REMEMBRANCE

ONE LUCKY GUY

The life and times of New York columnist Mike McAlary take center stage in a Broadway hit that brings back some wild memories for former classmates

BY MARK SULLIVAN

IN THE TONY-NOMINATED PLAY Lucky Guy, Tom Hanks portrays Mike McAlary ’79 as a swaggering, ambitious tabloid reporter for whom the standard rules do not apply. In Nora Ephron’s play set against the backdrop of New York City’s tabloid wars of the mid-1980s, McAlary stays out all night chasing scoops, uncovers two major police scandals, and jumps from Newsday to The Daily News, then to The Post and back to The News. There, he faces a scandal of his own, survives a horrific car accident, wins a Pulitzer Prize for commentary, and then dies of cancer at age 41. It sounds like tabloid sensationalism, but it’s all true. And none of it is surprising to anyone who knew McAlary at Syracuse in the late 1970s when he attended the Newhouse School, worked at The Daily Orange, and told everyone he wanted to move to New York and become a big city columnist. “Most of us who were in school at that time wanted to be Bob Woodward or Carl Bernstein,” says Jim Naughton ’79, of The Washington Post investigative reporters who broke the Watergate scandal. “But Mac wanted to be Jimmy Breslin.” Breslin was the longtime columnist for The New York Daily News, whom McAlary ended up replacing when Breslin jumped to New York Newsday. “That’s what he aspired to and he did it,” says Naughton, who as The Daily Orange editor-in-chief hired McAlary as sports editor.

That Daily Orange staff produced three Pulitzer Prize winners (McAlary, Maura McEnaney ’79, and Mike Stanton ’79), the authors of numerous books, and one editor who gave up journalism to write movie scores. But McAlary, who died in 1998, is the only one whose life has been turned into a Broadway play. “There were so many talented people on that staff, but it’s pretty clear now that Mike had the best combination of talent and ambition of any of them,” says Tom Coffey ’80, who worked with McAlary at the DO and is now an editor at The New York Times and author of three novels. “Even then he had the ability to get sources to talk to him and he had great instincts for what people wanted to read.”

In Lucky Guy, McAlary’s character uses the full gamut of reporter’s tricks to get the stories he wants. He bullies, badgers, and charms. At SU, that lucky guy personality was very much in evidence. Tim Wendel ’78, the author of seven books, recalls sitting in the DO office one day when McAlary showed up looking for tickets to comedian Steve Martin’s appearance at Hendricks Chapel that night. Wendel did not have tickets, but McAlary was undeterred. “Let’s sneak in,” he suggested to Wendel and the two headed over to Hendricks for the performance. “We made it into Hendricks using press passes,
but security stopped us just outside the offices of Hillel and two doors away from Martin’s dressing room.” McAlary pulled Wendel into the Hillel offices where they donned yarmulkes and walked confident-ly past security and into Martin’s dressing room. “Martin was at a table putting on his stage makeup and saw our reflections in the mirror,” Wendel says. “He looked us over for a few seconds and then said, ‘You guys aren’t Jewish.’ We ended up talking to him for 20 minutes and then went inside and saw the show. It was a great night.”

Indeed, McAlary had no problem bending the rules. As editor of the Summer Orange, the weekly version of the DO that was published in June, July, and August, McAlary and the staff would take turns driving to the printer in an old red Ford Econolone van owned by the paper. Once the paper was printed, McAlary would commandeer the van as his own recreational vehicle. One weekend Mac strapped several canoes to the top of the van and took it to nearby Green Lakes State Park. While filling the gas tank for the return trip back to campus, he encountered George Meusel, the DO business manager and the guy in charge of paying the bills. Others may have panicked at being busted, but Mac smiled and waved and then on Monday morning showed up at Meusel’s office and turned in the gas receipts for the weekend. “He must have put 10,000 miles on the van that summer,” Coffey recalls. “It was never the same after that.”

In Ephron’s play, McAlary and another reporter get into a brawl one night arguing about who’s the better reporter. It was not Mac’s first bar room brawl. During his time at SU, McAlary was a regular at The Orange, a dingy bar on South Crouse Avenue, where townies and students would congregate. “Even back then, Mike was cultivating his ‘man of the people’ person-ona,” Naughton says. One night in spring 1977 after a few tequilas, a brawl broke out and McAlary and several other combatants were arrested. When the arresting officer asked for his name, McAlary, more of a wise guy than a lucky guy that night, told the cop his name was Gary Gilmore, the murderer who had been executed before a firing squad a few months earlier. The next morning McAlary was brought into court before Judge Richard Sardino who took one look at the docket and bellowed out, “Who the hell arrested Gary Gilmore last night?” McAlary approached the bench and said, “I’m sorry your honor. Last night I was so intoxicated, I thought I was Gary Gilmore, but I’m not and I apologize.” Sardino, a notorious no-nonsense jurist especially when it came to SU students, laughed and let McAlary go. “Mike did have the ability to turn on the charm and show his choir boy side when he needed to,” recalls Howard Mansfield ’79, the managing editor of The Daily Or-ange, who has gone on to write numerous books. “As much as he could drive you crazy, it was hard to stay mad at him.”

As a student, McAlary lived off campus in a ramshackle saltbox house not far from the Brewster Boland dorm complex. “The houses served as temporary residences for rats and students,” recalls Claudia Hutton ’79, who lived nearby. “The houses all looked the same and more than once after a night at The Orange, Mike and his roommates would have trouble recognizing which house was theirs.” So to make sure the house was easy to find, McAlary’s roommate created a four-foot paper ma-chete phallic symbol, which they hung from their second-floor balcony. “It became a landmark,” Hutton says. “We would use it to give directions to our house.”

McAlary’s antics occasionally caused problems for his friends. McEnaney recalls waiting in the student center one day when McAlary came to visit and after a few drinks broke a wine glass over his head. “The manager made it clear I had to get him out of there right away. Sometimes it was like he was John Belushi,” she recalls. “He was crazy and funny and when you were with him you wanted to go along for the ride.”

Joel Stashenko ’83, who ran the DO sports department with McAlary, says
even in college it was clear that McAlary had a presence. “He drew people to him,” Stashenko says. “He had this outsized personality that thrived in certain settings. He was impulsive and emotional, but was somehow able to get away with it.”

While the two worked together at the school paper, McAlary had a dispute with Mansfield and quit in a huff. The sports department was in the midst of a major project and Stashenko had to scramble and work all night to make the deadline. “When you think about it, everything Mike did in college, he did again when he got to New York, except in Manhattan he got paid a lot of money for it,” Stashenko says.

When McAlary got to New York, he embraced the Manhattan scene, becoming a regular at Elaine’s (the now shuttered restaurant on Manhattan’s East Side that was a clubhouse of sorts for writers and athletes) and cultivated friendships with singer Paul Simon and now New York governor Andrew Cuomo. (McAlary was a groomsman at Cuomo’s wedding.)

But he always had time for his old classmates. “Michael was very devoted to his college friends,” McEnaney says. When McAlary was at The Daily News, the girlfriend of a former DO editor was involved in a car accident. “The editor called Mike because he knew Mike could get someone to run the license plates on the car that hit her,” McEnaney says. “They hadn’t spoken for years, but Mike did it with no questions asked.”

McEnaney, Naughton, Wendel, Coffey, and about a dozen other of McAlary’s former classmates went to see Lucky Guy in early May and afterward spent a few hours at Sardi’s restaurant talking about the play and telling stories. It was an emotional, hilarious night. “When Mike died, we never got to have a wake for him, so years later it felt like we finally got to do it,” McEnaney says. “We all grew up together at Syracuse and those bonds are still really strong. When I think about my time with Michael and all those other people, I’m so grateful for it. That was the first time in my life I was with so many people who wanted something bigger. It was inspiring to me then, and it still inspires me now.”

