

OpeningREMARKS

Exploration and Discovery

As a parent, I look forward to finding out what will capture my daughter's interest next. At her preschool graduation ceremony, her teachers predicted she'd be a veterinarian. Considering the mountain of stuffed animals taking over her room, her noticeable compassion for little creatures (both animals and classmates), her curiosity for things that live in the dirt, her relentless interest in our two real cats, and considerable talk about the need for a dog (despite all cat objections), I found their prediction convincing. Then again, like many children her age, my daughter loves to draw and color, look at books, build with Legos, sing, dance, and help make pancakes. How all this shakes out is everyone's guess, but I'm comfortable knowing she is an explorer on the path of discovery.

For many of us, it's a welcomed moment when we discover something we like and seem to have a talent for it. And if we can turn it into a professional career, that's all the better. As you comb through this issue of *Syracuse University Magazine*, you'll come across many examples of people pursuing their passions. For instance, Professor Michael S. Cosgrove G'93, G'98 told me he'd planned on becoming a math teacher until a biology class in his senior year of college sparked an interest in that direction, leading him to the groundbreaking research he does today in the field of epigenetics. Turning to the music world, witness the success of Ra Ra Riot, whose members came together here on the Hill to share a like-minded musical vision that they're now spreading far and wide (check out the video of their recent Syracuse performance and other videos featured in our online edition at sumagazine.syr.edu).

Since college is a time for exploration, it's important for students to consider available opportunities to find out what captures their fancy. Sometimes, this is easier said than done, but they can always learn from the journey. Members of the Class of 2009 are entering one of the most tumultuous economic times in decades, but there's no doubt that many of them will commit to their passions and achieve success. As Michael Cahill, the director of the Center for Career Services, says, "If you are able to make those connections between what you love to do, what you are good at, your values, and the possibilities you've discovered out there in the job market, then the world is open to you."



JAY COX
Editor

P.S. Many thanks to all of you who took the time to check out our spring issue online and complete the readers' survey.

We appreciated you sharing your thoughts with us. We'd also like to thank those of you who entered our *Looking for Lockerbie* book-giveaway contest. Congratulations to the winners: Marc Feldman '85, Kathy Pabis, Merrill Resnick, Marlene Schooler, and Susan Coman Smith '68, G'84.

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