CENTURY OF SERVICE

SU’s Alpha Phi Alpha chapter celebrates 100 years of leadership, community engagement, and mutual support.

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INC., THE FIRST GREEK-life organization founded by African American students, was born in 1906 at nearby Cornell University and established a Syracuse University chapter in 1910. In April, the fraternity’s alumni and student members gathered on campus in celebration of the chapter centennial. Among the highlights was a keynote lecture at Hendricks Chapel by Hill Harper, who plays the role of Dr. Sheldon Hawkes on the hit television series, CSI: New York. Harper, an active Alpha who attended Brown and Harvard Law School, was a practicing attorney before turning to acting. He is also a successful entrepreneur whose ventures include a New Orleans French Quarter hotel and a Beverly Hills restaurant. The range and quality of his achievements reflect the organization’s long-established values, as did another of the weekend’s activities—a group visit to the Southwest Community Center and the Syracuse Boys & Girls Clubs, where fraternity members regularly volunteer as mentors and tutors to Syracuse schoolchildren. “Alpha Phi Alpha is a fraternity like no other,” says Jake Tansley ’86, human resources director for SU’s Division of Advancement and External Affairs. “Although we’re probably best known for high academic standards and careers in the professions, I believe the thing that really sets our organization apart is a shared passion for leadership and community service.”

Evidence of that passion is abundant. On the national level, a brief list of notable Alphas includes the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Prime Minister Norman Manley of Jamaica, NAACP founder W.E.B. DuBois, and activist humorist Dick Gregory. Although less well known than these historical figures, members of Syracuse’s Delta Zeta Chapter have made a difference in shaping campus life: McArthur Sullivan ’74, the first African American president of the SU Student Association; Ervin C. Allgood ’77, co-founding director of the Black Celestial Choral Ensemble; Richard Lendor ’88, student chapter president of the Society of Minority Architects; and Jared M. Green ’01, student chapter president of the National Society of Black Engineers. “Alphas have always set the bar high,” says Rob Lewis ’84, a former ABC News producer who is now president of Broadcast Management Group LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based news production company. “When I arrived on campus in 1980, it was clear that to be an Alpha man you had to be actively engaged in some leadership capacity, be that in campus student government, athletics, or the Syracuse community.”

Among other notables spotted at the centennial reunion were Arthur Vaughn ’92, controller of Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia; Mack Rice ’82, multicultural director for Met Life in the New York City area; actor Darryl M. Bell ’86 (A Different World, Spike Lee’s School Daze), a winner of the Chancellor’s Citation; and William J. Haskins Jr. ’52, the senior member in attendance, who pledged Alpha more than 60 years ago. Haskins, a running back for the Orange football team, won letters in track and gymnastics as well, and was instrumental in reviving Alpha Phi Alpha at SU after World War II. He went on to earn a master’s degree in social work from Columbia University and had a distinguished career, including a stint as a director of the National Urban League. Now retired, he makes his home in Richmond, Virginia. “Even among all the prosperous, successful alumni you expect to see at an Alpha Phi Alpha event, William Haskins is a walking advertisement for healthy living,” says Larry Martin, associate vice president for program development at SU. “I don’t think he has gained an ounce since he carried the ball for the Orange.” Martin praised the Alphas for their loyalty to each other and their generosity to students.

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Jake Tansley ’86, human resources director for SU’s Division of Advancement and External Affairs.
SU students through the Our Time Has Come Scholarship Campaign and other initiatives.

While many Greek organizations engage in community service these days, Alpha Phi Alpha has been involved in such projects since its founding. “The desire to give back and contribute to society is a critical piece of what we’re all about,” Tanksley says. “For example, we are very proud of the voter registration campaigns we conduct under the motto, ‘A Voteless People is a Hopeless People.’” In addition to their tutoring work, Alphas award an annual scholarship to a college-bound Syracuse high school senior; carry out health initiatives, including sickle cell anemia screening; and engage in a wide variety of fund-raising programs for charitable foundations. The Syracuse chapter has been recognized for its many efforts by Alpha Phi Alpha’s national organization, and was designated National Collegiate Chapter of the Year in 1980. This is no small achievement, considering the hundreds of chapters in the United States, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, South Korea, and elsewhere that bring similar levels of commitment and talent to their community work.

Lewis, an Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist, recorded a series of interviews with members who talk about their experiences in Alpha Phi Alpha and how the organization helped to shape their lives (see alpha-phi-alpha.com). “I’ve been an Alpha for 28 years and I remain active today for the same reason I joined,” Lewis says. “It’s an opportunity to work with like-minded individuals toward a common goal of improving the lives of others as illustrated in our motto: ‘First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All.’”

—David Marc
opportunity to experience the diversity of a large university. I’m happy to say SU becomes more diverse with each passing year. In fact, our newest group of first-year students is the largest, most diverse incoming class in SU’s history.

These students will experience the same kind of excitement and anticipation we felt when we started our journey on the Hill. If you would like to relive some of your own fond memories, please join us for Orange Central this fall. The weekend of October 14-17 will feature class reunions, a homecoming football game with SU’s traditional rival Pittsburgh, meetings with individual schools and colleges, alumni award ceremonies, various affinity group get-togethers, and much more.

This year the Orange Central experience will be enhanced with four themes that will resonate throughout the weekend.

- Celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hillel at SU with tours of the Winnick Center and lively panel discussions that will explore Hillel’s rich tradition and service to the Jewish community, on and off campus.
- Learn about the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, which continues SU’s tradition of welcoming those who serve our country, from the World War II veterans who attended SU on the GI Bill to today’s veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.
- Commemorating the 20th anniversary of passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act with informative presentations from the School of Education, the new Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education, and the nationally recognized Burton Blatt Institute.
- Join us as we show our support of the arts in the City of Syracuse, with special recognition of video artist Bill Viola ’73, H’95 and his use of image and sound to create an artistic experience.

We look forward to warmly welcoming our first-year students, and all SU alumni who come back to campus for Orange Central 2010. See you in October!

Larry Bashe ’66, G’68
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association
he and his wife, Lorraine Chesna Ayanian ’59 (NUR), celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Lawrence M. Ginsburg L ’55 (LAW) of Atlanta wrote Tales of and about Jewish Youth During the Fin-de-siècle Era: An Annotated Gazette for a Transitional Decade in Upstate New York (University Press of America), which explores life at Jewish orphanages, examines a weekly Jewish journal, and profiles individuals and Jewish associations.


Janet Teitell Langsam ’55 (CHE), executive director of the Arts-Westchester council, received the Woman of the Year award from the Westchester County Federation of Women’s Clubs.


Cindy Blum Fries ’58 (SDA) and Arthur L. Fries ’58 (WSM) celebrated 50 years of marriage in March. Arthur is a disability claim consultant.

Hall Groat Sr. ’59 (VPA) of Manlius, N.Y., was featured in The Peacetime Draft During the Cold War, a book by Mel Rubenstein ’57 (WSM). In the book, Groat describes life as a Korean combat veteran and his experiences as an occupational soldier. A self-employed artist whose paintings and murals are showcased in Syracuse, Groat has published several letters and stories and is writing a book about the business of art.


Donna L. Miceli ’62 (NEW/VPA) of Fort Myers, Fla., is the 2009-10 administrator of web site and Internet technology for the American Medical Writers Association. A self-employed copywriter, editor, and public relations consultant specializing in health care communications and business-to-business writing, she has written numerous health care books, patient education brochures, and other publications.

Harry M. Bobonich G ’64 (A&S) retired from Shippensburg (Pa.) University as dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. He wrote his fifth book, The Great Depression: Hard Times in the Coal Region, which includes articles from newspapers in Schuykill County during the 1930s and a section depicting the hardships of women.

Richard W. Cost ’64 (A&S) is retiring after six years active duty in the Navy and 40 years in higher education. For the last eight years he served as president of the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

James A. Jacobs ’65 (A&S), G ’66 (NEW), G ’74 (MAX), wrote Transgressions (Palo Alto Books), a coming-of-age novel about the son of a Jewish professional boxer who makes a life-changing discovery while being sheltered on an Indian reservation. Jacobs is an ex-Marine and former journalist who lives with his wife, Susan, in Berkeley, Calif., and teaches English at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill.

Harvey Kaiser G ’65 (ARC), G ’74 (MAX) of Syracuse wrote his 15th book, Strategic Capital Development: The New Model for Campus Investment (Association of Physical Plant Administrators), which presents an innovative approach for planning higher capital investments.