Mark Sullivan ’79 was a classmate of McAlary’s and is currently president and editorial director of Formula 4 Media.
ORANGE PLUS

ROSE PINK AND PEA GREEN.
While this may be hard to envision, these two colors were Syracuse University’s original school colors in 1872!
It wasn’t until 1890 that the University adopted Orange as the official school color. When I heard about this recently, it got me thinking: What other facts about SU were out there?
I found the best place to go for these answers was on the sixth floor of Bird Library in SU’s Special Collections and Research Center.

In fall 1871, SU admitted its first students—34 men and seven women. The chairman of the Board of Trustees at the time, the Rev. Jesse Peck, stated, “The conditions of admission shall be equal to all persons. There shall be no invidious discriminations here against women or persons of any nation or color.” These were astonishing words at this time in history.

■ Three national sororities were founded at SU—Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi, and Gamma Phi Beta.

■ It is widely known that Ernie Davis ’62 was the first African American student-athlete to win the Heisman Trophy, but did you know that SU alumnus Joseph Trigg (1915) was the first African American member of a college crew team?

■ Syracuse University was the first college to teach photography. It was also the first one to offer a four-year degree in fine arts.

■ The word “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious” was written by an SU student as an expression of all things wonderful.

■ The Carrier Dome was the first domed athletic stadium on a university campus.

■ The first woman to run in the Boston Marathon as a numbered entry was Kathrine Switzer ’68, G’72.

While this is certainly not a complete list of firsts and areas of distinction for Syracuse University, I hope I have at least piqued your curiosity into thinking about all the things that make SU such a unique and amazing institution.

Go Orange!

Laurie Taishoff ’84
President, Syracuse University Alumni Association

P.S. Aren’t you glad I didn’t say, “Go Rose Pink and Pea Green?”

CLASS NOTES

NEWS from SU ALUMNI »
SEND US NEWS OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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

40s

David Fairchild ’47 (A&S), ’50 (VPA) teaches vocal techniques at his two private voice studios located in New York City and Eastchester, N.Y. His students have performed on stage, screen, radio, and television and he has used vocalization to help with ailments of the throat and vocal chords. Professionally he was a baritone soloist with various choral, theatrical, and church groups.

50s


Walter Blanchett ’52 (LCS) of Marlton, N.J., worked for six companies before retiring from IBM in 1997.

Douglas W. Ayres G’54 (MAX) of Sedona, Ariz., published his sixth book, Consumer Government: Via the Art of Full Disclosure (Trafford Publishing), which describes in detail his Municipal Business System developed over a more than 50-year career as a city manager and consultant to more than 600 governments (www.consumergovernment.com).

R. Bruce MacGregor ’54 (VPA) retired after nearly 25 years as artistic director of the Charlotte Chorale in Port Charlotte, Fla. In honor of his retirement, the group commissioned world-renowned composer Mark Hayes to put music to Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

James Wines ’55 (VPA) will receive the 2013 National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement at a White House gala chaired by Michelle Obama in October. The award is the only honor of its kind offered by the U.S. government, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and Cooper-Hewitt Museum. A professor of architecture at Penn State, Wines is president and creative director of SITE, an environmental arts and architectural firm in New York City.


Robert K. MacLauchlin G’59 (NEW) retired from Colorado State University in 1997, having served for 28 years as professor of speech communication and director of television-radio instruction. At the time of his retirement, an endowed scholarship was created in his name and he received the Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award from the university, as well as a special resolution award from the Colorado Broadcasters Association. In 2006, he was inducted into the Broadcast Professionals of Colorado Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Liz, reside in Fort Collins, where both are active in community work.
What a Best Friend Can Teach You About Love, Life, and Success

By Heather Wood Rudulph

ROMANTIC INTERESTS COME AND GO, but friends are forever—at least the ones who count are. I met Jennifer on a blind date of sorts. It was 2002, and I had just moved to New York City from Los Angeles with that whole “If I can make it there…” starry-eyed dream. After graduating from the Newhouse School, I landed a job as an entertainment editor for a local newspaper in Southern California (a dream job for anyone not blinded by her ambitions). I wanted to be a magazine writer in New York City, drink cosmopolitans, and date cute intellectuals who respected my space. Yes, I watched Sex and the City.

I wanted this fantasy so much that I quit my job and moved sight unseen 3,000 miles away to a one-and-a-half room beautiful catastrophe of a studio apartment above the brightest chili pepper lights in Little India. My bathtub was in my kitchen, which was also in my bedroom, and the stove didn’t work. But I had my own apartment in Manhattan. My dream was already coming true!

But I knew almost no one with whom to sip cosmopolitans. Jennifer and I had a friend in common and she agreed to meet with me. We went to a movie screening (no pressure to talk) and went for coffee after. Turns out we had some things to say. Several hours and way too many lattes later, I learned we both wanted to run a women’s magazine one day, but didn’t like the state of them then (too much redundant sex advice, too little recognition of real women’s lives); we’d both been dating the same guys for more than a decade and were having doubts; we were big sisters, vegetarians, and lovers of ’70s sitcoms and teen pop music, unironically.

Over the next two years, my pull-out sofa bed in the kitchen/bathroom/bedroom apartment became a place for career brainstorming, deep talks, and shared plates of hangover nachos. We saw each other through the hardest times in our lives so far—broken engagements (hers), career tailspins (mine), and identity crises (both of ours). This is how best friends are made. It’s not about friendship bracelets or proximity of houses in a cul-de-sac. It’s finding someone with whom you share so much, and can share everything.

Jennifer and I turned our common career vision into a business venture. We launched a web magazine (sexyfeminist.com), co-wrote a book (Sexy Feminism: A Girl’s Guide to Love, Success, and Style), and continue to collaborate on projects together, while also maintaining successful solo careers. We also call each other first when either of us has a health scare, needs a shoulder to cry on, or just wants to bitch about the unnecessarily gratuitous nature of the latest Katy Perry video (I mean, really, Katy Perry).

We’ve now both found our romantic soul mates. I moved the 3,000 miles back to California and am married with a kid. Jennifer is living with the love of her life in a Manhattan apartment whose bathroom has its own walls. We’d achingly miss each other if not for the fact that we communicate almost every day. We e-mail about work. We text about a ridiculous TV plot (What’s up with Rizzoli and Isles anyway?), and we call when we need each other most.

When given the choice of who to love, we often find those who resemble us. In a sense, finding a great best friend as an adult is a way we can learn to love better and to better love ourselves.

The late Nicholas Rezak ‘33 and Polly Curnick Rezak ‘32 met and fell in love at SU. The memoir The Arab and the Brit: The Last of the Welcome Immigrants written by their son Bill Rezak and published by Syracuse University Press, details the family’s immigrant history. Nick was a Palestinian whose ancestors were 18th-century highwaymen on the Arabian Peninsula who feuded unsuccessfully with the ruling Ottoman Turks and escaped to the United States. Polly was born in Canada to British parents, who arrived there separately as indentured servants. Both families eventually found their way to Central New York and understood that education was the route to a better life. “In the fall of Nick’s junior year at Syracuse in 1931, he attended a Sociology Club tea in the Hall of Languages basement,” writes Rezak, the former president of Alfred State College. “There he met the pretty, fair-skinned blond with a million-dollar smile whom he had noticed in one of his classes.” Spanning multiple generations, the memoir is a tribute to the family’s success in the New World. And today, the family remains connected to SU: Rezak’s younger brother, David, is a professor of practice and director of the Bandier Program for Music and the Entertainment Industries in the Setnor School of Music.

60s


Joyce Humphrey Cares ‘62 (NUR) of Leesburg, Fla., wrote Beyond the Mist (Sweet Cravings Publishing), a time travel, romantic suspense novel set both in present-day France and the gruesome time of the French Revolution (www.joycehumphreycares.com).

Frederick Gerty ‘63 (ESF) wrote and published an e-book, Situation at Saxon Site, the first of a science fiction double trilogy (Amazon.com). Set in the future, the book features a protagonist who is a graduate of SU’s Class of 2150.

Harry Bobonich G’64 (A&S), retired dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, published Bloody Ivy: 13 Unsolved Campus Murders. Co-written with his son Chris, the book is Bobonich’s sixth.

George H. Stanger Jr. ’64 (WSM), mayor of Cape May Point, N.J., is a Vietnam veteran, retired Superior Court judge, and former assignment judge for three New Jersey counties. He and his wife, Judy, celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary this year.

Steven Goldsmith ’65 (A&S) of Portland, Ore., wrote The Healing Paradox: A Revolutionary Approach to Treating and Curing Physical and Mental Illness (North Atlantic Books). The book draws on case studies and personal experiences from his 40-year career as a doctor and psychiatrist.

Robert Kinstrey ’67 (ESF), director, pulp and paper consultancy for Jacobs, was named recipient of the 2013 Herman Joachim Distinguished Service Award presented by TAPPI, the leading association for worldwide pulp, paper, packaging, and converting industries.

Victoria Porter Kornfield ’67 (SDA), G’68 (EDU), a retired teacher from Bangor, Maine, was elected to the Maine House of Representatives. She serves on the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Roland Van Deusen ’67 (A&S), G’75 (SWK) of Clayton, N.Y., had his veteran outreach video (filmed on the SU campus) published online in the leading U.S. mental health journal, Psychiatric Times. The video, To Veterans with Invisible Wounds (www.youtube.com/ watch?v=nNV-hEsIXY), is being used in a number of PTSD treatment programs, including the VA National Center for Suicide Prevention.

Nicholas Prukop ’68 (A&S) of Newport Beach, Calif., wrote Healthy Aging and You: Your Journey to Becoming Happy, Healthy, and Fit (Trafalgar Publishing), drawing on his 25 years of experience in the fitness industry. He is certified by the American Council on Exercise as a personal trainer and health coach.


Douglas Brody G’69 (A&S), wrote Patsy! (Sunbury Press), a novel that takes a new approach to Lee Harvey Oswald’s assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas.

Robert L. Kravitz ’69 (NEW/VPA), a rabbi who writes the column “Inspirations” for the City Sun Times newspaper, retired after 20 years as volunteer chaplain with the Phoenix (Ariz.) Police Department. He continues to serve as the senior member of the Chaplain Corps for the Arizona Department of Public Safety and as Chaplain One in the City of Scottsdale Police Department, providing emotional and spiritual support to officers, their families, and civilian employees of the department and the families of people who die on Arizona highways.

70s

Abe Caceres ’70 (VPA) of Milwaukee published a book and CD, All Are Welcome! Feel the Spirit! Eight World Music Choral Anthems for Youth, Adults and Congregation, available through www.worldhousemusic.org. Caceres teaches and performs for schools, colleges, and churches in the United States, South America, Mexico, and the Philippines, promoting hope, healing, and understanding through cross-cultural interactive music programs.

Karen DeCrow L’72 (LAW), an attorney, feminist, author, and activist, was the featured guest speaker at an International Women’s Day celebration hosted by the YWCA/ North Shore, Northwestern University’s Women’s Center, and the Woman’s Club of Evanston (Ill.) in March. Her presentation was titled “Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum?” She also led a discussion on the topic “Has Gender Equality Stalled?” at the Sheraton Syracuse University in April.


J. Mark Ruhl G’72, G’75 (MAX), professor of political science and the Glenn and Mary Todd Chair of Political Science at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., received the Constance and Rose Ganooe Memorial Award for Inspirational Teaching at the college’s 2013 Commencement.

Eugene Sunshine G’72 (MAX), a senior vice president at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., is the chief business, financial, administrative, and personnel officer and principal advisor to the president on non-academic affairs.

Curtis B. Ward ’72 (ESF) of Grantham, N.H., was inducted into the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Hall of Fame in Springfield, Va., in May. He was recognized as a significant leader within the Defense Mapping Agency and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency and for his contributions to the intelligence community.

Tom Whittle ’72 (NEW) co-wrote The Gold House: The Lies, The Thefts (Soledad Publishing Company), an investigative analysis of evidence pertaining to the illegal removal of billions of dollars in gold from Victoria Peak (victoriopeak.com), a remote mountain on White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, allegedly involving two presidents—Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

Elizabeth Forbes Wallace ’73 (A&S/NEW) is president of Giraffe ‘n Ant Productions in Takoma Park, Md. She will present her abstract, “Space Tourism is the New Higher Education,” at the 2013 Next Gen Suborbital Researchers Conference in Broomfield, Colo.

Charles D. Mills ’74 (A&S) of Marine on St. Croix, Minn., a senior research associate at the University of Minnesota Department of Surgery, is writing a review of the immune system. His discovery of two new white cells in the immune system, published in the Journal of Immunology in 2000, is one of the last decade’s most highly cited papers in medicine, having an important impact on cancer research and other diseases.

Wendy Millstein ’75 (EDU) is vice president of Pathways to a nonprofit organization started by three former Peace Corps volunteers. Their mission is to advance the education of women and girls in Togo, one of the poorest nations in the world, through scholarships, life skills training, and mentoring (www.pathwaystogo.org).

James J. Pendergast G’76 (MAX), human resources administrator at the University of New Mexico Hospitals (UNM) in Albuquerque,
presented at the Working Mother magazine awards in McLean, Va., in April, speaking about wellness in the workplace. He also accepted the award for UNM as a top national employer for hourly workers.

Thomas Fensch G’77 (NEW), author of 31 nonfiction books and chair of the mass communication department at Virginia Union University in Richmond, received a citation from the university’s president in May for “outstanding service and unselfish commitment.”

Scott Piloniak ’77 (NEW) co-wrote Juke Box Hero: My Five Decades in Rock ‘n’ Roll (Triumph Books), the autobiography of Lou Gramm, accomplished musician, songwriter, and lead singer of the iconic band Foreigner.

Linda E. Taggart ’77, G’79 (NEW) is a longtime Maryland Public Television (MPT) producer and head of on-air fund-raising. A veteran of the public television industry, Taggart is the first managing director of individual giving within the station’s development division, overseeing a staff of 11 on-air fund-raising, membership, member, and volunteer services personnel.

William Taylor ’77 (ARC), president and sole shareholder of Syracuse-based William Taylor Architects (WTA), is celebrating his firm’s 30th anniversary. Since 1983, WTA has provided architectural design services nationally with projects in 11 states exhibiting expertise in construction, renovations, and additions, with a focus on clients within the educational, municipal, medical, commercial, and industrial sectors.

Andrew Lavoo’t Bluestone L’78 (LAW), a board certified legal malpractice attorney based in Manhattan, was selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers for the years 2012 and 2013.

Eileen Collins ’78 (A&S), H’01 was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in April at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. She joins an elite group of such legendary American space heroes as Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Alan Shepard, Jim Lovell, Sally Ride, and John Young.

Pamela Blake Levine ’78 (NEW), and her husband, Edward Levine ’78 (NEW), of Galaxy Communications in Syracuse, were honored with the Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation’s MVP Award at the 14th annual Basket Ball Gala at Turning Stone Resort Casino in April. The foundation strives to enrich the lives of children in need within the Central New York community, as well as provide support for eliminating cancer through research and advocacy.

Carol Nelson Shepherd L’78 (LAW), an attorney with Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig, a personal injury law firm in Philadelphia, was recognized as a 2013 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in Super Lawyers Magazine, a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Mark Grimm G’79 (NEW) is executive director and host of the Siena Alumni Connection radio program, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in March.

