

# NEW PALTZ

The Alumni Magazine of the State University of New York at New Paltz Fall 2015



# HAPPENINGS

> WHAT WILL YOU BECOME?



[www.newpaltz.edu/admissions](http://www.newpaltz.edu/admissions)

The Office of Communication and Marketing and Undergraduate Admssion recently launched an integrated marketing campaign that involved print, digital and video material. Check out the new website today, and let us know what you think of the new design...and the new video at the top of the page!

TAKE  
A DEEP  
BREATH...  
AND  
BEGIN.



"The roots for finding balance were planted here at New Paltz."

—Darlene I. Bahrs '75, p. 17



**8 DETERMINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
Speech-Language and Hearing Center offers life-changing experiences for clients and students

**12 THE BURDEN OF PROOF**  
Alumnus is expert in plane crash analysis

**16 WOMEN OF NEW PALTZ**  
Alumnae return to inspire and reconnect



## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Seen & Heard
- 20 New Paltz Relationships
- 21 Alumni Profile
- 22 Faculty Profile
- 24 Athletics News
- 25 Class Notes
- 39 Events Calendar
- 40 In Memoriam

### NEW FEATURES!



Video related to story



Additional feature

*New Paltz Magazine*, the alumni magazine of the State University of New York at New Paltz, is published semi-annually by the Office of Communication & Marketing and the Office of Development & Alumni Relations for alumni, faculty, parents, staff, and friends of the College. Its purpose is to keep this extended New Paltz community informed of and engaged with news and activities relating to the College. Diverse views appear in these pages and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor or the official policies of the College.

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**Seen & Heard**

# First World New Paltz alumni honor legacy of opportunity at the College

When the organizers of the 2015 First World Reunion investigated the foundations of educational opportunity at SUNY New Paltz, some were surprised by the dynamic and unique history their search revealed.



"We realized in our research that in 1967 and 1968 there was a group of administrators who formalized the process of matriculating students of color at New Paltz," said **Onika Jervis '93** (Biology) '05g (Educational Administration and Supervision), 2015 First World steering committee and Alumni Advisory Council member. "And we realized that we had never really acknowledged their work, and never said 'thank you' to them."

This year, more than 200 alumni from around the world returned to campus to pay homage to the rich heritage and growing diversity at New Paltz. The reunion featured town hall discussions, parties, a Voices of Unity Concert and a student/alumni basketball tournament.

The highlight of the weekend, however, was the "Trailblazer Reception," at which the reunion committee joined alumni and college administrators in tribute to the architects of Project A, a precursor to the current Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). EOP provides academic and financial support to New York State residents

with a high school diploma, or its equivalent, and who do not meet general admission criteria, but have the academic potential to earn a college degree. Today the program provides assistance and guidance to hundreds of students, many of whom become the first in their families to graduate from college.

Among those recognized were Purnell Kirkland, the first full-time director of Project A; John H. Jacobson, the interim president of SUNY New Paltz who supported and sanctioned the program; and Edward D. Bell, who helped develop and guide Project A in its infancy, and later served the College as director of the Minority Recruitment Program and as associate dean of admissions.

Additional tributes were dedicated to the original 20 Project A students and to beloved faculty who touched the lives of First World New Paltz alumni, including Dr. Marjorie Butler, first chair of the Black Studies Department; retiring professor of Black Studies Zelbert Moore; and the late Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis, longstanding faculty member and leader in Black Studies and in the Scholars Mentorship Program.



"MANY OF THE THINGS WE HOLD **VALUABLE** AND MAY TAKE FOR GRANTED WERE **STARTED BY THESE TRAILBLAZERS**, AND WE HONOR THEM FOR LEAVING US A LEGACY TO **BUILD UPON.**"

— First World steering committee and Alumni Advisory Council member **Anthony T. Winn '92** (Business Administration)

*Held every five years, alumni volunteers organized First World Weekend that included a cocktail and award reception, visits by President Donald P. Christian, and a campus barbecue.*



# UNPRECEDENTED CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES!



In an effort to tackle unmet housing demands, achieve 21st century learning standards and consolidate services to better meet student needs, numerous construction projects are underway at SUNY New Paltz. Three new buildings, three major renovations and infrastructural upgrades, in various stages, are on schedule with some to be completed before the end of 2015. “We have a facilities master plan for the entire campus and our staff is working hard to make that plan a reality,” said John Shupe, assistant vice president of Facilities Management.



See flyovers of construction sites at [www.newpaltz.edu/construction](http://www.newpaltz.edu/construction)

## OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE:

### 2019 OPENING

**NEW! Engineering Innovation Hub**  
Facilities Management staff is evaluating design proposals for the new Engineering Innovation Hub. The building will be next to Resnick Engineering Hall, and the two structures will be joined by a suspended, enclosed walkway. The building will house the college's new mechanical engineering program and support the interdisciplinary 3D printing initiative. **COST: \$14M**

### EARLY 2017

**Science Building** (pg. 5)  
Steel erection has been completed at the new science building, and roofing and welding began last spring. Interior work will begin once the structure is fully enclosed. This project will house physics and astronomy, mathematics, geology, computer science and geography. **COST: \$48M**

### FALL 2015

**NEW! Ridgeview Hall** (above)  
The newest SUNY New Paltz residence hall opened its doors to 225 student residents this fall to help meet significant student demand for on-campus housing. Ridgeview Hall is located between the Athletic and Wellness Center and Lenape and Esopus halls. It is the most modern student housing facility on campus, and features a new café and an unparalleled view of the iconic Shawangunk Ridge. **COST: \$31M**

### FALL 2015

**Sojourner Truth Library**  
The Sojourner Truth Library renovation has unfolded over multiple phases to ensure continuous operation during the project. Renovation of the main level will be completed during fall 2015. New features will include an expanded view of the Shawangunk Ridge to the west, increased natural lighting, technological upgrades and new and improved group study areas for students and faculty that meet 21st century library standards. **COST: \$14M**

### MID-FALL 2015

**Mohonk West**  
This project extends the recently completed Mohonk East pedestrian walkway behind the Jacobson Faculty Tower and down the hill to van den Berg Hall. **COST: \$1.3M**

### WRAPPING UP 2016

**Service Building**  
The Service Building renovation will allow University Police (UPD), Custodial, Facilities Management and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), to relocate to spaces more appropriate to their needs. UPD will settle into its new space during fall 2015. **COST: \$5.4M**

### JANUARY 2016

**Wooster Building**  
The completely renovated and redesigned Wooster Building will house a number of student service offices, as well as the psychology and anthropology departments, some engineering labs, and a new café and student lounge. **COST: \$37M**

Funds for our many major construction and renovation projects come from long-term state bonds that are separate from the College's operating budget, which covers such things as personnel, utilities and supplies. Although these projects are already underway, there are naming opportunities within these projects for donors. For more information, visit [www.newpaltz.edu/give/](http://www.newpaltz.edu/give/).

Seen & Heard



## COMMENCEMENT 2015



More than 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students walked across the stage in tassels, caps, cords and gowns at this year's Commencement Ceremonies held May 16 and 18 on the SUNY New Paltz campus. A total of 1,709 undergraduate and 447 graduate degrees were conferred. **Valedictorian Marisa Gargaro '15 (Communication Disorders)** and Honorary Degree recipient Bre Pettis, 3D printing pioneer, congratulated the new graduates.



SEE EXCERPTS OF THE 2015 COMMENCEMENT AT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvfUUMDsmZE>



VIDEO ABOUT BRE PETTIS (COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT, SEEN BELOW) AT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJyfc1DLXo>



School of Education

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BHUTAN

ASIA



**Stephanie Musial '10 '14g (Education)** had just completed her master's degree in adolescent special education and literacy when she received an intriguing email seeking volunteers to teach in Bhutan. She responded out of curiosity about the Bhutan Foundation and discovered much more.

"Before I knew what was happening I had agreed to an interview," said Musial. "The volunteers were subjected to a rigorous screening process and by the time I heard that I had been accepted, I was already emotionally invested in the opportunity to serve others in such a remote and intriguingly inaccessible location."

The Bhutan Foundation is a non-profit agency that seeks to effect positive change in several domains within the Kingdom of Bhutan, including special education. As such, volunteers are sent to train teachers to identify and address special needs within the general student population.

"The volunteers provide teachers with foundational knowledge," said Musial. "They show them how to identify areas of need and support the integration of that information into planning and instruction."

Musial was stuck by the magnitude of the task when she found that most of the teachers in Bhutan were unfamiliar with the concepts of learning



**"The humanistic, multicultural context of education at New Paltz has shaped me as a teacher."**

disabilities and inclusive education.

"The identification of and assistance to students with learning disabilities is still a new concept in Bhutan," she said. "That is why the Bhutan Foundation is training teachers and administrators to recognize that such disabilities exist and that many heretofore 'behavior problems' and rates of student failure are actually attributable to invisible learning barriers."

Although overwhelmed at times, Musial felt that SUNY New Paltz prepared her for this challenging experience and

equipped her to respond to whatever was expected of her as a volunteer.

"The emphasis on data-driven instruction in both the Adolescent and Special Education departments at New Paltz prepared me from the very start," she said. "The humanistic, multi-cultural context of education at New Paltz has shaped me as a teacher. It allowed me to be sensitive to the needs of Bhutanese teachers and students, and to filter materials and instructional techniques through a cultural lens."

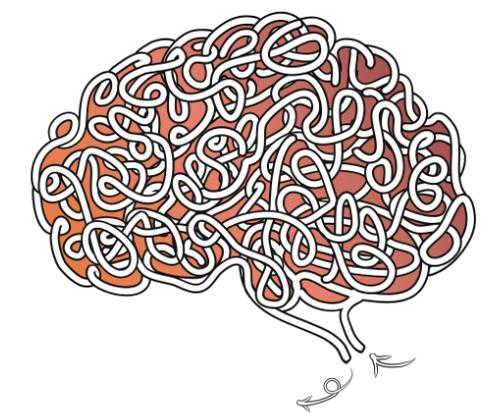


"I GET A LOT BACK FROM DOING THIS TYPE OF WORK...I GET TO SHARE IN THE JOY AND ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT COMES FROM THIS TYPE OF THERAPY."

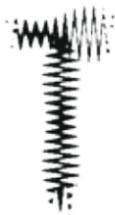
-WINTER EYRES '07 (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS) '13G (SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY)

# SPEECH LANGUAGE AND MEANING CENTER

OFFERS LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES FOR CLIENTS AND STUDENTS



WHEN WINTER EYRES '07 (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS) '13G (SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY) WAS A CHILD, HER MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER SUFFERED A SEVERE STROKE THAT LEFT HER STRUGGLING TO COMMUNICATE FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS. LATER, WHEN A DIAGNOSIS OF MOUTH CANCER FORCED ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER TO ENDURE EXTENSIVE THERAPY TO REGAIN HIS ABILITY TO SWALLOW AND SPEAK, EYRES FELT CALLED TO ACTION.



**HE SUNY NEW PALTZ ALUMNA SAW FIRST-HAND THE VALUE OF CAREGIVER EDUCATION** and

family support in treating debilitating communication disorders, and she was determined to make a difference. The experience of seeing her loved ones struggle, and witnessing their grueling paths to recovery, motivated Eyres to become a speech pathologist.

"I get a lot back from doing this type of work," said Eyres, who works as a speech pathologist at Helen Hayes Hospital Rehabilitation Center in West Haverstraw, N.Y. "I get to share in the joy and accomplishment that comes from this type of therapy."

Working closely with people afflicted with communication disorders allows Eyres to witness huge milestones that at first seem impossible. Patients who have lost the ability to communicate experience intense frustration and confusion without these basic human practices at their disposal; however, with the help of compassionate therapists like Eyres, many often improve.

"Being able to give someone back the skills to communicate effectively again, such as after a stroke, is so rewarding," she said. "Seeing that progress and celebrating with them as they return home is why many of us do what we do."

**THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND HEARING CENTER AT SUNY NEW PALTZ PROVIDES STUDENTS** with a unique opportunity to work alongside faculty mentors and professional speech-language pathologists, who offer clinical diagnostic and therapeutic services for individuals with communication disorders. Treatment is available through the Center for children and adults who demonstrate speech, language, or hearing difficulties that may result from a number of potential causes, including developmental issues, autism, stroke, cognitive issues from neurological diseases like Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury,



and various voice disorders.

"In the classroom we can talk about theory of language, speech, and hearing, but in the clinic we offer the opportunity for hands-on experience," said Wendy Bower, instructor in the Department of Communication Disorders. "The Center's services include diagnostic evaluations and intervention for a range of diverse needs, from pediatric clients looking for early intervention to adults suffering from aphasia." Aphasia is a collection of language disorders affecting speech, language, reading and writing caused by damage to the brain.

The Center is a part of the Department of Communication Disorders and operates on a not-for-profit basis, charging nominal fees for its services. All supervisors are licensed by New York State and hold the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence in either Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology.

"We offer services at reduced cost because we are a teaching facility," Bower said. "It's great for community members to get an evaluation that is less expensive but still at the highest level and quality. I also think it keeps the College connected to the region and continually responsive to community needs."

The Center contains five therapy rooms equipped with remote video observation and recording capabilities, including one diagnostic-classroom-observation

room and a full audiology suite. In addition, a student preparation room is well stocked with testing and therapy materials. The speech lab area contains state-of-the-art equipment, and the facility maintains a student computer laboratory.

A number of alumnae work at the Center, including **Kathleen Paoli '06** (Communication Disorders), **Cheryl Goettsche '01** (Special Education: Speech/Hearing Language Disorders) **Louisa Finn '94** (Communication Disorders) and **Kathryn Burke '90** (German, International Relations) '94 (Communication Disorders). For Finn, who has worked as clinical supervisor at the Center since 1998; the profession offers a unique opportunity to fulfill divergent interests.

"It's fascinating if you're interested in both the science of linguistics and helping people," she said. "There is obviously the therapeutic aspect because you're offering a service, but both sides of the brain are utilized in a way. If you have a strong analytical side and the desire to benefit people, it's an amazing professional fit."

While Finn and a number of alumni have found their professional place at the Center, others looking to build careers after graduation



**"IT'S GREAT FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO GET AN EVALUATION THAT IS LESS EXPENSIVE BUT STILL AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND QUALITY. I ALSO THINK IT KEEPS THE COLLEGE CONNECTED TO THE REGION AND CONTINUALLY RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS."**

-WENDY BOWER, INSTRUCTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS AT SUNY NEW PALTZ

can take advantage of fieldwork and employment opportunities in the department's network of external clinical practicum sites including major hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, preschools, public schools, and private practices. The program offers undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs in communication disorders and confers about 80 degrees each year.

**AS A GRADUATE STUDENT, EYRES WORKED AT THE**

**CENTER**, where she was able to interact with adult sufferers of aphasia and found that her own drive to serve them was shared by her peers in the program. Now an adjunct professor at the College, she credits her time at the Center not only with advancing her skills and knowledge of different disorders, but also with solidifying her desire to work in this field.

For Eyres, familial experiences with speech and language disorders bred a desire to help and provide comfort to sufferers of these difficult conditions. Her clinical education at New Paltz equipped her to make the most of that innate compassion.

"Looking back at my personal experience, I know for me,

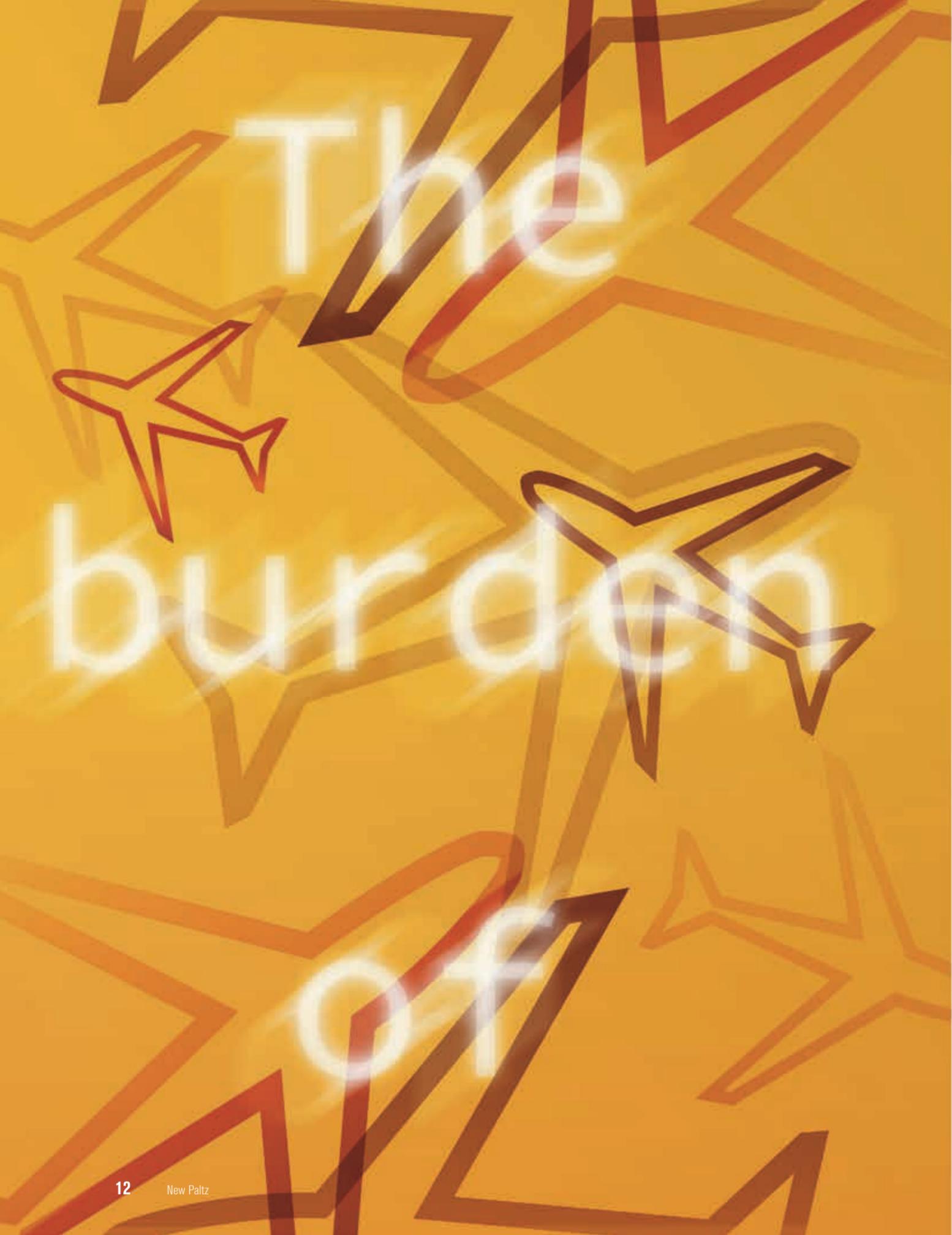
this journey is often about the caregivers," she said. "I didn't realize at first how much of therapy is educating family members, helping them understand what deficits a patient has and what they can do to help."

Eyres still remembers talking with her first patient's spouse who had a particularly hard time overcoming the loss of communication with his wife as a result of her condition. Their life together had changed, but Eyres made sure to remind him that things would improve, and that his understanding would be critical to his wife's success. He began to see that while their reality had transformed, she was still right there with him.

"The brain is an amazing thing," said Eyres. "Like our muscles, it adapts, it reconnects, and things get better. I wanted him to know that." 🐦

*For more information on the Speech-Language and Hearing Center, visit [www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/hearing\\_center.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/hearing_center.html)*

*Left: Michael Dougherty '14 '15g (Communication Disorders)  
Top: Instructor Susan Arnao and Yanisha James '14 (Psychology) '15g (Communication Disorders)*



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that all aircraft failures be investigated for a root cause and documented in the FAA archives. Found within those archives are numerous reports written by **Jack Goho '77 '81g** (Chemistry), a prominent player in the aviation failure analysis business.

# proof

**Alumnus is expert in plane crash analysis**

“I do work for several aviation companies to solve problems before they get into production,” said Goho. “But in some cases, problems escape and make it to the field where they shut down power, interrupt fuel flow, or cause fatal crashes.”

Goho has more than 30 years experience in consulting, diagnosing, and analyzing electronic components and printed circuit-board failures that result from design, process, manufacturing, mechanical, and environmental causes. He is recognized as one of the leading component experts in the litigation field.



The alumnus is often hired as an expert witness for legal proceedings that involve plane crash analysis. Of the approximately 26 active experts in aircraft failure analysis in the United States, Goho is the only one who specializes in electronic printed circuit-board components.

And he does all this having not strayed far from his alma mater. Goho opened his business, Gideon Analytical Labs, in nearby Highland, N.Y., in 1988. For 27 years he has operated as lab manager for a range of clients. He provides the electronic industry with failure analysis on electrical components and chemical and material analysis, and supports quality control, qualification, and production of product lines for the aerospace, military, computer, transportation, and financial sectors.

“Many who perform analysis will travel all over the world doing depositions and protocols, but I usually see two to four cases a year,” said Goho. “They only call me in when they’ve narrowed it down to a printed circuit board problem, when they know it’s an electronic issue.”

Goho’s testimonies typically rely on other experts’ analyses of flight patterns, plane recorders, schematics, electronics, and general protocols that might suggest mechanical causes of aircraft failure. Once these potential causes are ruled out he can begin testing the

components on the printed circuit board. It’s a long, arduous process for Goho, who said the preliminary discovery period for many lawsuits often takes a year or more before he is able to run necessary experiments.

Despite the demanding task, Goho speaks passionately about his work and admits to investigating a number of remarkable aircraft failures as a professional analyst and expert witness. Most have been small plane crashes with subsequent court cases initiated by family members of the deceased. Goho remembers well a crash that killed a 42-year-old father of two, the case taken to court by the man’s grieving wife, however, the tragic irony of another crash will always resonate with him.

“One case I worked involved a military helicopter that killed two,” said Goho. “This helicopter went down after a routine maintenance flight. Oddly enough, both the pilot and the other victim had recently earned awards for superior maintenance on the very helicopter that failed them.”

Caused by an over current on a transformer, the propellers stopped rotating, and the aircraft went down. “There was nothing they could have done,” said Goho. “Sadly, you can’t control some things while in the cockpit; the pilot is often just suffering the consequences of a power board failure.”

When asked if he foresaw himself engrossed in plane crash investigations as a New Paltz undergraduate, Goho’s answer is a resounding no.

“I had no idea I was going to be doing this sort of thing,” he said. “For me, it was all a matter of following the threads that connected along my career.”

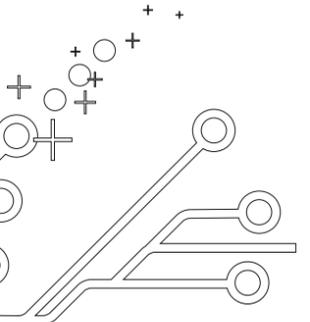
Those threads first came together when he landed a job at Reichhold Chemical Co., thanks in part to the help of Angelo Depastage, who was then the chairperson of the chemistry department at New Paltz.

“He was a good guy,” said Goho of Depastage. “He looked after anyone who majored in chemistry at the College; there were only seven or eight of us at the time.”

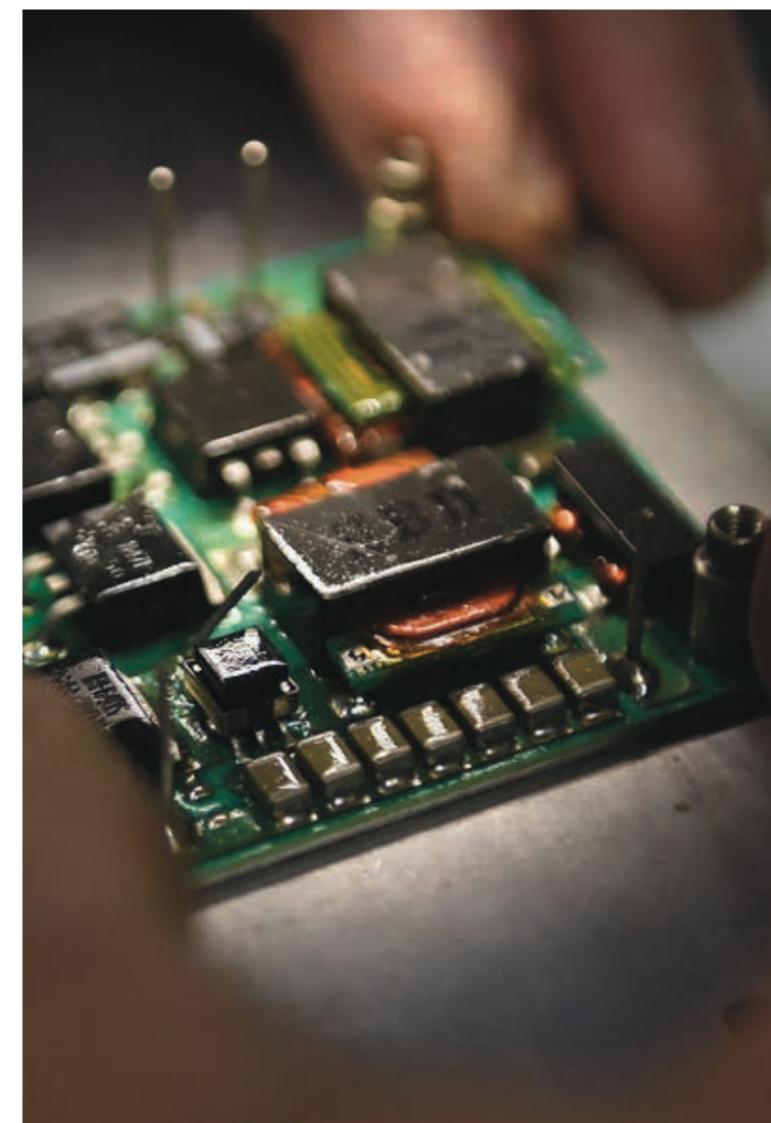
Goho worked at Reichhold for nearly four years before landing a job operating components in the materials lab for IBM’s power supply division. When massive layoffs in 1994 left only five out of 45 people still employed in those labs, Goho decided to buy enough equipment to go into failure analysis and start his own business.

“At IBM you could tell what components you were getting but now, working for myself, I get failures in from all over the world,” said Goho. “Components you’ve never seen or heard of in your life before. It’s very challenging, but rewarding.”

photo credit: Spencer Ainsley '79



“I had no idea I was going to be doing this sort of thing... for me, it was all a matter of following the threads that connected along my career.”



SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST / CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER /  
 SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER / PRODUCT AND  
 INTERACTION DESIGNER / COORDINATOR OF ALUMNI  
 RECEPTION AND UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

# WOMEN OF NEW PALTZ



## ALUMNAE RETURN TO INSPIRE AND RECONNECT

The College welcomed 31 women scholars and thought leaders, the vast majority of whom are alumnae, for a summit titled “Successful Women: What Does It Take?” in March 2015 that attracted nearly 250 students from majors across the campus. Attendees listened as women in various careers reflected on their academic, professional and personal successes, and offered advice for students about to enter the workforce. Panelists spoke of professors who helped make dream careers a reality and addressed topics such as work-life balance, the importance of art, excelling in male-dominated fields, and the critical role of alumnae at the College.

### WORK-LIFE BALANCE

**Darlene I. Bahrs '75**  
 Social Psychologist, San Francisco, Calif.

An inquisitive nature and passion for social justice originally brought **Darlene Bahrs '75** (Secondary Education) to SUNY New Paltz, however it was her upbringing in a traditionally patriarchal family that spurred her interest in studying women who pursue both a family and a career. In her return to campus she encouraged current students to work hard and believe they can achieve success in both spheres.

“My father would say to me: ‘You can’t have a career and be a mother,’” said Bahrs. “But I was always trying to find a way to merge the two and make it work.”

As a student, Bahrs conducted independent study into dual-career families, research that helped to define her life and work as she moved into the independent health consultancy profession.

“The roots for finding balance were planted here at New Paltz,” she said of her work with James

Halpern, professor of psychology and director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health. “It allowed me to explore how I might bring these things together in my own life.”

After graduation, Bahrs moved to San Francisco, Calif., where she lives with her family to this day. She continued to study social psychology, worked as a community health educator and cofounded that city’s first rape crisis center for victims of sexual assault. She currently works with homeless and psychiatric communities and provides continuing education classes in the United States and abroad.



**Beyond those profiled on these pages, other alumnae participants included:**  
 Ariel Benjamin '08 (Theatre Arts), Regina Calcaterra '88 (Political Science), Jade King Carroll '03 (Theater Design/Tech and Performance), Patrice (Patti) Cusatis '85 (Chemistry), Janet Davis '96 (Communication Media), Nora Fay '80 (Anthropology), Gorgette Green-Hodnett '91 (Black Studies), Amber Greene '03 (Public Relations), Rebecca J. Hasbrouck '00 (Accounting) '04g (CPA Accounting), Claudia J. Justy '70 (Secondary Education), Vicki Koenig '82 (Visual Arts), Janet Lee '06 (Biology), Olga Mill '07 (Theatre Arts), Judy Paige O'Brien '70 (Sociology) '74g (Education), Laurie Spiegel '75 (Mathematics), Veleta Vancza '00 (Metal)

FOR PARTICIPANT BIOS, VISIT  
<http://www.newpaltz.edu/summit>

"I WANTED TO LET FOLKS KNOW YOU CAN USE YOUR ART IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS AND STILL BE TRUE TO YOUR ARTIST SELF."



### THE IMPORTANCE OF ART

**Cynthia Farrell Johnson '76**

Chief Creative Officer of Farrell Johnson Fine Arts LLC, Silver Spring, Md.

Though it may surprise at first, **Cynthia Farrell Johnson '76** (Art History) returned to campus to explain to students that her unique professional journey, from studying art at New Paltz to launching a 30-year career in public diplomacy, actually makes perfect sense.

"Art gives us an interesting way to understand the culture and politics of a place, because

you have a visual record of a point in time," said Johnson. "If you have a way of reaching people and engaging them, you obtain an understanding of what's important to them. That is when you can start asking the right questions."

Johnson applied these skills in an array of international settings for the Foreign Service and as a reviewing officer in the Office of Global Information Services at the U.S. State Department.

"I wanted to let folks know you can use your art in many different ways and still be true to your artist self."

"ONE OF MY PROFESSORS SAW ME TINKER WITH INTERACTIVE DESIGN..."

### PROFESSOR/STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS LEAD TO SUCCESS

**Hillary Lindeman '11**

Product and Interaction Designer at Google, San Francisco, Calif.

**Hillary Lindeman '11** (Graphic Design) said the meaningful student-teacher relationships she developed with professors at New Paltz helped her learn what makes her tick, and ultimately led to work at Google's global headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

"Professor Anne Galperin saw me tinker with interactive design and helped me develop it," said Lindeman. "With her encouragement, I was able to acquire internships that opened my eyes to the whole industry and eventually landed me

on the path to Google."

As a product and interaction designer, Lindeman leads design efforts on local search and map products, and she is also a proud and active member of Google's internal Women in UX community.

Though she has found success and a satisfying lifestyle on the West Coast, Lindeman was eager to return to the campus, which she remembers as the home away from home where she was encouraged to discover her passions.

"I really think that the openness of the professors here, the diversity of the students and the campus culture allow our personal skills to shine," Lindeman said.



# WOMEN OF NEW PALTZ

### FINDING A PLACE IN MALE-DOMINATED FIELDS

**Karyn Hurley '00**

Software Development Engineer for IBM, New Paltz

As a Hispanic woman working in a traditionally male-dominated field, **Karyn Hurley '00** (Electrical Engineering) returned to New Paltz to remind female undergraduates that rewarding career opportunities exist for them in math and science.

"I find too many young women are walking away from technology careers because they perceive them as too difficult or too aggressive," said Hurley.

Hurley has defied expectations also as a student who returned to college while in her 30s. She counseled current students to remain patient, never stop growing and believe that the final result is worth waiting for.

"I found I had to work a little harder to speak in a way that my male counterparts understood and respected," she said. "But it was all on me. I dove in and when I got my degree I had a huge smile on my face. I want other students to know that feeling of achievement."

Hurley's persistent self-confidence has helped her build a 14-year career in the semiconductor industry.



"I WANT OTHER STUDENTS TO KNOW THAT FEELING OF ACHIEVEMENT."



### THE POWER OF ALUMNI TO INSPIRE

**Tracy Soren '08**

Coordinator of Alumni Relations and University Advancement for the State University of New York, New York City

Working as SUNY's coordinator of alumni relations and university advancement, **Tracy Soren '08** (Journalism) has a first-hand understanding of the vital part alumni play in improving educational opportunities and outcomes for new generations of students.

"I think it's really important for us to come back, engage with the campus and speak with students about our experiences after graduation," she said. "When I was an undergraduate I was scared, and I had a lot of big decisions to make. I think hearing from strong women, students will be inspired by the opportunities that await them."

Soren also offers a reminder that new graduates will have chances to express themselves freely and for fun. A former student of the Upright Citizens Brigade in New York, Soren has dedi-

cated significant portions of her free time to her pursuit of a career as a comedian and comedy writer. Alongside comedy partner Jessie Jolles, she makes up one half of "soren & jolles," a sketch comedy team whose videos and web series "DIBS" are shared on YouTube and have been featured on Indiewire, The Huffington Post and Funny or Die, among other media.

The lesson Soren has learned from splitting her time between these two distinct fields, and the message she shared with New Paltz students in attendance at the Women's Summit, is to bring energy, creativity and good story-telling to all that they endeavor to do.

"BRING ENERGY, CREATIVITY AND GOOD STORY TELLING TO ALL THAT YOU DO."



## Shared experiences keep one family tied to New Paltz

SUNY New Paltz runs in the Hottum family. **Bruce Hottum '78** (Biology) and his wife **Margaret Smith '76** (Asian Studies) have looked on as their three sons flourished at the College, too.

"I think I had a hand in directly influencing my sons to attend New Paltz," said Bruce. "The location is great and the College is only getting better as far as the educational value."

The Hottum's three children, John Hottum (Management), **Dean Hottum '14** (Management) (pictured above), and **Peter Hottum '15** (Asian Studies), are the latest generation in a legacy of nostalgia and accomplishment that keeps the Hottum family involved on campus. Sons Dean and Peter have been successful on the mens' Rugby team (with regular encouragement from their parents, of course), and Bruce has found himself in a variety of roles at the College as well.

As a former member of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences advisory board, Bruce has collaborated with the dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences regarding alumni outreach. He has also been involved with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations on parent outreach programs. For the father of three, New Paltz was an opportune place for his sons to grow and learn, thanks in part to what he saw as key improvements the College has made since he and his wife attended.

"In addition to the academic growth, the physical changes are encouraging as well," said Bruce of recent upgrades and new construction at the College.

"The location is great and the College is only getting better as far as the educational value." – Bruce Hottum '78

"The renovations are all positive; nothing is stagnant."

Bruce's ties to the College also extend to his profession. Well-aware of the academic rigor expected of New Paltz students, Bruce knew just who to contact when he found himself looking for an intern to work at his dental practice, Pine Street Dental Associates in New Paltz.

"I wanted to get an intern to develop my social media at the practice, so I got involved with

the internship mentorship program at the College," said Bruce. "It just made sense to seek an intern from my alma mater. I'm nostalgic and owe my success to New Paltz."

Bruce studied dentistry at New York University and his ties to New Paltz were reinforced through mutual friends when he met the fellow New Paltz graduate who would become his wife.

Smith attended St. John's Law School following her New Paltz graduation and is now retired after years of work as an attorney. When it came time to help her children decide how they would begin their professional lives, she joined her husband in encouraging them to consider New Paltz.

Given their strong ties to the campus, Bruce believes his family's relationship with New Paltz is not likely to wane after his youngest son's graduation.

Bruce reflects happily on the 30 years that have passed since he was first lured to the campus by its proximity to the Shawangunk Mountains and picturesque setting.

"It's been a lifetime of unique decisions that have kept us here at New Paltz," said Bruce. "Looking at our sons, it's easy to see we've come full circle."

## Alumni begin careers in child welfare with NYC-based service organization

SUNY New Paltz alumni are finding meaningful employment with **Fostering Change for Children (FCFC)**, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of youths and families in New York's foster care system.

The 2011 launch of the FCFC's Children's Corps program has served the dual purpose of offering training and development opportunities to recent college graduates interested in working with at-risk and disadvantaged youths, and building a workforce of well-trained and motivated caseworkers. By connecting alumni with children and families in need, FCFC now possesses strong and dedicated advocates.

For Sabrina Shaw '13 (Sociology), an interest in service that began as a New Paltz student eventually led her to Children's Corps.

"After I graduated from New Paltz, I was granted the opportunity to participate in the City Year organization," she said. "Working with students in an elementary school in Brooklyn, N.Y., I began to realize how many external factors, such as poverty, neglect, abuse in the home or just simply being a child of the system, could prevent children from obtaining the education they deserve. I wanted to take part in changing that."

What Shaw found at Children's Corps was an opportunity to devote the necessary care and attention to people who need it most. "To me, child welfare means being the advocate for a child or family when they feel they don't have a voice," she said. "I've learned that this career involves total engage-

ment with families, and that's the aspect of the work I enjoy most."

Other recent New Paltz graduates to be accepted into the Children's Corps program include Shinaika Phillip '12 (Black Studies), Tina Cherny '12 (English) and Kathryn Hall '09 (Black Studies/Linguistics).

"I had been seeking a job that allowed me to be able to fight for children's rights and to work toward ensuring their safety," said Hall, who became a Children's Corps member in 2013. "I was also looking for something that gave me exposure to issues including domestic violence, homelessness, substance abuse and other challenges society faces."

While she was a New Paltz student, Hall discovered her interest in working on behalf of the underserved and disadvantaged. She worked in student government and also had the opportunity to conduct a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience through a grant overseen by a New Paltz professor.

"My education at SUNY New Paltz gave me a contextual basis for making change in families," Hall

said. "As a black studies major my understanding of systemic injustice and the gaps in services for people of color strengthened my resolve and commitment to the families. My education at SUNY New Paltz allowed me to become the person I am today: a person who can use research and connections to gain knowledge and make change."

Following her placement in the Foster Care and Adoption Unit at Sheltering Arms Children's and Family Services, Hall will become one of many Corps graduates to continue with their agencies at the conclusion of their initial contracts. She will accept a full-time position as a senior caseplanner at Sheltering Arms. Hall said she is grateful to the program for helping her embark on a career in child welfare services.

"I absolutely love my job," she said. "I've made really strong and supportive connections with the families, and have been able to help them get through the toughest times of their lives."



**Kathryn Hall '09** (Black Studies/Linguistics) celebrates with *Fostering Change for Children (FCFC)*, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of youths and families in New York's foster care system.



## New Paltz salutes the legacy of Professor Ted Clark

For Ted Clark, a lecturer in marketing and strategic management, New Paltz has been about one thing: "It's about the students," he said when asked what he would miss most after his retirement.

"It's not that I won't miss my colleagues or the administrative staff. It's not that I won't miss the beauty of the Hudson Valley or the College itself, but my time here has always been about the students, and the American Marketing Association (AMA) as a complement to those students."

Clark will be remembered for a number of lasting impacts and achievements, but chief among these will be his legacy as adviser to the New Paltz chapter of the AMA. Clark has

led the organization to remarkable levels of success and committed a great deal of time to working with the student leaders, assisting them in the planning and implementation of a wide variety of workshops and conferences.

At this year's annual conference in New Orleans, La., SUNY New Paltz ranked eighth in a field of more than 200 colleges and universities as the top Silver Chapter at the International

Collegiate Conference—the College's highest ranking ever. Clark also received the AMA Lifetime Achievement Award at the event.

"Combined, this is probably the highest honor that I could achieve," said Clark. "I am trying to decide which is more meaningful and I think, quite frankly, it's still the student achievement."

Hired as an adjunct in 1984, Clark became a full-time faculty member in 1987. During his career, he has succeeded in developing connections to the regional business community that have yielded a variety of consulting projects for faculty and students through both the AMA and the Business Institute. He has won a series of awards in recognition of his hard work: he was awarded the Provost's Outstanding Faculty Service Award in 2014, the School of Business Distinguished Service Award in 2009, and was named AMA Adviser of the Year in 2008.



Professor Clark (right) pictured with a group of marketing students in fall 1987.

Clark earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Marist College in 1981 and his master's degree in both marketing and management from Long Island University in 1987.

Clark is also the director of Ted Clark and Associates, a marketing consulting firm in the Hudson Valley, where he has hired a number of New Paltz students to work as interns.

Always willing to be helpful and contribute his time and effort, Clark has assisted as a mentor to students, helping them to build leadership skills that will serve them well in their career. He will be remembered for making a profound difference to the School of Business.

"I've always considered the students to be the single most important component here at the College," said Clark. "I have a real open door policy in the true sense, I leave the door open all the time. If a student needs me, they know where to find me."

For former student **Jesse Hicks '15** (Management) Clark's openness and willingness to engage with his students first encouraged him to choose New Paltz for his undergraduate degree, and later left him with many fond memories. "His demeanor and

the success of the AMA truly inspired me to choose New Paltz as a school and accept a position on the AMA Board," said

"I've always considered the students to be the single most important component here at the College."

—Professor Ted Clark

Hicks. "I am honored to have him as our AMA faculty adviser, a professor, a mentor and friend. He truly is a legend."

Though his time at New Paltz has come to an end, Clark is looking forward to continuing to serve the School of Business in retirement. He hopes to ensure a smooth transition by answering any questions, any time, for up to a year, before he is ready to sincerely say goodbye.

"I need to wean myself slowly," said Clark. "I am not going to cut the cord. I just can't do that. I want to make sure I can provide any help that's needed in the next transitional year. It's the least I can do."

*The Ted Clark Travel Fund has been established in honor of Ted Clark to assist AMA Executive Board members with paying for travel to attend the annual AMA International Collegiate Conference. Give today at [www.newpaltz.edu/give](http://www.newpaltz.edu/give).*



Go to [www.newpaltz.edu/admissions](http://www.newpaltz.edu/admissions) to see Professor Clark talk more about the AMA and one of its featured students, **Jesse Hicks '15** (under "Meet our Students," click on the second box from the left).

## STUDENT ATHLETE TURNED POLICE OFFICER UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK

One particular adage from her time playing women's lacrosse at SUNY New Paltz resonates for former student athlete **Lorraine Vultaggio '10** (Journalism).

"Our coaches gave us the saying 'hold the rope,'" she said. "It reminded us to hold onto our teammates when we needed each other. The whole idea of that has continued to stay with me."

The importance of teamwork conveyed by this motto has continued to inspire Vultaggio in her career as a police officer. A July 2014 graduate of the New York Police Department (NYPD) Academy, Vultaggio describes an average day in

the same terms she might have used to describe the feeling she got playing lacrosse. In both cases, she grew accustomed to supporting and being supported by others.

"Now, I am on foot patrol, just me and my partner showing our presence and trying to stop crime," she said. "It's a physical challenge, but every day it is different and that is one of the reasons I like it."

Vultaggio finds a number of parallels between her time as a student athlete and her current work as an officer. She said her career often reminds her of the excitement and uncertainty she felt on game day.

"When I am in the locker room, it's just like putting on my uniform for a game," she said. "It is all very spur of the moment, just like lacrosse."

After graduating from New Paltz, Vultaggio earned a master's degree in sports management from Adelphi University, and then moved to Atlanta, Ga., to become a police officer. She never gave up on her dream to serve the NYPD, however, and last year she finally got the call.

The NYPD ceremony of Vultaggio and 780 fellow academy graduates was presided over by former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and former Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly. At the commencement, Probationary Police Officer Vultaggio earned the highest female physical fitness score and received the Chief of Department Award.

She is quick to acknowledge that her lacrosse teammates helped her to get where she is now with the NYPD.

"I was able to take what I learned at SUNY New Paltz, on and off the field, and bring it to what I am doing now," she said. "I work with 10 other people in my squad and we all look out for each other, just like my teammates and I used to."

Top: **Lorraine Vultaggio '10** (Journalism) started as a goalkeeper in all 15 of the lacrosse games in 2009. Bottom: Lorraine with members of the NYPD Dragon Boat team.



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### Class Notes

Larry Ferretti '15 (Computer Engineering) displays a drone designed to take photos as part of the Embedded Linux course in the School of Science and Engineering.



**Address your class notes to:**  
**Class Notes**  
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 1 Hawk Drive  
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 e-mail: [alumni@newpaltz.edu](mailto:alumni@newpaltz.edu)  
 fax: 845.257.4412

Correspondence, which may be edited for purposes of clarity or space, should include your full name, class year, major, address, home telephone and e-mail address.

Submit online at [www.newpaltz.edu/magazine/](http://www.newpaltz.edu/magazine/). Notes submitted online are viewable immediately and remain posted for up to three months, as well as being included in the next edition of "New Paltz Magazine," so submit today.

**Join us for Reunion, Sept. 30–Oct. 2, 2016!**

**54 Rita (Solomon) Drucker** (Early Childhood Education) and her husband, Harvey Drucker, were honored on Nov. 2, 2014, by Temple B'nai Torah in Wantagh, N.Y., for their service in and out of the temple. The couple was profiled in the *Long Island Herald*, which reported they grew up in Brooklyn before moving to Seaford, N.Y., in 1961 with their two children, Rina and David. Rita worked as a substitute teacher for adult education and a special education teacher. Now retired, she finds her passion in writing, Asian painting and traveling.

**Norman Ellman** (Elementary Education) of Bradenton, Fla., has had a private practice in psychotherapy since 1967. He earned a Ph.D. in behavioral science from New York University, a master's degree in clinical and school psychology from Yeshiva University and a master's degree in education from Queens College. He's held numerous positions in counseling and psychology services in various

settings, including as co-director of North Jersey Mental Health Associates, psychological consultant and chief psychologist-director of the Child Study Team for Glen Rock Public Schools in New Jersey, school psychologist for the Wantagh and Brentwood Public Schools in New York State and staff therapist at Bi-County and Lynbrook Consultation Centers in New York State. More recently, Norman served on the Health Advisory Board of Head Start in Bradenton.

**56 60th Reunion Mary (Scheibe) Heinle** (Elementary Education) wrote that she's 80 and still going strong, having recently completed a 5K to benefit Hospice.

**63 Joseph Hoff** (Elementary Education) '66g (Science) and his wife, **Peggy (Rezinis) Hoff** (Elementary Education Pre K-6 Biology) live in Fairport, N.Y. They have a summer home on Keuka Lake where they specialize in spoiling their six grandsons.

Dr. Hoff has published his seventh book, "Enlightened Leadership for Challenging Times," a leadership-development resource for current and aspiring school administrators. He is a former award-winning school principal and an internationally acclaimed staff and leadership developer. His workshops and institutes have been well-received by colleagues from all 50 states and more than 35 countries.

**64 Cynthia Winika** (Art Education) was nominated and won the La Vendeene award for best encaustic painting teacher of 2014 by the International Encaustic Artists Association. Her artwork and theories on abstract art are featured in a new book by Dean Nimmer, "Creating Abstract Art," published by North Light Books.

**66 Bob Thorn** (Art Education) '70g (Art Education), Alumni Advisory Council member, is looking forward to celebrating his 50th reunion and Lantern Society induction with fellow Class of 1966 alumni at 2016 Reunion Weekend, Sept. 30–Oct. 2, 2016.

**67 Gloria (Neita) Gifford** (Liberal Arts), an actress, recording artist, producer and casting director, finished off 2014 with a return to live performance as one third of the hit musical trio, Liquid Love.

**Mary Wagner '67g** (Elementary Education) and her husband celebrated their 52nd Valentine's Day together since their wedding on June 22, 1963, as reported by the *Long Island Herald*. They have two sons and currently live in Wantagh, N.Y.

**69 William Leonardi** (Art Education) has his collection of photo montage designs, titled "Surreal Images," posted for viewing at [www.zhibit.org/billleonardi](http://www.zhibit.org/billleonardi).

**70 Nancy (Kelly) Lee** (Elementary Education Pre K-6 French) is co-owner of Jon Lee Auctions, an auction company in Eagle Bridge, N.Y., that specializes in antiques and estate appraisals and liquidation. She and her husband travel nationwide for appraisals.

**71 Helene (Miller) Leonardi** (Art Education) was honored in spring 2014 as a "Woman of Distinction" by New York State Senator Martin M. Dilan of the 18th District in Brooklyn, N.Y. She and her husband, **William Leonardi '69** (Art Education), have worked on various community projects, including three years in an arts after-school program at P.S. 151 in Bushwick. Her "Cupcake and Desserts" art can be viewed at [www.zhibit.org/heleneleonardi](http://www.zhibit.org/heleneleonardi).

**Carri (Wahl) Tuininga** (Theatre Arts) capitalized on her love of movies when she won the 2015 *Times Union* Oscar contest, as reported by *The Times Union*. She's had ample time to enjoy watching movies during her eight years of retirement.

**72 Lynne Hayden-Findlay** (Theatre Arts) co-founded the Chelsea Opera in 2004. It is one of 36 opera companies from across the country to have received a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts "Art Works" program. The funding will underwrite a performance of "A Distant Love: Songs of John and Abigail Adams" at the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, Mass.

**73 Debra (Kramer) Branitz** (Art History, Art Education) exhibited original works in oil on canvas at the Amsterdam Whitney Gallery in New York City from June to August 2014.

**Harry Cullen** (Secondary Education 7-12 Mathematics) founded KullQual Enterprises in 1997, a consulting business that supports quality, environmental and medical

waste compliance in the San Diego area. He recently retired after 26 years of teaching college courses in the integration of statistics into quality/environmental applications.

**Gay (Norton) Edelman** (English) has published her first print book after four decades as a magazine writer and editor, most recently on staff at *Family Circle* magazine. Her book, entitled "The Hungry Ghost: How I Ditched 100 Pounds and Came Fully Alive," is based on her own recovery from food addiction and compulsive overeating and years of reporting on psychology and spirituality. It offers eating and weight management strategies anyone can use. Edelman now works primarily as a writing and spiritual life coach.

**McKencie Willis** (Sociology) read selections from his children's book, "Tales of the Rainbow Forest," at the Arts Society of Kingston, N.Y. The book explores the importance of nature and sharing with and respecting others, and features illustration by Rick Holland.

**74 Walter Blair** (Art Education), who resides in the Washington, D.C., area, is the author of "Presidential Approval," a novel about a woman who rejoins the CIA following the deaths of her husband and children at the hands of Al-Qaeda. Blair began writing fiction and nonfiction books while practicing law in Washington, D.C., and Maryland, during a career in which he won significant cases including the landmark immigration case embedded in *U.S. vs. Paul Russell*, cited by the Supreme Court in *Padilla vs. Kentucky, 2340 S. Ct. 1473 (2010)*. He was educated in London, England, before attending colleges in the United States and has a master's and law degree from Howard University.

**Gary Graifman** (Political Science), a partner and head of the class action practice in the law firm of Kantrowitz, Goldhamer & Graifman, was a speaker on a panel titled "Latest Developments in Class Action

Litigation" at the New Jersey State Bar Association Annual Meeting on May 14, 2015, in Atlantic City, N.J. Panelists discussed recent cyber security data breach class actions, including medical data class actions involving Anthem Healthcare and Primera Healthcare. Gary has recent expertise in this area via his service as a member of the steering committee on the Home Depot data breach class action.

**Eric Gray** (Political Science) is working on a book on baseball written from the fan's perspective, for which he is collecting short recollections from fans about their experiences of attending, playing or just being around America's pastime.

**Marcia Clark '76g** (Painting) exhibited a collection entitled "Arctic Paintings" at Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City. This is her ninth collection to be featured at this gallery.

**75 Philip M. Berkowitz** (Journalism), a member of the SUNY New Paltz Foundation Board of Directors, organized and spoke at a panel discussion on campus on April 13, 2015. The event featured employment discrimination specialists from the United States and China in conversation about claims of discrimination and human rights violations in the workplace. He is co-chair of the International Employment Law Practice Group at Littler Mendelson, the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, and was appointed 2014-15 vice-chair of the International Employment Law Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of International Law. Berkowitz is a respected authority on international employment law issues who conducts training worldwide on labor law. He is a frequent speaker before the American Bar Association, the International Bar Association, the European American Chamber of Commerce, French American Chamber of Commerce, German American Chamber of

Commerce, Japan Society, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Swedish American Chamber of Commerce and other prominent international organizations.

**Charles Dumas** (Political Science), a former SUNY New Paltz College Council member during the tenure of President Alice Chandler, has joined the Black Studies Department as an adjunct professor. He recently retired after 20 years of service at Penn State University, where he is professor emeritus in the School of Theatre. Dumas, who holds a juris doctorate from Yale University, has worked as director of the Acting in Media program at Temple University, associate professor at Penn State's Department of African and African-American Studies and visiting professor at the University of the Free State in South Africa. He was the first Hender Fellow in Screenwriting at the American Film Institute and was a Fulbright fellow at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. He also held positions as a legal researcher for the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, in the corporate law offices of IBM Corp., and as board chairman of Mid-Hudson Legal Services in New York. In October 2014, Dumas presented a reading of his original drama, "Reconciliation," at the College's Black Box Theatre. The play tells the story of an African American couple in the diplomatic corps stationed in Iraq in 2004, three months before that country's first elections. It was first presented at The Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences at the University of Massachusetts in June 2014 and it has a full production in 2015. He writes: "I was one of the local 'kids.' A returning adult student, I was 30 when I started Yale. I had gone to Dutchess Community College across the river after getting my GED."

**76 Judith Chicurel** (Secondary Education, English), who resides in Brooklyn, N.Y., released

her debut collection of short fiction in October 2014. Titled "If I Knew You Were Going to be This Beautiful, I Never Would Have Let You Go," it's set in a down-at-the-heels seaside town during the 1970s. Chicurel's writing has appeared in national and regional publications, including *The New York Times*, *Newsday* and *Granta*. Her plays have been performed in New York City theaters and festivals, including the NYC International Fringe Festival, New Perspectives Theatre and Metropolitan Playhouse. She is a member of the New York Writers Coalition and was a 2011 Fellow in the CUNY Graduate Center Writers Institute Fiction Writing Program.

**77 Kevin Cahill** (Political Science), the incumbent Democrat, was re-elected to a 10th term in the New York State Assembly in 2014. A resident of Kingston, N.Y., he was elected to the Assembly in 1992, lost a re-election bid in 1994 and won again in 1998 and every two years since, as reported in the *Daily Freeman*. Prior to his State Assembly terms, he served in the Ulster County Legislature, including a stint as the body's Democratic minority leader. He received a law degree from SUNY Albany Law School in 1980.

**Robin Cohen-La Valle** (Psychology) '82g (Psychology), an Alumni Advisory Council member, was appointed as interim dean of students within the Division of Student Affairs at SUNY New Paltz in 2014 and dean in 2015. Cohen-La Valle began her career at New Paltz in 1995 as assistant dean of students and was promoted to associate dean of students in 1998. She was a key participant in the creation of the New Paltz Tavern Owners' Agreement, a principal author of the FIPSE grant that catapulted New Paltz to national recognition for its programming to prevent alcohol abuse. She is the recipient of a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service and, most recently she has been working closely with Associate Vice President



Jim Dolan '79 (Communication Studies), president and CEO of Cablevision Systems Corporation and executive chairman of The Madison Square Garden Company, with President Donald P. Christian and SUNY New Paltz students who visited him at the Garden in February 2015. Photo by Rebecca Taylor, MSG

Linda Eaton in the area of student judicial matters.

**Stuart Garber** (Biology) has developed a line of condition-specific, all-natural formula remedies. Dr. Garber's Natural Solutions ([www.drgarbers.com](http://www.drgarbers.com)) are distributed in 59 Whole Foods Markets and various retail health-food chains on the West Coast, in doctors' offices nationwide and online. Dr. Garber is president of the California Homeopathic Medical Society and has a private practice in Santa Monica, Calif.

**Christine Garry** (Sociology) is a relocation specialist handling real estate in the Atlanta, Ga., area.

**78 Warren Bickel** (Psychology) is director of the Addiction Recovery Research

Center in Roanoke, Va., and a professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech. He holds a master's degree and doctoral degree from the University of Kansas. The Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, an honorary society founded in 1978 by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, recently recognized Dr. Bickel and his work by selecting him as a fellow.

**Bruce Maxson** (History) was named the chief public defender of Otsego County after 19 years as assistant public defender, according to *The Daily Star* of Oneonta, N.Y. He's served on the Cooperstown Village Board of Trustees for the past two years and is president of the Otsego County Bar Association.

**Michael Migliore '78g** (Chemistry), co-owner and co-founder with Yancey Stanforth-Migliore of Whitecliff Vineyard in Gardiner, N.Y., received the Grower Award from the New York Wine & Grape Foundation in February 2015 at the BevNY conference, as reported by *Hudson River Valley Wineries*. *Hudson Valley* magazine has described Whitecliff as "one of the Valley's most ambitious wineries." This artisanal, family-run winery works with Cornell Cooperative Extension testing new grape varieties. This year it will bottle what will be the first Hudson River Region Cabernet Sauvignon. The Migliores recently brought home the "Best in Show" recognition for a Riesling that bested 1,290 wines from 27 countries and 28 states and was awarded 90 points from *Wine Enthusiast* magazine for the Gamay

Noir Hudson River Region. He also manages several smaller vineyards in the Hudson Valley, Long Island and other parts of New York state.

**79 Robert Insolia** (Political Science), managing partner of leading global firm Goodwin Procter and Fordham Law School graduate, visited SUNY New Paltz on March 31, 2015, to speak with current students about pursuing a law degree, working in the legal field and career opportunities for law school graduates.

**Victor Willert** (Secondary Education 7-12 Social Studies) has retired after serving for 25 years as a teacher and administrator in the New York City Department of Education. He previously taught at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus and at Cathedral High School, both in Manhattan. He now lives in Henderson, Nev.

**Joseph DiLorenzo '79g** (Educational Administration) '96cas (Educational Administration) was appointed interim superintendent of schools for the Marlboro School District.

**80 Clayton Aarons** (Political Science) was appointed in September 2014 by former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley as associate judge of the District Court of Maryland in Prince George's County. A graduate of Howard University School of Law, Judge Aarons has spent much of his legal career in public service, including as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and as assistant public defender and assistant states attorney in Prince George's County. He maintains a solo practice in Largo, Md., where he represents clients in criminal and civil matters.

**Kevin Cook** (Visual Arts Education) was selected as a judge for the Village of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Art Contest. He is an accomplished landscape painter whose style is strongly influenced by nineteenth-century

Romanticism. Cook was recently named a Painting Fellow by New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Foundation has invited him to serve on its Artist's Advisory Committee. His work has been exhibited at the American Consulate, in Hong Kong, and the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz. **Edward Renehan** (Political Science) is editorial director of Dark Hall Press and released his latest book, "Night's Harbor," a chilling vampire novella, in 2015.

**81 35th Reunion Ellen (Diprizito Thaler) Zabriskie** (Sociology) won a Nori award for commercial concept and music direction. She has raised her three sons as a single parent and has fully supported their careers: Kyle is a producer for iheartmedia and is completing an MBA. Tim is an audio producer for NYRA Television; and Miles, who was born with Aspergers Syndrome, was in a television pilot titled "Rise Above."

**82 David Cedarholm** (Geology), civil engineer and licensed professional engineer (PE), has joined Tighe & Bond as a senior project manager. Cedarholm has 26 years of experience in water resources, wastewater, stormwater and asset management, with extensive service to New Hampshire municipalities, including more than eight years as the engineer for the town of Durham's Public Works Department. His sound understanding of the wide-range of environmental challenges New England faces has led to collaborations with numerous municipalities on a wide range of initiatives involving state and federal agencies. He holds a master's degree in civil engineering/water resources from the University of New Hampshire.

**Edward Omolo** (Biology) recently released his first novel, "A Kenyan Pilgrim's Progress - from Dala to Diaspora - My Memoirs of My Luo Family." Dr. Omolo, a well-traveled research scientist who lives in Pennsylvania with his family, is a

professor of biology at New River Community and Technical College.

**83 Sara-Leigh (Lieberman) Higgins** (Communication Studies) has entered a new market with her business, Raspberry Fields Farm. After seven years as an artisan food purveyor, she has expanded into an event venue and will be offering her 150-year-old Victorian Italianate homestead in Marlboro, N.Y., for weddings, field trips and business retreats. Take a tour at [www.raspberrylfieldsfarm.com](http://www.raspberrylfieldsfarm.com).

**Richard Klein** (Journalism, English) published his first photography book, "Massapequa: A Pictorial History Through The Eyes of Baby Boomers," in late 2014. The collection features places around Long Island's Massapequa and Massapequa Park areas memorable to the boomer generation. The self-published book sold out after its first printing and has led to three photography exhibits, two sponsored by the Town of Oyster Bay and another by the local library.

**84 Donna Drake** (Theatre Arts), a fourth-grade teacher in Dumont, N.J., has been awarded a National Endowment of the Humanities summer fellowship to study America's Industrial Revolution with fellow teachers and historians at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Mich.

**85 Jessica Faieta** (Finance, Economics), of Ecuador, was appointed assistant secretary-general, assistant administrator and director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She's given years of distinguished service to the UNDP holding various leadership positions, most recently as deputy regional director of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, and had previously worked as senior country director, UNDP Haiti, where she led UNDP's post-disaster recovery effort after the January 2010 earthquake. Earlier in her career, she

served in a various roles at UNDP headquarters and in the field in such duty stations as Argentina, Panama, Cuba, Belize and Guyana. Faieta began her career as commercial officer at the Canadian Embassy in Ecuador. She holds a master's degree in international affairs, economic development and an MBA in international finance from Columbia University. **Ilyasah Shabazz** (Biology), a community organizer, activist, motivational speaker and author of the critically acclaimed "Growing Up X," has written a fourth book about the legacy of her father, civil rights leader Malcolm X. Co-written with Kekla Maggon, "X: A Novel" tells the story of his life in the formative years before he became Malcolm X. Details regarding her work are available at [www.ilyasahshabazz.com](http://www.ilyasahshabazz.com).

**86** *30th Reunion*  
**Lynn Johnston** (Communication Studies), publisher and editor of Whispering Angel Books, published a fifth anthology of inspirational short stories and poetry titled "Miracles & Extraordinary Blessings."

**Nadine Robbins** (Graphic Design) is working on a new series of portraits titled "Bad Habits and Guilty Pleasures" for a gallery in New York. She writes: "I'm also working on my oyster paintings for my gallery in Wellfleet. As for graphic design, I'm down to only working on logo design part time since my painting career is taking hold. My family is doing well. We recently moved outside of Rhinebeck, N.Y., where my 13-year-old son is thriving. I have a new studio space for my painting. My husband and I have been together for almost 27 years. Amazed at how fast time is going."

**88** **Kevin Costello** (Art Studio) was named head accessories designer at MEZZI, NYC. He oversees design, prototyping and development of design lines within MEZZI's "smart luxury" collection of fashion accessories, including handbags, totes, clutches, duffles, briefcases and more.

**Pamela (Fishman) Liebgold** (Communication Studies), author of the website [www.Liveto100club.com](http://www.Liveto100club.com), writes articles on nutrition and psychology that are meant to inspire others to lead long, healthy and happy lives.

**89** **Jeffrey Pearlman** (Political Science) has been appointed Chief of Staff and Counsel for New York's Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, as reported by *The Times Union*.

**90** **Catherine Chadwick** (Communication Studies) was named director of the Midland Park Memorial Library in New Jersey, effective February 2015. She previously served as director of the Butler Public Library, as a librarian in high schools in Westchester County, N.Y. and Fairfield County, Conn., and as a reference and children's librarian at John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak/Yorktown, N.Y. She holds a master's in library science from Long Island University.

**Jennifer Lofaro** (Communication Studies, English), long-term associate of the law firm Bleaklye Platt & Schmidt, LLP, has been promoted to partner. She's a member of the Westchester County Bar Association and Westchester Women's Bar Association.

**Kim Sealy** (Business Administration) became publisher of the bimonthlies *Fit Pregnancy* and *Natural Health*, owned by America Media Inc. She had been publisher of *Working Mother* magazine, where she'd worked for eight years. Earlier in her career, she held management and sales positions at *Teen People* and Johnson Publishing Co.

**91** *25th Reunion*  
**Erik Lehtinen** (Psychology) is owner of Talent Business Management, a firm that specializes in serving the business management needs of professional entertainers. He recently launched a new podcast, "Talent Toolbox," focusing on how

to advise and support professionals in the entertainment industry.

**Tim Rowan** (Ceramics), a well-known ceramic artist from Upstate New York, conducted workshops for ceramicists in the Indian cities of Chennai, Delhi and Puducherry, according to *The Hindu*, a leading Indian news publication. Before earning an MFA from Pennsylvania State University, Rowan apprenticed in Japan for two years with ceramic artist Ryuichi Kakurezaki. In 2013, he received the Janet Mansfield Ceramic Award from the International Ceramic Magazine Editors Association. He's been an artist-in-residence in studios from Montana to Maine to the Fuping Ceramic Art Village in Shaanxi Province, China. *Hudson Valley Almanac Weekly* reported that his works have been featured in solo and group exhibitions and museum collections at the Currier Art Museum in Manchester, N.H., the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Mass., and the Metro Show NYC at the Metropolitan Pavilion. Rowan held an open-studio reception in December 2014 in Stone Ridge, N.Y., that featured work from his August and November 2014 firings.

**Roberta Sickler '91g** (Painting-Drawing) had a show of Irish landscapes exhibited at The Storefront Gallery in Kingston, N.Y.

**92** **Robert Faro** (Business Administration), chief financial officer of Gibbons P.C., was selected as a finalist for the NJBIZ CFO of the Year Awards in the category of private companies with revenues over \$50 million, according to [www.metrocorp.counsel.com](http://www.metrocorp.counsel.com). This awards program celebrates the financial executives who contribute to New Jersey's economic growth and stability.

**93** **Renee (Maniscalco) Cino** (Communication Studies) and Dr. Joshua Garrin (Psychology) were married at an intimate ceremony in New Paltz on October 18, 2014. Their reception consisted of many of her college friends and

his Zeta Beta Tau fraternity brothers. Renee is a self-employed virtual assistant, and Joshua is a certified health coach and fitness professional with a master's degree in psychology from Pace University and a Ph.D. in health psychology from Walden University. They reside live in Milford, Penn., with her daughter, Melissa.

**William Keyles** (Elementary Education N-6 Geography) joined North Middlesex Savings Bank as vice president of learning and development. He brings more than 20 years of leadership expertise in training and employee development at several community banks, including Clinton Savings, Middlesex Savings and U.S. Trust Bank. He holds a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and is a graduate of the New England School for Financial Studies at Babson College. He resides in Marlboro, N.Y., with his family.

**Donald Ross** (Journalism) self-published his new book "The Era of the Clipper Ships: The Legacy of Donald McKay."

**94** **Alita (McCoy) Zuber** (Business Administration Marketing) '97g (Educational Administration) '00cas (School Business Administration) is a 2014 recipient of an Association of School Business Officials International (ASBOI) Pinnacle Award. The ASBOI Pinnacle Awards recognize outstanding practices and new ideas that benefit school districts and the profession of school business management. Zuber was recognized for her work as assistant superintendent for business at Ossining Union Free School District in Ossining, N.Y. Zuber launched a campaign to meet with representatives of key stakeholder groups in the district to communicate financial challenges facing local schools and build trust and engagement with community members, leading to the successful passage of budget referenda and high voter approval ratings.

**Clarissa Goins** (Business Administration) returned to campus in November 2014 to participate in "Life After College: Real Life Experiences as a Person of Color in the Corporate World," a conference hosted by the Business Association for Students of Color (BASC). She is pursuing a doctoral degree in business at Walden University and in 2015. She has worked in the financial industry for 20 years and was recently appointed vice president of compliance/BSA at the Bank of Millbrook.

**Craig McGuire** (Journalism) released his latest book, "Beyond the Ides – Why March is the Unluckiest Month of All" ([www.BeyondTheIdes.com](http://www.BeyondTheIdes.com)). The book was published by Strategic Media Books, Inc., and chronicles sudden twists of historically bad luck that occurred during the month of March, including assassinations, epic disasters and bizarre celebrity deaths.

**95** **Judi Esmond** (Visual Arts Education, Photography) '10g (Art Studio) is the new owner of Hudson Valley Pottery in Rhinebeck, N.Y., a ceramics and pottery school for adults and children.

**Louis Petto** (Contract-Liberal Arts & Science) is the new head coach and competitive aquatic director at Upper Main Line YMCA (UMLY) in Berwyn, Pa. [Swimswam.com](http://Swimswam.com) reports that he brings years of experience as the head coach at the Ocean County YMCA in Toms River, N.J., to his new position.

**Mathew Swerdloff '95g** (Elementary Education) '01cas (Educational Administration) spent a month as a lecturer in the Education Department at Visva-Bharati University in India, an experience made possible thanks to a Fulbright grant. Swerdloff, who holds a doctorate in education from Western Connecticut State University, blogged about his trip online at <http://swerdloff.org/31days>.

**96** *20th anniversary*  
**Sherry Saturno** (English), who holds LCSW and DCSW credentials, was the featured presenter at the Fordham Institute for Women and Girls Powerful Women in Social Work Event, held in February 2015 at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in New York City. She discussed her documentary short film, "Human Investment," which focuses on social workers' various motivations to provide human care and advocate for social change. The film was shown at the American Society on Aging 2015 Aging in America Conference in Washington, D.C., in March 2015. Saturno is executive director of the Hudson Valley Care Coalition in Tarrytown, N.Y. She holds master's degrees from Columbia and Long Island Universities, has been awarded the National Association of Social Workers Social Worker of the Year Award and is a New York University Silver School of Social Work fellowship recipient.

**97** **John Schrader** (Communication Media) has been inducted into the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, an organization of musicians, producers and other recording professionals widely-known as the presenters of the Grammy awards. Schrader is now eligible to attend the Grammys, participate in the voting process and submit his own music for Grammy consideration. His album "Daylight Crashing" featured the song "Shock," which became an International Association of Independent Recording Artists Top 100 single. His latest CD is "21 Summers." Schrader also scores instrumental music for film and television, and has served on the faculty of the Media Production Department at SUNY New Paltz. He and Maridyth Schrader were married in 2014. More information about his work can be found online at [www.johnschrader.com](http://www.johnschrader.com).

**Elizabeth Wood-Bernabe '97g** (Special Education) was awarded a

## Marco Maggi '98g represents Uruguay at the 2015 Venice Biennale

New Paltz-based Uruguayan artist Marco Maggi '98g (Printing) is representing Uruguay in the 2015 Venice Biennale, a major contemporary art showcase that takes place once every two years in Venice, Italy.

Maggi's exhibition, *Global Myopia II*, is scheduled to run through November and comes after the artist's whirlwind springtime stay in Madrid, Spain, during which he installed a solo show in two Galeria Cayon spaces. He considers those exhibitions rehearsals for the Venice Biennial project.

"Madrid was a short story," said Maggi. "Venice is a novel in four chapters."

Inspired by technology, biology and symbolic alphabets, Maggi's work deconstructs methods of communication. In *Global Myopia II*, Maggi



he then carefully folded and pasted onto the gallery walls during the three months preceding the biennale.

Revealing the artist's awareness of the realities of modern communication, the intricacies of Maggi's work are meant to make the viewer slow down and reflect upon the exhibition's painstaking detail and complexity.

"In a world obsessed by long distance and acceleration, the only goals of my exhibition are to promote pauses and approaches that make time visible," said Maggi.

Maggi splits time between New Paltz and Montevideo, Uruguay. His artwork and approach are known best for his use of commonplace materials such as aluminum foil, apple skins, acid-free office paper, and convex mirrors as the basis for his creations. Maggi transforms these ordinary items into complex and often repetitive patterns that shape abstract landscapes and rich illustrations.

Maggi's work has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. He represented Uruguay in the 2002 São Paulo Bienal, and his works have been shown in institutions including El Museo del Barrio, the Whitney Museum, and the Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo in Mexico City. The artist's exhibition "From Huguénot to Microwave: New and Recent Works by Marco Maggi" was featured at The Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art in 2011. He also has solo shows planned for Paris and New York City this fall.

attempts to detach the two basic elements of drawing, paper and pencil, and split the act of drawing into two stages.

For the exhibition, Maggi was challenged to create an artistic presentation that could travel in a carry-on suitcase to Madrid. His inventive solution was to assemble a portable kit composed of 10,000 alphabetic elements, cut out of self-adhesive paper on his table in New Paltz, which

doctorate of education in teacher leadership from Walden University on July 12, 2014. Her dissertation is titled "Ninth Grade Transition: A Step to Effective Lifelong Learning." She graduated with honors from Kappa Delta Pi and the Golden Key Honor Society.

**98 Aris Morales '98** (Business Administration Management) '00g (Business Administration) returned to campus in November 2014 to participate in "Life After College: Real Life Experiences as a Person of Color in the Corporate World," a conference hosted by the Business Association for Students of Color (BASC). He is director of operations for SS&C Technologies, where he oversees operational support for hedge funds and asset managers.

**Michael Allen** (Black Studies) published his first book, "The Strength From Within Windows to My Soul," about an inner city boy's journey to manhood. Visit [www.mazcan.com/tsfw-book.html](http://www.mazcan.com/tsfw-book.html) to learn more.

**Forrest Leighton** (Business Administration) was the keynote speaker at the SUNY New Paltz American Marketing Association (AMA) chapter's 19th Annual Business Day Conference in November 2014. He is vice president of sales and strategic alliances at PTI Marketing Technologies, and previously served as marketing vice president for Canon USA. An expert in business strategy, direct sales and product marketing, he shared stories and advice from the business world with students and community members in attendance.

**1st Lt. Tara Pipia** (English) was a platoon leader with the New York State National Guard 1569 Transportation Unit when, in April 2014, that unit began a nine-month stint on federal active duty that included deployment in Afghanistan from May to October 2014. Upon her return home in early November, Pipia was profiled in a story by

the *The Warwick Advertiser*, which reported that she joined the Navy in 2009 and was commissioned in the National Guard in October 2011. Before entering military service, she served as an editor with *The Times Herald-Record* and wrote a weekly column on local running, sky diving, hiking, mountain climbing, triathlons and other athletic activities.

**99 Steven Kraus** (Philosophy), co-owner of Gadaleto's Seafood Market & Restaurant in New Paltz, N.Y., discussed his career as a fish monger in a March 2015 story in *The New Paltz Times*.

**Melanie Lenci** (Creative Writing) launched her resume writing and career coaching consultancy business, Resume Relief, in 2005. She has had her work published in various resume and cover-letter writing guidebooks and is an award-winning LinkedIn profile writer. She's discussed her career expertise on programs like "The Career Confidante" and "Win-Win@Work Radio Show." Her website ([www.resumerelief.com](http://www.resumerelief.com)) features resume and LinkedIn profile samples and includes a blog in which Lenci shares tips for successful LinkedIn profiles, resumes, networking and professional branding.

**Edward Wilders** (Communication Studies) was promoted to senior vice president of research and analytics at Lockard & Wechsler Direct (LWD). As vice president and director of research at LWD, Wilders stewarded the agency's development of SmartMatch, a proprietary integrated media attribution system. Prior to his time at LWD, he worked at Mindshare as a spot broadcast negotiator and J. Walter Thompson as an assistant spot negotiator. He resides in Pleasantville, N.Y., with his wife and newborn baby girl.

**00 Brittany Alexander** (Theatre Arts) and her sister, Megan Alexander, are the founders, owners and operators of two businesses in Queensbury, N.Y.:

Country House Bed & Breakfast, which offers luxurious accommodations and is pet friendly, and Special Cakes, which creates and delivers personalized cupcakes.

**Reagan Haynes** (Journalism) has been elected to the 2015 Board of Directors of Sail America, the trade association for the U.S. sailing industry, as reported by *Scuttlebutt Sailing News*.

**Keisha Parker** (Communication Studies) joined the Philadelphia office of Cruser & Mitchell, where she focuses her practice on representing automobile, industrial, and commercial equipment manufacturers and distributors in complex litigation and products liability defense matters in federal and state courts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She holds a juris doctorate degree from Villanova University Law School, and a master of law degree in trial advocacy from Temple University Law School.

**Stacey Trapani-Barber** (Psychology) recently became a licensed behavior analyst, a newly recognized credential in New York State. She earned a master's degree in psychology from Marist College in 2004, obtained board certification in behavior analysis in 2008, returned to Marist to pursue a master's degree in mental health counseling in 2010, obtained a mental health counseling license in 2012 and is pursuing a doctorate in psychology via California Southern University. After working in the non-profit sector for the last decade, Stacey recently started her own company, Traber, LLC, which provides services for individuals and families impacted by autism and related disabilities. This new venture includes a mobile application, called ABA Tutor, which is a unique Discrete Trial Teaching app that uses voice recognition software to increase speech production. Trapani-Barber and her husband, Stephen, were married in 2005 and have two children.

**James DeArce '00g** (Sociology), adjunct professor at SUNY New Paltz in the Sociology Department, is a recipient of the 2014-15 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching.

**01 15th Reunion Ramon Cabrera** (Business Administration Finance), who serves in the U.S. Army as a Captain, is an assistant professor of military science for Clarkson University ROTC, teaching students enrolled at Clarkson, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Canton and St. Lawrence University. He's served in the Army since 2003 and deployed to Iraq twice for a total of 27 months and to Afghanistan for 12 months. He is married and has two sons.

**Kevin Dunning** (Theatre Arts) recently appeared in a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe" by Lamplighters Music Theatre of San Francisco, a recording that was lauded as one of the "Top 12 Opera Recordings of 2014" by "Opera News." He's been a member of the company since 2008, when he starred as Archibald Crane in the first full revival of the orchestral score of Lucy Simon's "The Secret Garden" since it opened on Broadway in 1991.

**Anthony Martinez** (Business Administration), who resides in Forest Hills, N.Y., with his wife and daughter, joined The Coca-Cola Company in July 2011 as director of communications and media investment, designing strategies for Glaceau brands Vitaminwater, Smartwater and Fruitwater. He previously spent three years at American Express, creating digital and social media experiences that engaged card members and prospects around the company's corporate card, entertainment, and travel products. He's also held strategy and planning roles at agencies including for Intel and Procter & Gamble.

**Susan Plonski** (Political Science) was appointed commissioner of the Ulster County Department of Pub-

## Alumna wins big on Wheel of Fortune



When **Jenny (Thayer) Riehl '02 '04g** (Communication Disorders) was a contestant on "Wheel of Fortune" last December, she had no idea that she would eventually win \$54,505 in cash and prizes on the popular game show.

With a combination of positivity, smarts and strategy, the Town of Ulster resident closed out the win with a phrase worth \$32,000 in the bonus round. She also walked away with an all-expense-paid trip to Honolulu, Hawaii.

"My first thought was one of being grateful and blessed for the win," said Riehl. "I hadn't really thought about the monetary outcome of the game, just solving the puzzles correctly."

Riehl watched the February broadcast with a private viewing party of close friends and family. The celebration included a cake adorned with a wheel

on top, and Riehl surprised her guests by handing out leis after the Hawaii trip was announced.

"It was an amazing night," she said. "I was actually more nervous that day than I had been to tape the show because that's when the reality of it all hit me." Though she hasn't decided how to enjoy her windfall, Riehl said she's already gotten a great deal out of the experience of competing on the game show.

"I feel beyond amazing and wouldn't have changed a thing," she said. "I feel most people have dreams that they never fulfill. This experience has taught me to listen to that inner voice more often, try some things that are out of my comfort zone, and not to be intimidated or afraid to fail."

Riehl, a school speech language pathologist for the Red Hook School District, lives with her husband A.J. and their rescue dog, Whitney, in Kingston, N.Y. She worked as an adjunct faculty member at SUNY New Paltz until 2011.

lic Works, the first woman to hold this post, which oversees more than 200 employees. She has a law degree from Albany Law School.

**02 Joseph Burke** (Political Science) was named the new director of Altamont Free Library, in Altamont, N.Y.

**Jennifer Moeller** (Psychology) was named sales and marketing manager for Possibilities for Design, Inc., a national leader in model-home merchandising and interior design. The position allows her to blend her expertise in real estate with her passion for vibrant design. She had previously worked as member services

manager for Exclusive Resorts and had pursued graduate-level studies in interior architecture at Harrington College of Design in Chicago.

**03 Jason Ellison** (Management) returned to New Paltz in November 2014 to participate in "Life After College: Real Life Experiences as a Person of Color in the Corporate World," a conference hosted by the Business Association for Students of Color (BASC). He holds a master's degree in pharmaceutical sciences from Long Island University and has held several information and records management positions with pharmaceutical companies.

**John Lee** (Secondary Education 7-12 Mathematics) and his wife, **Bethany White '05**, (Anthropology), welcomed twin girls, Sophie and Catherine, on August 28, 2014. Born 10 weeks premature, both girls are healthy and thriving.

**Alexander Marrero** (Music) serves as executive director of the Rockland Youth Orchestra and the new executive director of the Southern Hudson Valley Youth Symphony. His conducting debut with the Symphony on May 4, 2014 featured undergraduate and graduate students from the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School of Music.

**David Sela** (Biology), a principal investigator and faculty member in the Department of Food Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, visited campus in October 2014, to deliver a lecture titled "Nursing Our Microbial Selves: Breast Milk's Influence on the Infant Microbiome." He previously worked with the Foods for Health Institute (FFHI) at the University of California, Davis, where he earned a doctoral degree in microbiology and master's degree in food biology. He was a member of the Milk Bioactives and Functional Glycobiology Program at the FFHI and became a postdoctoral research fellow following graduation. Visit his lab online at [www.selalab.org](http://www.selalab.org) to learn more about his research.

**Kevin Smith** (Public Relations) joined Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc. as vice president, wealth advisor, as reported by [boston.citybizlist.com](http://boston.citybizlist.com). He is also a board member of the Estate Planning Council of Eastern New York and the Schenectady Community Home.

**04 Aimee (Bodron) Licari** (Adolescence Education: Spanish) '07g (Second Language Education) announced the birth of her third child, Camila Joliet Licari, in December 2013.

**Ryan Roa** (Sculpture, Visual Arts Education) exhibited an art show titled "Force of Attraction" at Index Art Center in Newark, N.J. The show consisted of a dozen sculptures and charcoal drawings directly on the Center's walls and ran through November 2014.

**Laura Burt** (Biology) and Kyle Bell were married on October 10, 2014, in a ceremony at McCann County Club; they reside in Kingston, N.Y.

**Ian Merkel** (Geology) is a senior geologist at Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.

**Kristyn Smith** (Theatre Arts) was the audio mix engineer for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Tour. She recently marked one year as a member of IATSE Local One, the premier stagehand union.

**Shirley (Hoffman) Warren** (Music) composed "Merry Notes," a set of three songs based on poems by William Shakespeare, and saw the songs work performed by the College-Community Chorale of SUNY New Paltz on December 8, 2014.

**Stephanie White** (Communication Studies) and Erik Holden were married on December 13, 2014.

**Kristina Funk '04g** (Sculpture) had her artwork exhibited at Elizabethtown College in September and October 2014.

**05 David Licata** (Sculpture, Visual Arts Education) is employed at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, N.Y.

**William Dendis** (English) is editor of the Hudson Valley newspaper *Saugerties Times*.

**Vanessa (Vasadi) Figueroa** (Biology) and **Billy Figueroa** (Computer Science) were married on August 31, 2014, in Saugerties N.Y. They each own small businesses specializing in technical consulting. They reside in Manhattan.

**06 10th Reunion Bethany Dellapolla** (Theatre Arts, Communication Media) continues to study technique through programs like Straeon Acting Studios, Linda Stasser Studios and Broadway Dance Center, according to [Hamptons.com](http://Hamptons.com). She teaches, choreographs and directs various theater camps, productions and classes throughout Long Island and Manhattan. Her regional and NYC acting credits include roles in "Love, Loss, and What I Wore," "The Graduate," "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," "Cabaret," "The Laramie Project," "The Miss Firecracker Contest," "Company," "Ruthless!" and "The New World."

**Joe Cosentino '06g** (Humanistic and Multicultural Education) authored romance novella "An Infatuation" (Dreamspinner Press) and mystery/romance novel "Paper Doll" (Whiskey Creek Press). His upcoming romance novellas include "A Shooting Star" and "A Home for the Holidays" (Dreamspinner Press), and the comedy/mystery/romance novel "Drama Queen" (Lethe Press).

**Kurtis Nordahl** (Mathematics), '10g (Business Administration) became a certified public accountant and joined Vanacore, DeBenedictis, DiGiovanni & Weddell LLP in November 2012. He is a junior accountant in the Newburgh, N.Y., office, according to *The Poughkeepsie Journal*.

**Steven Rossi '06g** (Sculpture) and professor Emily Puthoff exhibited at the Queen's Museum, Queens, N.Y., during the Open Engagement Conference in May 2014, organized by Professor Matthew Friday and curated by Linda Weintraub.

**07 Francheska Boria** (Graphic Design) joined the full-service advertising, marketing and public relations firm of BBG&G Advertising Inc. as senior graphic designer/web developer, as reported by *The Hudson Valley Press*.

**Jeremy Holmes** (Sculpture) was in Regensburg, Germany, during 2014 for a permanent sculpture installation and a two-person show at Isabelle Lesmeister Gallery.

**Eric Mistretta** (Visual Arts) held his first solo exhibition in New York, entitled "Scenes From an Italian Restaurant," at Scaramouche Gallery. His work has also been featured at the Family Business Gallery in the Virgins Show, curated by Marilyn Minter, and internationally at F\_AIR Gallery, Florence, Italy and MonCheri, Brussels, Belgium. **Christopher Proskoy** (Biology) was inducted into the Society of Flavor Chemists as a certified member after a seven-year apprenticeship and multiple tests and interviews in front of a board of certified flavorists. He works as a flavorist at International Flavors and Fragrances.

**Alicia Pruden** (Childhood Education 1-6) '11g (Literacy Education B-6) and Owen O'Connell were married at St. Mary's of the Snow Roman Catholic Church on October 10, 2014, near Wappingers Falls, N.Y. They honeymooned in Barbados and reside in New Paltz, N.Y.

**08 Melanie Canavan** (Management) had her engagement to Thomas Seay of Newport News, Va., announced in the *Daily Freeman*, and wed in summer 2015. She is an elementary school counselor in Gloucester, Va.

**Meng-Hsuan Wu '08g** (Sculpture) teaches at the Rainey Institute in Cleveland, Ohio.

**09 Megan Di Maggio** (Theatre Arts) and **Kristin Dwyer '11** (Theatre Arts) produced a staging of Professor Laurence Carr's original drama "The Wakeville Stories" during winter 2014-15 in Arlington, Mass.

**Sarah Pfeffer** (Communication Studies) completed a master's degree in corporate communications and

## Alumnus pays it forward through student internships

**Mohammed Serdah '07** (Accounting) understands that a working relationship is most likely to produce mutual benefit when it is founded on teamwork and trust. It's a lesson he learned during a challenging final semester at SUNY New Paltz.



**"My interns have helped me question why we do things the way we do."**

"Among the business students at that time, those of us who were accounting majors were a tight group, especially toward the end," said Serdah. "During that last semester we all came together at the library and studied late into the night. We stayed until closing for two weeks straight and it was worth it when we all passed. I remember looking for each of them at graduation and saying, 'We did it together!'"

But Serdah knew that earning high marks alone would not be enough to guarantee him success after graduation. He also learned the value of professional experience when offered an internship by **Pascal Guirma '85** (Business Administration), a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual with an office in New Paltz, who also serves on the College's Alumni Advisory Council.

public relations at Sacred Heart University in December 2013. She was recognized with the Gold Medal of Excellence in Communication for academic excellence, in part for maintaining a 4.0 GPA and for holding leadership roles within her department. During her graduate studies, she produced a short film titled "Project Limulus," about a horseshoe crab conservation project,

which was accepted into the Beneath the Waves Film Festival. She's employed at South Kent School as communications coordinator for media and public relations, and is responsible for web content, press releases, media relations, photography, promotional videos and collateral design, among other duties. She also blogs for the website Geeks of Doom ([www.geeksofdoom.com](http://www.geeksofdoom.com)). "I am

thankful for my time at SUNY New Paltz and how the Communication Department provided me with a solid foundation of research and analytical thought," she writes.

**Laura Waterbury** (Biology) and **Matthew Mangus '10** (Finance, Accounting) were married on Sept. 6, 2014, at Wagner Vineyards, Lodi, N.Y. He is a financial analyst at

"Theory is always key when learning material," said Serdah. "But life experience and applying it to the real world of business makes a difference, too."

Today, Serdah has his own accounting firm in New Paltz, Serdah Consultants, and he is paying forward the support he received from Guirma by offering internships to the next generation of students.

**Sarah Alloush '15** (Accounting) interned with Serdah Consultants during her final semester at New Paltz. Her experience allowed her to develop skills with bookkeeping systems and filing personal and business income tax returns.

"I wanted to get experience in the field I'm pursuing before I graduated," Alloush said. "I also wanted to make sure this kind of work is the right fit for me. An internship can help solidify your interest in your chosen career."

Serdah is proud to be able to give back to his alma mater by creating opportunities for students, but just like those late-night study sessions at the library, working together with interns offers real benefits for him as well.

"I have great confidence in the ability of New Paltz students to perform at a high level," Serdah said. "My interns have helped me question why we do things the way we do, and have helped improve and streamline various processes. Most importantly, they breathe into the business a sort of work ethic only found in young professionals hungry for opportunity and knowledge. I'm proud to say that my interns can leave this company feeling confident in the work they've done and ready to work for any CPA office in the country."

Alloush's internship experience is helping her develop exactly that kind of confidence. "I'm starting to look for jobs," she said, "and lots of companies say they prefer one to three years of experience. I'm proud to say I'm going to have that when I graduate."

IBM; they reside in Zelenople, Pa. She earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Ross University and is a veterinarian at Ellwood Animal Hospital. They reside in Zelenople, Pa.

**10 Bianca Conway** (Finance) returned to campus in November 2014 to participate in "Life After College: Real Life Experiences as a Person of Color in the Corporate World," a conference hosted by the Business Association for Students of Color (BASC). She was hired as a credit middle office analyst for JPMorgan following graduation. As a student, Conway had completed summer internships at Bear Stearns Corp, before it became part of JPMorgan Chase.

**11 5th Reunion Irene Berner** (Finance) was elected president of the Walkkill Valley Rail Trail Association (WVTRA) for a third term. She is principal of Berner Financial Services, an independent investment and planning firm located in New Paltz.

**Victoria Distefano** (Journalism) was honored as 2014 Young Professional of the Year by the Melville Chamber of Commerce.

**Albert Hor** (Political Science) is a staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Neighborhood Office. He represents low-income families and individuals in eviction proceedings and other housing matters. He received a J.D. from City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law in May 2014 and is admitted to practice law in of New York.

**Katherine Kondrat** (Adolescence Education: Social Studies) has managed the Kingston, N.Y., Farmers' Market since October 2014. She has worked as Hudson Valley regional director for Winter Sun Farms since 2013, according to the *Daily Freeman*.

**Vincent Tampio** (Music), a trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, and

composer/arranger based in the Philadelphia and New York areas, released his sophomore solo album, "SYZYGY REMIX," in November 2014. The collection features remixes of tracks from his January 2014 album "SYZYGY," produced by various Philadelphia and New York musicians working in a range of instrumental musical styles including dub reggae, ambient, trance, avant garde and funk. Tampio regularly performs and records with indie rock bands such as Palm Ghosts and Heyward Howkins and is a member of soul cover band The York Street Hustle, for which he plays trumpet and arranges horns.

**12 Antonios Chalyvidis** (Sculpture) exhibited his kinetic sculpture at the Melina Merkouri Municipal Gallery, Hydra Island, Greece, in April 2014.

**Kevin Dejewski** (Sculpture) conducted an interactive art workshop at SUNY New Paltz with visiting artist Hans Tammen in 2014. He was scheduled to present his work at the New Adventures in Sound ART Symposium: Trans X in Toronto.

**Helen Gutfreund** (Visual Arts Education) was named director of marketing and communications for the Mid-Hudson Civic Center and its four subsidiary properties, Mair Hall, McCann Ice Arena, Ice Time Sports and the Sugar Loaf Performing Arts Center. She had previously served as director at the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**Katie Lynn Innamorato** (Sculpture) showed her work in the 2014 Taxidermy Show at La Luz de Jesus Gallery in Los Angeles.

**Christine Regula** (Sculpture) was hired as a metal fabricator for Anchor and Canvas, a small, Brooklyn-based fabrication shop. **Brittany Schatzel** (Spanish) was promoted to customer service representative supervisor at Roundout Savings Bank, according to the *Daily Freeman*.

**13 Haley Bloom** (English) and **Eleazar Benjamin Herbst '12** (Elementary Education) were married on October 17, 2014, in Savannah, Ga.

**Amy Diener** (Visual Arts Education) has been working in Bangkok, Thailand, as a painter and art educator. Her first solo show was held in Bangkok at CHOMP in January 2015.

**Sarah Grange** (Sculpture) is employed at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, N.Y.

**Faith Hassell** (Psychology) earned a master's degree in human resources management from Georgetown University in December 2014. She has been thoroughly enjoying her residence in Washington, D.C., and sends a shoutout to all of her New Paltz friends and teachers.

**Lani Nelson** (Asian Studies) visited campus on April 15, 2015, to speak on her experience building a career in media and Asian Studies. She's employed as a reporter for SinoVision.

**Rosella Calauti '13g** (Humanistic-Multicultural Ed) is a teacher in Newburgh, N.Y., and author of the 2012 book "Friends: Here...There... Everywhere!!!" The book tackles the subjects of making new friends and exploring the world, and teaches young children how to play cooperatively while holding steadfast to who they are. Calauti appeared at the 2014 Miami Book Fair International in November 2014, where "Friends" was a featured title.

**Amanda Guitar '13g** (Psychology) visited campus on April 6, 2015, to speak at the Evolutionary Studies (EvoS) program's 10th Annual Celebration of Darwin Day. Her presentation on the evolutionary psychology of Facebook is based on a forthcoming book chapter that will be published in the "Oxford Handbook on Women and Competition" co-written with **Rachael**



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Notes submitted online are viewable immediately and remain posted for up to 3 months, as well as being included in the next edition of "New Paltz Magazine," so submit today.

**Carmen '09** (Psychology) '13g (Psychology). Guitar is pursuing a doctoral degree in biological anthropology at SUNY Binghamton and is teaching undergraduate courses in evolutionary medicine. She is a recipient of "Outstanding Student Presentation" awards from both the Feminist Evolutionary Psychology Society and the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society.

**Maureen McCourt '13g** (Sculpture) joined Pelham Art Center, Pelham, N.Y., as education and outreach manager.

**Amanda Rivero '13g** (Literacy Education B - 6) is a special education teacher for the New Paltz Central School District. She had her engagement to Matthew DeMarco announced in the *Daily Freeman*. A June 2016 wedding is planned.

**14 Savannah Blum** (Sculpture) premiered her documentary film, "Home in Detroit," at the Rosendale Theater in April 2014. The documentary resulted from her summer 2013 SURE research project, for which she was mentored by Professor Emily Puthoff.

**David Straw** (Geology) joined Spectra Environmental Group Inc. in Latham, N.Y., as a junior environmental scientist. Poststar.com reports that the company provides high quality services in environmental, geology, solid waste, air quality, and transportation industries.

**Andrew Hamill '14g** (Sculpture) was awarded the prestigious Skowhegan Artist Residency and spent the summer of 2014 in Maine.



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Select events for alumni and friends. For a full listing visit [www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/events](http://www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/events)

reuniting  
networking  
connecting

**OCTOBER 24**  
Los Angeles alumni event at home of Robert Kyncl '95 and Luz Avila-Kyncl '96

**NOVEMBER**  
7: Chicago alumni event at home of Michael Boccio '83 and Sophia Boccio

20: Global Orange & Blue Day (worldwide) Meet-ups organized by alumni volunteers in various locations (see back cover)

**DECEMBER 1**  
Giving Tuesday (worldwide)

**JANUARY, 2016**  
30: Sarasota, Fla., alumni event  
31: Naples-Fort Myers, Fla., alumni event (Cape Coral) at home of Ted Clark (see page 22)

**FEBRUARY 3**  
Fort Lauderdale-area alumni event (West Palm Beach, Fla.)

**MARCH 21**  
Washington, D.C. alumni-student mixer

**APRIL**  
16: Alumni Night at the Theatre: "Parade" (campus)  
28: Distinguished Speaker Series: Robert Kyncl '95 (campus)

**SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2**  
2016 Alumni Weekend & Reunion (campus)

**CLASS NOTES**  
**> IN MEMORIAM**

“It is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die, but only retire from sight and afterwards return again.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

**1930 - 1939**

Ms. Irene Shipran-Chaffee '38

**1940-1949**

Mrs. Eleanor (Paterson)

Stapinski '45

Mrs. Anne (Ciciola) Stamegna '49

**1950-1959**

Mr. Bruce V. Schneider '52

Mrs. Marion (Garrity) Cridge '57

**1960-1969**

Mr. Robert J. Belsten '63

Mr. Brian L. Inkeles '69

Ms. Grace A. Lupo '69

Mr. Duane Prackelt '69

**1970-1979**

Mr. Douglas Poyourow '70

**1980-1989**

Mrs. Kathleen Virga '82

Ms. Mary E. Denny '85

Mr. Carlos R. Flores '85

Mr. Paul G. McKenna '85

Ms. Joann Steegmuller '82 '87

**1990-1999**

Ms. Nancy C. Wood '92

Mr. Craig Schiffer '93

**Former Student**

Ms. Elsie M. