DONALD P. CHRISTIAN INAUGURATED AS NEW PALTZ’S EIGHTH PRESIDENT

SERGEY JIVETIN ’01g WEARS HIS ART ON HIS SLEEVE

DISCUSSING BRAIN MATTERS WITH WARREN BICKEL ’78 AND JULIAN KEENAN ’91, ’94g
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“As someone who benefited from an excellent education at New Paltz, I am very pleased to be able to help other students ‘cross the finish line.’”  
—Nancy (Hahn) Moore ’64 (Elementary Education)

“Crossing the Finish Line Fund” helps students facing financial crisis  

Thanks to the generosity of Nancy (Hahn) Moore ’64 (Elementary Education) and her husband, David, students affected by the instability of the current economy are receiving some much needed financial assistance. The Moores have donated $100,000 to the SUNY New Paltz Foundation to create the “Crossing the Finish Line Fund,” an endowed fund that will provide one-time assistance to students facing a major crisis that impacts their ability to finance the remainder of their education.

The genesis for the name of the new endowed fund is the 2009 publication, “Crossing the Finish Line,” written by William Bowen, Matthew Chingos and Michael McPherson, that analyzed factors influencing student retention and graduation. The “Crossing the Finish Line Fund” is similar to another emergency assistance fund spearheaded by College Council Chairman Ken Abt in 2009 that also helps students who would otherwise have discontinued their education. To date, the College’s Retention Scholarship program has provided approximately $28,000 to students, enabling them to continue their course of study at New Paltz.

“As someone who benefited from an excellent education at New Paltz, I am very pleased to be able to help other students ‘cross the finish line,’” said Moore.

New Paltz to host conference on Asian studies  

New Paltz will host the New York Conference on Asian Studies 2012. The conference will take place in the Student Union Building and additional locations across campus Sep. 28–29. Asia specialists in a wide range of fields will converge on campus from across New York State and throughout the United States, Canada, and overseas. Along with panels featuring new interdisciplinary and comparative scholarship on Asia, many related events are scheduled for the conference, including a special exhibition at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, a cultural performance in McKenna Theatre, a book exhibit featuring new publications on Asia, and a lecture by author Ha Jin.

Congratulations, Class of 2012!  

Degrees were conferred to more than 1,900 graduating students, including December 2011, May and August 2012, during the 2012 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony held on the Old Main Quad on May 20. Danielle Brown ’12 (Adolescence Education/English) of Merrick, N.Y., was the valedictorian. The class was addressed by Dr. Tomás D. Morales ’75 (Secondary Education 7-12, Social Studies), president of the College of Staten Island and an alumnus of SUNY New Paltz. Morales, who also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters at the ceremony, has been an educator and leader in higher education administration for more than 36 years, including 15 of which he worked in various roles at SUNY New Paltz. His belief in the transformative capacity of education comes from his personal experience and the benefits of being the first in his family to become a college graduate. He was born in Puerto Rico and raised in the South Bronx. He came to New Paltz through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a program he would later serve as counselor and then director, and went on to earn his master’s degree and Ph.D. in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY Albany. This summer he left Staten Island to assume the presidency of California State University at San Bernardino. During the Graduade Commencement Ceremony on May 18, 605 degrees were conferred.

Remembering Mary Boyle  

The New Paltz community was saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Mary Boyle (Music) on May 4, 2012. Boyle was a faculty member at SUNY New Paltz from 1981 to 2010, during which time she served as director of the Music
The Rededication of Old Main

The three-year renovation of the 65,000-square-foot Old Main building, home of the College’s School of Education, was celebrated with a rededication ceremony on May 11. Attended by some 150 alumni, students, faculty, staff, State University Construction Fund representatives, the architect, the general contractor and subcontractors, and members of the local community, the event also included a reception and tours of the building. Remarks were made by President Donald Christian, Emeritus Dean Robert Michael (Education), and Interim Dean Karen Bell ’91g (Education), as well as Senator John Bonacic and Assemblymember Kevin Cahill ’77 (Political Science) both of whom helped secure funding for the renovation. The rededication included the symbolic presentation of historic plaques, including a rededication plaque. Professor Emeritus Lou Saraceno (Spanish) presented a plaque about the history of language instruction and language faculty at New Paltz. Old Main, which dates from 1907 and is the oldest building on campus, has housed multiple schools and offices through the years, including the entire College at one time. In line with New Paltz’s dual strategy for academic excellence and a green campus, the renovation of Old Main incorporated the installation of high-tech classrooms, modern faculty offices, complete electrical upgrades, central air-conditioning and meticulous attention to the interior finishes of the building to restore its natural elegance and ornamentation.

Green features include maximum water efficiency; a highly efficient air-conditioning system, lighting, and other systems that will achieve 10 percent more energy efficiency than the standards established by the New York State Energy Code. Materials with recycled content were incorporated into new construction, including steel beams and columns, and finishes such as carpet, vinyl tile flooring and acoustic ceiling panels. During the demolition, more than 90 percent of the material removed from the facility was converted into recycled content. Old Main, the College’s oldest building, is expected to attain the distinction of a Leadership in Energy and Environments Design (LEED) silver certification.

Daytona. Cancun. New Paltz. Two of these locations come to mind when you mention spring break to a college student. The third, New Paltz, was the choice of 14 students who spent their spring break making a difference in their community. The second annual Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program was held in March with students participating in leadership opportunities and volunteering at five different local nonprofit organizations.

Students were selected through a competitive application process that included submitting essay questions, a resume, transcripts and an interview. All costs were covered by a Campus Auxiliary Services grant. Students worked seven days during the week and this year logged 700 service hours in the Ulster County community.

