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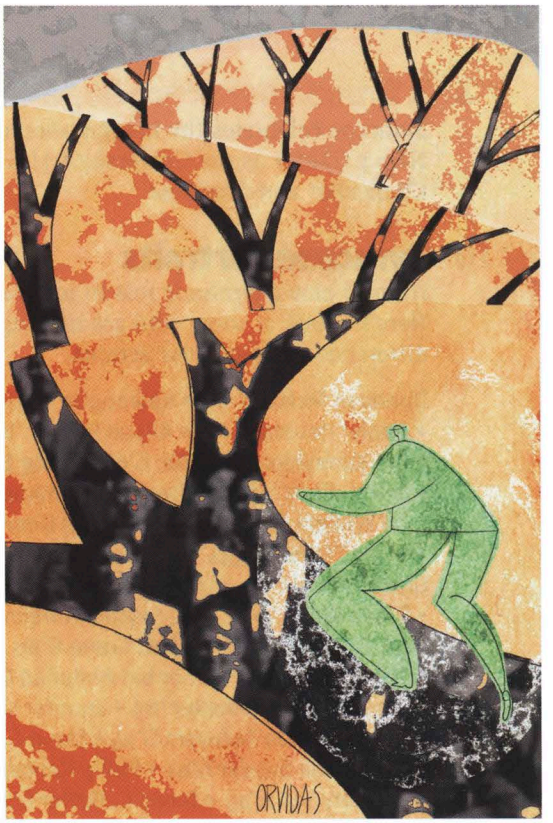
Opening Remarks

Showcasing Success



Ken Orvidas

We all travel different paths in our lives. And as actor Peter Weller '04 said in *The Adventures of Buckaroo Bonzai*, "Wherever you go, there you are." Where Syracuse University alumni end up always intrigues me because of the wide range of their experiences. Here, in this special issue of *Syracuse University Magazine*, we profile a fascinating group of alumni—stellar performers working at numerous professions all over the world. Their successes come in many forms, for there is no instant formula or magic elixir that produces them. One is a scientist who has a microorganism named in her honor. Another plays professional football and cherishes his responsibility as a role model. One works in her native Botswana, trying to rid the country of its HIV/AIDS epidemic. Another is a founding father of the Silicon Valley microchip revolution. There's also a governor, a pediatric nephrologist, a high school principal, a war crimes prosecutor, and a mountain-climbing photographer who's an international children's rights advocate.

These alumni have different backgrounds, interests, talents, experiences, and visions, but what they all have in common is a Syracuse University education. In sharing their stories with us, they recall professors who served as mentors and the influential experiences they had on the Hill, often noting that Syracuse is the place that helped them become who they are today. They all contribute to our society and the world, whether it's through writing song lyrics, providing support for a student's education, creating positive change in a former inmate's life, or delivering a radio dispatch from a far-flung corner of the globe. They take risks. They buck conventional wisdom. They inspire us. They make us laugh. They make us think. They may even enrage us. Most of all, they make us realize how we, as individuals, can make things happen if we're determined and true to our convictions.

We all learn lessons from our successes and failures; what's important is that we are not deterred by the challenges that confront us and keep on keeping on. Through such perseverance, sooner or later, good things often result. From my vantage point, I see that happening all the time among the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Syracuse University. It's a nice reflection on SU—and it shows us a future full of promise.

JAY COX
Editor

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