will be favorites to win it all this fall. That is a role with which Fox is unfamiliar.

“This may be the only time we are the hunted rather than the hunters,” says the man who was named the nation’s top cross country coach in 2015 by Track & Field News and who has earned ACC Coach-of-the-Year honors for four consecutive years. “Traditionally, we like having a chip on our shoulder; that’s who we are. We’re used to being the runners who have been overlooked by the other schools. Yes, we are blessed to have a talent like Justyn, but usually we win because of runners like Marty Hehir. He was a kid with good running credentials who willed himself to have a great career here. He showed people how wrong they were to underestimate him. He epitomizes the Syracuse runner.”

So how will Fox handle this autumn’s over-the-top expectations? How will he guard against over-confidence, complacency?

“I’ll remind everybody, every day that there are several teams out there who think they got a legitimate shot, too,” he says.

Fox pauses for a few seconds, then begins grinning mischievously.

“We’ll run with a chip on our shoulders this fall,” he says. “I guarantee that. Even if I have to make one up.”

Coach Chris Fox (top left) celebrates with the team after learning they’d captured the 2015 NCAA title. The 2016 team, which finished third at the NCAA meet, poses at the annual Cuse Awards after being recognized as the 2016-17 men’s team of the year.
Fashion Sense
Draped in history, the Sue Ann Genet Costume Collection introduces fashion design students to vintage treasures and inspires new creations

BY AMY SPEACH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE SARTORI

This late 1960s velvet palazzo jumpsuit, created by American designer Lisa Merli, was worn and donated by opera singer Nancy Stokes-Milnes.

FASHION DESIGN PROFESSOR JEFFREY MAYER is fascinated with historic clothing. For him, the garments and accessories people once wore are meaningful and revelatory remnants of the past. More than furniture or other decorative pieces, he considers clothing the most personal of all things—objects that were once made or exclusively selected by someone to showcase their personality to the world. When these items have been thoughtfully preserved for years or even for generations, Mayer believes that’s worth appreciating—and sharing. And as curator of the School of Design’s Sue Ann Genet Costume Collection and Research Center in the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), where he catalogs and cares for more than 3,000 women’s garments and accessories dating from 1820 to the present, he finds countless ways to do both. “These garments communicated the wearer’s interests, beliefs, ideals, and place in society, as well as giving the wearer the knowledge that, intrinsically, these garments would somehow transform their physical appearance,” says Mayer, a fashion designer and the collection’s curator since 2009. “Working with historic clothing also gives me the ability to connect with designers whom I will never meet, during a time when they were answering their own set of design questions. Their creativity and ingenuity, like their DNA, remain in their work.”

Situated within the fashion design studios on the seventh floor of the Nancy Cantor Warehouse in downtown Syracuse,
An early 1920s multi-layered party dress of silk taffeta (above), overlaid with silk net that has been decorated with French ribbon roses and a top layer of silver metallic lace.

Professor Jeffrey Mayer and College of Visual and Performing Arts alumna Mary Schalk ’83 (left) look at antique irons from the Genet Collection. The three tailored jackets are featured in Vintage Details: A Fashion Sourcebook (Laurence King, 2016), which highlights 150 pieces from the collection.

With fashion design students (facing page), Mayer looks at a 1997 Bill Blass silk velvet jacket with faux fur collar, embroidered by the House of Lesage, Paris.
The Genet Costume Collection is housed behind closed doors in a climate-controlled space that allows easy access to its racks upon racks of vintage treasures. Items in the collection are used by faculty and students in the School of Design’s fashion design program for everything from mounting exhibitions and providing classroom examples to conducting research and finding inspiration for creating new designs. “The dream was to be able to have students come in here any time and access a collection that they could ‘mess’ with—a study collection,” Mayer says. “When students come in for the first time as freshmen they say, ‘We didn’t know it was going to be like this! It’s like the ultimate closet.’”

For Emily Trenton ’19, walking into the collection is like being transported into a different time period. “You’d never know it was there. And the things you find in there are just one of a kind,” says Trenton, an industrial and interaction design major who is also enrolled in the Fashion and Beauty Communications Milestone, an academic specialization open to students in VPA and the Newhouse School. “There’s so much to see and so much to learn. I could spend hours in there.”

Angela Carucci ’18 first became aware of the costume collection as a student in Mayer’s History of Fashion Design class, a required course for fashion design students. “He made fashion history so much fun, because he would bring down clothes from the era we were studying and we would get to see them all,” says Carucci, who has wanted to be a fashion designer since first grade. “He’s so enthusiastic about everything. And he knows so much!”

Mayer says he often will “grab a rolling rack” and pull it into the classroom to show students examples. “In our technical classes, for flat pattern and draping, it’s the same thing,” he says. “If we’re looking at bias cut dresses like Jean Harlow wore in the ’30s, I can pull dresses out of the collection and they can see what they would look like.”

That’s been helpful for Carucci, who calls the collection her “happy place” and often goes there for inspiration for her own designs. “The ’20s stuff is so awesome! There’s this one swing coat that has all this fringe going down the back, so when you twirl it would all go with you. And there’s a little skier’s outfit that is adorable,” she says. “I love going in there and looking at everything. It’s just nice to be surrounded by clothing. If I could stay in there, that’d be fine. Just check on me every so often.”

THEN AND NOW

The collection has gone through its fair share of transitions and challenges during its lifetime. Established in the 1930s within what was then the School of Home Economics, it grew steadily over the years and was named the American Costume Collection in the 1960s. But in 1972, many of its holdings were destroyed in a fire in Slocum Hall where it was housed. At that time, a call requesting donations went out to alumni, resulting in a huge influx of garments to rebuild the collection.

In the 1980s, Leon M. Genet ’53 renamed the collection in memory of his wife, Sue Ann Genet, a textile artist and sculptor.
longtime benefactor of the University, he was also the driving force behind the Genet Lecture Series, an integral part of SU’s programs in fashion design and retail management. The couple’s daughters, Pamela Genet Barsh ’84, Jill Genet Waller ’87, and Wendy Genet Kaplan ’92, all hold degrees from Syracuse. Another representation of the family’s legacy is the Sue and Leon Genet Gallery, also located at the Warehouse, where the collection’s assets are regularly highlighted in thematic exhibitions created by Mayer and fashion design students.

The collection spent several years in storage before the School of Design moved to its new home in the Warehouse in summer 2011, when Mayer and his assistant had just six weeks to unpack 375 boxes of clothing. “The graduate students who packed it did a beautiful job, but there was no order to any of it,” Mayer recalls. “You’d find a dress from 1820 and something from 1960 and something from 1940. And there were pieces that had been lovingly packed, but you’d pick them up and there was just nothing left. So that was very sad.”

Today, the collection features predominantly American garments, with a focus on high women’s fashion, and includes representative examples of various eras and creations by well-known designers. It also features items worn by eminent women, including pieces from Lauren Bacall’s wardrobe and the purple evening gown Vanessa Williams ’85 wore when she was crowned Miss America. Notable groupings include an impressive holding of the American Progressive Era (1890 to 1920) as well as large individual groupings by such 20th-century designers as Geoffrey Beene, Bill Blass, Mary McFadden,
Items in the collection are used by faculty and students in the fashion design program for everything from mounting exhibitions and providing classroom examples to conducting research and finding inspiration for creating new designs.

“The dream was to be able to have students come in here any time and access a collection that they could ‘mess’ with—a study collection. When students come in for the first time as freshmen they say, ‘We didn’t know it was going to be like this! It’s like the ultimate closet.’”

—JEFFREY MAYER
At the Sue and Leon Genet Gallery (top left), the collection’s assets are regularly highlighted in thematic exhibitions like this one from fall 2014, titled Historic Dress: 1900-2000.

Dresses by Italian designer Emilio Pucci (top right) hang with dresses by American designer George Halley.

This Bill Blass wood grain jacket (right) from autumn/winter 1993-94 was hand-embroidered in Paris by the House of Lesage using patterned sequin and cork beads (above).
and Bonnie Cashin. “We do have some European pieces, including loads of Pucci and some Chanel suits. The students love seeing those. But our strength is solid, beautiful, American ready-to-wear,” Mayer says. “It really is a lovely collection.”

**PERFECT FIT**

Looking back over Mayer’s education and career path, it’s easy to see why he’s a great fit as curator of the Genet Collection. His love for the history of costume and the fashion industry grew from his relationship with a great aunt who was in charge of the costume collection at the University of Vermont. He spent summers with her as a teen, exploring antique stores, going to fashion exhibitions in New York City, and soaking up her knowledge about historic clothing. “It’s funny. She used to say, ‘I never had children, but you’re like my clone,’” he says. “And now I stand here, exactly like her, teaching fashion history and clothing construction.”