Tim Fox ’80 (NEW), a reporter and producer at NewsChannel 9 WSYR for more than 30 years, co-wrote Syracuse Television (Arcadia Publishing), a book that tells the story of the development and history of Syracuse television through more than 200 vintage images. The authors are donating a portion of the book’s proceeds to the Onondaga Historical Association.

Marc B. Hahn ’80 (A&S) is president and CEO at Kansas City (Mo.) University of Medicine and Biosciences. He was previously senior vice president of health affairs and dean and professor of anesthesiology at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Glenn Israel ’80 (VPA), a labor and employment attorney with Bernstein Shur in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, was recognized in Chambers USA, a directory of the nation’s top law firms and leading business lawyers.

JoAnn Laing ’80 (W), a reporter at the New York Times, was named a “Leader Among Harvard Business School Alumnae,” and one of New Jersey’s 2013 Best 50 Women in Business.

Lawrence E. Jordan G’81 (MAX) retired after a 25-year career in investment banking in Texas. He spends his time traveling and volunteering, including mentoring young adults, playing with children at a children’s hospital, providing tax assistance to low-income families, teaching writing to GED students, and transporting disabled veterans to the VA clinic. Last fall, he taught computing, English, and mathematics at a junior high school in Hohoe, Ghana.

Louise E. Quethera ’81 (EDU) wrote The Duplicity Factor: An American Story, a novel that takes place at SU in the late 1970s, and its sequel, Prisoner of the System (Xlibris). Quethera based the novels on some of the experiences he’s had since suffering serious head trauma following a 1977 car accident when he was an SU student. The novels, written under the pen name of Louis Que, are available through Amazon.com.

Shahin Haghighi Clark ’82 (WSM) and her husband, Mark, operate Lodgestone Banking, a consulting firm that helps banks find lost revenue. Some of their clients include Pathfinder Bank, Adirondack Bank, and the former Partners Trust in Utica, and OnBank in Syracuse.

Jeffry Haber ’82 (WSM), professor and chair of accounting at Iona College and controller of the Commonwealth Fund, wrote What if Everything We Knew About Investing Was Wrong? (North American Business Press).

Richard Wald ’82 (NEW) managing director-wealth management and wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Walnut Creek, Calif., was recognized by Barron’s weekly financial magazine as one of “America’s Top 1,000 Advisors” for 2013.

Christie Casciano Burns ’83 (NEW), a veteran television anchor and reporter in Syracuse, co-wrote Syracuse Television (Arcadia Publishing), a book that tells the story of the development and history of Syracuse television through more than 200 vintage images. The authors are donating a portion of the book’s proceeds to the Onondaga Historical Association.

Lisa Fantino G’83 (NEW) of Mount Kisco, N.Y., wrote Amalfi Blue, Lost & found in the south of Italy (Wanderlust Women Travel Ltd.), the memoir of a career journalist turned attorney.

Stephanie Waterman ’83 (A&S), G’04 (EDU), assistant professor at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education, co-edited Beyond the Asterisk: Understanding Native Students in Higher Education (Stylus), which uncovers how Native Americans remain one of the least represented and least understood populations in higher education.

ORANGESPOUTLIGHT

Dan Hypes G’04 (VPA) is the executive producer of Baseball Forever! 50 Years of Classic Radio Play-by-Play Highlights. Narrated by Bob Costas ’74 (NEW), it is a one-of-a-kind audio chronicle of some of the sport’s greatest and most iconic moments, published by AudioGo, an independent audiobook publisher based in North Kingstown, R.I. (www.audiogo.com). Tara Gelsomino ’96 (A&S/NEW) and Dave Ciesielski ’00 (NEW) also contributed to the project, working on marketing/publicity and sales of the title, respectively.
James “Shay” Zak ’85 »

SIMPLE SPLENDOR

THE DAY JAMES “SHAY” ZAK WAS BORN, his Irish uncle took one look at his red hair and exclaimed, “Ah, little Seamus,” which is Gaelic for James. The name, pronounced Shaymus, stuck, and he has been called Shay ever since. Growing up in Mill Valley, California, he was into painting, enjoyed arts and crafts, and liked building things. “My high school girlfriend’s dad was an architect, and I thought he was a really cool guy,” Zak says. “I decided architecture would be perfect for me.”

A third-generation Californian, Zak knew little about life beyond the Golden Gate Bridge, so when it came time to choose a college, he looked to the East. He checked out Syracuse University on the recommendation of a family friend and was impressed with its ivy-covered buildings, five-year architecture program, and study abroad opportunities. “While studying for my bachelor’s degree at SU, I immersed myself in the East Coast scene,” says Zak, who added a master’s degree in architecture from Harvard University to his credentials in 1986. “Syracuse was a good place for me because I was able to intern with architecture firms in New York, Boston, and Chicago, and study architecture in Florence, Italy. It was fabulous.”

Back home in California, Zak established his own firm, designing residential architecture out of his office in Marin County. In 2000, he was asked to design a house in Hawaii. “I had never set foot in Hawaii, so I had to figure out what I wanted to do,” Zak says. “I drove around to get the feel of the island, and decided to pair the simplicity of the open primitive Hawaiian huts with the New England-style frame houses brought over by missionaries in the mid-1800s.”

His first Hawaiian home, Beach House, was built in the Hualalai Resort on the Kona Coast of the Big Island. It’s organized around two garden spaces that optimize the site’s lush tropical surroundings and features open walls, floor-to-ceiling windows, all natural wood, and a minimalist color palette. “I used no paint, and every material was chosen to get better with age,” Zak says. “Beach House is now 12 years old and has a wonderful patina that looks as fresh as ever. I discovered it takes a lot of work to make something look simple.”

The balance and symmetry of Beach House caught on and led to all of Zak’s other work, including 30 homes in Hawaii—documented in his book *New Tropical Classics: Hawaiian Homes by Shay Zak* (Architecture/Interiors Press, 2011)—as well as homes in Lake Tahoe, and a number of projects now under construction or on the drawing board. His clients, many of whom are from Silicon Valley, ask interesting questions. “If I’m designing for two intelligent people—a man and a woman—and they have their own perspectives—my job is to come up with something that satisfies both of them perfectly,” says Zak, who is a member of the School of Architecture Advisory Board and the San Francisco Regional Council. “What is satisfying to me is blending their personalities and design aesthetics.”

In keeping with his fondness for thematic designs that harmonize with the beauty of the Earth, Zak named his four children after places he finds inspirational: Cadillac is named after Cadillac Mountain in Maine’s Arcadia National Park; Everest, in honor of the mount’s snow-capped majesty; Berkshire, for the verdant mountains in western Massachusetts; and Cascade, after the lovely mountain range in Washington state. “When our second child arrived I thought, ‘Why not keep the mountain theme alive?’” he says. “Interestingly, they all resemble their namesakes—in spades!” —Christine Yackel
Mary Belge ‘87 (A&S) teaches at Dedham (Mass.) Middle School. As the school’s first engineering teacher, she focuses on hands-on learning, problem-solving, and teamwork to improve students’ proficiency in science and math.

Mark A. Colvin ‘87 (A&S), a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial in East Syracuse, has been recognized as a Qualified Kingdom Advisor by Atlanta-based Kingdom Advisors Inc. The recognition is granted to financial professionals who have met high standards in training, integrity, character, and competence as an advisor, leader, and counselor.

Daniel Kopcow ‘87 (LCS) is a senior chemical engineer at the Ithaca, N.Y., office of GEI Consultants, a national geotechnical, environmental, water resources, and ecological science and engineering firm.

Marc Pietropaoli ‘88 (A&S), founder of Victory Sports Medicine & Orthopedics in Skaneateles, N.Y., and team physician for the Auburn Doubledays, joined a handful of other physicians from around the country to give complete pre-season physicals to all 75 players of the Washington Nationals baseball team at spring training in Viera, Fla.