Alternative Spring Break activities included a donation drive at ShopRite of New Paltz to collect donations for the Queen’s Galley Soup Kitchen in Kingston and Roundout Valley Animals for Adoption in Accord. In four hours, the students collected 443 items and $164.04 in cash donations. In addition to these collections, the group also volunteered at the soup kitchen, Mohonk Preserve, SUNY New Paltz Children’s Center, and the animal shelter.

A new take on spring break
Processional, speeches, robes, and regalia. The rituals of presidential inaugurations are steeped in history and tradition, bringing with them an opportunity to reexamine an institution’s past and articulate its vision for the future. President Donald P. Christian’s inauguration—honoring New Paltz’s eighth president in its 184-year history—served to induct a new leader, affirm our commitment to academic excellence and innovation, and define our direction for the years to come.

“I am unwavering in my commitment to our now longstanding tradition as a selective, high-quality, residential, public comprehensive college.”
“A key to our future is making liberal education practical, and practical education liberal.”

“Our work as educators must be to grow and cultivate knowledge, learning, and well-prepared graduates.”
Jivetin's work invites such metaphorical descriptions, but it is as much about the symbolism as it is about the experience. "One of the things that I love about the format of jewelry is that it's participatory," he says. "It's about being handled, being touched, being perceived from all three dimensions. Even when a piece is being worn, somebody will come closer to take a look at a piece. It enters a personal space, and it's always within your personal space.”

With a list of materials that includes eggshells, saw blades, syringe needles, and bones, one might question Jivetin's sincerity about wanting the viewer to interact with the items. But that is precisely his point. "I don't want fear to be the first response when people look at the pieces. I want them to be completely absorbed by the beauty of the piece and only later to realize what they are actually made of. The beauty is a strategy that will draw the person closer.”

It's hard not to be drawn into, for instance, a broach made of approximately 5,000 watch hands held together with nothing but a carefully orchestrated tension between the pieces, which take the shape of a pentagon. Other pieces, such as pins made by manipulating syringe needles, and dangling earrings that incorporate tiny saw blades and feathers, also demand a closer look. "I try to create clues in the work that will invite a person to try to see the work from many different levels. It is more than just wearable, ornamental, pretty. It is more about the combination of skill, artistic process, and material, and the idea or concept behind it," he says.

Jivetin has received acclaim, both nationally and internationally, for his outstanding craftsmanship and originality. Over the past several years, museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Art and Design in New York City, and New Paltz's...
"I want them to be completely absorbed by the beauty of the piece and only later to realize what they are actually made of."

Samuel Dorsky Museums of Art have added Jivetin's works to their permanent collections. Currently, several of his pieces are on view in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery in the exhibition, 40 under 40: Craft Futures (through Feb. 3, 2013).

In December 2011, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation named him as a winner of their 17th Biennial Competition. Professor Myra Mimlitsch-Gray (Metal), who received the Tiffany Foundation Prize in 1995, says, "It's a great recognition. It's kind of nice to think back to Louise Comfort Tiffany, the legacy behind the award. He was a tremendous craftsman and also an entrepreneur."

Award winners are selected from more than 100 nominations in the fields of painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video, and craft media. Professor Jamie Bennett (Metal) says, "In the last 10 years it has become rare for someone from the crafts or jewelry to win the prize. It usually goes to someone who's very experimental during which they hone both their skills and their area of focus as well as their ability to articulate their ideas."

"The program in general is a marriage of thinking and doing," says Professor Myra Mimlitsch-Gray. "We feel responsible for pushing the envelope of what defines the discipline, and at the same time, we hold a great respect for the discipline’s history. All of our graduates leave with the ability to set a stone, engrave the inside of a ring, and polish something to perfection, but the focus of the program is more about the discourse that objects embody and the kind of conversation that comes from our initiating those things into the stream of culture."

Graduates of the program have gone on to become metalsmiths, jewelers, sculptors, arts administrators, and an array of other professionals. "There's a very tight-knit group of alumni that have stayed and settled in this area," says Sergey Jivetin '01g (Metal), recent winner of the prestigious Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Competition. "We try to stay in touch, even though we're all super busy. I hate having to miss opportunities to see old friends."

"It can be used to invest in new tools and technology, or to promote one's work by hiring a photographer, or maybe it's a chance to rent a bigger studio, or to pay traveling expenses. It's like the foundation is making a good faith bet that this person is worth the investment," says Mimlitsch-Gray. "Two other alumni of New Paltz's Metal program, Lisa Gralnick '80g (Metal) and Jonathan Wahl '94g (Metal), have also been Tiffany Prize recipients, in 1993 and 1997, respectively."

"The Herbert Hofmann Prize, which Jivetin won in 2005, carries just as much prestige. "It is not a monetary prize, but it's a prize that comes with great honor," says Mimlitsch-Gray. "It's given as part of an international jewelry exhibit that occurs in Munich, Germany each year. In the prize's 40-year history, there have only been two Americans to have won it."

Jivetin has remained in the Hudson Valley since graduating from New Paltz. He currently lives in High Falls, where he shares a home and studio with his partner, Jennifer Trask '97g (Metal). He's become involved with several projects that take considerable time away from his armmaking. An entrepreneur and an inventor, he was commissioned to design a new medical apparatus that may soon be accepted into general use for doctors, and is in the process of starting a small business that will train diamond setters in the technique of micro-pavé. He also teaches part-time at Kean University in New Jersey.

He feels he is at a crossroads in his career, having just severed ties with a gallery in New York City that had represented him for several years. He considers switching formats and no longer making any jewelry that is wearable. "Until I find the format for my work which would somehow intrinsically invite a person to participate with it, without having other associations that jewelry brings to the format, until I find that I don't think I can really describe my work as jewelry or sculpture. I'm making something that's in between," he says. (An example of a non-wearable artwork by Jivetin: a one-inch-tall fence made of about 250,000 watch hands, which he hopes will be installed along the Mexican-American border as a social statement about the symbolic nature of any fence that may be built there.)