Mayer earned a bachelor’s degree in fashion history and design at Linfield College in Oregon, his home state, and a master’s degree in fashion history and museum studies at the University of Connecticut before joining the SU faculty in 1992, teaching classes in fashion design at what was then the College for Human Development. In 1995, he founded a high-end women’s design company with fellow faculty member Todd Conover ’95.

When the business closed in 2007, Mayer turned his focus to designing exhibits. He mounted a major historic fashion exhibition, *Marie Antoinette: Styling the 18th-Century Superstar*, at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse and wrote an accompanying book of the same title. “It started out as a weird little show I did for our students in Lyman Hall—this whole ‘Marie Antoinette: What would she wear today?’—mixing ’50s couture with hats made out of ships,” he says. “That was the start of my going back to my roots of designing exhibits. So when it came time to bring the collection out of storage, it made sense that I would take over as the curator.”

Additional exhibitions include *Fashion After Five: The Clothes and Culture of the Cocktail Hour* at the Onondaga Historical Association in Syracuse and *Styling an American Family: The 1910s* at Gustav Stickley’s Craftsman Farms at the Craftsman Farms Museum in Morris Plains, New Jersey. Both were opportunities to showcase the collection at venues beyond the University. More recently, Mayer co-wrote a book with London-based designer Basia Szkutnicka to call wider attention to the Genet Collection. Titled *Vintage Details: A Fashion Sourcebook* (Laurence King, 2016), it features 900 photographs (taken by SU photographer Stephen Sartori) highlighting 150 pieces from the collection. Among his hopes for the book is that it helps get the word out about the collection, which he considers somewhat of a secret “little jewel” at Syracuse University.

Meanwhile, the collection continues to evolve and grow, with alumni serving as the major source for new acquisitions. Mayer also sometimes searches out pieces by specific designers or as examples of a particular technique as needs arise. One such find was a rare Bill Blass design that features embroidery and beading done at Paris’s House of Lesage—a sparkling and bejeweled treasure that “fits perfectly” in the collection. And there are other surprises, too: the gift of the wedding dress and veil of a former SU cheerleader, for example, along with photos of her from the 1930s, when she was voted most beautiful girl on campus. “It’s fun, because you never know what you are going to stumble across, or what things are going to just show up,” Mayer says. “And when we get pieces that are so closely connected to Syracuse—I love that.” «
AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, HARMEN OSCAR ROCKLER ’13 was determined to spice up his education in journalism and political science with his passion for sailing. One thing led to another, and soon he was on a quest for a lost piece of SU history. Rockler, who had sailed with a program through the Lynnfield, Massachusetts, athletic department during his high school days, was disappointed but undeterred when his queries about a sailing club at SU led to a defunct website and several dead ends. In the fall of his freshman year, he and four other students—Ryan Kossler L’11, Louise Browning ’12, Sharon Burke ’12, and Chad Walz SUNY ESF ’12—embarked on a fresh start to bring sailing to SU. “I wasn’t going to spend four years not sailing,” says Rockler, now public relations and marketing coordinator with Farr Yacht Design in Annapolis, Maryland.

Drawing on an active network, club founders quickly built a membership of about 20 sailors, a governing structure, and funding through SU’s Department of Recreational Services. By 2011, novice and seasoned sailors were practicing on a fleet of Flying Juniors racing dinghies—FJs—on Cazenovia Lake and competing in regattas with the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association. The fledgling Syracuse club was a lot about racing. But interest ran deeper. Kossler, a novice who got hooked after he took lessons in California while home on winter break, was motivated to expand both his sailing and social horizons. “The social aspect is a big part of it,” says Kossler, an attorney in Orange County, California. “But it’s not hanging out and partying. They’re people who are there to sail and to teach others, and there are people who are there to learn. They take it seriously.”

The future looked bright. But Rockler, in particular, was also keenly interested in the past. “I knew from talking to alums there was history to the club, but I didn’t know what happened to it,” Rockler recalls. “I wanted to learn more.” Did the sailing club he and his friends founded mark a beginning? Or was it more a renaissance of some storied past?

One night in Bird Library, Rockler followed that nagging question to the archives on the sixth floor, where a complete collection of Onondagon yearbooks was shelved. Carefully paging through brittle volumes from the late 1930s to the early 1950s, he found group pictures of “yachting enthusiasts” in tweed jackets, dress shirts, slacks, pleated skirts, blouses, and cardigans. He read brief but intriguing entries that suggested a long-forgotten golden age for SU sailors. In 1947, after a hiatus during World War II, the team was part of the Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Club and led by J. Gordon Bentley ’50, who would later be inducted into the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association Hall of Fame. Regattas were held at Navy, Army, Cooper Union, New York State Maritime Academy, and Brown. Cornell, a high-profile rival of the vaunted SU crew and football teams of the day, would also become a prime adversary for SU sailors.

THE McMILLAN CUP SAGA
With flourishing membership and competitive results against elite competition, the club gained varsity status in 1953 and established a dinghy fleet and practice facilities on Onondaga Lake. With piqued curiosity, Rockler began searching newspaper archives, where he learned the ’54 varsity was invited to compete in the prestigious McMillan Cup—the oldest collegiate sailing event—held at Annapolis, against elite Atlantic 10 sailing powers.

In a dramatic account of the April 3, 1954, regatta, The Associated Press reported Syracuse winning a hotly contested race in “high winds and bouncing Chesapeake Bay seas.” Rockler found that fascinating, yet he couldn’t reconcile it with the intercollegiate record, which showed Cornell claiming the cup. The mystery endured until early this year, when the skipper of the SU boat in the ’54 McMillan Cup, Ken Resen ’56 (who later transferred to Yale) was located through journalistic inquiry with the help of social media. Resen, a graphic designer and artist in Manhattan, vividly recalled the race some 63 years ago.

Syracuse did indeed prevail in the first day of racing. It was a sensational moment on a national stage. Sailing 44-foot yaws provided by Navy, rather than club dinghies that are standard issue for most collegiate competitions, the eight-person crews overcame high seas and winds gusting to 35 knots that, according to news reports, split Yale’s jib, broke MIT’s spreader, and, a short distance from the finish, ripped the jib lead from the deck of the Syracuse boat. In the end of the grueling three-plus-hour race, the SU boat surged through the whitecaps—its foresail flogging—35 seconds in front of MIT, followed closely by Cornell and Navy.
Resen, who was chosen as captain for the Annapolis race due to experience on his family’s 44-foot cutter on Long Island Sound, remembers his father yelling himself hoarse from a nearby spectator boat. At the helm of the Navy yawl, Resen could catch some of his father’s phrases on the wind. “I’m not sure they were just words of encouragement,” Resen says. “He was a great sailor, and he had lots of advice.”

In what might be considered a Homeric contrast to the heavy weather on day one, the fleet was becalmed on day two, requiring crews to call on a completely different skill set: coaxing 29,000-pound vessels over an 18-mile course in limp wind and glassy seas. The ships ghosted along for hours on end. With daylight waning and twilight colors burnishing the glassy Chesapeake, SU drifted along in second behind Cornell, a position it had only to maintain to win the cup.

More hours passed. Light faded and the water turned inky black with the boats still miles from the finish. Resen—mindful of rules about racing after dark—believed the race was called and Syracuse had sealed the win based on the first day’s result. As the SU crew dropped sails and motored to port, they were reassured by the sight of other boats also abandoning the course. After reaching shore, however, Resen was astounded to learn from officials that the race was still on. Sometime later, Cornell drifted across the finish in a freshening breeze to claim the title, despite fruitless grievances SU filed with the race committee over interpretation of the rules. “It kept coming back to the phrase ‘...an Act of God’ and how the sun setting may or may not have been related to that,” Resen says, recalling that by then it was nearing midnight. “We had to get back for classes the next morning. It was an impossibly long drive home.”

**READING WIND AND CURRENT**

Resen’s recollections of the ’54 team turned up another lost gem in SU sailing’s pedigree. Advising the team was doctoral candidate Stanley Ogilvy G’54, who went on to a distinguished career as a mathematician at Hamilton College. Moreover, he would become “the wise professor” in the sailing world with genius for marrying science and intuition, romance and pragmatism. Ogilvy authored nine books on either mathematics or sailing, with titles ranging from *Excursions in Number Theory* to *Thoughts on Small Boat Racing* before he died in 2000. His 47 regatta wins, including North American and Austrian titles and a world championship runner-up finish in the 23-foot class known as the Star, remain a benchmark to this day.