Marsha McCreadie ’65 (A&S) of New York City wrote Documentary Superstars: How Today’s Filmmakers are Reinventing the Form (Allworth Press), which explores how past documentary filmmakers laid the groundwork for today’s works.

Howard Ross ’65 (SDA) of Charlotte, N.C., teaches English as a second language at International House, an international diversity center that promotes multicultural understanding.

Judith Emerline Bertini ’66 (A&S) of Annandale, Va., retired after more than 35 years of service with the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, where she was deputy assistant administrator for intelligence.


Steve Kroft ’67 (NEW), SU trustee and noted broadcast journalist with CBS’s 60 Minutes, was inducted into the Howard County Hall of Legends in his hometown of Kokomo, Ind.

John Favalo ’68 (NEW), managing partner for Group B28 at Eric Mower and Associates, received the G.D. Crain Award for business-to-business marketing excellence at the 2010 National Business Marketing Association (BMA) Conference. The award carries with it election to the BMA Hall of Fame and an honorarium from the Crain Foundation.

Barry “Bob” Roth ’68 (Utica) of Montgomery, N.Y., is known as “The College & Career Success Coach.” His most recent book, College Success: Advice for Parents of High School and College Students, inspires parents to team up with their children to ensure they perform well in college and land a good-paying job with a respected employer after graduation (www.autorhouse.com).

Roger Simpson ’68 (A&S), a plastic surgeon at Long Island Plastic Surgical Group, was named one of Long Island’s Top Doctors by Newsday. A senior partner who has been with the practice since 1980, he directs the Center for Facial Paralysis, restoring loss of facial nerve function caused by stroke, disease, or traumatic injury. He also focuses on burn reconstruction and hand surgery, as well as performing general plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Bruce Bloch ’69 (A&S), L ’71 (LAW) of Fair Lawn, N.J., teaches negotiation, dispute resolution, contracts, real estate, and other courses at various colleges and at Lot and Block Solutions.com.

Ray Brown ’69 (A&S) wrote Linda and the Robot (Bookemon), a children’s storybook and a sequel to Linda and the Time Machine.

John D. Hardy ’69 (A&S), G ’70 (LCS) retired as a member of the principal professional staff from The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Md. He worked on various Department of Defense and Department of Transportation programs during his 34 years at the lab.

Mike Krebs ’69 (LCS), G ’73 (WSM) of Hudson, N.H., joined the sales team at Hamamatsu, a leading supplier of photonic components and systems, continuing a career focus on electronic test and measurement systems. He plays soccer in a competitive league.

June Buchanan ’13 (1886-1988) co-founded Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, where the alumni center and the college’s K-12 prep school are named in her honor. Buchanan was the youngest of three sisters from Moravia, New York, in neighboring Cayuga County, to attend Syracuse University, where she earned a degree in botany. During graduate studies at Wellesley College, she learned about Lloyd’s work in Appalachia, went there to do volunteer work, and ended up making educating the children of poor, rural families her life’s work. Lloyd and Buchanan established more than 100 elementary schools in Kentucky and, in 1923, chartered Caney Junior College, which later became Alice Lloyd College. Buchanan served the college, which provides all of its students free tuition under a work-study program, until her death in 1988. She was a member of the SU alumni board and was honored with the University’s Arents Award in 1955 for her contributions to the field of education.
and is a youth and college referee, and enjoys skiing and hiking in the White Mountains.

Richard Sherman ’69 (A&S) married Donna Tirado. They reside in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jeffrey Fuchs ’70 (A&S) of Eden, N.Y., earned a J.D. degree from the University of Buffalo Law School in May 2009 and was admitted to the New York State Bar in February 2010.

Stephan Katz G’70 (WSM) is regional manager of government services at Retired, a company in Los Angeles. He recently retired as a colonel after 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, having served in 350 combat missions and two tours in Vietnam.

Augustine Ubaldi ’70 (LCS) of North Olmsted, Ohio, is working as an expert witness in the fields of aviation and railroads. He also completed teaching three classes in the construction engineering technology program at Cuyahoga Community College.

Gorham L. Black III G’71 (MAX) is Maryland state director of Selective Service, a presidential appointment. Black is a Vietnam combat veteran who retired from the Army in 1990 after 27 years of service.

Joanne Mehling Budler ’71 (A&S) is the 16th state librarian for Kansas, appointed by Governor Mark Parkinson and confirmed by the Kansas Senate in February.

Nicholas Donofrio G’71 (LCS) was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit organization that provides systems engineering, research and development, and information technology support to several federal government agencies.

Roslyn A. Mazer ’71 (A&S) is inspector general of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in Washington, D.C., responsible for policy direction and inquiries related to the office’s programs and operations.

John Triggs L’71 (LAW) of Nash- ville was named one of Tennessee’s “Best 150 Lawyers” by Business TN magazine. He was chosen out of 18,000 practicing lawyers for his expertise in property law.

Karen DeCrow L’72 (LAW) received the President’s Medal from SUNY Oswego, recognizing her pioneering work in gender equality.

Kevin F. McMurray ’72 (A&S), a freelance journalist living in Brewster, N.Y., wrote One Dark Night, a crime book about Carlos Perez-Olivo, a disbarred attorney convicted of murdering his wife of 30 years in Chappaqua, N.Y., in 2008.

Shelley Rotner ’72 (A&S) of Northampton, Mass., co-wrote and illustrated Shades of People (Holiday House), a nonfiction book for preschoolers. She is an award-winning author and photo-illustrator of more than 30 books that has had photographs published in National Geographic and other magazines.

Sharon Steingard ’72 (A&S) is a partner at the Philadelphia law firm of Willig, Williams and Davidson. An author and frequent lecturer, she is an arbitrator for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Susan Sherman Stendhal ’73 (A&S), a certified fund-raising executive since 2002, is director of development for the Eastern New England Council of Hostelling International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding, environmental stewardship, and world peace through travel.

Ned Tillman G’73 (A&S) received an award from the American Society for Public Administration for The Chesapeake Watershed: A Sense of Place and a Call to Action (Chesapeake Book Company). His book was also recognized as the 2010 Best Book on Environmental and Natural Resources (www.TheChesapeakeWatershed.com).

Judith L. Howe G’74 (MAX), geriatrics professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, will be the next editor of Gerontology & Geriatrics Education, effective January 2011.

Susan Schwartz Hubbard ’74 (A&S/New), G’84 (A&S), professor of English at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, has published her seventh book, The Season of Risks (Simon & Schuster).

Barry R. Kogut ’74 (A&S) of Syracuse, N.Y., is the new chair of the 1,158-member Environmental Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. A partner at Bond, Schoenbeck & King, he concentrates his practice in environmental law, including federal and state regulatory compliance and enforcement matters.

Omer Bin Abdullah G’75 (NEW) of Herndon, Va., is editor of Islamic Horizons, the flagship magazine for the Islamic Society of North America. The magazine was among the winners of the 2010 DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards presented by the Religion Communicators Council for demonstrating excellence in religious communications and public relations.

Philip Geier G’75, G’80 (MAX), executive director and co-founder of the Davis United World Scholars Program, was the 2010 commencement speaker at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Sharon R. Klein ’75 (SW) is a partner with Pepper Hamilton law firm of Irvine, Calif., was elected to the Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation Commission, a voluntary, self-governing standards development organization established to develop standard criteria and accreditation organizations that electronically exchange health care data.

Tom Klinkowstein G’75 (NEW), president of Media A in New York City, wrote and performed with Alicia Howes in a one-minute video, The Symposium, 2030, at CeBit, an international technology conference in Hannover, Germany. The presentation uses Plato’s dialogue as a metaphor for the melding of the physical and virtual worlds during the next two decades.

Jane Varieur LeClair ’75 (A&S), G’89 (EDU) has been named dean of the School of Business and Technology at Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y.

Thomas Fensch G’77 (NEW) wrote Behind Islands in the Stream: Hemingway, Cuba, the FBI, and the Croak Factory (Universe), which explores the back story of the Ernest Hemingway novel. Fensch is the author of 29 nonfiction books and is chair of the mass communications department at Virginia Union University in Richmond.

James L. Hale L’77 (LAW) of Webster, N.Y., takes a humorous look at golf in his new book, Golf Sonnets, which features 18 amusing illustrated Shakespearean sonnets about the links from tee to green (www.GolfSonnets.com).

Steven A. Paquette ’77 (NEW), L’79 (LAW), an attorney with the Syracuse law firm of Green & Seifter, co-conducted a seminar at the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. The presentation offered insight to businesses regarding New York State increases in investigations into sales tax delinquency.