Carolita Bythle ‘89 (NEW) wrote Revenge of a Not-So-Pretty Girl (Random House/Delacorte Press), the story of an African American teen living in 1980s Brooklyn who overcomes abuse and neglect by discovering real friendship, self-respect, and that pretty and mean don’t always win. Revenge made Seventeen magazine’s list of “What to read this Summer,” and Kirkus, one of the most esteemed literary magazines, gave the novel a starred review.

90s

Tom Gualtieri ‘90 (VPA) of New York City co-wrote and starred in That Play: A Solo Macbeth, The Off-Broadway adaptation of Shakespeare’s Macbeth was nominated for the 2013 Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience. Erin Hill ‘90 (VPA) composed the score and designed the sound for the show.

Robert Hocking ‘90 (A&S) of Danielson, Conn., wrote Strange and Unexpected: Backpack on the Road (Parkside - Backpack Productions), a travel trilogy covering material on Florida, California, and Las Vegas.

David Rogan ‘91 (VPA) of Smithtown, N.Y., won three 2013 Telly Awards for his creative work at the Sanna Mattson MacLead advertising and marketing agency.

Robert E. Leach ‘92 (A&S), G’99 (WSM) and his wife, Tiffany, were married in Tyrone, Ga., in April.

Matt Prohaska ‘92 (NEW/WSM) is programmatic advertising director at The New York Times, responsible for programmatic and channel/indirect revenue for all digital properties in display, search, mobile, and video globally.

Stephen A. Brodsky ‘93 (A&S) is CEO of Spot Trading, a leading Chicago-based proprietary trading firm.

Marc Butler ‘93 (NEW/WSM), managing director of Albridge Solutions, an affiliate of Pershing financial services, was featured in a Forbes.com article, “The Next Generation of CEOs: 10 CEO Ready Leaders.” Butler has been with Pershing for 19 years. He lives in Newtown, Pa., with his wife and two children.

Michael Gara ‘93 (A&S/NEW) is vice president of development for Endemol USA, an independent entertainment production company. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Kristen Santoro-Gara ‘93 (VPA), their three children, and their dog, Boeheim.

Heather Mitchell G’95 (ARC) became one of the few women in South Carolina to own a major architecture firm when she acquired The Bordeaux Group, one of the state’s most distinguished architecture, interior design, and planning firms.

Jeffrey S. Stewart ‘95 (A&S/NEW), an attorney with Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. law firm, was recognized in the Pennsylvania Rising Stars 2013 Edition, a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. A resident of Allentown, Stewart represents management in his labor law practice.

Kenny Rosenblatt ‘96 (IST), co-founder and CEO of Arkadium, creators of the largest library of casual games in the world, accepted a $5 million Series A minority investment from Edison Ventures.

Terrence Dinan ‘97 (NEW) is senior manager, commercial operations-history at A+E Networks in Stamford, Conn.

John Boyanowski ‘98 (NEW) wrote his fourth book, Reimagining Greenville (The History Press), an inside look at the revitalization of this South Carolina city from a decaying urban core into one of the most hailed downtowns in the country.

Edward S. Goldis ‘98 (A&S), an attorney with Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig, a personal injury law firm in Philadelphia, was recognized in the Pennsylvania Rising Stars 2013 Edition, a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Joyce Greene G’99 (IST) of Warren, Mich., was named Library of Congress 2012 Federal Librarian of the Year in May. A librarian with the Department of Defense’s George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Greene helped establish the center’s content management office and brought a series of digital collections online. She was recognized for active and innovative leadership, promotion and development of library and information services, and exceptional professional competency.

00s

Kristian Bryant ‘00 (ARC), staff architect at VIP Architectural Associates in Syracuse, is a registered architect in New York State, a member of the American Institute of Architects, and certified by the National Council of Architectural Boards.

Douglas J. Griswold ‘00 (A&S), strength and conditioning coach for the Boston Red Sox Triple A affiliate, the Pawtucket Red Sox, celebrated a win with his team in the International League’s 2012 Governors’ Cup Championship. Griswold, who worked previously with the Tampa Bay Rays, Milwaukee Brewers, and New York Mets organizations, is a registered strength and conditioning coach through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Catherine Carlson Kadar ‘00 (NEW) and her husband, Laszlo, of West Orange, N.J., announce the birth of their son, Edward Alfred. She is a public relations director at Waggeren Edstrom Worldwide, representing Microsoft.

Delia Nevola ‘00 (ARC) was named principal at Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture in New York City.

Nancy Kalish Biederman ‘01 (A&S), a supporter and volunteer for the Motion Picture & Television Fund, mobilized and led the grass-roots coalition—Saving the Lives of Our Own—to prevent the closure of the Motion Picture Nursing Home, which provides long-term care for those who have worked in the entertainment industry (savingthelivesofourown.org).
IN 1913, SU BECAME THE FIRST INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY to establish a photography department, the SU men’s basketball team went 12-0, and an outbreak of smallpox forced three residence halls on campus to be quarantined. It was also the year the first member of the Kelley family earned an SU degree. Paul W. Kelley (1892-1964) graduated from the College of Law, and, since then, more than 20 family members have followed in his footsteps.

Upon graduation, Paul received several job offers from prestigious Syracuse law firms, but he chose to help his father and uncles run the family business, a small general store established in 1886 that had become Kelley Brothers Coal Company in 1908. The company delivered coal by horse-drawn wagon and continued to grow, eventually becoming an industrial hardware business that now has stores in a dozen states.

Sarah “Sally” O’Byrne Kelley ’47, Paul’s daughter-in-law, spoke about the 104-year history of family members attending Syracuse University. “Through every decade—the ‘20s, ‘30s, ‘40s—to the present day, members of the Kelley family have attended Syracuse University,” she says. “Paul’s cousins, nieces, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are proud SU alumni.”

Kelley, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science, says being on campus during World War II was a unique experience. “There weren’t a lot of activities back then, but we had fun,” she says. “When the war ended, and the soldiers enrolled through the GI Bill, the building boom started on South Campus. No one anticipated how much the University would grow. When the soldiers returned from the war, the campus came alive.”

Kelley is a member of Eta Pi Upsilon, the nation’s first undergraduate honor society to recognize women who demonstrated scholarship, leadership, service, and loyalty to SU. She fondly recalls the society’s dances and curfews. “Freshmen had to be back in the dormitories by 8 p.m.,” she says. “Sophomores could stay out until 9 p.m. and so forth.”

Kelley remains active in the Eta Pi Upsilon Society and looks forward to attending the Commencement ceremony of her grandson, William Mellen ’15, in two years—68 years after her own graduation. Mellen is a classical civilization major with a minor in anthropology through the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I started at Herkimer Community College after I graduated from high school, but my life took a different path,” he says. “I knew if I went back to school, it would be to study something I love: archaeology.” Despite concerns about college costs, Mellen knew of SU’s great reputation, so he made an appointment at University College to discuss his options with an advisor. “Growing up, I walked around campus, went to the Carrier Dome, and only dreamed of attending Syracuse University,” he says. “I never thought I’d have the opportunity to come here.”

One of Mellen’s most exciting opportunities came through the SU Abroad program. Last year, he participated in the program’s summer session at the Florence campus, learning about art from the Middle Ages and Renaissance and doing an ethnographic study of Italy and the Italians. This summer, he went to an archaeological field school located between Florence and Sienna to assist in excavating a Roman and Etruscan settlement. “SU has opened up avenues for me that I wouldn’t have thought possible,” he says.

From the era of horse and buggy, through two world wars, to traveling the globe and learning about history, culture, and art, Syracuse University’s legacy of providing an exceptional education to its students remains steadfast. And the Kelley family is a living testament to that tradition.

—Eileen Jevis

William Mellen ’15 and his grandmother, Sarah “Sally” O’Byrne Kelley ’47 (photo above) trace their family’s SU connection back to Paul Kelley (top, left), a 1913 College of Law graduate.
Shamsiyya Mustafayeva G’09, G’10

DIPLOMATIC MISSION

GROWING UP IN AZERBAIJAN, A FLEDGLING democracy once under the control of the former Soviet Union, Shamsiyya Mustafayeva G’09, G’10 dreamed of saving the world one day. “I told my dad, I want to go to Africa. I want to go to Latin America,” says Mustafayeva, a former Peace Corps training director who went on to earn master’s degrees in public affairs and international relations at the Maxwell School.

Her father told her, “You know, we have lots of big issues here. If you want to help, maybe you should look at that first. If that’s fine enough, then you can look at international jobs.” Now the associate vice rector for academic affairs at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA), where she plays a key role in the development of global leaders, Mustafayeva has found a way to do both.

Founded in 2007 by the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a training institute for diplomats, ADA has grown into a full-fledged university with several undergraduate and graduate degree programs and a state-of-the-art campus in the heart of the capital city of Baku. While studying at SU through the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, Mustafayeva was invited to join ADA and accepted a position as program director, encouraging Azerbaijani scholars who earned doctoral degrees abroad to return to the country and become faculty members. Her current responsibilities range from faculty recruitment and new program development to teaching courses in leadership, teamwork, and cross-cultural communication, calling on her considerable administrative and management skills and feeding her love for international travel and passion for people. “I am very much interested in education, and discovered when working with the Peace Corps that I really do like being a good manager and being as pleasant a manager as possible,” says Mustafayeva, who holds a B.A. degree in philology from the Azerbaijan State Institute of Languages and an M.A. degree in teaching methodology from the Azerbaijan University of Languages. “And I really liked the mentoring aspect of that work—that you can develop others while you are doing this.”

Being back home in Azerbaijan after having lived in the United States for nearly two years has its ups and downs, Mustafayeva says, as does being one of the cornerstones of a brand new university in what is in many ways a brand new country. “It can be an uncomfortable change to come back, because the United States is a more developed country where things get done more quickly and systems are in place,” she says. “My work at ADA is very demanding, and there are days when I just put my hands up and say, ‘Oh, I don’t know what I’m doing. It’s too much!’” Even so, she believes the rewards far outweigh the challenges, and looks forward to continuing to develop and grow while helping ADA to do the same. “I’m doing something exciting and fun, I’m being productive and useful, and I’m bringing skills that are needed,” she says. —Amy Speach

Shamsiyya Mustafayeva (right) offers guidance during a leadership development training program for young diplomats.
PACKAGING TALENT

GROWING UP IN THE ‘60s, ANDREW BERLIN fantasized that one day he would become a brilliant litigator and modern-day Perry Mason. On target to reach his goal, he graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor’s degree in political science, earned a law degree from Loyola University Chicago, passed the Illinois bar, and landed a job with a law firm in his hometown of Chicago. But after nearly two years of practicing law, Berlin realized he still had a hankering to follow his father—a steel industry executive—into business and commerce. So when his father presented the idea of acquiring a troubled packaging company, Berlin jumped at the chance to join him and never looked back. “Our plan was to fix up this company and flip it, but we never got around to flipping it,” he says. “After my father retired, I took over as chairman and CEO of Berlin Packaging and have been president of the company now for 24 years.”

It wasn’t Berlin’s knowledge of the packaging business that led to his success. In fact, he initially knew next to nothing about plastic, glass, and metal containers. But he soon realized he had something even more valuable—a knack for recruiting and hiring people with the right talent. He says a résumé presents a candidate’s skill set and shows experience, but it doesn’t reveal such character traits as integrity, work ethic, ambition, or an insatiable desire to succeed. “For me, interviews are more of a conversation, which I call ‘situational interviewing,’” Berlin says. “I present candidates with stories and anecdotes and ask how they would go about solving the problem. I like to see their problem-solving skills and observe nuances about how they relate to people. In business, good ideas are abundant, but what really matters is finding the right people to execute those ideas.”

Reflecting on his SU experience, Berlin says he was particularly impressed with the wide variety of courses that offered him an opportunity to develop analytical and problem-solving skills, expand his intellectual knowledge, and hone his work ethic. And he fondly remembers history professor David Bennett as one of the great teachers in his life. “Professor Bennett stood out among the rest, and I thought my gift would be a great way to honor him,” Berlin says. “I was happy to give back to SU—it just seemed like the right thing to do.”

Berlin has been able to apply the knowledge he gained in college, as president of Berlin Packaging, and as a limited partner in the Chicago White Sox, to his new role as chairman and sole owner of the South Bend Silver Hawks baseball team, a Class A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks, which he acquired in January 2012. “It’s a significant investment, but a lot of fun,” Berlin says. “And if done right, it’s a profitable enterprise. We made dramatic changes to the leadership team and it paid off really well. In our first year, attendance was up 68 percent—a proverbial home run.”

—Christine Yackel
A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME

IN 1989, ROLAND GRIMES STOOD before a TV camera in Syracuse and answered questions openly and honestly about trouble at a local credit union where he served on the board of directors. Grimes was no stranger to live TV. Three years carrying the football for the Orange had given him plenty of television exposure. But that was as a football player. This was exposure of a different kind, and there was Grimes in suit and tie, handling it with ease. His years at Syracuse University had prepared him well.

Little did Grimes realize it at the time, but this was only the beginning of his on-air life. “I went to Syracuse for three reasons,” says Grimes, who lives in the Washington, D.C., area. “It was a smaller campus. There was diversity. And, most importantly, former athletes were still relevant long after they played.” In conversation, Grimes invokes the names of such Orange legends as Jim Brown ’57, Joe Ehrmann ’73, and Floyd Little ’67. “I was struck by the fact these guys were doing bigger things than when they played football,” he says.

Doing bigger things. While at Syracuse, Grimes was already on his way. He earned a bachelor’s degree in family and community services from the then College for Human Development and a master’s degree in rehabilitation/school counseling from the School of Education. He teamed up with fellow student-athlete Franklin Redd ’88 to create the group Terminating Apathy on the Syracuse Campus, which introduced incoming freshmen to one another before they arrived on campus to help ease the transition into college. Grimes’s time on the Hill was also during the days of apartheid in South Africa and he became involved in the campus movement to end any University business dealings with the country. He became much more than a Division 1 football player tethered to the sports world. He was immersed in the community. He was an activist. “I didn’t consider myself a leader,” he says. “I was a servant.” He was also a man ahead of his time.

Shortly after graduation, Grimes helped establish a group of credit unions in poorer neighborhoods in Syracuse and also assisted the late Eddie Moss ’81, L’86, another former SU student-athlete, with publishing a Southside Syracuse newspaper for eight years. The work put Grimes in front of a diverse group of people from all walks of life. “It was my tipping point for the future,” Grimes says. “Whether it was a dentist or an astronaut, I could converse with them. My experience at Syracuse University allowed me to talk to all kinds of people from a variety of disciplines.”

It led Grimes to where he is today, as the producer and host of a long-running, web-based talk show called, appropriately enough, The Roland Grimes Show. The program is an eclectic mix of entertainment, athletics, politics, and community relevant information. The guest list runs the gamut, as does the subject material: sport, art, entertainment, health, community, relationships, and family. Some of the programs are taped live on location, while others are done in a comfortable studio setting. All of it engaging, fast paced, and fun. All of it available to a worldwide audience (www.rolandgrimesshow.com). All of it from a man ahead of his time.

Moving forward, Grimes is looking for something even larger than what he’s created so far: a strong brand, with roots firmly planted at Syracuse University. “I’ve been called a preacher and a professor,” Grimes says. He is both in many ways, but something much more. He’s a visionary, and has been, from the moment he stepped on campus, to where he is today.

—Keith Kobland
Myriam Bouchard ’01 (WSM) of New Paltz, N.Y., is a certified business advisor at the Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center (SBDC). She was named 2013 Business Advisor of the Year for the New York State SBDC.

Joni Weber ’03 (A&S/NEW) earned a master’s degree in public policy from George Mason University School of Public Policy in May. She lives in Herndon, Va., and works at Booz Allen Hamilton, a strategy and technology consulting firm.

Michael Zyborowicz ’03 (WSM), a director with the accounting, tax, and business consulting firm Citrin Cooperman in Philadelphia, was recognized as a Certified Franchise Executive after completing a comprehensive course of study in franchise management offered by the Institute of Certified Franchise Executives, which is the academic branch of the International Franchise Association’s Educational Foundation.

Brooke Alper ’04 (A&S) is the customer care manager at Audible.com, a division of Amazon.com, in Newark, N.J. She and her husband, Joshua A. Lipschitz ’99, G’01 (WSM) welcomed their second son, Nathaniel Finn Lipschitz, in April 2012.

Zack Hutchins ’04 (NEW) is director of digital communications for Patricia Lynch Associates in Albany, N.Y. He works in the company’s communications unit, PLA-Comm.

Eli Saslow ’04 (NEW) of The Washington Post was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his moving portrait of a struggling swimming pool salesman that illustrated the daily emotional toll of the nation’s economic downturn.

Sheila E. Stanton ’04 (EDU/VPA), G’06 (EDU) married Stephen M. DePaola in August 2012. They live in Westchester County, N.Y.

Antonia Trigler ’04 (A&S) married Mike Solito ’03 (NEW) in Grand Cayman with 28 Syracuse University alumni in attendance.

Leyla El Bouhali ’05 (A&S) married Russell Swanson ’05 (WSM). Leyla is a therapist at the Clear View School Day Treatment Center, and Russell is a material logistic manager at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. They reside in Stamford, Conn.

Marilyn Diamond ’05 (SWK) of Willston, S.C., is a contributing writer to The Motherhood Diaries (Strebor/Atria Books) by ReShonda Tate Billingsley. Diamond’s piece, “Diary of a Single Parent,” chronicles her journey as the mother of three sons.

Matthew P. Guardino G’05, G’11 (MAX) is an assistant professor in the political science department at Providence College in Rhode Island.

Brian McClintock ’05 (NEW) is director of media relations for Little League Baseball and Softball. For the past three years he worked as editorial and marketing director for GoSportn.com.

Susan L. Dahline L’06 (LAW), G’06 (MAX) is an associate attorney at Bousquet Holstein law firm in Syracuse, focused on employee benefits law.

David Schultz ’06 (EDU), a Marine Corps veteran, is a certified athletic trainer at Victory Sports Medicine and Orthopedics in Skaneateles, N.Y., and a member of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association. As the athletic trainer at Jamesville-DeWitt High School in suburban Syracuse, he assisted Brandon Triche ’13 and DaJuan Coleman ’16 with their training and injury rehabilitation.

Jeremiah Hancock ’07 (ARC) is a project manager for corporate interiors at New York City-based Francis Cauffman architecture firm.

Shannon Blair Small G’07 (EDU) and her husband, Brian Small ’02 (WSM), G’08 (EDU), announce the birth of their daughter, Danillel Hazel. Shannon is a counselor at the Hebrew Day School, and Brian serves as the Jewish chaplain at Syracuse University and as interim executive director of Hillel at SU.

Lindsay Truesdell ’07 (NEW) is senior event coordinator for The Ride for Roswell, an annual cycling event benefiting Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.

Andrew Brumbach ’08 (ARC) is an associate at TRO Jung/Branen, an integrated planning, architecture, and engineering firm located in Boston.

Jake Wehrman ’08 (NEW) produced the video for Springfield, Oregon’s entry in the Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Mayors Challenge, vying for a $5 million grand prize. His video was one of 20 finalists, which included the City of Syracuse (www.huffingtonpost.com/mayors-challenge/).

Hervens Jeanis ’09 (LCS) is in the Ph.D. program in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science at the University of Pittsburgh. A graduate student researcher in the rehabilitation science and technology department, he is working on the Strong Arm Project, which is developing an assistive robotic device to be used by veterans with disabilities and others to be transferred out of a wheelchair with the assistance of a caregiver using one finger.

Elizabeth A. Matessino ’09 (LCS) of Los Angeles graduated from the Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California.

Katelyn Heim ’11 (A&S) is studying at the School of Pharmacy at the University of California San Francisco.

Ryan D. Govoni ’12 (LCS) graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School and received a commission as an ensign in the United States Navy while assigned at Officer Training Command in Newport, R.I.

Tim Noparumpa G’12 (WSM) is an assistant professor in the management department at Providence College in Rhode Island.
The Campaign for Syracuse University has been an overwhelming success, raising over $1.044 billion during one of the most challenging economic climates in decades. It’s a new level of achievement that wouldn’t have been possible without your generous support.

For a complete report, and to see the tremendous transformation the campaign has already created at SU, visit campaign.syr.edu. And once again, thank you—for your passion, your loyalty, and your pride in all things Orange!

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IN MEMORIAM

TONY AWARDS

Alumni Shine on Broadway

THE BROADWAY COMMUNITY WARMLY embraced Syracuse University alumni at the 67th annual American Theatre Wing’s 2013 Tony Awards held on June 9 in New York City. Named for actress, director, and producer, Antoinette Perry, the American Theatre Wing’s Tony Awards were established to celebrate excellence in the theatre. Two alumni were among the winners, and several others were nominated for the quality of their theatrical accomplishments.

Producer Myla Lerner ’73 took home a Tony Award for Pippin, which won Best Revival of a Musical and three other awards. Top honors also went to Daryl Roth ’66, a producer of Broadway’s must-see new musical, Kinky Boots, which was nominated for 13 Tony Awards and won six, including the prize for Best Musical. The high-heel hit features music by Grammy winner Cyndi Lauper, who made theater history as the first solo woman ever to accept the Tony Award for Best Score.

Along with Roth, Arielle Tepper Madover ’94 and Stacey Mindich ’86 were producers of Lucky Guy, which was nominated in 10 categories and received two awards (see related story, page 44); and Annie, which was nominated for Best Revival of a Musical. Roth and the ARACA Group’s Mike Rego ’90 and Hank Unger ’90 are producers of The Testament of Mary, which earned three nominations. Rego and Unger joined Van Dean ’96 of Venetian Glass Productions as producers of Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella, which garnered nine nominations and won the Tony Award for Best Costume Design of a Musical. And architecture alumnus David Rockwell ’79, who created the stage settings for Kinky Boots and Lucky Guy, was nominated for Best Scenic Design of a Musical and Best Scenic Design of a Play.

For a complete list of 2013 Tony Award winners and nominees, go to www.tonyawards.com.

—Christine Yackel
Alumni film explores aftermath of 9/11 crash in rural Pennsylvania

LAURA BEACHY ’12 WILL NEVER FORGET BEING IN HER sixth-grade English class on September 11, 2001, when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field in Stonycreek Township, only 15 miles away from her school. The terrorist attack forever changed Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and the lives of many residents, having an effect on the area that endures today. “I think 9/11 was just so full of fear and confusion that it took quite a while to truly process what happened and how my tiny middle-of-nowhere town became a place the entire world knew about,” says Beachy, a Newhouse School alumna. “9/11 put us on the map.”

Like many people, Beachy still carries a strong emotional and physical attachment to the tragedy. Beachy’s sense of obligation to share how Somerset residents personally memorialized the event led her on a three-year pursuit to create the documentary We Were Quiet Once. The film features three witnesses of the plane crash, and explores the theme of what happens when your life becomes defined by a tragedy. “I wish I could have helped somehow, but I couldn’t,” auto salvage worker Terry Butler says in the film. “I just stood here and watched it unfold.” As a Somerset County native, Beachy says she gained special access to Butler, volunteer firefighter Rick Flick, and Catholic Father Al Mascherino, and built strong relationships with them through the filming. For Beachy, one of the most unforgettable experiences of working on the film came when Father Al called one morning and told her he was dying. “They were a part of me and shaped a part of who I am today,” says Beachy, public relations coordinator at Rodale Inc.

In directing the film, Beachy turned to two former Newhouse television, radio, film program classmates for assistance—Cory Sage ’12, who served as director of photography, and Ryan Balton ’11, post-production supervisor and co-editor. “The film is not just a recounting of what happened on 9/11, because that story has been told every way possible,” says Balton, who works at ESPN. “It is more a discussion of how people deal with the grief that comes with a traumatic event like this. How did these people deal with that?” Balton believes the documentary carries a bigger message, too—one that touches on people’s patriotism and reactions on that day. It’s been an interesting journey to put the film together, he says. “We were editing for one month straight to hit the moment at the end. It feels so rewarding when I sit back and watch it. I have seen it millions of times, but it is still interesting to me.”

Beachy screened an early version of the film at Newhouse last year and says positive feedback made her confident about the project. They completed the film in May and planned to release it to independent film festivals, universities, museums, and a local television station in Pennsylvania. They will also share it with nonprofit organizations for fundraising events. “It’s taken two-and-a-half years to hone a film that I am willing to show,” Beachy says. “That’s two-and-a-half years of growth, two-and-a-half years of equal parts inspiration and frustration. But to be honest, I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

—Jingnan Li
AN ACT OF GRACE: THAT’S HOW DR. Lawrence Shulman characterizes the cancer care program in Rwanda that grew out of the collaboration among Boston’s renowned Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Partners In Health, a Harvard-affiliated NGO directed by Dr. Paul Farmer; and the Rwandan Ministry of Health. The work in Rwanda exemplifies broader efforts to bring cancer-fighting expertise and resources to developing countries, an undertaking that’s dear to Shulman. The goal in Rwanda—an African country of 10 million people for whom cancer care was nearly nonexistent before now—is not only to provide treatment for individual children and adults, but also to work with the government and health ministries in developing the policies and infrastructure needed to support and sustain the work. “The opportunity to bring cancer care to such gracious, determined, and bright people—people who have no other options—is a wonderful privilege,” says Shulman, chief of staff and senior vice president for medical affairs at Dana-Farber and director of the institute’s newly formed Center for Global Cancer Medicine. “The patients and families in Rwanda know we’re there out of the goodness of our hearts, and that it’s their only chance for life. It’s been incredibly gratifying, a remarkable thing to experience.”

A model for collaborative care has been put in place at Butaro Hospital, a Partners In Health (PIH) and Rwandan Ministry of Health facility in northern Rwanda at which a cancer program was dedicated last summer. Dana-Farber supplies cancer medications and same-day expert consultations with oncologists in Boston, while Brigham and Women’s Hospital, another partner in the project, provides pathology of tumor tissues and surgical expertise. Doctors and nurses in Boston advise Rwandan doctors and nurses via e-mail and weekly teleconferences. “Teamwork is critical here,” Shulman says. “PIH is skilled at delivering health care in very resource-poor places, but lacks specific cancer expertise. We understand cancer, but not how to care for patients in such challenging areas. By joining forces, including with the Ministry of Health, we can offer cancer patients of all ages a chance at life and build capacity in the country to provide even better care in the coming years.”

In addition to his notable administrative roles at Dana-Farber, Shulman is involved in health care reform and other policies at the national level, having served as chair of the quality committee for the American Society of Oncology and in a number of other national positions. A faculty member of Harvard Medical School, from which he graduated in 1975, he is actively engaged in clinical research in breast cancer. “This is one of the most resource-rich medical communities in the world,” he says. “I’ve been privileged to be here and to be involved in cancer care for the last 40 years.”

Reflecting on his years as a student, Shulman says he feels fortunate to have been taken under the wing of caring and supportive mentors, both at Syracuse, where he majored in chemistry and was captain of the swim team, and during his time at medical school. “Without them—my chemistry mentor, my swimming coach, my piano teacher, and others who helped me to grow as a person—I’m sure I wouldn’t be who I am today,” he says. He has also witnessed the important role mentors played in the lives of his kids, including his son, a graduating medical student who recently spent two months working for the cancer program in Rwanda. “Having good mentors—people who can guide your development, fertilize you, and bring out the best in you—is critical,” Shulman says. “I think mentoring young people is one of the most important and gratifying things we can do, and I try to do it whenever I can. They’re idealistic and energetic. They’re our future.”

—Amy Speach
She clasped her hands around the podium, standing just a few feet from Donald Trump. Tonight, he’s the target. Known as “Comedy’s Lovable Queen of Mean,” Lisa Lampanelli has become a fixture at Comedy Central’s popular roast specials since their early days. With 3.5 million people watching from home, this would end up as the network’s highest rated roast to date. Building off the momentum from her last one-liner, she wound up and delivered another of her patented insults. “You’ve disappointed more women than Sex and the City 2,” Lampanelli quipped, her joke punctuated with a roar of laughter from the crowd.

It might be surprising to some to see Lampanelli roasting The Donald instead of tracking down sources for her next article. In fact, before she transitioned to the top of the stand-up world, Lampanelli, who earned a bachelor’s degree in newspaper journalism from the Newhouse School, enjoyed a nearly decade-long career in journalism, including stints at Rolling Stone and Spy, where she worked as chief of research. And though she’s more than two decades into her comedy career, Lampanelli admits she didn’t always have her eyes set on being on stage. “I didn’t know what stand-up was when I was younger,” Lampanelli says. “I had never seen it. All I had seen were the Dean Martin roasts they had on TV.”

Tiring of journalism, Lampanelli gave stand-up a try in 1990 and hasn’t looked back. However, it took some time before she decided to stick with her now famous brand of insult comedy. “You find your voice at about seven years in when you’re doing stand-up,” Lampanelli says. “I liked the interaction with the audience. [With insult comedy] you have to take more chances. You have to see what you can get away with.”

Unlike other comics who simply move from one chunk of their act to the next, Lampanelli works with the crowd. She consistently flirts with taboo topics like race and sexuality, targeting a plethora of groups as possible punch lines on a given night. And with an act that revolves around the insult, she puts herself on the front line, risking the ire of others. “Insult comedy is hard, because you have to have an inherent likeability to do it,” she says. “You need to get people in the crowd to like you. It’s a style that’s works for me.”

When it comes to writing material, Lampanelli doesn’t believe her journalism background helped. However, the writing experience did pay off when it came to the promotional side of comedy, from crafting her own press releases to constructing a web site (www.insultcomic.com).

But if given a do-over, Lampanelli—who was known as Lisa Lampugnale during her Syracuse days—says she would have taken a different route in college. “The only regret I have is not majoring in theater,” says the Trumbull, Connecticut, native, who is gearing up for a 2014 one-woman show on Broadway tentatively titled Lisa Lampanelli: Skinny Bitch. “But I didn’t figure out what I wanted to do until I was 30, so I can’t Monday morning quarterback it.”

However, Lampanelli admits she acquired a strong work ethic during her time at Syracuse that she’s carried with her from her journalism career to the present day. “One thing I did learn during college was to put a value on the work I did,” she says. “Instead of writing for free, I wrote for the Syracuse Herald-Journal and got paid for it. I learned that if you work on something, you should get paid for it. And I took that with me to comedy.”

—Andrew Clark