When off the water, Ogilvy would find an empty SU classroom in the evenings and give chalk talks on finer points of reading wind and current to interested students. With a short season that limits time on the water, chalk talks are also a big part of the current club.

On an April night, about 20 students gathered at a lecture hall in the Life Sciences Complex. Club alumna member Valerie Wiehl SUNY ESF ’16 demonstrated the physics of hiking out, and then considered possibilities of exploiting a current, various points of sail, true wind, apparent wind, and sailing wind. Factoring all the natural conditions “is a lot of math in your head,” she told the group. “You have to do your homework ahead of time.”

Because sailing on any given day can be approached as a case study of applied math and physics, it often appeals to people with technical backgrounds. But the group is broadly diverse, added Wiehl, an aerospace engineer, former club commodore, and Hobie Cat racer. “It’s for anybody who wants to come out, learn, and have fun,” she says.

In addition to an active group of alumni, today’s club includes about 55 dues-paying members and “learn-to-sail” kids, says Brad Hanford ’18, commodore of finance. Kossler, who was new to sailing when he helped found the club in 2010, met one of his lasting SU friends—Patrick Stege ’14—through their mutual interest in the team. The two still regularly sail at Dana Point in California. Recently, they returned to SU to visit the club’s nautically themed “Sailing House,” which serves as residence and meeting place. There, Kossler signed a centerboard mounted above the mantel bearing the names of commodores over the years.

What’s in the future? Perhaps, someday, the Orange will return to Annapolis to avenge the ’54 loss to Cornell. Regardless, the current generation of Orange sailors is embarking on new adventures. Any chance for victory over the Big Red along the way is a welcome one.
TAP INTO YOUR ORANGE PASSION

HELLO FROM ATLANTA! I AM immensely honored to write my first column as the new president of the Syracuse University Alumni Association (SUAA), after serving on the SUAA Board of Directors for seven years. Our alumni association unites 242,000 graduates across the globe, keeping you Forever Orange. From hosting events where you live to providing career support, the SUAA keeps you in the Orange family—for life.

As a 1989 graduate of the Whitman School of Management, I’ve proudly remained involved with our alma mater since my graduation day—working college fairs from Los Angeles to Miami as an alumni admissions representative and mentoring Whitman students to set them on the path to career success. And, as a member of the Atlanta Regional Council, I’m thrilled to play a role in expanding SU’s presence in Georgia, a state that’s home to 3,500-plus alumni (Can you blame us for moving south to get away from the snow?).

Staying involved means different things to each of us, and I ask you to think about what part of your Syracuse experience was most meaningful to you. In what ways can you tap into that passion and engage with your alma mater? As president of the Syracuse University Alumni Association, I’ll work with my fellow board members to discover innovative ways of keeping each of you connected with campus and aware of the transformation that’s currently underway at SU. It is an extraordinary time to be Orange!

I hope you have made your plans to join us for Orange Central this fall—Thursday, October 5, through Sunday, October 8. We’ve listened closely to your feedback and added more special interest reunions, including for Remembrance Scholar and University Union alumni, and you’ll find that many of our events are family-friendly. Be sure to register soon to take advantage of this year’s Early Orange discount pricing! For the first time ever, we’re hosting a one-year reunion: Welcome back, Class of 2016! In addition, there are special reunions for the undergraduate classes of 1957, 1967, 1992, and 2007 and special recognition for all class years ending in “2” or “7.” Of course, Orange Central is truly a celebration of ALL alumni, no matter your graduation year! The weekend is about returning, reconnecting, and rediscovering—and I am truly looking forward to meeting many of you in person.

Tracy Barash ’89
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association

CLASSNOTES
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

Patricia Crosby De Groot ’48 (WSM) of Marysville, Ohio, received a Lilly Diabetes Journey Award from the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company in February, recognizing her for successfully managing type 1 diabetes for 75 years.

Fred M.B. Amram ’56 (SDA) wrote “The Reluctant Grown-up,” an essay published in the anthology Selected Memories: Five Years of Hippocampus Magazine, the first print title from the online creative nonfiction journal’s book division.

Jean M. Szczypien ’58 (A&S) wrote “Sailing towards Poland” with Joseph Conrad (Peter Lang), described as a “captivating new book” that “deftly reinstates Conrad’s enduring attachment to, as well as complex relationship with his native Poland” and “shows the way in which the language and content of Polish texts, philosophical ideas, and political skepticism… resonated throughout Conrad’s fiction and letters.”

50s


David E. Chase ’64 (ARC), president and CEO of Chase A+EP (architecture and expert practices) in West Palm Beach, Fla., received a 2016 AIA Florida Citizen Architect award, which recognizes “those members who in their daily lives are playing an important part in shaping the world through their leadership.”


60s

Helen Dunn Frame ’60 (A&S/WSM) is an accomplished businesswoman whose experience includes writing, editing, public relations, and commercial real estate. She has traveled extensively in 50 countries and has lived in Costa Rica, England, and Germany. The author of several books, she recently released the third edition of Retiring in Costa Rica: Or Doctors, Dogs and Puro Vida (CreateSpace) featuring a new first chapter, “Retirement 101”—a helpful guide for anyone, regardless of where they decide to live when they retire.
Sarah Glover ’96 ➤

Diversifying News Delivery

“DELEIVERING THE NEWS” HAS BEEN A FOCUS OF SARAH Glover’s life since she was a 9-year-old in Erie, Pennsylvania, when she and her brothers shared a paper route delivering The Erie Times News. “We worked together as a family,” she says, recalling how her parents would drive their children at 5:30 a.m. to a few different locations, where newspapers were packed in big boxes. She and her brothers would take off in different directions, delivering the papers where customers requested—by the front door, in the mailbox, on a side porch.

Today, as social media editor for NBC Owned Television Stations, Glover works out of the network’s Rockefeller Center headquarters in New York City, collaborating with news teams in the major markets, strategizing and training them to develop dynamic stories on their websites that will be picked up and shared on social media sites. Just like newspapers sitting in a box decades ago, today’s news content “is static until it’s delivered somewhere,” she says, marveling at the rapidly changing ways we get our news. “Social media harbors the convergence of technology, culture, and politics.”

Long before the social media revolution, Glover developed a love of photography at a young age and can recall in detail her cameras, from a 110 “point and click” to a purple disc camera and her first 35 millimeter. She took photography classes in high school, developing a passion for the field. As a senior, she visited the Newhouse School and, after a tour with multimedia and design professor David Sutherland, knew she had found the right place. Sutherland became a mentor to Glover, encouraging her to study abroad in London, an experience she says broadened her and allowed her to further develop her photography skills. “Newhouse gave me experience with very talented people,” says Glover, who earned bachelor’s degrees in photojournalism and African American studies (College of Arts and Sciences). “Newhouse is able to push you as a student, to raise your level of skill.”

And while she can talk cameras, Glover says her Newhouse education went far deeper than the latest models. “It’s not the camera you have, or the equipment you own—it’s your eye,” she says. “It’s how to interpret the environment.” Learning how to develop film, using the traditional methods of dodging and burning in the darkroom, taught her how to use light, she says, knowledge that is still important even as she and other photographers moved on to digital cameras.

As an undergraduate, Glover joined the National Association for Black Journalists (NABJ), and she was elected president in August 2015. Her first term ends in August, but she will continue on as the NABJ’s first two-term president. She is passionate about the organization’s goals of diversifying newsrooms, providing fair coverage for minority communities, and supporting journalists of color. “My career has been shaped by this organization,” she says.

After Syracuse, Glover earned a master’s degree in communication studies at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and began her career as a photographer at The Philadelphia Inquirer. She then went on to the Philadelphia Daily News, where she led the video team for the “Tainted Justice” series. The acclaimed 2010 Pulitzer Prize-winning series prompted a federal investigation of the Philadelphia Police Department.

Glover credits her ability to transition from print to broadcast and digital formats to the solid foundation she had at Newhouse, as well as her own willingness to keep growing. “You need to have drive. You have to seek ways to get better,” she says. “You have to commit yourself to learning every day.”

—Kathleen Curtis
Siobhan Sheils G’10  
A Diplomatic Life

MOST PEOPLE WATCHED THE EVENTS SURROUNDING the thaw in relations between the United States and Cuba on the evening news—Siobhan Sheils witnessed them firsthand. As the director for Central America and the Caribbean at the National Security Council (NSC) between August 2015 and February 2017, her role was to coordinate U.S. federal government departments and agencies to advance the policy of U.S.-Cuba normalization.

Sheils traveled to Cuba on President Obama’s March 2016 trip. “It was an honor to represent the United States on the official delegation to Havana,” she says. “My primary responsibility was to staff the president and NSC leadership, including being ready to answer any questions about policy matters.”