Claire Cook ’77 (A&S/New), best-selling fiction author, wrote Seven Year Switch (Hyperion Voice), a warm and funny novel about a single mom whose life is changed when her ex-husband returns. Cook is the author of six previous novels, including Must Love Dogs, which became a Warner Bros. movie starring Diane Lane and John Cusack. Married with two grown children, she lives in Scituate, Mass., and offers writing support and free reinvention workshops for women (www.clairecook.com).

Victor Vallo Jr. ’77 (VPA) is professor of music and chair of the music department at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga. He was formerly chair of the music department at Immaculata University in Pennsylvania (2004-10) and the music director/conductor of the Anderson Symphony Orchestra in South Carolina (2001-04).

Karen J. Docter G’78 (CHE), G’81 (EDU), L’90 (LAW) was honored by Onondaga Community College in Syracuse to be part of Alumni Faces, a permanent display recognizing alumni who have made significant contributions to the betterment of society through their professional pursuits, community involvement, and humanitarian efforts. Docter has a law practice in Fayetteville, N.Y., concentrating on family law.
IN THE FIRST PERSON

RUNNING FOR AVERY  BY MIKE TUBEROSA

PATRIOT’S DAY IS ALWAYS AN EVENT FOR PEOPLE FROM the Boston area. Held annually on the third Monday in April, it commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord that launched the American Revolution and is celebrated with a holiday, the Boston Marathon, and a Red Sox game at Fenway Park. Being a Massachusetts native, it was even more special for me in 2010. I had the privilege of running in the Boston Marathon for a courageous little girl.

Her name is Avery and she is the 6-year-old daughter of Mike Toole ’90 and his wife, Cheryl. Mike is the first person I met at Syracuse when I was a freshman and has remained one of my best friends ever since. Avery has already overcome more challenges than I could ever imagine my kids facing. She has undergone nine open-heart surgeries since she was born. In March 2009, her heart failed, but she was revived and began a long, painful stay in the hospital.

Avery was on life support four times before it was determined she needed a heart transplant. She was put on a list to receive a heart in June 2009 and for two months was kept alive with a Berlin Heart, an artificial device that kept her heart functioning until a donor was found. On August 6, the Tooles received news that a donor had been located and Avery received her heart.

None of this would have been possible without the medical team at Children’s Hospital in Boston. The caring physicians and staff gave her a second chance at life. Avery remained in Children’s until October 22, when she was finally healthy enough to return home.

When Avery was in the hospital, a group of Mike’s SU friends tried to come up with a way to help the family during these tough times. The Tooles requested that anything we decided to do should benefit Children’s. The six of us brainstormed over the phone. During one of those moments when your heart takes over for your head, I said that maybe I could run the marathon to raise money for Children’s.

After a little investigation, I learned of Children’s Miles for Miracles program. In early October my application was accepted to join the program and run in the 114th Boston Marathon. I immediately set out to start the training—and the fund raising. With the help of former Orange classmates David Spindler ’90, Christopher Muratore ’90, Andrew Lill ’90, Pratish Patel ’90, and Steve Trofkin ’90 and Mike’s friend Mark Berman, we found out just how generous people can be, even in these trying economic times.

The race was everything I could have imagined. I stayed with the Tooles for two days leading up to the marathon and went to the hospital’s reception with Cheryl and Avery on Saturday. Hearing the stories of people who would be helped by the money we raised was one of the most emotionally moving and uplifting events I have ever experienced. It made me realize that what we were doing for Children’s was much more important than my finishing time in the race.

The family brought me to the starting line in Hopkinton and wished me well as I ran the 26-plus miles to downtown Boston. The crowd was outstanding and the experience was one I will always remember. With everything that goes on in life, it is not often that you get to do something that can really benefit people both now and in the future. It was a great feeling knowing that our group helped the Tooles, other children, and their families have a better life. I am so grateful that Mike, Cheryl, and Avery allowed me to do this for them. It’s been 24 years since Mike and I met during orientation back in 1986, but the friendships that all of us made at SU are still going strong.

Mike Tuberosa ’90 lives in Philadelphia, where he is the assistant athletic director for communications at Drexel University. For more information on his fund-raising effort and to read more about Avery, visit https://howtohelp.childrenshospital.org/bostonmarathon/pfp/?ID=TM0066.

Photo by Steve Lipofsky
https://surface.syr.edu/sumagazine/vol27/iss2/11
The Kwasnowski family came together during Commencement Weekend to celebrate the graduation of Nicole, the fourth of Dave and Lisa Kwasnowski’s children to earn an SU degree. The family includes (left to right) Lauren, David ’02, Linda, Andrew ’05, Nicole ’10, Dave, Lisa ’00, and Liz ’13.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

LISA KWASNOWSKI-FARB ’00 HAD NO IDEA WHEN SHE stumbled upon Syracuse University on the way back from visiting SUNY Oswego in 1996 that she was starting a Kwasnowski family tradition. But since her enrollment at SU, four siblings have followed. In fact, two of Lisa’s sisters were on campus together this year: Nicole graduated in May, and Liz, the fifth to attend, just completed her first year. “We’ve had the same SU sticker on our car for 14 years now,” Liz says.

No one from the Kwasnowski family imagined so many of them would attend the same school, but they all found SU satisfied their differing academic interests. Lisa majored in finance and marketing, while David ’02 studied biology, and Andrew ’05 majored in civil engineering. Nicole studied psychology and child and family studies, and Liz is a sport management major. “Even though we all went to Syracuse, we managed to find diversity within the University,” Andrew says.

Although they pursued different majors, the five have shared similar experiences on campus. A family of Orange fans, they frequented football and basketball games. David and Andrew even traveled to New Orleans in 2003 to see the Orange win the NCAA basketball championship, while Nicole journeyed to Memphis in 2009 to watch Syracuse play in the Sweet 16. The four oldest all worked at Faegan’s Pub, and Liz expects to do the same. Lisa, Andrew, Nicole, and Liz participated in Greek life, with Nicole and Liz both members of the Delta Gamma sorority. Overall, the five have found Syracuse to offer a good balance of work and fun, and feel that campus, a three-hour drive from their home in Kingston, New York, is just far away enough to give them independence.

Lisa recently married Jon Farb ’00, adding to the family’s Orange glow. The family has also collected other SU fans along the way. Steve Latour ’80 married father Dave Kwasnowski’s sister, Meg, while David and Andrew were in school. “Jon and I now consider ourselves the branches to the SU/Kwasnowski family tree,” Latour says. And that tree could be branching out even more: Several cousins, now in high school, have SU on their radar. There is also the matter of the youngest Kwasnowski, Lauren, a high school junior who will begin her college search this fall. Perhaps this SU connection isn’t a coincidence after all. “We promote the school to family members, teammates of my children, everyone,” says Linda Kwasnowski, mother of the six. “SU has been like a home away from home for all of my children. They’ve all been so happy there.”

Parents Dave and Linda Kwasnowski have been happy with SU, too. When Linda first visited the University with Lisa, she remembers feeling an immediate connection. “I fell in love with Syracuse the minute I walked on the campus,” she says. Like their kids, the Kwasnowskis were attracted to Syracuse’s sports, academic, and study abroad programs as well as the overall campus appeal. While covering college costs for five children through more than a decade hasn’t been the easiest task, Linda, a school nurse, and Dave, a schoolteacher, are glad their kids have thrived during their time on the Hill. Although they chose to forgo a few personal luxuries, Dave and Linda are thankful the five have earned scholarships and grants to augment the SU financial aid packages. Overall, Dave and Linda agree it has all been worth it. “Financially, it has been a sacrifice for my wife and me,” Dave says, “but the returns on our investment are priceless.” —Kelsey Bennett
FROM THE HEART

IF WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF SPECIALIZATION, AMIN Al-Ahmad ’92 has not heard the news. A bioengineering major at the L.C Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, he graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and was a University Scholar. Turning his attention to medicine, he earned an M.D. degree at Tufts and, while interning at Tufts—New England Medical Center, received the hospital’s award for outstanding patient care. Since joining the Stanford medical faculty in 2003, he has won the E. William Hancock Cardiovascular Medicine Teaching Award, been named a faculty fellow, and was appointed medical director of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory. A researcher and inventor, Al-Ahmad is co-holder of the patent for an in-vivo physiological monitoring system that enhances the view of the heart during surgical procedures. A prolific writer, he regularly publishes in medical journals and has co-edited two books: Electroanalytical Mapping (2008) and Pacemakers and Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (2010). How does he find the time to engage—and excel—in all these pursuits? “I often come in to work very early, so as not to take time away from the family,” Al-Ahmad says.