For all of the complexity in both his concepts and his techniques, there is a subtext to his work, an openness that invites the viewers to have their own experiences of it, and to draw their own conclusions. "For me, simplicity has depth," he says. "A succinct statement can have so much more power than an extended rant. It's that glimpse of creativity and ingenuity. It's that little, tiny statement. That's where I find the poetry of it."
"The human brain, a three-pound mass of interwoven nerve cells that controls our activity, is one of the most magnificent—and mysterious—wonders of creation. The seat of human intelligence, interpreter of senses, and controller of movement, this incredible organ continues to intrigue scientists and laymen alike." So begins a proclamation, delivered on July 17, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush, declaring the 1990s the "Decade of the Brain."

In the years that followed, millions of dollars were poured into understanding how our mysterious gray matter works. Technologies like functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) were developed, allowing for groundbreaking new ways of seeing and studying the brain. At the time, Warren Bickel ’78 (Psychology) was already immersed in the neuroscience of addiction and Julian Keenan ’91, ’94g (Psychology) was taking his first steps toward deciphering the brain’s role in self-perception and deception.

For more than 30 years, first at the University of Vermont in Burlington and then at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Bickel has been studying the thought processes of addicts in an effort to understand their motivations and behaviors and improve their outcomes. In early 2011, Bickel assumed the post of professor at Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, along with the title director of the Advanced Recovery Research Center and professor of psychology in the College of Science at Virginia Tech.

Bickel describes his work in three categories. The first is trying to understand addiction, which he has approached by looking at the extent to which addicts make poor choices. The second is stimulating change in addiction, or trying to get people to be healthier by making better decisions. The third is understanding success in recovery, with the hope that this knowledge can be applied to the first two areas.

"Addicts have a different time focus," Bickel says, explaining his studies that revealed a high tendency in addicts to discount the future. "Virtually every form of addiction serves excessive discounting of the future—not only heroin addicts but alcoholics, heavy drinkers, cigarette smokers and methamphetamine addicts. The obese discount more than control groups, and problem gamblers discount more than non-problem gamblers."

One study that led to this observation involved asking addicts and a control group to fill in a story that referred to the future. Bickel found that in the control group, on average, participants referred to a future of nine days. "That provides a context to understand seemingly irrational behavior. If you’re only worried about the next nine days, on average, are you worried about sharing that needle that someone else just used? You can think about the broad array of challenging behaviors that addicts engage in, and use the same rationale, and all of a sudden it becomes clearer how they can engage in those things."

Bickel and his team have worked tirelessly to measure the degree of discounting more precisely, both by asking more questions and by using more advanced equipment. "The prevalence of new technologies is really changing the opportunities."
“I think that’s the real benefit of what we’re doing, trying to figure out what made us different from the chimps and the bonobos.”

With fMRI, we get to see into the brain while it’s doing its work, and new intervention techniques, like transcranial magnetic stimulation, it seems like science fiction becoming real science,” he says. Those newer technologies allowed Bickel to observe the brain as it undergoes the decision-making process. In particular, Bickel notices the differences in processing in the two centers active in decision making, the paralimbic region and prefrontal cortices, which Bickel refers to as impulsive and executive functions decision systems, respectively. “What we saw was the addicts being more controlled by this paralimbic brain region than they were by the prefrontal cortices because they preferred the immediate, not the delayed. Ultimately, what that clarified is a new target for intervention.”

While past treatment for addiction focused on medication, which Bickel notes is still a very important part of treatment, Executive Function Therapy aims to re-train the brain to make decisions that will result in better, healthier outcomes. Using TMS, a procedure in which magnetic waves are pumped into parts of the brain, Bickel is able to increase or decrease activity in the brain. “What we want to do is stimulate activity in the addicts’ relevant brain regions and then have them train their brain while it’s working better. The fix is usually short lived but demonstrative,” says Bickel.

Bickel’s latest project, the National Quit and Recovery Registry (online at quitandrecovery.org), is a registry of addicts who have been abstinent for a year or longer. Through the site, Bickel and his team are hoping to learn more about strategies and behaviors that have been successful for individuals beyond the purview of their studies. “What do they do when the holidays come around and there’s a lot of alcohol or other tempting things around? Do they not go to parties, or do they find a way to go and not be tempted? There’s a whole slew of questions we can ask that no one has asked in a very systematic way,” Bickel says. “There might be things that they do that we should make a standard strategy, that we should bring to treatment, teach people who want to recover. We’re also interested in the neuroscience of recovery. Has their decision making normalized? Have their brains normalized? Are there still some places where they make bad decisions?”

Keenan is also asking questions about how the brain functions and how its functions affect behavior. Keenan is interested in the parts of the brain that manage self-awareness. He asks, “Where does the ‘self’ exist in the brain? Why does the brain spend all of its energy creating a personality? Why does the brain think that is an important thing to do?”

Keenan points out the unique ability that humans have to think about themselves abstractly, for instance, imagining themselves 10 years in the future or 10 years in the past, 10 pounds heavier or 10 pounds lighter. “One of the things we found out is that it takes a lot of brain energy and a lot of brain space to do these things. One of the main questions is why do we waste all of this energy on that, or to put it more optimistically, is it a waste of all that energy?”

This line of questioning led Keenan to examine the accuracy of the brain’s perceptions about itself, and its tendency toward deception. “False memories are surprisingly prevalent. How we perceive ourselves tends to be extremely inaccurate,” he says. Not only are the perceptions of the brain often inaccurate, but those misperceptions become integrated into our experience of reality. Keenan notes, “I’ve been impressed at how the brain colors reality, how real our perceptions feel even though they’re not actually real. Your brain is a fantasy world.”