It took a lot of behind-the-scenes work to make the trip a success. Preparation involved close coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Havana, the Department of State, and other federal government agencies. “We also sought input from the Cuban American community, and met with stakeholders like think tanks and members of civil society,” Sheils says.

The goals of the broader normalization effort included an expansion of opportunities for authorized travel, commerce, and the free flow of information to, from, and within Cuba. Sheils says Obama’s engagements with entrepreneurs and the human rights community in Cuba, his remarks to the Cuban people, and his interactions with the Cuban government “reflected the overall policy goals of building stronger people-to-people connections and engagement, including on areas of difference.” In addition, the landmark exhibition baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban national team, which President Obama and the First Family attended, “was a moment to celebrate a shared cultural pastime, and listening to the Cuban choir sing the two national anthems was especially moving,” she says.

The Cuban people embraced the opening as well. “Havana is a beautiful, historic city, and the Cuban people I have had the opportunity to meet have been warm, welcoming, entrepreneurial, and excited to engage with U.S. citizens,” Sheils says. “For all of the history between our two countries, we are connected by proximity and a shared love of family and culture.”

In March, Sheils returned to the State Department, where she serves as a program analyst in the Bureau of Human Resources’ Policy Coordination Office. In her new role, she’s been tasked to work with HR experts to look at how to improve efficiencies and maximize employee performance and track compliance with recommendations from government accountability entities. “I’m enjoying the chance to learn about organizational management, and how the department supports professional development of its diplomatic personnel, including Foreign Service and Civil Service,” says Sheils, who earned master’s degrees in international relations and public relations through the public diplomacy program of Maxwell and Newhouse schools.

Her prior work at State included serving as a special assistant to two deputy secretaries and the under secretary for political affairs. She began her career at the State Department as an intern on the Colombia desk. “My interest in working on Latin America policy issues started with a wonderful Spanish teacher in college, and was reinforced through the encouragement and experience of Maxwell and Newhouse professors,” Sheils says. “I enrolled in SU’s public diplomacy program after several years of teaching eighth-grade English in New York City and Newark, New Jersey.”

For Sheils, diplomacy is both national and personal. “Diplomacy can pave the way for cooperation that brings tangible benefits to people,” she says. “As an example, engagement with Cuba has led to cooperation on potentially life-saving medicine, opportunities for students, researchers, and entrepreneurs to share ideas, and collaboration on climate-smart agriculture. Diplomacy isn’t just about formal, high-level meetings—it’s about people-to-people connectivity, and allowing space for citizens to innovate together.” —John Martin
Stephen Marcone ’67 (A&S), G’69 (EDU), G’85 (EDU), director of the music and entertainment management programs at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., co-wrote the sixth edition of Managing Your Band: Artist Management—The Ultimate Responsibility (Hal Leonard), considered one of the foremost publications on artist management in the industry.

Tony Gottlieb ’69 (A&S) retired as dean of LECOM School of Dental Medicine in Bradenton, Fla.

70s

Charles Kegley G’71 (MAX) is Pearce Professor of International Relations Emeritus at the University of Southern California, past president of the International Studies Association, and author of more than 60 books and scores of journal articles on international affairs. He and his wife, Debra Kegley, co-wrote After a Stroke Strikes: A Long Night’s Spiritual Journey into Day (Live Twice Press, 2016), a “spiritually charged memoir” about the couple’s experiences following Debra’s stroke.

Robert J. Sikorski ’72 (NEW) was recognized for his contributions as founder and president of the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service for the Blind with the declaration of March 19, 2017 as “Robert J. Sikorski Day” by the City of Buffalo and Erie County, N.Y. The radio reading service marked its 30th anniversary this year, after broadcasting more than 250,000 hours of radio readings of printed matter to listeners throughout Western New York and neighboring Canada.

Jeff Blumenfeld ’74 (NEW) of Boulder, Colo., is a public relations professional and principal at Blumenfeld and Associates, a marketing public relations firm specializing in consumer product publicity, travel and adventure marketing, and the promotion of active outdoor sports. He was selected by press members of the North American Snowsports Journalists Association as the recipient of the 2017 Bob Gillen Memorial Award.

Robert Seasonwein L’74 (LAW) retired from government service in February 2016, having served the last 12 years as assistant chief counsel for Security Threat Assessment Operations at the Transportation Security Administration. Formerly a senior trial attorney in the criminal division of the Department of Justice, a member of the legal staffs of two major corporations, and of counsel to a law firm, he is now a principal in a homeland and transportation security consulting group. He and his wife live in Chevy Chase, Md., and travel frequently to visit their three children and spouses and five grandchildren who are spread out across the country.

Ken Tucci ’74 (NEW) celebrates 40 years at WBJZ-TV Boston as a special projects news producer, documentary producer, and field director.

Robert P. Mitchell G’75 (NEW), assistant dean for diversity relations and communications at Harvard University, received the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations Distinguished Administrator Award for “excellent contributions to communicating Harvard issues of diversity and the ethno-cultural programs.”

Gerard Boehme ’76 (NEW) is a writer, editor, speaker, and business consultant. His firm, Gerry Boehme Consulting, specializes in strategic planning. His books include Edward Snowden: Heroic Whistleblower or Traitorous Spy? (2017), Heresy: The Spanish Inquisition (2017), John Lewis and Desegregation (2016), and Roberto Clemente: The Pride of Puerto Rico (2016), all published by Cavendish Square Publishing. He has also published many articles dealing with media, advertising, and new technology, and has been a featured speaker at business conferences across the U.S. as well as in the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Korea.

Nitza Milagros Escalera G’76 (EDU), dean of diversity initiatives at Fordham Law School, received the 2017 Giving Back Award from Harvard Medical School in Bradenton, Fla.

Terry Nantier ’79 (NEW) marks the 40th anniversary of NBM Publishing, the graphic novel publishing house he founded while an SU student. The company publishes nearly 20 titles a year, specializing in literary fiction and nonfiction graphic works aimed at older readers. Its current list includes a series of graphic novels commissioned by and published in collaboration with the Louvre Museum in Paris. NBM kicked off its anniversary celebration at the Toronto Comic Arts Festival in May.

80s

Gian-Carl Casa ’80 (A&S/MAX), G’81 (MAX) is president and CEO of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, a statewide association of nonprofit organizations.

Alexandra Courson L’81 (LAW), a harpist and retired lawyer, was selected as runner-up in The Future Blend Project, an international competition for harp composition, for her piece, Neshoma.

Katherine D. Yaeger ’81 (WSM) is director of recruitment and compensation at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Deirdre Sinnott ’82 (VPA) wrote “Right-Sized Rats,” an essay published in the anthology Selected Memories: Five Years of Hippocampus Magazine, the first print title from the online creative nonfiction journal’s book division.

Michael J. Powers ’83 (A&S/MAX) is senior vice president, head of leasing, at Starwood Retail Partners in Chicago, overseeing strategic planning and merchandising of the company’s 30 core properties and redevelopment projects.

Leslie Harrison ’84 (NEW) of Baltimore wrote The Book of Endings (University of Akron Press), a collection of poems that attempt to make sense of or come to some kind of reckoning with absence. Her first book, Displacement (Mariner Books, 2009), won the 2008 Bread loaf Writers’ Conference Bakeless Prize in poetry.

Christine Carona ’85 (FALK/WSM), senior vice president in wealth management at UBS Financial Services in Boston, was named to Forbes Magazine’s inaugural list of America’s Top 200 Women Financial Advisors.

Toby Haber ’85 (NEW) is editorial director and a contributing writer at LA Metro Magazine in Lewiston/Auburn, Maine.
I N M U L A
AL N R O J

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Melur K. Ramasubramanian G'87 (E&CS), program director for the Engineering Research Centers program at the National Science Foundation and D. W. Reynolds Distinguished Professor and department chair of mechanical engineering at Clemson University with a joint faculty appointment as professor of bioengineering, was appointed vice president for research at the University of Virginia in February. He assumes the position in August.

Julie Smith-Clementi '87 (ARC) is a partner at Rios Clementi Hale Studios (RCHS), an architecture and design firm in Los Angeles. In May, RCHS debuted its first monograph, Not Neutral, For Every Place, Its Story, a representation of the firm’s ethos to embrace the community’s ethnography when approaching a new design concept.

Kim Sachse '88 (WSM) is president and CEO of Moxē integrated marketing agency in Orlando, Fla.