Achieving academic excellence did not prevent Al-Ahmad from taking part in campus life at SU. He has particularly fond memories of working as a tutor in the SummerStart program. “Most of the students were from less advantaged schools and they were trying to make sure they were ready to start college,” he says. “It was a blast. It led me to get involved in other tutoring programs at the University.” In his senior year, he was elected president of the SU chapter of Tau Pi Beta, the national engineering honor society, and was named a member of the inaugural group of Remembrance Scholars. “Sometimes we joked that as engineering majors, we lived in the basement of Link Hall and didn’t see the light of day much,” Al-Ahmad says. “But actually, the campus life was fairly rich. I got to know a lot of people and make friends in different areas.”

When Al-Ahmad applied to medical schools some 20 years ago, his engineering degree was considered an unusual credential. But times have changed. “It’s become more common for med students to be bioengineering majors, especially if they go into certain high-tech fields, such as my field [clinical cardiac electrophysiology] or orthopedic surgery, where the engineering background helps them.” Al-Ahmad also believes that physicians and engineers have much to say to each other. He has on several occasions hosted L.C. Smith engineering students at his Stanford lab, showing them, first-hand, how they can apply their skills. In January, two bioengineering majors, Joey Priola ’10 and Mari Allison ’10, spent a week as his guests on the California campus. “We benefit a lot from engineering advances,” says Al-Ahmad, who is working on a technique for generating 3-D images of the heart. “At Stanford, we now have engineers who come in and do clinical support work, solving real patient problems with new designs. I am no longer a practicing engineer, but I do know when I need one.”

—David Marc

Cheryl Bernstein ’79 (NEW) married Brian Hebb. They reside in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Laurie Fabiano ’79 (VPA) wrote Elizabeth Street (AmazonEncore), a multigenerational historical fiction based on her own family narratives and a deep understanding of the Italian American experience.

Gary A. Grossman ’79 (WSM), a managing partner at Green & Seifter Certified Public Accountants in Syracuse, joined the Everson Museum of Art board of directors. He also earned the personal financial counselor designation with MHN Government Services, allowing him to provide financial management services to military families and service members.

Sharon A. McAuliffe G’79, (MAX), L’92 (LAW) of Jamesville, N.Y., an attorney with Green & Seifter, spoke at the 2010 Estate Planning Update held in Syracuse.

William J. Rita ’79 (A&S) and wife Ena Marini announce the birth of their son, William Fabrizio. They reside in New York City.

80s

Roger Crosley G’80 (NEW), coordinator of athletic operations at Emerson College in Boston, was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame.

Caroline Wise Fox ’80 (ARC) is architect for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, responsible for all planning, design, and construction on the 500-acre campus.


Nemir Matos-Cintrón ’81 (NEW) of Orlando, Fla., was one of 60 international writers invited to participate in the first Festival de la palabra, held in San Juan, Puerto
Gaëlle Simon ’00 » RELIEF EFFORTS

WHEN HER MOTHER CALLED FROM HAITI SOON AFTER THE earthquake hit on January 12, Gaëlle Simon ’00 knew her family and childhood home were safe. It wasn’t until she turned on CNN in her Washington, D.C., apartment that night that she realized the enormity of the situation. Weeks later, she would see the devastation firsthand, returning to her homeland with Global Relief Technologies (GRT), a company that uses mapping, satellite imagery, and satellite communications to collect information for organizations involved in relief efforts. “Downtown Port-au-Prince—the political and economic heart of the country—was destroyed,” Simon says. “It’s heartbreaking.”

Last summer, Simon worked with GRT mapping schools in Haiti. After the earthquake, she reconnected with the company to assist in its latest mission: establishing a central database of Haitian amputees for manufacturers, worldwide, that will create custom prosthetics. Simon traveled with a group visiting hospitals and other health care centers, assessing individual amputees and entering the information into handheld devices for transmission to GRT headquarters in New Hampshire. Simon stressed the importance of understanding and organizing the rehabilitation needs for these patients. “These amputees need access to housing and public places, like supermarkets,” she says. “It’s not like the U.S. In Haiti there are rarely ramps for the handicapped.”

Simon came to the United States from Haiti to study in the School of Education’s Inclusive Elementary and Special Education Teacher Preparation Program. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree, Simon attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education, earning a master’s degree in education policy in 2001. She had planned to teach, but after attending Harvard, her interests shifted to policy. She was further inspired to pursue a career in education policy while volunteering as a teacher in rural Namibia in 2002.

Since then, she has worked with the Education Development Center, a global nonprofit organization aimed at addressing the world’s most urgent challenges in education, and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) on education projects in Africa and Haiti. As the project manager for a $272 million AIR-led project in Haiti, Simon first paired up with GRT in August 2009, creating a geographic information system (GIS) map of schools in Haiti and recording the number of students and faculty at each school and their available resources.

Rebuilding the education system—physically and administratively—poses many issues for the Haitian Ministry of Education, especially since 85 percent of the nation’s schools are private. “This is an opportunity for the public sector to build up a new system for quality, free public education,” she says. “The problem is this requires funding that isn’t there right now.”

While GRT’s relief projects usually last no more than six months, Simon plans to stay in Haiti and assist with other relief efforts for at least a year. With family and friends struggling to rebuild their businesses and lives, Simon has many options to continue her service work. “My father’s construction company will need more management support as we start to rebuild, or I might work to rebuild schools and improve education services,” she says.

—Kate Morin
BUILDING DIVERSITY IN ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECT STEVEN Lewis ’79 is devoted to designing and building a new paradigm within the profession, one that places a high value on diversity and honors architects of all races and colors as having an important role in bringing positive change to the world. That commitment was instilled in him early on by his father, Roger C. Lewis, who founded his own firm in New York City at a time when there were minimal advancement opportunities for black architects. “My dad is my beacon,” says Lewis, principal project manager at Parsons Corporation in Pasadena, California. “Working for him afforded me a deep understanding of the dynamics of the profession and the challenges of running a firm, particularly as a person of color.”

As president of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), Lewis leads the design community in healing what he calls “the structural inequalities” still prevalent within it. He believes SU’s School of Architecture has taken important steps in that effort by offering numerous scholarships targeted for students of color. But much remains to be done throughout the profession to create an environment that nurtures and empowers minority architects in their education and careers. “At NOMA, we are primarily concerned with increasing diversity within enrollment and among faculty in schools of architecture and overall in the profession,” says Lewis, a former School of Architecture advisory board member who remains closely connected to fellow SU alumni. “Even today, that’s a daunting task.”

Lewis’s own career as an architect has been a multifaceted journey that serves as a model of what is possible for others. He left his father’s company in the early ’80s to establish RAW International in Los Angeles with two young partners, also African American. “We built a practice together for more than 20 years,” he says. “We took risks to establish ourselves as a design firm, and really helped dispel the myth that black architects are poor businessmen who don’t get paid. That’s important, especially when you are trying to recruit young people.” In 2004, Lewis left L.A. temporarily and moved with his wife and daughter to Washington, D.C., to accept “the opportunity of a lifetime” by serving with the U.S. General Services Administration as a program manager with the Office of the Chief Architect. In that role, he worked toward achieving design excellence and fiscal accountability in federal projects ranging from new courthouses and border stations to preservation of historic structures.

In 2006, Lewis entered the prestigious Loeb Fellowship program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where he organized a symposium to address issues of race in the architecture profession. He also led a team of Harvard students in designing and building a community center in South Africa to support Art Aids Art, an organization aimed at improving—through education, economic development, and creative endeavors—the quality of life for women and children in communities ravaged by AIDS. “Every day of that fellowship was rewarding, but this project was the most gratifying,” says Lewis, who considers service a motivating factor in all he does. “Service is where my heart is. It is so empowering to help create a light at the end of a dark tunnel for those who are suffering through hard times. So I go out every day, just living my life as publicly and visibly as I can, and never refusing a phone call.”

—Amy Speach


Richard S. Wald ’82 (WSM/NEW), a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch, was recognized on “America’s Top 1,000 Advisors: State-by-State” list in Barron’s magazine. He and wife, Jillian, have two daughters, Hannah and Ashley, and reside in Alamo, Calif.

Linda Balzotti ’83 (NEW), mayor of Brockton, Mass., is a member of the Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, which advises the state’s governor on building a strong workforce development system aligned with state education policies and economic development goals.

Helane Frucher Linzer G’83 (A&S), a clinical psychologist in Pittsburgh, Pa., has opened “IvyMaven,” a private practice offering individualized college admissions counseling, consulting, and coaching to gifted high school students and their families (www.ivymaven.com).