Like Bickel, Keenan uses TMS to alter functionality within the brain. “The TMS machine allows us to knock out certain brain areas so that they become unusable. If we’re interested in deception, we can take some people normally lie about and we knock out a brain area and they’re not lying anymore, so we learn about deception, self-perception, and self-awareness. We’ve found that when you shut off the medial prefrontal cortex, the portion of the brain that monitors social interactions, we see that people are more honest with themselves and more honest with others.”

In his 2003 book, “The Face in the Mirror,” Keenan puts forth his theories about self-awareness, why it exists, when it is developed, and how it shapes our experiences. When asked to summarize his main objective, he responded, “I’m very curious to figure out why the brain spends all of its energy creating a personality, an ego, why it spends so much energy lying to itself.” He adds, “Most other animals do face without a self. Somewhere around two million years ago, human brains started to get really, really big. We’re trying to figure out why humans evolved to be the way they are. I think that’s the real benefit of what we’re doing, trying to figure out what made us different from the chimps and the bonobos.”

In addition to teaching at Montclair State University in New Jersey, Keenan directs the Cognitive Neuroimaging Lab, which he founded in 2001. The lab, which “conducts research on the neural correlates of self-awareness, self-deception, deception, and their relationship to evolutionary neuroscience,” offers opportunities for Keenan to work closely with students, an experience he relishes and one that also reminds him of his years at New Paltz. “I got started at New Paltz with Professors Phyllis Freeman and David Morse, and others in the Psychology Department. The training I got there made all the difference in the world.”

Bickel also credits Professor Freeman, as well as Professor Robert Predesh, with influencing his fundamental thinking about the psychological process, which in turn, he says, “shaped everything else.”

Our Evolving Brains

Is the human brain continuing to evolve? In what ways does it adapt to changing conditions? Who is it asking these questions, and what answers are they finding? PsychTribune.org is a new project co-created by Daniel Glass ’12g and his team at the University of New Paltz. The project, which lies at the intersection of psychology, biology, cognitive-science, neuroscience, and anthropology, allows scientists, educators, students in each of these fields, as well as the general public, to connect directly and share information. Still in its infancy, it has already been endorsed by some of the top evolutionary psychologists and other behavioral researchers in the field, including Robert Kurzban from the University of Pennsylvania and Steven Pinker from Harvard University.

The Blue School, which was founded in 2006 by members of the performance troupe Blue Man Group, is a private school in Manhattan that integrates cognitive neuroscience and scientific research about childhood development into its curricula. Professor Lindsey Russo (Elementary Education) is the director of curriculum documentation and research. The school aims to provide students with a strong social and emotional base through play and other creative means of expression. Russo explains, “The children are encouraged to talk about their emotions. For example, they have pictures of themselves taken with different emotions, so you can see how they face looks and how their body looks, and they move that around during the day in accordance with how they’re feeling. It helps them to take charge of their feelings.”

Her research is based on observations about how the school’s social-emotional approach supports the children in their academic learning. “It’s making them become more critical thinkers. It’s making them problem solve. It’s showing that children who are more in control of their emotions can integrate with the other children and support their learning.” Russo was featured in an article about the Blue School that appeared in The New York Times on Friday, April 13.

Faculty Focus: At Work and at Play
Anders Parker '95 (History)

“The words were so strong that there wasn’t a lot of mess ing around to do. They kind of wrote themselves in a lot of ways.”

Brian Walsh ’98 (Political Science)

Upon graduating, Brian Walsh ’98 (Political Science) packed his bags, filled his gas tank, and headed for Washington, D.C. Though he’d entered New Paltz with plans to become an anthropologist, by graduation, it was clear to him that the nation’s capital was where he belonged.

Walsh was hired as a legislative assistant and press secretary by Congressman Ben Gilman, who represented New York’s 20th District, including much of the Hudson Valley. He later served Congressman Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida as chief of staff. He went on to become the political director for the National Republican Congressional Committee and worked on elections around the country, including in 2010, when the Republicans regained a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Now, Walsh serves as president of two prominent political advocacy organizations: the American Action Network, a 501(c)(4) that promotes center-right policies, and the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super-PAC that supports the campaigns of center-right candidates for the House of Representatives. Both organizations were formed after the Supreme Court issued the Citizens United ruling, which consider ably expanded the role of such organizations in the electoral process.

Referring to the Citizens United ruling, Walsh notes, “The primary focus of the media has been on the political impact but there are a lot of other things that we do. The availability of resources, our ability to become influential very quickly, that’s the road that Citizens United really paved.” American Action Network cospon sored the Republican Presidential Debate in Florida and hosted a conference there with Senator Marco Rubio and former Gov. Jeb Bush. They also mailed information in sup port of the Paul Ryan budget to thousands of households in nearly 30 congressional districts around the country.

“It is a network with a lot of different parts and pieces to it, from policy advocacy to working with various communities to limited political work. We’re very busy,” Walsh says. Digital advocacy is one of the areas that Walsh is helping to navigate in a new direction. “We went from a brand new organization to having over a quarter million Facebook fans in a matter of a few months. This ability to reach out to so many people in a short amount of time, and to organize those people behind various activities and events, is phenomenal.”

He finds his work rewarding, “both profes sionally and personally,” he says. “Professionally, it’s rewarding to be able to engage in some of the bigger debates and provide the support both financially and on the academic side. Personally, it allows for a different point of view of what the world looks like and the battles that are taking place.”

Walsh makes himself available to meet with New Paltz students in the political science and international relations club each year when they visit Washington, D.C. “I always tell them the same thing, and that’s: Be involved,” he says. He has been fol lowing the process of redistricting that has taken place throughout New York, which resulted in the creation of a new district that includes New Paltz and much of the Hudson Valley. “It’s considered one of the potentially competitive races in the country. For political science stu dents, particularly those who want to be involved in politics, it’s a great opportunity to see a race play itself out.”

Alumni Profile

Pages upon pages of unrecorded lyrics mix with letters, notebooks, scrapbooks and photographs in the file drawers of the Woody Guthrie Archives. Anders Parker ’95 (History) had an opportunity to visit the archives in 2006. The result was the album “New Multitudes,” a two-CD compilation of songs generated from previously unrecorded Guthrie lyrics that Parker collaborated on with Jay Farrar (Son Volt and Uncle Tupelo), Jim James (My Morning Jacket and Monsters of Folk) and Will Johnson (Centro-matic and Monsters of Folk). The album was released in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Guthrie’s birth.

“I was a pretty intense thing,” said Parker, describing the experience of exploring the archives. “They would select a box for us to go through and we’d get to dig through it. It was all original. It was just really cool to see everything that he had done and to get to handle the stuff that he handled. It appealed to me in the history sense. It appealed to me as a musician and as an artist and songwriter.”

As for writing the songs, he says, “A lot of them were finished songs, but some of the things I worked on were just scribbles, or maybe one idea. One song was just a couple of lines. We all brought our own sensibilities to the tunes. The lyrics are so immediate and so rich that it was just a joy. The words were so strong that there wasn’t a lot of mess ing around to do. They kind of wrote themselves in a lot of ways.”

Parker describes his musical influences as “all over the map,” citing Bob Dylan, the Beatles, R.E.M. and Husker Du as a few examples. He is also quick to credit a more personal influ ence—his father, an amateur guitarist and pianist. “My dad worked across the river at IBM his whole life. He had a lot of other interests but he genuinely loved his job. I remember when I was about 15 or 14, I think we were talking about jobs or studying or something like that, and he said that you should do something that you love to do.”

Currently living in Burlington, Vt., Parker finds himself in New Paltz with some frequen cy, whether he’s visiting family and friends or checking out the latest inventory at Rhino Records. Parker’s next project is taking him to Knoxville, Tenn., where he is recording an album with “a dear friend and musical companion,” Kendall Meade of Mac cott. He continues to record and perform with his band, Cloud Badge. His 13th solo record, “Cross Latitudes,” was released in 2010.

“We went from a brand new organization to having over a quarter million Facebook fans in a matter of a few months.”
The Family Corleone by Ed Falco ‘71 (English)


Publisher: Good Book Publishing (May 8, 2012)
ISBN: 10-1446574627

Managing Change: Being Smart Enough to Get Out of the Saddle When Your Horse Has Died by Joe Hoft ’63 (Elementary Education)

Joe Hoft is an associate professor of history at the University of Notre Dame and has been teaching there since 1982. He is the author of the ‘Inventor’s Catalogue of the Drawings in the Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan’ and most recently ‘The Ambrosiana Albums of Giambettino Cignaroli (1706-1770): A Critical Catalogue.’ The catalogue provides a biographical sketch of the artist and an analysis of his characteristics as a draftsman, as well as individual catalogue entries for each of Cignaroli’s Ambrosiana drawings and engravings.

Publisher: Milan, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Rome: Baleno Editions (2011)

Fade to Gray by Lane (Writer)

Jastrebski spent her early years in Queens and most school years in Amityville, Long Island. She currently lives in Charlton, Saratoga County, as she pursues interests in horticulture, swimming, and writing. In conjunction with the latter, she has explored Saratoga Springs, the Adirondack region, and Civil War sites in the South. Jastrebski’s latest novel, “Fade to Gray,” tells the story of Brett Shannon, a reporter in London who discovers information about a Muslim terrorist plot. It is available on Amazon as an e-book and in print.

Publisher: Open Door Publishers, Inc. (November 2013)
ISBN: 10-1937713802X

The book won Best Research in Recorded Rock or Popular Music in 2011, and was awarded by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections. Lockwood shares this honor with a select group of previous award recipients that include distinguished New York Times music writers Gary Giddens and Peter Guralnick.

Restless Giant: The Life and Times of Jean Aberbach and Hill and Range Songs by Barbara (Biszick) Lockwood ’80 (Music)

Lockwood has won two major writing awards for “Restless Giant: The Life and Times of Jean Aberbach and Hill and Range Songs.” The Belmont Book Award, which is given for the best book on country music, was presented at the annual International Country Music Conference at Belmont University in June 2011. More recently,
Anthony Panzera ’63 (Art Education) had an exhibition at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz titled “The Leonardo Series: Drawings by Anthony Panzera Based on the Work of Leonardo da Vinci” on Jan. 18–April 15, 2012. The Leonardo Series features 65 drawings by Panzera based on Leonardo da Vinci’s notes and drawings on the human figure contained in Leonardo’s original notebooks. Panzera’s drawings and related information sheets illustrate selected entries from Leonardo’s theories on the relative proportions of the head, torso, whole body, leg and foot, and arm and hand. Panzera is a member of the National Academy and since 1968 has been a professor of drawing and printmaking at Hunter College.

James Agard ’66 (Painting) has nearly 50 years of experience as an artist with 30 of them spent at Gettysburg College as a professor of art and art history. Agard was approached by Gettysburg College’s Schmucker Art Gallery to produce a retrospective show of his work through an exhibition that was held from Jan. 27 to March 9, 2012. Agard had assistance from Kerri Rosensteil, an alumna and good friend from Gettysburg, and held a gallery talk prior to the opening. Agard has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions and competitions, and his work can also be seen in private collections.

Diane (Bouer) Weiner ’69 (Art Studio) had an exhibition titled “Vintage Bovines,” featuring her original paintings on display at Hillborough Winery. Weiner has a fascination with cows and stated, “they represent a way of life that is dying in America,” and this is one of the reasons she pays homage to them in her paintings. Weiner earned her master’s degree at American University and taught art and photography for 15 years. Passionate about drawing and painting, Weiner exhibits extensively throughout the metropolitan region. She has received many awards and honors for her paintings and drawings.

Nadine Robbins ’86 (Graphic Design) was included in an group exhibition called “Disobed” at the Mark Gruber Gallery in New Paltz, May 19–July 17.

Kala Stein ’05 (Ceramics) had an exhibit at the Rosalie “Bee” Stein Art Gallery, located in the Genesee Center for the Arts, in January and February 2012. Stein is a ceramic designer, maker, and educator who has received national recognition as a top emerging ceramic artist. Her installation “Convervium” features a 40-foot-long glass table set with hundreds of porcelain half-goblet forms arranged in a precise pattern. Stein is currently a visiting instructor of ceramics at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and is also the owner of Spring Valley Clay Works in Spring Valley.


Sibyl Pierce-Colon ’83 (Communication and Media), under the pen name Sibyl Renae, has written her fourth play, “This Is Why I Whisper.” The play was inspired by her brother’s struggles with schizophrenia and her own feelings of shame and embarrassment. In addition to her career as a playwright and producer, Pierce-Colon is a housing manager at the Jacob Riis development on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. She began to write plays after suffering a near-fatal car accident in 2004.

Debra (Kramer) Branitz ’73 (Arts Education) was featured in the New York Optimist magazine (thenewyorkoptimist.com), which is dedicated to cultural and fine arts and has featured a variety of international artists. The piece includes 14 images of some of her work. Branitz’s work is on view at the Agora Gallery in New York City (Jan. 16 – Feb. 5, 2013) and at the Arts Arena Gallery in Delray, Fla., where she is a resident artist. Branitz writes, “Many thanks to Professor Manny Bromberg, who taught me about color, light and shadow.”
How could this happen? I was so careful. I picked the wrong play, the wrong director, the wrong cast. Where did I go right?

—Max Bialystock, “The Producers”
Constance Knapp (Secondary Education) serving as the Interim Dean of Pace University’s Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems since June 2008. Knapp expects to return to the faculty for Fall semester and resume teaching in the Information Technology Department on the Westchester campus in Pleasantville, N.Y.

Andrew Berkow (Biology) MD MBA FACR has been named a fellow of the American College of Radiology as its 2013outstanding radiologist. Washington, D.C. Fellowship is an honor reserved for only 12% of the college membership.

Donna (Mastroianni) Kubowie (Secondary Education) wishes congratulations and best wishes to the New Paltz Class of 1972 on our 40th anniversary. Hope to see you 20 all in September when we finally receive our yearbook.

Steven Brody (Psychology) has become the newest member of SUNY New Paltz’s College of Liberal Studies Advisory Board. The board is composed of alumni and friends of the college who provide guidance and outside perspective about the college’s present and future academic programs and offerings. Brody is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in private practice in Greenwich, Conn. He is a graduate of the Medical College of Virginia, DDS ’77 and completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Hospital of St. Raphael, an affiliate of the Yale School of Medicine. Currently, Brody is an attending surgeon in the Department of Surgery at both Greenwich Hospital and New York–Presbyterian Hospital. He also serves as an assistant clinical professor at Columbia University, College of Dental Medicine. Prior to his current position, Brody served as attending and chief of dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery at United New York Hospital and was a staff officer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the U.S. Army Health Clinic at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Brody’s wife, Karen Brody ’71 (Elementary Education) ’80g (Art Education), is also active at New Paltz serving as the secretary of the SUNY New Paltz Foundation.

Stash Grajewski (English) is the director of the Alumni Farm Workers Community and was selected to receive the 2012 Orange County Human Rights Commission Award, which is given annually to persons and agencies that have made a significant contribution to advance human rights and eliminate discrimination in Orange County. His name and organization were put into nomination by the Office of NY State Senator David Carlucci.

Gayle (Boell) Mittler (Journalism) was elected Borough Council President, the Borough of Highland Park, N.J. She has served on the Borough Council since 2010.

Denis Simon (Asian Studies, Political Science) is the vice-president for China initiatives and strategy at Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe. Simon is responsible for developing a university-wide strategy and detailed action plan for ASU for expanding engagement with China from a provincial to national level. He will also be collaborating with ASU colleagues to expand Chinese student recruitment, to develop new training programs to deepen research linkages, and to identify appropriate partners to launch new projects in areas of common interest. Previously, Simon was vice president for international affairs at the University of Oregon.

Richard Schinberg (Psychology) LCSW, BCD, is a critically acclaimed author. With his psychology background he founded the Suntee Counseling Center in East Islip, N.Y. in 1993 and it has now become one of the largest agencies on Long Island. This year, Schinberg was especially honored that his agency was selected as the 2012 Agency of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter. The event took place in a special ceremony held in March in Albany, N.Y. For more information call 61-666-1615 or visit SunteeCounselingCenter.com and/or SchinbergCounseling.com.

Bruce Blumenfeld (Political Science, Communication) won the race for a seat on the South Borough Board, N.J. Borough Council and was appointed police commissioner. Bruce also serves as the Council’s representative to the Planning/Zoning Board and as a member of the Budget Committee, the Redevelopment Committee and the Ordinance Committee. In addition to his day job working as the community development executive for the State of New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Bruce is a co-founder of Refined Beans Antiques in Ocean Grove, N.J., and East Millstone Antiques and Cafe in East Millstone, N.J. To say the least, all of this keeps Bruce very busy.

Mark Novak (Elementary Education) received arubbed design for his photograph from ALEPH: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal. He serves the Washington, DC area as a freelance photographer, storyteller, and bandleader/musician. His recording of Jewish story and song, “King Solomon’s Daughters,” received the 1996 Parent’s Choice Gold Award. He invites you to visit him online at Jewishstorytelling.com.

Kenneth Masten (Secondary Education) ’83g (History) retired in 2008 after 31 years as a history teacher in Newburgh, N.Y. Masten now works as a student teaching supervisor for Mount Saint Mary College.

Robert Insolia (Political Science), partner of the New York real estate capital markets, became the fifth managing partner in the Goodwin Proctor 100-year history as of Feb. 1, 2012, and the first from outside of Massachusetts and the U.S. Army Health Clinic at United New York–Presbyterian Hospital. He also serves on the executive committee. In his new role as managing partner, Insolia will continue to practice, but will give up the co-chair title.

Kyn Moore (Theatre Arts) is a new assistant professor of theater arts and performance studies at Brown University. Since 2008, she has been the general visiting assistant professor of theater, speech and dance at Brown. Previously, she taught at Swarthmore, Sarah Lawrence, Barnard, and Hampshire Colleges, as well as the University of Connecticut, Indiana State University, and SUNY Purchase. Over the past 30 years, she has directed more than 50 plays on off-Broadway, regional, and college theatres.

Leona Borchert (Chemistry) is a medical director at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Ridgefield, Conn. As the senior medical reviewer, Borchert ensures that all oncology information, including printed materials, EUDs, and any medical, commercial, and academic directed to patients and health care providers, is medically accurate and meets FDA regulations.

Jason Kolbert (Secondary Education, Chemistry) became a senior biochemistry analyst at Macian Group, LLC, a leading full service investment banking, securities and wealth management firm. Kolbert has worked extensively in the healthcare sector as product manager for a leading pharmaceutical company, a fund manager, and as an equity analyst. As a member of the Macian team, he spent seven years at Susquehanna International Group where he managed a healthcare fund and later founded SIG’s sell-side biotechnology team. Previously, Kolbert served as the healthcare strategists for Solomon Smith Barney. He is frequently quoted in Barron’s and is regularly featured on CNBC. Prior to beginning his Wall Street career, he served as a product manager for Schering-Plough in Osaka, Japan.

Send us your child’s name, date of birth, weight and a photo to be included in our New Paltz Baby Book, which is available for viewing on our Web site at www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/babybook.cfm.
Richard Torres ‘18 (Business) was induced into the Society of Business- ness’s Hall of Fame in a ceremony held in Kingston, on May 10. Forty under 40: During his career at the Internal Revenue Service, Torres worked for a year, during which he was instrumental in educating the Latino and minority business community about their rights and obligations under the federal tax law.

Leonie Lacroette (Ceramics) was recently profiled for the Copper Devel- opment Association’s monthly feature “Copper in the Arts.” The Copper De- velopment Association is a U.S.-based, not-for-profit association of the global copper industry, influencing the use of copper and copper alloys through research, development, and education, as well as technical and end-user sup- port. Although she originally worked in clay, Lacroette has been making clocks for more than 20 years and sells them through her art and craft galleries nationwide. Her work incorporates wood, copper, steel, and other metals in designs with clean, contemporary lines.

For more information visit leonietime.com.

Steven Tyrell (Communication Studies) ’89 (Educational Administrations) became the sixth president at North Country Community College (NCCC). NCCC’s Board of Trustees met earlier in the month to announce a special board meeting, following a national search and in-depth interviews. Tyrell previously served as vice president for student af- fairs at Alfred State College.

Linda Delgado-Baker (Secondary Education) ’86 (Secondary Education) earned the banquet luncheon celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) in New Orleans on April 5, 2012. Delgado was honored with a recognition award for her work in the field of ethnic and race studies and NAES.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Delgado has researched, published, and presented nationally and internationally in these areas.

Jeffrey Feller (Sociology) celebrated the 7th anniversary of his liver transplant on March 10, 2012. Feller is in rehabs- al for a production of “Uncle Vanya” and is on the Chelton Loft Mental Health program advisory board.

Richard Roy ’84 (Educational Administration) has been the athletic director at Fayetteville-Manlius (F-M) schools for the past 22 years and will remain in June. Dunn is in order to run F-M, he has helped put F-M athletics on the map, as the district’s program rose to number four in the country. He also added to the district’s 30 sports teams, four sports programs, and 13 athletic fields, and recently was named administrator of the year by the Chapter 3 New York State Administrators Associations. Previously, Roy was president of Section III Athletics, president, Onondaga High School League, athletic director, Hannibal School District, physical education teacher, Rondout Valley School District in Accord, Ulster County, and also coached boys basketball, boys varsity track, and boys and girls cross country.

Another thing for which Roy is proud: While he served as president of the Onondaga High School League, he reintroduced the rules governing modified sports to guarantee and expand playing time for all students. That change was later adopted by all of Section III Athletics. Roy also helped to start the region’s academic mapping initiative with his physical education teachers and created more than 2,000 course descriptions for students in grades seven to 12. Being part of a community is also important to Roy. He also has been involved in sport education, a small municipal finance manager and an online newspaper reporter. He has also won awards from such organizations as Suburban Newspapers of America, the New England Newspaper Association, the New York Press Association, and the New York State Journalists Association. In 2010, he was named to the Order of the State Bar of Pennsylvania. In 2011, he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Coalition for Children.

Dionne Walker-Belgrave (Business Administration) was welcomed by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Long Island Chapter as a new first-term member to the Board of Directors. Walker- Belgrave, president of DBW Associates, is an energetic diversity consultant with more than 25 years of combined corporate and higher education experience. Before founding her own consulting business, she held positions in the Long Island area as assistant dean of students, director of affirmative action/equity and diversity, director of financial aid and financial auditor, and budget analyst. She holds a manage- ment development certificate from Harvard University, received her MBA in finance from Adelphi University, and was one of the first professionals to receive the Cornell Certified Diversity Professional (CCDP) certification.

Theodore E. Whitlock III (Psychology) co-founded The Shareholder Activist.com, an online source for news, infor- mation, and advice to facilitate respon- sible investor advocacy. Co-founder of TheShareholderActivist.com, McGuire has been a successful communications specialist, investor and finance journalist, and business consultant for the last 25 years.

Sherry Saturno (English) is currently producing a production in which he is the writer/ director for an HERE Arts Center in Soho, N.Y. The performance includes two other New Paltz alumni from the same year. The production opened Nov. 18, 2011 and more information can be found at somethereallygoodtobekill.com.

Robert Kynd (International Relations) is the vice president of global content at You Tube! VP TV and Entertain- ment at Google and was featured in an article in The New Yorker. Kynd is a top–level executive in media and has a strong background in new initiatives and ground breaking formulas/program- ming. To view the featured article visit newyorker.com/reporting/2012/01/ 16/120116fa_fact_seabrook.

Craig McGuire (Journalism) recently launched TheShareholderActivist. com, an online source for news, infor- mation, and advice to facilitate respon- sible investor advocacy. Co-founder of TheShareholderActivist.com, McGuire has been a successful communications specialist, investor and finance journalist, and business consultant for the last 25 years.

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Catherine Maloney '86 (Business) was named president and CEO of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation (DECED). Maloney had served as the acting President and CEO of DECED since January 2008. She was appointed the Director of Business Development since January 2006.}

At SUNY New Paltz, HHS has been influential in creating specialized classes for the subgroup populations of HHS. An 11th generation descendant of the Huguenot founders Street (HHS). An 11th generation

In 2009, Maloney was appointed to the New Paltz Board of Trustees, where she served for five years, resigning in 2014. In 2012, she was appointed to the SUNY Board of Trustees, where she served for three years.

Maloney earned the Education in 2009. This award recognizes the highest level of achievement in the field of education. It is presented annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of education.

Dr. Marjorie J. Butler, MAY 18, 1910 - FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Dr. Marjorie J. Butler, founder of SUNY New Paltz’s College’s black studies department, died on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the age of 101. Butler joined the New Paltz faculty as an assistant professor in educational psychology. In 1969, she led the establishment of the black studies department, at the request of then President John Neumaier. She served as professor of psychology and black studies until her retirement in 1984.

Butler earned an A.B. degree in English and physical & health education in 1938 from Oberlin College and a Master of Arts degree in psychology and health education at Ohio State University in 1934. She subsequently earned her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1965, shortly before joining the New Paltz faculty.

Dr. Butler was a remarkable administrator and mentor to faculty and students alike. She worked on behalf of the College to build race relations during the turbulent civil rights era, both on the campus and within the SUNY system. Former students, colleagues, and community members were deeply impacted by Butler and her work. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 23, at the College Terrace.

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**In Memoriam**

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Celebrating Spring Alumni Weekend

The Department of Athletics, Wellness & Recreation hosted its second annual Spring Alumni Weekend on Saturday, April 28. Approximately 160 alumni from fall and winter sports were in attendance. The weather cooperated once again, as the sun shone all day without a trace of rain.

Alumni from the men’s basketball, women’s basketball, field hockey, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, tennis, men’s volleyball and women’s volleyball programs showed up for their respective teams’ alumni games, which took place at various times throughout the day.

Adding to the Alumni Weekend festivities was the Carol Eckman Society induction brunch, which took place on Sunday morning at the College Terrace. Claudine Gruver ’99 (women’s swimming) and Keegan Peck ’04 (women’s soccer) were inducted into the Society during a morning devoted to the celebration of women in athletics.

“As a New Paltz Athletics alumnus and a current staff member, it was extremely rewarding to see the turnout of our New Paltz Hawk athletes,” said Keith Kenney ’99 (Business Administration), a men’s basketball alumnus and current director of Wellness & Recreation. “We all had a great time playing the games we loved and telling stories of our time here at New Paltz. The high number of alumni who participated was a testament to how much they enjoyed their time here at New Paltz and their time playing for their respective teams. We hope to continue this new and great tradition each year.”

Your Gift Gives Back... 
To New Paltz and to You!

Today is the day to set up a charitable gift annuity with the SUNY New Paltz Foundation. Support your alma mater and receive a fixed, steady income for the rest of your life. If you are 60 or older, charitable gift annuity benefits can include an income tax deduction, payout rates from 5.4% or more, quarterly payments for life, and a partially tax-free income.

What is a charitable gift annuity?
A gift annuity is a contractual agreement between you and SUNY New Paltz in which you transfer assets to us in exchange for fixed quarterly payments to one or two beneficiaries for life.

For more information, please call 845.257.3238 or email foundation@newpaltz.edu.

Sample Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

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<th>Age</th>
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September 21–23, 2012

RECONNECT, REMEMBER & RELIVE.

The upcoming SUNY New Paltz 2012 Alumni Weekend Reunion has something for everyone...

- Wine Tasting
- Museum Gallery Talks
- Tour Historic Huguenot Street
- Hike Mohonk Preserve
- Class Dinners and Social Get Togethers
- Mohonk Mountain House Brunch
- Department Hosted Special Events
- Fraternity and Sorority Gatherings
- Musical Entertainment, and more.

www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/reunionweekend2012
10th Annual

Gala

Celebrating SUNY New Paltz

This year, SUNY New Paltz is proud to honor the presidents from three of our neighboring SUNY Community Colleges:

Dr. D. David Conklin, SUNY Dutchess
Dr. Donald C. Katt, SUNY Ulster
Dr. William Richards, SUNY Orange

Proceeds support a scholarship endowment that enables students from Ulster, Dutchess, Orange and Sullivan Counties to attend SUNY New Paltz.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012
Mohonk Mountain House

5:00 p.m.
Cocktails and Hors d’oeuvre
Silent Auction Bidding

6:30 p.m.
Dinner
Dancing to the music of Bill’s Toupee
Black Tie Optional

For further information:
845.257.3972
development@newpaltz.edu
www.newpaltz.edu/gala