Bob Hocking '90 (A&S), a writer and photographer living in Vernon, N.Y., wrote Title Town and Other Tongents (CreateSpace), a collection of essays drawn from his In My Backback website (www.inmybackpack.com). Jonathan R. Kaplan '90 (NEW) of Santa Monica, Calif., is a senior producer at Fox Sports/FSI. He won two Sports Emmy Awards in May: for MLB on Fox, The Postseason—Outstanding Show, Limited Run; and for MLB on Fox, 112th World Series—Outstanding Live Sports Special, Cleveland Indians vs. Chicago Cubs.

James McCuish '90 (WSM) is celebrating 30 years as a globally recognized expert in coaching and implementing best practices in project and business processes, worldwide operations management and operations experience, and proven business-technical expertise.

Elizabeth St. Hilaire '90 (VPA) wrote “Paper Paintings: How to create vibrant masterpieces with hand-painted paper,” an article published in the Summer 2017 issue of Acrylic Artist magazine.

Barclay Ferguson '91 (A&S) is chief financial officer for the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Laura Selverian '91 (NEW) is the district manager at Dentply Sirona Implants, was awarded 2016 Rookie of the Year and 2016 Sales Representative of the Year at the company’s national sales meeting.

Andrew Wasif '95 (NEW), an actor, comedian, scriptwriter, and author living in Los Angeles, wrote Will Beg for Dignity (CreateSpace, 2017), a collection of personal essays, his sixth humor book. Previous books include Hollywood Pruner: Everything You Need to Know Before Moving to Los Angeles (CreateSpace, 2015) and The Boston Globe bestseller Red Sox Fans Are From Mors, Yankees Fans Are From Uranus (Triumph Books, 2010).

Michele L. Haiken '96 (A&S/EDU), a literacy teacher at Rye (N.Y.) Middle School and an adjunct professor at Manhattanville College, co-wrote Gymnify Literacy: Boost Comprehension, Collaboration and Learning (ISTE), in collaboration with literacy experts and gaming professionals.

Thomas Southard '96 (A&S/MAX) is an attorney at Butzel Long in the law firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

Scott Faller '03 (IST/WSM) is a senior custom engagement manager at ServiceNow Inc., a cloud computing company in Chicago.

Liz Meier King '98 (NEW/VPA) is executive director of resource development for the Penn State Alumni Association.

William Warkentin '98 (A&S/MAX) is a U.S. Marine Corps major serving on a multinational coalition task force advising and assisting the 7th Iraqi Army Division in Al Anbar Province. Also serving on the task force is Peter Bobseine '12 (A&S/MAX), a first lieutenant. "It’s a small world and with so few Syracuse alumni in the U.S. Marine Corps, it is quite a coincidence. We are proud to call ourselves SU alumni," Warkentin writes.

Jeffrey D. Lowe '99 (A&S/MAX), L’03 (LAW) is an associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan law firm in Miami.

Leena Mankad Saini L’00 (LAW) wrote Around the World in 80 Purees: Easy Recipes for Global Baby Food (Quirk Books, 2016), a cookbook for parents who want to prepare nutritious and flavorful foods for their babies and toddlers. She is a lifelong foodie who has written about global baby food for babycenter.com, eatdrinkbetter.com, and mosolomommoms.com, an online magazine for moms with a South Asian connection. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and two children.

Tariq Awanw G’02 (E&CS) is an organizational design specialist with Fiscal Reform Public Financial Management Activity, a project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by Deloitte LLC in Jordan.

Takash Koga G’02 (IST) is a librarian-school course professor at the Center for Liberal Arts Education and Research at Nara University in Nara, Japan. He conducts research on library science, archival science, and records management studies, focusing on management of and access to government information. In February, he visited the University of Washington in Seattle for his research and presented a lecture on government information in Japan to the university’s librarians.

Randy C. Mallaber L’02 (LAW) is an associate at Burden, Hafner & Hansen law firm in Buffalo.

Andy Alcindor '04 (IST) of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a litigation support coordinator (eDiscovery) at Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman law firm in San Diego.

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Jenna Lucente ’94 »

Public Art Debut

ARTIST AND EDUCATOR JENNA LUCENTE believes there comes a time in every creative person’s career when something is needed to take one’s work to another level. It may be a special commission or an exhibition at an exceptional gallery or museum. For her, it was a public art project for the new MTA Staten Island Railway Arthur Kill station in Staten Island, New York, which opened last winter. In 2013, Lucente was commissioned by the MTA Arts for Transit program to design the artwork featured in the windscreens at the top of the station’s two towers and pedestrian overpass. Titled Tottenville Sun, Tottenville Sky, the permanent installation consists of 28 large-scale laminated glass panels depicting wildlife and landscape scenes representing the neighborhood’s nature and history. “The station was definitely something that needed to happen for me,” says Lucente, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “I had been wondering, ‘What will it be that takes my work to that next place?’ And it was this project. So I was completely ready for it in every way.”

She’s quick to point out, though, that the project did not magically fall in her lap. She had been applying for a decade for every public art call distributed by MTA. When she was finally invited as one of five artists to present a proposal for the station project, she thought, “This is my time,” and gave it everything she had. That was the beginning of a three-year journey, made even more meaningful by the fact that she grew up in Staten Island. “Part of what made the project special was that I understood the geography and who lives there,” Lucente says. “That’s important in any public piece—that you understand the community you’re trying to connect with. I tried to be really sensitive to that.”

Lucente’s path to success as an artist began in high school and continued at Syracuse, where she studied painting with “100 percent absolutely wonderful” faculty, including Jerome Witkin and Gary Trento. “I loved my experience there,” she says. “Every teacher, every student, every moment of it was exactly what it should have been—challenging, engaging, exciting, a little scary. All the things you want college to be.”

After SU, Lucente earned an M.F.A. degree at CUNY Queens College. She then worked in the publishing industry for nearly 10 years. In 2005, she began teaching as an adjunct instructor, wanting to devote herself more fully to making new work in the studio. Now she teaches art full time at Salem Community College in Carney Point, New Jersey, and lives in Delaware, where she has a studio at The Delaware Contemporary in Wilmington.

Lucente looks forward to continuing to evolve as an artist, creating new drawings and paintings and seeking out additional public art commissions. “It isn’t always easy, but it’s always interesting. If something’s important to you, you have to be willing to put the time in. You have to keep at it,” she says. “It’s a journey, that’s for sure.”

—Amy Speach
Ron Franco ’87 ➤
Adventures in Flight

I WAS BORN IN 1964, AND GREW UP DURING THE
Apollo moon landing days. It was a very exciting time for the
nation’s space program. The early astronauts were often on
Life Magazine and were household names. Many people,
and especially young boys, were inspired by the program. I
remember many of my friends started building model planes
and launching model rockets, received space-themed toys for
Christmas, and began dreaming of flying in space themselves
one day. —Ron Franco

RON FRANCO HAS BEEN FLYING FOR AMERICAN AIR-
lines since 1999 and is a retired Air Force pilot. In May 2016,
he took a step toward realizing a long-standing dream of be-
coming an astronaut. He and three other crew members spent
30 days in HERA, NASA’s Human Exploration Research
Analog, a three-story habitat with an airlock that is located in
the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Franco, who earned a
bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from the Col-
lege of Engineering and Computer Science, says it’s not that
dissimilar from the chamber in which Matt Damon dwelled on
Mars in the movie The Martian.

Franco, who lives in Lockport, New York, when he’s not up
in the air, spoke to Syracuse University Magazine contribut-
ing writer John Martin about his simulated space flight, his
career, and his lifelong passion for flight.

Why do you like to be up in the air?
Since my first ride in a Cessna at 12 years old, I’ve lived a life-
time of flight. The thrill of leaving the Earth for the first time as
a boy still exists, in a small way, every time I fly.

Why was HERA so important?
As we begin reaching out farther into the solar system, it’s im-
portant to identify and solve as many challenges as possible
prior to actual missions. While participating in HERA Mission
X, we were involved in 27 national and international research
programs (www.nasa.gov/analogs/hera/research). Most
of the data that we collected will not be presented for some
time, but we’re already beginning to learn from the HERA
analog.

What was it like to spend 30 days in a space
simulation habitat?
NASA is very good at simulation. From launch to splashdown,
we often felt like we were on an actual mission to intercept
an asteroid. We prepared and ate the same food as on the
International Space Station, lived on a similar schedule, and
responded to simulations of what could occur in-flight. We
used high-definition Oculus Rift virtual reality goggles to
simulate our EVAs (extra-vehicular activities), including
asteroid exploration and spacecraft inspections. Just like
the astronauts on-station, we had weekly personal, medical,
and psychological private conferences via Mission Control
communication. As we simulated getting farther from Earth,
our comm delay with Mission Control increased until it took
about 10 minutes to send a message. This added an enhanced
level of reality, as it forced our crew to act autonomously to
solve time-critical problems.