Andrew P. Ross ’83 (WSM) of Great Neck, N.Y., is a partner at Getty Marcus Stern & Lehrer with more than 25 years of experience in accounting and auditing services.

Linda Swanson Scott ’83 (VPA), a visual journalist at the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman, won the 2009 American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors award for multimedia innovation.

Paul Tamulynas G’83 (WSM) is a partner and general securities representative at First Financial Planners of the Palm Beaches in North Palm Beach, Fl. He previously retired as resource management officer of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in Fort Monroe, Va., after 30 years in the federal service.

Joan Castilo Adams ’84 (NEW) opened J. Adams & Associates law firm in Williamsville, N.Y. A Certified Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers since 1994, she has focused her practice for the past 23 years on matrimonial and family law.

Peter M. Hobaica ’84 (LAW) of Utica, N.Y., received two honors of distinction. He was selected to continue membership in the American Trial Lawyers Association, a national organization composed of the top 100 trial lawyers from each state; and he was named to the 2010 New York Super Lawyers,
Robert Siegel ‘86 (ARC) presented a lecture at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I., introducing the Robert Siegel Architects Movement exhibition, which includes models, drawings, and full-scale detail mock-ups of the firm’s work.

Karen Morrison Harr ’87 (NEW) ran the 114th Boston Marathon, and placed 69th in “overall female” at the Pittsburgh Marathon with a personal record time of 3:37:03.

Pamela Rosen Schanwald ’87 (NUR), CEO of The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center, was awarded the prestigious Diamond Award for 2010 by the Pittsburgh Business Times for her unwavering dedication to finding and solving gaps in the continuum of care for the children of Western Pennsylvania.

Peter Thomas Senese ’87 (CHE/WSM), a best-selling author, wrote Chasing the Cyclone (Pacificia), a novel inspired by the true story of his successful worldwide search for his criminally abducted young son (www.chasingthecyclone.com). He produced and narrated Chasing Parents: Raging into the Storms of International Parental Child Abduction, a documentary film used by governments around the world for education purposes. He was also a lead advocate of the Child Prevention Abduction Act, a landmark bill recently passed in Florida (www.floridachildabductionpreventionact.info). He lives with his son in Hollywood Hills.

Pamela Parsons Alvdor ’88 (NEW). VP chief brand strategist at Kilgannon, an independent ad agency in Atlanta, was named to the Atlanta chapter board of governors of the American Association of Advertising Agencies.

Mike Padilla G’88 (A&S) wrote The Girls from the Revolutionary Cantina (St. Martin’s Press), a contemporary comedic novel about two success-driven Latina women living in Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Rosenthal G’88 (NEW) wrote Birdwatcher (Lyons Press), a biography of 20th-century naturalist Roger Tory Peterson, who originated the concept of the field guide (www.petersonbird.com).

Brian A. Caswell G’89 (WSM) of Phoenix, N.Y., received the Arthur J. Dixon Public Service Award from the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants in recognition of his ongoing commitment to the community. Caswell is president of Caswell & Associates, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. He and his wife, Maureen, have two daughters, Bridget and Lauren.

Paula Charland O’Callaghan L’89 (LAW/WSM), an assistant professor in the M.B.A. program at the University of Maryland University College, and husband, Jerome O’Callaghan G ’88 (MAX), associate dean of Arts and Sciences and associate professor of political science at SUNY Cortland, co-wrote “Gossip, the Office, and the First Amendment,” which won the award for “best paper” at the North East Academy of Legal Studies in Business.

Teresa Hansen Granger ’90 (NEW), a graphic designer at Modern Press, was awarded the Junior League of Albany Sustainer Bowl in recognition of her outstanding service in the league and community. She lives in Halfmoon, N.Y., with her husband, Jeff, and twins Maggie and Sam.

Andrew Milner ’90 (A&S/NEW) is a contributing writer to The Sandheim Review and Baseball: A Journal of the Early Game. This year marks his 15th anniversary as a regular contributor to the Philadelphia City Paper. He was also interviewed by Robert S. Lyons for his book On Any Given Sunday: A Life of Bert Bell (Temple University Press).

Joseph Nelson ’90 (A&S), a vice president at TD Bank in Glastonbury, Conn., brings 20 years of commercial lending and retail banking experience to the position. He also is treasurer of the First Congregational Church in Bristol, Conn., and is a coach and board member of the local Little League.

Katrina Demetrick Russo ’90 (VPA) of Liverpool, N.Y., was promoted from vice president to president and CEO of Seneca Federal Savings and Loan Association and was elected to the bank’s board of directors.

Gordon Barrett ’91 (A&S) is the 2010 “Worshipful Master” of Union Lodge No. 19, Free and Accepted Masons, in North Brunswick, N.J.

John Bevilacqua ’91 (CHE) of Los Angeles, directed the TV pilot for Silver Lake, a show about 30—some things artists struggling with love, dating, and artistic integrity in the artistic community epicenter of L.A. (www.silverlake.tv).

Robert Guyette ’91 (A&S) of De Pere, Wis., was awarded his third Teacher of Distinction honor by the Green Bay Area Partners in Education. A teacher of language arts and social studies at De Pere High School for nine years, he advises the school newspaper and created two unique courses: Language Arts 9 for Boys Only, and Sports and Society.

Kim Lindfield ’91 (A&S), a senior manager of biostatistics at Cubist Pharmaceuticals of Lexington, Mass., was named “Manager of the Year” at the company’s annual awards ceremony. She and a group of colleagues were also honored as “Team of the Year.”

Kenneth H. Milch ’91 (EDU/VPA) and wife Carla announce the birth of Alan Harris, who joins sisters Cassandra, Samantha, and Rebecca. Milch is assistant principal at Lamphere High School in Madison Heights, Mich., where he was the band director for 14 years.

Michael Rosa G’91 (A&S) is assistant vice president and branch manager of Citizens Bank in Bristol, R.I.

Todd Selig ’91 (A&S/MAX), administrator for the Town of Durham, N.H., has been named chair of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies board.

George Chester Chao ’92 (A&S/MAX) of Pittsburgh earned a master’s degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Fla.

Amy McCoy ’92 (NEW) of Rehoboth, Mass., wrote the cookbook Poor Girl Gourmet: Eat in Style on a Bare-Bones Budget (Andrews McMeel Publishing).

Matt Prohaska ’92 (NEW/WSM) is CEO of Smartclip, an online video advertising network.
Laurie Bean Taishoff ’84 and Rob Taishoff ’86 were inspired by their daughter, Jackie, to help educate society about the special skills, talents, and perceptions of young people with developmental disabilities, and to create educational opportunities for them beyond high school. Toward these goals, the Taishoff Family Foundation committed $1 million to establish the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education at the School of Education, named in honor of Rob’s father. “Rob and I both feel it is important to help open the avenues of opportunity to everyone,” Laurie Taishoff says. The Taishoffs hope individuals and universities across the country will look to SU as the center of excellence in this regard—a place that supplies information, ideas, and support for post-secondary education for students with developmental disabilities, and serves as a model for providing an inclusive experience encompassing all aspects of college life.

The Taishoffs have made a family affair of their dedication to SU, where they met as students at a Muscular Dystrophy dance marathon. Rob was inducted as a trustee last fall, and Laurie is a new member of the SU Alumni Association (SUAA) Board of Directors. “We both consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the University,” says Laurie Taishoff, who grew up in Central New York and has been an SU sports fan since childhood. The Taishoffs now make their home in Annapolis, Maryland, where Rob recently retired as a captain in the U.S. Navy. “Attending SU and now serving on the board with so many dedicated fellow alumni is the culmination of my commitment to a place I love,” she says.

A Newhouse School graduate and former broadcast journalist whose first job was in the news department at WHEN radio in Syracuse, Taishoff is currently focused on raising their children: 8-year-old daughter Jackie, 6-year-old son Jamey, and 3-year-old son Maks, adopted from Russia last year. “These three are my career now,” she says with a laugh. “Like any kids, they have their good moments and their bad moments. They are a blessing and they are a joy. But they are also a handful!”

She brings that same cheerful affection to her duties on the SUAA board, where she serves on the structure committee, reviewing the association’s by-laws. “This committee really appealed to me as a way to ensure a strong and vibrant alumni association,” Taishoff says. “As a board member, I want to encourage all alumni to have a lifelong commitment to Syracuse University, starting from the time they are students.” —Amy Speach

Richard Wald ’92 (NEW/WSM), a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in the San Francisco Bay area, was recognized by Barron’s magazine on its list of “America’s Top 1,000 Advisors: State by State.” He lives in Alamo, Calif., with wife Jillian, and daughters Hannah and Ashley.