A little tight in there?
I remember when we were close to completing our mission,
my wife, Deborah, asked, “So, are the walls starting to close
in on you at all?” I said, “Absolutely not... We are so busy that
we don’t have much time to even think about that.” I emailed
astronaut Bob Crippen of the Skylab analog (a 56-day
simulation in the 1970s) prior to our mission and he agreed:
“Keep busy. That’s the secret to success.”
We were very fortunate as a crew—we melded together almost immediately, and recognized and utilized the unique skills that each team member brought to the mission. We used to joke that we would make for a lousy reality television show, because we were virtually devoid of any real interpersonal conflict for the entire mission. If a problem arose, we worked as a team to identify and correct it as rapidly as possible.

So you had the “Right Stuff?”
The early astronauts were mostly test pilots—individuals used to flying solo, making split-second decisions, and accustomed to dangerous situations. For future long-duration space flights, NASA is looking to combine those qualities with extensive scientific backgrounds, plus the ability to work well as a team in a confined environment for missions that could last several years. For HERA, NASA tries to recruit people who are as much like the current astronaut group as possible. My time in the aerospace engineering department at Syracuse prepared me intellectually; and perhaps, the time I spent at Phi Delta Theta fraternity prepared me for the human interaction.

What’s it like being a pilot?
I love flying for American Airlines. I think that being paid to do something that you’ve had a lifelong passion for is the very definition of a great job. I’m also able to explore and learn about places I might not otherwise visit. My son Alex lives in Los Angeles, and I happened to have a layover there recently on his birthday, so my wife used her flying privileges and joined us for dinner. The United States and the world are beginning to see a pilot shortage. Now is a very good time for young people to begin a career in aviation.

Tell us about your time in the Air Force?
As an Air Force pilot, I trained in the supersonic, highly aerobatic T-38 Talon jet trainer. Closer to home, most of my career was spent flying the C-130 Hercules with the 328th Airlift Squadron out of Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The Hercules is a very versatile tactical battlefield transport, so we were often called upon to fly missions all over the world. During my Air Force career, I flew low-level and night-vision combat operations during Desert Storm and the Gulf War; humanitarian support in places like Bosnia and Somalia; and international cooperation missions in Egypt, Germany, and Japan. Ask any veteran—service to your nation is one of the most rewarding things you will ever do.

What do you think about America’s next step in the space program, exploring deep space?
NASA is very actively looking at a manned mission to Mars; using the space station and the moon to support this is also being seriously considered. While robots can and do collect great scientific data, our species yearns to explore space through the eyes and experiences of other humans. It fascinates and inspires us in a way that is unparalleled. I wholeheartedly support the direction that the space program is heading in today.

Can NASA regain the spirit and drive of its early days and greatest successes?
The environment at NASA across the nation is finally beginning to feel very exciting again. Private corporations like SpaceX and Blue Origin are making rapid advances in aerospace. At the same time, NASA is developing the massive Space Launch System and the Orion spacecraft for long-duration flights to the moon and Mars. I would never trade growing up during the first moon landings, but I’m very excited for what the next generation will achieve on Mars and beyond.

Would you be willing to share with SU alumni readers a little-known fact about yourself?
Hmm… Here’s one: Lots of pilots—including this one—have a bit of a fear of unsupported heights! Like looking off a tall building, or walking over a really high footbridge…. It’s not like being secure in a cockpit.

—I’m very excited for what the next generation will achieve on Mars and beyond.” —RON FRANCO
Get ready for blastoff.

10/17/17

Watch for your chance to join the crew!

mission.syr.edu

COMING BACK TOGETHER

12th Reunion scheduled for September

The Office of Program Development will welcome alumni to campus for the 12th Coming Back Together (CBT) reunion, scheduled for September 14-17. The triennial event, the first reunion of its kind when it began in 1983, invites African American and Latino alumni to return to the University to celebrate their successes, see the growth and changes, meet students, and participate in a range of events. “We are looking forward to hosting the 12th CBT reunion,” says Rachel Vassel ’91, assistant vice president, Office of Program Development. “There is a great deal of excitement among alumni this year, as is evidenced by a significant increase in registrations and gifts benefiting the Our Time Has Come endowed scholarship fund. We are grateful for the support and positive energy.”

This year’s lineup features distinguished speakers, workshops, exhibitions, and performances, as well as the SU football game against Central Michigan, and a keynote address at the CBT Gala by NBA legend and former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing ’66, H’06, who led the first Our Time Has Come (OTHC) Scholarship campaign in 1987, raising $1 million for the endowed scholarships. Also at the gala, Chancellor Kent Syverud will award the Chancellor’s Citation to top alumni in recognition of significant civic or career achievements. This year’s CBT co-chairs are Gwynne Wilcox ’74, a partner in the New York law firm of Levy Ratner and longtime CBT organizer and participant; and Jesse Mejia ’97, corporate strategy officer at Volkswagen Credit and founder of Collegiate Catalyst and MBA Catalyst, consulting firms that advise young professionals on pursuing business opportunities. They will be joined by OTHC Scholars Malcolm-Ali Davis ’18 and Leslie Sanchez ’18, who are serving as CBT student co-chairs.

Along with Bing, other distinguished alumni and guests include journalist Soleil O’Brien, who will present a University Lecture on September 14; actor Taye Diggs ’93; radio personality Tarsha Jones ’91, who will host an after-party; and filmmaker Frank Dawson G’76, who will screen his documentary Agents of Change, with a talkback. There will also be performances by Grammy-winning vocalist Lalah Hathaway, comedian Ruperto Vanderpool, and renowned gospel recording artist Kurt Carr.

“CBT has far exceeded the expectations from its inception and has grown into an important and positive gathering of African American and Latino alumni on such a broad scale,” Wilcox says. “It provides for mentoring opportunities, professional connections, and developing deeper friendships among alumni from all classes. Importantly, CBT also provides excellent opportunities to connect SU students to alumni and help broaden their SU educational experiences.”

—From Staff Reports
From the time she first sat on the bench at her older brothers’ Little League games, Christina Myers ’18 has been involved with sports. When the Matthew Brodsky Endowed Scholarship enabled her to enroll in the Falk College’s Sport Management program, she was eager to put her passion for athletics to work—in a largely male-dominated program.

Now the vice president of the Syracuse University chapter of WISE—Women in Sports and Events—Christina is encouraging other women to grow their presence in the field. “It’s to bring women up,” she says. “To show that we’re here, too. We can do this stuff, too.”

Read more at changealife.syr.edu/christina. Then call us at 315.443.1848 to learn how your giving can help provide courageous SU students with the tools to challenge the status quo.

Syracuse University
giving.syr.edu
EMILY TURNER HAS MANY TALENTS. SHE’S AN architect, public policy expert, and lawyer with a passion for writing and photography who loves playing and coaching hockey. Surprisingly, her newest venture is built on a skill that’s not among her strengths: cooking. For the past year, Turner’s energies have been directed toward the goal of opening a nonprofit gourmet grilled cheese restaurant in Minneapolis. But it’s not just about food. The restaurant, called All Square, is also an institute with a mighty mission: It aims to employ and empower people with criminal records, offering them a steppingstone for reintegration into the workforce and, she hopes, a better future.

Although it may seem unrelated, the idea for the restaurant has its foundation in Turner’s experience as a School of Architecture student. “Architecture, and housing in particular, is the common thread that ties together the things I’ve done in the past 15 years,” says Turner, who came to SU from the small town of Wahpeton, North Dakota. “I can sincerely say choosing Syracuse was the best decision I ever made.”

As graduation neared, though, Turner realized she wanted to expand beyond the architecture field. “I got very interested in how cities work and how housing works in urban quarters,” says Turner, who then earned a master’s degree in public policy at Georgia State University in Atlanta. “During that time I started to understand the trends of housing displacement and housing discrimination, which generated my interest in the law.”

After earning a law degree at Loyola University New Orleans, she spent five years as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis, working on issues of prisoner reentry, housing discrimination, and housing segregation. “I discovered that the intersection of housing and having a record was extremely prevalent, and those who have an encumbered past find it virtually impossible to secure housing,” says Turner, who felt helpless to make a difference for the people affected by the injustices she witnessed. “I thought, wow, this is such an issue and there’s so little being done. I could do this for the rest of my career and feel like I’ve virtually done nothing.”

Enter the idea for the restaurant, which is being designed by Syracuse architecture faculty Jonathan Louie ’07 and Nicole McIntosh, and is due to open in early fall. “I do not excel in the kitchen, but I make a mean grilled cheese,” says Turner, who left her HUD position to devote herself to All Square (allsquarempls.com). “I had cooked for my friends one evening and they joked that I should open a restaurant. And maybe a month or two after that I was with my fiancée and I said, ‘You know, what if…?’ What if I could create, with a team of people I really trust, a business and a brand that is actually part of the solution?... I’ve been obsessed ever since.”

The name All Square speaks both to the shape of the sandwiches that will be served there and, more significantly, to the concept of having a clean slate after paying one’s debt to society. Turner sees the restaurant—and the institute—as a way to offer reparations for those who have been excluded and as the first aspect of a larger network of support services, including housing, mental health and wellness, and professional development. “All Square is a response to recidivism and, hopefully, a way to mitigate it,” she says. “So there’s quite an adventure happening.”

—Amy Speach
1932 Alice Scott Wood 1936 Margaret Rodger Fling, Helen Trapp Mosher, Evelyn Rossy Munro, Jane Gilbert Wertz 1937 Dorothy Cater Williams 1938 Anita Nusim Uscher, Carol Dalton Warner 1939 Grace Cermeila Gilbert


Richard “Dick” Dulude ’54, a University Life Trustee and former executive with Corning Inc., died at his home in Georges Mills, New Hampshire, on January 1, 2017. He was 83. A New Hampshire native, Dulude earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering and Computer Science and was a member of the ROTC, later serving in the Army in the Adjutant General Corps. He retired as vice chairman of Corning Inc. in 1993, following a 36-year career that included the development of the company’s fiber optics business. He also headed Corning’s European operations for five years, based in Paris. Dulude served on the boards of several companies, including Dow Corning and Welch Allyn, and was active in higher education as well. He was a member of the SU Board of Trustees and the College of Engineering and Computer Science advisory board, and established an endowed scholarship for engineering students. He was the recipient of the Chancellor’s Medal for Outstanding Achievement (1989) and the Orange Circle Award (2013). He is survived by his wife, Jean, sons Joel ’91 and Jonathan and his spouse, and four grandchildren.

Alfred M. “Skip” Hallenbeck ’52, a University Life Trustee and longtime advocate for the Rochester, New York, community, died on March 22, 2017. He was 86. A magna cum laude graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences and member of Phi Beta Kappa, he served in the U.S. Army and then earned a J.D. degree from Yale Law School. He began his law career with the Rochester firm of Nixon, Hargrave, Devans & Doyle (now Nixon Peabody) and served as a partner from 1963 until 1982, when he joined Sybron Corp. as senior vice president and general counsel. He later was a partner in a management consulting firm and then returned to active law practice for a number of years, ultimately retiring from Ward Greenberg. Hallenbeck was elected to the SU Board of Trustees in 1973 and served as president of the SU Alumni Association and the Alumni Club of Rochester. In 1980, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. In the Rochester area, he was a chair and board member of the Rochester Museum & Science Center, Monroe Community College, WXXI Public Broadcasting Council, and the Automobile Club of Rochester. He is survived by his wife, Joan, three children, Jill Green ’76, Nancy Green G’84, G’97, and William Green, their spouses, and four grandchildren.

Edward Green ’47, L’60, a University Life Trustee who was active in the Syracuse business and philanthropic communities, died on March 2, 2017. He was 89. A native of Syracuse and longtime resident of Cazenovia, New York, Green earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of Arts and Sciences and a J.D. degree from the College of Law. He was a founding member of Green & Seifter Attorneys PLLC and Green & Seifter CPAs. A specialist in real estate law, he was involved in partnerships that acquired such properties as the State Tower Building and the Marx Hotel. He served on the boards of numerous organizations, often with stints as chair, including the Syracuse Symphony, the Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse Stage, and Cazenovia College. Elected to the SU Board of Trustees in 1987, he also served on the Board of Visitors at the College of Law. He is survived by his wife, Joan, three children, Jill Green ’76, Nancy Green G’84, G’97, and William Green, their spouses, and four grandchildren.
Ralph Ketcham G’56, H’99, one of the most beloved and influential professors in the history of the Maxwell School, died on April 26, 2017. He was 89. Ketcham joined the Maxwell faculty in 1951 as a graduate fellow and instructor in the original undergraduate citizenship course, Citt 1: Responsible Citizenship. He earned a Ph.D. in American studies in 1956 from Maxwell and, after teaching at the University of Chicago and Yale, returned to the Maxwell faculty in 1963. A champion of Maxwell’s team-taught, interdisciplinary approach to citizenship education, Ketcham held appointments in political science, history, public affairs, and American studies, and was named a Maxwell Professor of Citizenship and Public Affairs in 1994. Honored for both his scholarship in constitutional and political theory and his teaching, Ketcham wrote several books, including acclaimed biographies of Benjamin Franklin (1966) and James Madison (1971), and also edited the papers of Franklin and Madison for publication. His most recent book was Public-Spirited Citizenship: Leadership and Good Government in the United States (2015). In 1987, Ketcham was named National Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Syracuse presented him with an honorary degree (1999) and the Arents Award (2003), and he was the inaugural recipient of the Chancellor’s Citation for Outstanding Academic Achievement (1979). A fund in his honor, the Ralph Ketcham Endowed Scholarship Fund, supports students in history and political science.

Antje Bultmann Lemke G’54, a professor emerita in the School of Information Studies who, as a young librarian in Germany, helped hide those fleeing Nazi persecution and served as a courier in the German Resistance, died on May 15, 2017. She was 98. After escaping from East Germany to West Germany at the end of World War II, she moved to the United States in the late ’40s and became the University’s art and music librarian in 1952. She earned a master’s degree in library science from the School of Information Studies (then the School of Library Science) in 1954 and began her teaching career when she volunteered to cover classes for a fellow librarian. She retired in 1986 and was honored by the University in 2000 with an Arents Award for excellence in humanitarianism. Through her family and friendships, Lemke was instrumental in ensuring the preservation and documentation of the works of theologian, philosopher, and physician Albert Schweitzer at Syracuse University, which holds the largest collection of Schweitzer papers in the country. Schweitzer was a friend of her father, Rudolf Bultmann, an influential theologian, and she translated into English two of Schweitzer’s books, including Out of My Life and Thought: An Autobiography. A seminar room is named in her honor in the SU Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center and a conference room in Hinds Hall also bears her name. Gifts can be made to the Antje Lemke Scholarship and Book Award fund, which was established at the iSchool when she retired.

Scott Morelli G’05 (MAX) is the city manager for the City of South Portland, Maine. He had served for seven years as the city manager of Gardiner, Maine, and before that was executive assistant to the town manager in Framingham, Mass., for nearly five years. He is a certified manager through the Maine Town, City, and County Management Association and is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association. He lives in southern Maine with his wife, Beth, and their three children, Olivia, Isabelle, and Amelia (and black lab, Bear).

Joseph Murphy ’07, G’16 (VPA) is an art instructor and illustrator residing in Canastota, N.Y., who uses atmosphere and light to create dreamlike images featured in projects that range from book publishing, editorial, and entertainment to gallery work. In April, his project titled 40 was selected as one of the top 25 award-winning entries in the illustration category in a competition sponsored by Creative Quarterly: The Journal of Art & Design.

Nilo Alcala G’09 (VPA), a Los Angeles-based composer and College of Visual and Performing Arts Billy Joel Fellow, received a Copland House Residency Award. The award provides an all-expenses-paid residency for undisturbed creative work at American composer Aaron Copland’s National Historic Landmark home in Cortlandt, N.Y., in September and October. He is the first Philippine-born composer to receive the prestigious award, as well as to be commissioned and premiered by the Grammy-nominated Los Angeles Master Chorale at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Peter Rowley ’09 (EDU) is a relationship manager in the commercial lending group at Tompkins VIST Bank in Spring Township, Pa.

Jessica Gorsky ’10 (A&S/MAX) is an attorney at Carney, Kelehan, Bresler, Bennett and Scherr in Columbia, Md., focusing her practice on estates and trusts and elder law.

Blessed Unami Sikhosana ’11 (UC), G’12 (FALK/MAX), G’17 (FALK) is president of the Syracuse Sunrise Rotary Club. She is the club’s first African woman president.

Flose Boursiquot ’14 (A&S/MAX/NEW) wrote Close Your Eyes, Now Breathe (CreateSpace), a book of poetry that was listed as Amazon’s #1 Hot New Release in Caribbean and Latin American Poetry for five weeks following its release in January. During National Poetry Month in April, she was recognized by Black Entertainment Television (BET) as one of eight noteworthy millennial feminist poets.
KATHRINE SWITZER CREDITS HER FATHER WITH SPURRING her historic running career. As a skinny and insecure 12-year-old, she considered trying out for cheerleading to guarantee her popularity. Her father, though, discouraged the idea. “You want others cheering for you,” Switzer recalled in an April 25 speech in Syracuse. “The game is on the field, sweetie. Life is to participate, not to spectate.”

Soon she was running a mile a day, complaining that it felt “like climbing Kilimanjaro.” Dad encouraged her to hang in. “It’s not about going fast,” she recalled him saying. “It’s about finishing the job.”

That guidance became a mantra, influencing her decision to enter—and finish—the 1967 Boston Marathon as the first woman to officially participate in—and complete—the legendary race. Another early running lesson endures: “Every time I finished a mile, I felt like king of the hill,” she said. “It felt like victory.”

Switzer shared her story at the 2017 Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (WISE) Symposium, a collaboration of the Whitman School of Management, The Events Company, and SKY Armory. Her talk came less than two weeks after she ran the Boston Marathon at age 70—50 years after she made history by breaking what some call “the glass starting line.”

Photos of 20-year-old Switzer, then a Syracuse University junior, running the Boston Marathon stand as iconic images of the modern women’s movement and women’s inclusion in sports.

“That event changed my life and, as a consequence, the lives of millions of women around the world,” Switzer wrote in The New York Times. Now, marathon running attracts millions of women and has transformed “views of women’s physical ability and help redefine their economic roles in traditional cultures,” she wrote.

Change did not come easily. Even her coach, a Syracuse letter carrier named Arnie Briggs, said women “are too weak, too fragile” to run a marathon. Switzer proved her ability, once running 31 miles in a stretch that made Briggs collapse. A few miles into the 1967 marathon, officials realized she was a woman, and one tried to push her—literally—from the race.

“I knew I had to finish to prove women could, should be allowed to get opportunities in running. If I had quit, it would have set women’s running and women back.”

Kathrine Switzer ’68, G’72 »
An Iconic Athlete’s Running Lessons

“I knew I had to finish to prove women could, should be allowed to get opportunities in running. If I had quit, it would have set women’s running and women back.” —Renée K. Gadoua
Jim Morin ’75 »
A Cartoonist’s Purposeful Punch

Jim Morin, 75, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, starts his day by scrolling through Twitter and skimming newspapers. He works, standing at his desk in his Maine home office, television tuned to C-SPAN or other news. By 11 a.m., he emails his Miami Herald editor sketches for possible editorial cartoons. He tries to start drawing by noon and finish at 4 p.m. Then he begins thinking about his next cartoon. “It’s a 24-hour job,” says Morin, who won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning, the second of his career. “I’m reading and consuming news all the time. Then you have to be quiet and let all the information settle down and establish what it is you want to say.”

Ideas pop into his head and his goal is “a direct and honest pictorial expression of what I think,” he says. “I don’t want to make a joke about it. I don’t want to be clever or cute with it. I like direct, mean cartoons. They just state a case and use logic as their weapons: This is what’s going on and it makes no sense.”

That formula worked for the Pulitzer judges, who said his cartoons “delivered sharp perspectives through flawless artistry, biting prose, and quick wit.” Morin collected his first Pulitzer in 1996 and was also a finalist in 1977 and 1990.

Morin, who earned a degree in illustration and a minor in painting from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, spent a semester in London during the end of the Watergate scandal. “Wherever you went, they wanted to talk about Nixon,” he recalls. At the time, he was interested in politics and cartooning. “I fell in love with the world of Edward Sorel and David Levine and Gerald Scarfe, caricaturists who did political work,” he says.

In his senior year, his mother began pressuring him about getting a job after graduation. “One day she just tossed it out: ‘Why don’t you do what Herblock does?’” he says. That’s when he approached The Daily Orange. “I started with one cartoon a week, then two, then four a week,” he recalls. “By the time I graduated, I was doing five cartoons a week. It was just like working for a real newspaper. Without the DO I would not be doing what I am today.”

He’s worked at the Miami Herald since 1978. Before that, he freelanced and worked briefly at The Beaumont Enterprise (Texas) and the Richmond Times-Dispatch. His cartoons run in the Herald and are syndicated nationally and internationally through Morintoons. He has authored several books; the latest is Jim Morin’s World (Herald Books, 2017).

Morin found his style “gradually,” inspired by such artists as Vincent Van Gogh and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. “Rembrandt’s etchings were pivotal for me,” he says. “That’s when I started to use pen and ink.”

That’s still his preferred drawing method, although he colors his cartoons with Photoshop after scanning them into a computer. “There’s nothing like the feel of a steel-pointed 10-nib running against a piece of paper,” he says. “I’ll never stop using it.” He doesn’t even mind the occasional ink splotch. “It’s more natural,” he says. “It’s more free.”

Most of the 20 cartoons in his Pulitzer entry focused on the 2016 presidential campaign. “People say, ‘You must be loving this Trump thing,’” he says, “but it’s a little overpowering. There’s always material without him.”

No matter the topic, the cartoonist’s job is “to be honest and forthright in what we do,” Morin says. “Humor is not the most important element. I have to sit down and think: ‘What do I think about this?’ If you can’t answer that, you shouldn’t be drawing a cartoon.”

—Renée K. Gadoua
Athlete, Author, and All-Star at Encouraging Kids

GROWING UP, TIM GREEN HAD TWO BIG-TIME DREAMS: TO play in the NFL and to become a writer. He's achieved them both—and then some—in big-time ways. Considered one of the greatest talents ever to play football for the Orange, the All-American and member of the College Football Hall of Fame also excelled academically at Syracuse, where he studied writing as an English major in the College of Arts and Sciences and later earned a law degree. Following an eight-year career as a first-round draft pick with the Atlanta Falcons, he has enjoyed success as a television and radio personality, lawyer, and prolific New York Times bestselling author of suspense novels and sports-themed kids’ books. Now he’s having a blast combining his childhood aspirations in pursuit of a new goal: partnering with other pro athletes to teach kids about the joys and benefits of reading.

Since he began writing for young readers 12 years ago, Green has been on what he calls “a mission of love,” visiting more than 1,200 schools across the country and presenting to nearly half a million students. “I speak to kids about the importance of reading and education and kindness—how reading builds character and makes kids better students and better people,” says Green, the author of 35 books, including 19 middle-grade novels. “But also that reading is essentially supposed to be entertaining. That’s my message.”

To help advance that message, he teams up with the NFL to promote the Play 60/Read 20 program, encouraging exercise and reading as fun activities that help kids perform better academically and develop compassionate hearts. He joins with NFL players to visit elementary schools, where they read together for 20 minutes and share 60 minutes of physical activity. “It’s impactful for kids to hear professional athletes tell them: ‘If you want to be an athlete, work hard and go for it, but school is the most important thing,’” says Green, who uses all of the speaking fees he earns to buy books for kids, schools, and libraries that couldn’t otherwise afford them.

His most recent book for kids, *Baseball Genius* (Jeter Publishing), was co-written with legendary New York Yankee Derek Jeter, the first in a baseball trilogy they’ll collaborate on. “I love working with him. He’s a very kind person, soft spoken but very smart, very confident. So it was just a pleasure,” Green says. “At the end, we had a really good book that, I think, not only do readers enjoy the action and the story, but we give them a view behind the curtain of Major League Baseball and the Yankee Stadium experience. That was fun for me, too, as a writer.”

Beyond his work as an author, Green’s professional achievements have included being an NFL analyst for Fox Sports, a USA Today columnist and NPR commentator, host of Fox’s *A Current Affair*, legal commentator on ABC’s *Good Morning America*, and host of ABC’s *Find My Family*. He also has a thriving law career at Barclay Damon in Syracuse, and as co-founder of Team Green Lawyers, a Central New York criminal defense firm.

At the center of all his accomplishments is a rich family life with his wife, Illyssa ’87, and their five children, including Troy ’16, a second-year SU law student, and Thane G’17, a Falk College graduate. He’s grateful for the opportunities the University has allowed him and the people it brought into his life. “I was thrilled to be there and play for Coach Mac and George O’Leary, and I loved my teammates and all at Syracuse—wonderful professors and mentors who I love dearly to this day,” he says. “And by far, my wife is the best thing I got out of SU!”

—Amy Speach
WHILE MANY NEW YORKERS enjoy strolling through Central Park, John Thompson enjoys having a seat and taking in the surroundings with paint brush in hand. Thompson, professor emeritus of illustration in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, has captured scenes from around the world during his career, but turned his attention to the New York City park for his most recent works. The resulting paintings were featured this summer in the SUArt Galleries’ exhibition John Thompson: Central Park at the Palitz Gallery in Lubin House, New York City. The exhibition, which celebrated Thompson’s 22-year career at SU, included 30 watercolors, drawings, and oil paintings, based on five years of explorations in the park.
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