Erin Barrett Cunia ’93 (A&S), G’05 (EDU) and husband Demetrius Cunia ’80 (A&S), G’84 (WSM), G’95 (IS) celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary. Demetrius works in New York City with the CUNY first program, an initiative to implement a single, unified enterprise resource planning system on all CUNY campuses.

Frank A. Guridy ’93 (A&S), assistant professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin, wrote Forging Diaspora: Afro-Cubans and African Americans in a World of Empire and Jim Crow (UNC Press).

Ari Markenson ’93 (A&S), a counsel attorney with Benesch in White Plains, N.Y., was the 2010 chair of the health law section of the New York State Bar Association’s annual meeting. The health law section organizes health care law education programs, makes recommendations on health care law and policy, publishes the Health Law Journal, and provides a forum for health care attorneys.

Mitchell Rosenwald G’93 (MAX), a social work professor at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla., co-wrote Advocating for Children in Foster and Kinship Care: A Guide to Getting the Best out of the System for Caregivers and Practitioners (Columbia University).

Jeremy Gilmore Haskins ’94 (A&S) and husband Kevin, of Charleston, S.C., announce the birth of their daughter, Briar Dawes.

Paul Namaste G’94 (EDU) is a research and data analyst at Performa Higher Education, an interdisciplinary team of educational consultants in Burlington, N.C.

Ahna R. Skop ’94 (A&S) of Sun Prairie, Wis., received the Forward Under 40 Award from the Wisconsin Alumni Association. Skop teaches genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
and is an advocate for the PEOPLE pre-college enrichment program and minority students in science. She also maintains a cooking blog (foodskop.wordpress.com), as well as one related to her jewelry designs (beadskop.com).

Mark R. Stover ’94 (A&S) is serving a three-year term on the board of directors for the National Hydropower Association. He is the vice president of corporate affairs for Hydro Green Energy in Houston.

Catherine Terry ’94 (VPA), founder of Exceptional Events Etc., married C. David Corbin. They reside in New York City and Portsmouth, N.H.

Thomas Wailgum ’94 (NEW) earned the 2009 National Digital Azbee Gold Award from the American Society of Business Publication Editors for his slideshow on Starbucks’ executive-immersion program. He is a senior editor at CIO.com, and his work has also appeared on NYTimes.com and Businessweek.com, and he has been a guest on NPR’s Talk of the Nation, discussing telecommuting.

Christopher Babcock G’95 (WS M) is a senior manager with Accenture in Reston, Va.

Gregory Komarow ’95 (A&S) is group human resources director at Amplex in Dubai. Amplex is a Danish company that operates as a leader in utilities/smart grid technology solutions.

Kristi Lockhart ’95 (EDU), a school counselor for Chesterfield Co., Va., for the past 15 years, received the 2010 Roy J. Ward Employee Leadership Recognition Award from the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council for her exceptional service to the field of vocational rehabilitation.

Kevin Stone ’95 (A&S) owns the Jug Handle Inn in Cinnaminson, N.J. The inn’s “world famous” wings were featured on the Food Network show, The Best Thing I Ever Ate and on ABC’s The View. He lives in Marlton, N.J., with his wife and three sons.

Jane L. Wals ’95 (CHE), a digital art teacher at Pelham (N.Y.) Memorial High School for 13 years, was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. She was also recognized by her peers for achievement and leadership in education at a ceremony held at Manhattanville College.

Andrew Wasif ’95 (NEW) wrote Red Sox Fans are from Mars, Yankees Fans are from Uranus (Triumph Books), a follow-up to Red Sox University. He is also featured in Red Sox and Philosophy (Open Court Press). His blog is at www.sportsfanlive.com/wasifsworld.

Kerry R. Wills ’95 (WSM) of Southington, Conn., wrote Essential Project Management Skills (CRC Press), which focuses on the skills needed by project managers.

Stacey Lyons Berk ’96 (A&S) and husband Craig Berk ’96 (A&S) of Rockville, Md., announce the birth of their daughter, Sloane Emma.

Andrea L. Calvaruso ’96 (LAW) of Brooklyn, N.Y., joined the law firm of Kelley & Warren as a partner and chair of the trademark and copyright group in the intellectual property practice.

Nicole Peoples Fagan ’96 (CHE) and Cobia Fagan announce the birth of their son, Cobia Carpenter Fagan Jr. They reside in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Christofer Guisti ’96 (NEW) and wife Marta announce the birth of their daughter, Maia Cristina. They reside in Norwich, Conn.

Gran LeCompte ’96 (A&S) is managing director of employee benefits at MDW Insurance Group in Coral Gables, Fla.

Christopher F. Longero ’96 (LCS), an intellectual property attorney with Ober, Keller, Grimes & Shriver in Baltimore, is on the list of “Maryland Super Lawyers” published in the January 2010 issue of the Maryland Super Lawyers magazine.

Janelle White Wolfe ’96 (NEW) of Morgantown, Pa., is a guest host on the home shopping network, QVC.

Edmund Harvey ’97 (WSM) of Durham, N.H., is directing the Fifth Annual Aggieman Triathlon Adventure (www.aggieman.org) and the University of New Hampshire’s Tri Series of races (www.active.com). Proceeds benefit the humanitarian aid efforts in Ethiopia led by Wide Horizons for Children, a Waltham, Mass.-based organization.

Neil Leary ’97 (A&S) and wife Joanna of West Hartford, Conn., announce the birth of their daughter, Mia Catherine.

Hilary Lopez-Bawoj G’97 (EDU), director of the Clinton Elementary Beginner Band in the Clinton (N.Y.) Central School District, led her students to a first-place win in the fourth-grade beginner band division of the “Making Young Bands Flourish” competition sponsored by Band Brilliance Publishing.

Merrill Rosen Lynn ’97 (NEW) and husband Jake Lynn ’96 (A&S) of Edison, N.J., announce the birth of their son, Miles Ryan, who joins brother Harrison.

Sharon Forman Sender ’97 (A&S) and husband Craig Sender ’97 (NEW) of Brookline, Mass., announce the birth of their son, Caleb James, who joins sister Hannah. Craig is the senior public relations manager at Copyright Clearance Center.

Thomas F. Slater G’97 (IST), executive director of the Food Bank of Central New York, was honored by Onondaga Community College in Syracuse to be part of Alumni Faces, a permanent display recognizing alumni who have made significant contributions to the betterment of society through their professional pursuits, community involvement, and humanitarian efforts.


Edward Goldis ’98 (A&S), an attorney with the Philadelphia personal injury law firm Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig, presented on effective use of trial exhibits at Villanova University Law School for students in an advanced trial advocacy class.

Felix Brandon Lloyd ’98 (A&S/NEW) is president and founder of Skill-Life Inc. in Pittsburgh, a provider of interactive, game-based resources focused on teaching financial skills and helping build financially healthy families and communities. The company was recently acquired by Bancvue.

Melissa Kaplan-Charkow ’98, G’01 (A&S) and husband Joshua Charkow announce the birth of their son, David Isaac, who joins sister Eliza. Kaplan-Charkow is an English and women’s studies instructor at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

Matthew L. O’Connor G’98 (WSM) of Hamden, Conn., is dean of the School of Business and professor of finance at Quinnipiac University. He was named “Most Supportive Dean” at the Students in Free Enterprise regional championship for his unwavering support of the student organization.

John S. Prizner III G’98 (NEW) completed the Leadership Buffalo Class Experience Program. Leadership Buffalo (N.Y.) is a network of more than 1,000 professional, business, and civic leaders committed to improving the city.

Karen Hanney Solomon ’98 (ARC) and husband Evan of Forest Hills, N.Y., announce the birth of twin boys, Jasper and Michael (Mickey). Karen is a project architect/technical director at Gensler & Associates in New York City.

Fon S. Wang ’98 (ARC) a principal and owner of UCI Architects Inc. in Philadelphia, was named one of “40 Under 40” outstanding young professionals in the Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey region for 2010 by the Philadelphia Business Journal. Wang was honored for leadership and community service. She also received the 2010 Outstanding Young Alumna Award from the Springside School in Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Amy Komoroski Wiwi ’98 (VPA), an attorney with Lowenstein Sandler in Morristown, N.J., was named in the 2010 edition of New Jersey Rising Stars, which recognizes the state’s top up-and-coming lawyers.

Lauren Vertal Wolpoff ’98 (NEW) and husband Jason announce the birth of their son, Jacob Dylan. Wolpoff is an account supervisor at CJP Communications in New York.

Shannon Beavis Bender ’99 (EDU) and husband Damon Bender ’99 (A&S) of Valley Cottage, N.Y., announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Olivia, who joins brother Jacob.
Q&A

IS THE TRAIN DUE?

A conversation with James McCommons about traveling by rail in America

JAMES MCCOMMONS G’93 IS A FREELANCE WRITER whose work has appeared in The Los Angeles Times, Audubon, and other major publications. In his 2009 book, Waiting on a Train: The Embattled Future of Passenger Rail Service (Chelsea Green), he catalogs a year spent riding what is left of the once great American rail passenger system, hoping to understand the role its revival might play in the nation’s future. A Library Journal “best book of the year,” Waiting on a Train is neither sentimental eulogy nor utopian vision, but rather a practical case for making train travel a viable choice in an integrated national transportation system. McCommons, who earned master’s degrees in magazine journalism at the Newhouse School and environmental science at SUNY ESF, teaches journalism and nature writing at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. He spoke with associate editor David Marc about the future of train travel.

WHY SHOULD THE U.S. INVEST IN A PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEM?

We’ve poured hundreds of billions of dollars into roads and aviation, but haven’t invested much in rail. Partly, that’s because through the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, passenger service was a private business operated by railroads carrying both freight and people. When that private business model no longer worked and railroads got out of passenger service in the early ’70s, government set up Amtrak, but it didn’t really invest in it or create business partnerships with the private railroads that own most of the nation’s rail infrastructure. Consequently, it’s no surprise we have an anemic passenger rail system. It’s what we paid for.

DO YOU THINK TRAIN TRAVEL IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE WAY AMERICANS LIVE?

The nation hasn’t had a robust rail system since the 1950s, and most Americans have little experience with trains. But when they take the train, despite some of the hassles of Amtrak, they say, “This is nice.” It’s a comfortable and less stressful travel experience and they can use their laptops and electronic devices for entertainment or to be productive while traveling. The Acela trains in the Northeast, the closest thing Amtrak has to a high-speed system, now have wireless Internet, and other routes are adding it. It’s a great setup for telecommuting.

When I was traveling, I was impressed with the corridor trains in California, which are operated in a partnership between the state and Amtrak. California may have a car culture, but it has been proactive in building rail corridors between its major cities, and it is now developing an 800-mile system of 200 mph bullet trains. California sees rail as a transportation solution to cope with a growing population and congested highway and air networks.

Other states significantly investing in corridor services are Washington, Illinois, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Until recently, they were investing on their own. Matching federal funds were only available for highways.

IS THERE MOMENTUM FOR LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO PASSENGER RAIL?

The game-changer is the next transportation bill, which has been called the “highway bill” because that’s where most of the money has gone. Highways will still get the bulk of funding, but this time, a portion will be set aside for rail. I’ve also been encouraged by the $8 billion in the stimulus package that the Obama administration pledged for developing “high-speed” trains. Now that matching federal dollars are becoming available and the administration is showing some leadership, many states, including New York, are drawing up plans to bolster their train service, usually in some kind of partnership with Amtrak. And the freight railroads are showing interest because they foresee a big opportunity to move more freight from highways to the rails. They’ll need government help to expand their networks, which will be good for both freight and passenger service.

It’s movement in the right direction, but we’re likely decades away from the rail system we once had in America. What’s required is a rethinking at the state and federal levels, where the focus has been inordinately on highways. And there has to be some sort of partnership forged with the private railroads. You can’t do it without them.

Trains are not going to supplant cars or airplanes, but they will give Americans an alternative. There are many travel corridors in this country—such as Buffalo-New York City, Chicago-St. Louis, and Houston-Dallas—where fast, frequent trains would compete very well.
PASSINGS

Marilyn Smith Swift Tenney ’42, a dedicated community volunteer and philanthropist, died on March 18, 2010, at her home in Indian Wells, California. Graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences with a degree in psychology, she married classmate Charles F. Swift ’42 and moved to Los Angeles, where the couple lived until his death in 1959. She remarried, and in 1980 moved to Indian Wells with her second husband, William P. Tenney, when he retired. Together they contributed to the construction of an African village and animal preservation center at The Living Desert near Palm Springs and co-founded the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts in Palm Desert, California, along with Bob and Dolores Hope, and Gerald and Betty Ford.

Syracuse University benefited from the Tenneys’ generosity when they made a multimillion-dollar gift in 1999 to build the Marilyn and William Tenney Ice Skating Pavilion on South Campus. Tenney also was a major supporter of the College of Arts and Sciences, contributing to the Dean’s Educational Enhancement Fund, establishing an endowment fund to support the Swift Tenney Wing in the Life Sciences Complex, and helping launch the Center for Health and Behavior in the psychology department. In recognition of her many contributions to improving educational excellence and quality of life at SU, Marilyn Tenney received a 2002 Arents Award—SU’s highest alumni honor—for “excellence in the field of philanthropy.”

Charles F. Swift Tenney, Jr.’42

MILTON F. STEVENSON III ’52, business leader and trustee emeritus of Syracuse University, died on December 17, 2009, in Jordan, New York. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, he called Central New York his home since 1949, when he attended the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science on the GI Bill following a stint with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1960 he founded the Anoplate Corporation, a metal-finishing company that is a leader in chemical waste management and serves as a resource for regulatory agencies in their efforts to improve the environment.

Stevenson was one of SU’s most avid sports fans and could often be seen wearing his signature orange socks, suspenders, and SU lapel pin. Over the years, he and his wife, Ann McOmber Stevenson ’52, provided scholarships and academic support for student-athletes through contributions to the Student-Athlete Fund, Ernie Davis Football Fund, and Dave Bing Basketball Fund. In 1999, the Stevensons received Honorary LetterWinner of Distinction awards for their strong support for athletics, and the Educational Center in Manley Field House is named in their honor.

Stevenson made a lasting impact on SU in 2005 with a significant commitment to establish the Milton and Ann Stevenson Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering. Thanks to this endowed professorship, the University was able to recruit a pioneering researcher at the promising junction of biomedical and chemical engineering. In honor of Stevenson’s commitment to all things Orange, a Celebration of Life Service was held at Hendricks Chapel.

E. BURR “BUZZ” GIBSON ’47, a pioneer in the field of philanthropy and one of the foremost leaders in philanthropic consulting, died on April 28, 2010, in New Jersey. Gibson touched the lives of millions of professional fund-raisers and volunteers during his long and distinguished career, most notably through his work as chairman of Marts & Lundy, one of the industry’s most respected fund-raising consulting firms. He was involved in many of the largest public and private campaigns across the country, and he was an inspiration and mentor to thousands of not-for-profit institutions, including Syracuse University. His insightful advice helped the University surpass its Commitment to Learning Campaign goal in the 1990s, and he played an important role in the early stages of SU’s current fund-raising effort—The Campaign for Syracuse University—the most ambitious fund-raising campaign in SU’s history.

After graduating from SU with a degree in business administration, Gibson went to work for the March of Dimes until he joined Marts & Lundy in 1964. His career with the firm took him to the highest levels of strategic development planning, and in 2008, he received the prestigious Council for Advancement and Support of Education Lifetime Achievement Award, which “honors an individual whose professional accomplishments have made a significant and lasting impact on the field of institutional advancement, and whose life and character have earned the respect and admiration of their professional colleagues.”

Chester P. “Chet” Soling ’54

Milton F. Stevenson III
IN MEMORIAM

For In Memoriam listings, go to the online edition of the magazine at sumagazine.syr.edu. Notices of deaths must be accompanied by a copy of an obituary or memorial card. Send to: Alumni Editor, Syracuse University Magazine; 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 308; Syracuse, NY 13244-5040; fax 315-443-5425.

University of South Florida, was awarded a grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to study the effectiveness of targeted exercises for preventing back injuries in firefighters, a leading injury affecting fire and rescue workers nationwide.

Suzanne Nance '00 (VPA) of Bangor, Maine, is music director for Maine Public Broadcasting Network and producer and host of a weekday classical music program.

Jonathan M. Taylor '00 (ARC) joined the American Institute of Architects board of directors.

Joseph Babik '01 (NEW) is director of communications with the ECHL AA hockey league in Princeton, N.J.

Cia Bruno '01 (A&S), L'03 (LAW), a holistic and interdisciplinary attorney with her own law firm in Schenectady, N.Y. (www.meaningfuladvocacy.com), co-facilitated the first annual symposia in the New York State capital region at Albany Medical College on Earth Day 2010 with the Social Justice & Advocacy for Animals & Nature Center. The event was hosted by the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Arielle Greenberg G'01 (A&S), an English professor at Columbia College-Chicago, co-edited Starting Today: 100 Poems for Obama’s First 100 Days (University of Iowa Press), an anthology of poems written during and responding to President Barack Obama’s first days in office.

Shara Cooke Hicks '01 (A&S) and husband Sean Hicks '95, G'98 (LCS) of Manassas, Va., announce the birth of twins, Jaron and Lena, who join sister Kyla.

Khalil Johnson '01 (VPA) and wife Tiombe of Silver Spring, Md., announce the birth of their daughter, Adero.

Eric Lankes '01 (ARC) is a senior associate with the Freelon Group architectural firm in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Claude Liu G'01 (WSM) is associate director at Numisight Consulting—Asia Pacific Office in Hong Kong, a Paris-based marketing consultancy providing services in strategic marketing and marketing science. He was also admitted to the executive M.B.A. program at National Chengchi University in Taiwan, which is among the most highly regarded business schools in Asia.

Melissa Morgan '01 (A&S/NEW) married Stephen Stewart. They reside in Norfolk, Va., where she is editor in chief of Hampton Roads Magazine and Virginia Wine Lover Magazine.

Brian Pollack '01 (VPA) of Milburn, N.J., performed at City Center Encore! and created expressive and community programming for individuals with such severe multi-complex disabilities as Asberger syndrome, Down syndrome, and other developmental disabilities. This fall he will attend the New York University graduate school to become a licensed clinical social worker.

Nicole Ferring '02 (NEW) married Karl Holovach '02 (LCS). Nicole is a research associate at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and Karl is a high school math teacher in Laurel, Md. They reside in Greenbelt, Md.

Julie Bailey Blanche '03 (NEW) of Boston, an associate marketing director at Digitas marketing agency, was named one of the industry’s best “30 under 30” direct marketers by DM News. The list honors the brightest young superstars in the marketing industry.

Mary Beth Burke '03 (A&S) married Shaun Neville '03 (A&S). They reside in Manchester, N.H.

Carolyn Conley '03 (A&S) is a registered nurse in the hematology/oncology unit at St. Clair Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Joel J. Dowling '03 (IST) is a felony trial assistant district attorney in the Kings County District Attorney Office in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hilton Hallock G'03 (EDU/MAX) is vice president of academic affairs at New England College in Henniker, N.H.

Lisa Kelly '03 (EDU) married Michael Lombardi '03 (WSM). They reside in White Plains, N.Y.

Gregory Laurence G'03 (WSM), G'04 (MAX), G'10 (WSM) has accepted a tenure track position as assistant professor of management at the University of Michigan, Flint.

Nico Sayewitz Post '03 (A&S) and husband Jay Post '01 (WSM) of Plano, Texas, announce the birth of their son, Zachary Harris. Nico is a senior product manager at JCPenney, and Jay is a manager with Archon Group, an investment management firm.

Todd Stevens '03 (A&S) was promoted to COO at FASNY Federal Credit Union in Albany.

Brooke Alper '04 (A&S) and Josh Lipschitz '99 (A&S/WSM), G'01 (WSM) announce the birth of their son, Matthew Jacob, in May 2009. Josh is an assistant vice president of the Pershing Division of Bank of New York, and Brooke is associate director of alumni relations and annual giving at The Pingry School in Martinsville, N.J. They reside in West Orange, N.J.

Donna DeSiato G'04 (EDU), superintendent of the East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District, was honored by Onondaga Community College to be part of Alumni Faces, a permanent display recognizing alumni who have made significant
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Just as donors joined together to make the “Melo Center” possible, thousands of alumni and friends have a tangible and immediate impact on SU every day by giving to The Fund for Syracuse. No matter how large or small, your gift combined with others can make a difference. Support whatever part of SU means the most to you:

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contributions to the betterment of society through their professional pursuits, community involvement, and humanitarian efforts.

Alison Bennett ‘05 (VPA), married Nick Lichtenberg ‘05 (VPA). She is a communications associate for the Calhoun School and a comedy writer for the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York City. He is a managing editor at Verdict-Search, a division of American Lawyer Media.

Nicholas Fondulis ‘05 (VPA) guest-starred on 30 Rock as Jayden Michael Tyler and as Dr. Whitaker in the pilot episode of Mercy. He was a recurring character on the NBC drama Kings, and performs in New York City in the impov experience Accomplice: New York. Visit www.nickfondulis.com.

Erin Gellert-Salsgiver G’05 (NEW) of Berea, Ohio, is the Midwest regional promotion manager for Q Prime, a management company representing such artists as Metallica, Muse, Silversun Pickups, Cage the Elephant, and Three Days Grace.

Azania Smith Herron ‘05 (NEW) is public and community relations specialist for Charlotte (N.C.) Area Transit System.

Sarah Kantrowitz ‘05 (A&S) married Adam Spagnolo ‘04 (VPA). They reside in Manhattan, where she is employed as an associate editor at Travel + Leisure magazine and he is manager of creative services at Ann Taylor.

Michelle Kelley MacEnroe G’05 (IST) and husband Paul MacEnroe ‘82 (A&S/NEW) of Whitesboro, N.Y., announce the birth of their son, Alexander.

Linda Ober ‘05 (A&S/NEW) married Joshua Slade. Linda is a Spanish teacher at Cortland (N.Y.) Junior-Senior High School, and Joshua is an information technology analyst at SU.

Alexander Roberts ‘05 (WSM) will attend the Yale School of Management this fall to pursue an M.B.A. degree.

Alexandra Alazio ‘06 (NEW), a producer at Comcast Spotlight in Bloomfield, N.J., won a 2010 Telly Award for her Summit Downtown commercial and co-produced a 75th anniversary commemorative video for the Adult School of Montclair, where she volunteers and teaches.

Julia B. Joyce ‘06 (A&S), L’09 (LAW), an attorney with the Syracuse law firm of Green & Seifert, co-conducted a seminar at the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, offering insight to businesses regarding New York State increases in investigations into sales tax delinquency.

Julio Martinez Manjarres G’06 (IST) is IT infrastructure manager at Servicios Nacional de Chocolates in Medellin, Colombia, an administrative offshoot of the diversified food conglomerate Grupo Nacional de Chocolates.

Katherine O’Connor ‘06 (NEW) assists the CEO of Legendary Pictures in Los Angeles.

Michelle Carlton ‘07 (NEW), an associate editor at media marketing company Studio One Networks, manages content on such sponsored sites as www.lifefamilytoday.com and www.yourfamilytoday.com.

Jessica L. Kuczynski ‘07 (WSM) is a senior accountant in the audit department at Lumsden & McCormick in Buffalo, N.Y.

Joseph M. Murphy ‘07 (VPA) completed a series of paintings for the SU publications office, depicting the University’s Joseph I. Lubin House in New York City. Two of the paintings were accepted in the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles Illustration West 48 competition, on display at the ICON6 National Illustration Conference in Pasadena, Calif., in July.


Christina Gibson ‘08 (EDU) is a fund-raising associate at US Lacrosse, the national governing body for men’s and women’s lacrosse. She is also a certified US Lacrosse Coaches Education Program Level I Trainer.

Adam Novak ‘08 (NEW), an associate at PAN Communications in Andover, Mass., received the Bronze Bell Award from the Publicity Club of New England, recognizing him as a public relations/communications practitioner who demonstrates a love of the field, dedication to his career, and a superior work ethic.

Blake Stilwell G’08 (NEW) is a senior multimedia technician with the White House Communications Agency, a special mission of the Defense Information Systems Agency within the Department of Defense.

David W. Taylor ‘08 (A&S), a doctoral candidate in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale University, was named a 2010 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. The award recognizes outstanding science and engineering students and provides them with further funding.

Max Micallef ‘09 (A&S/NEW) is a production assistant at Discovery Studios in Silver Spring, Md.

Andrea Serra ‘09 (A&S/NEW) of San Juan, Puerto Rico, is participating in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s Public Policy Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. The institute is the nation’s premier Hispanic youth development and educational organization.

Leland Strott ‘09 (NEW), a social media marketing coordinator at MGH Inc. in Baltimore, manages social media accounts for a variety of clients, including Ocean City, Md., which was named one of the top 40 Facebook pages by KBuzz.

Clark Van Der Beken ’09 (VPA) is an assistant account executive at Grey Worldwide, a marketing and advertising agency in New York City.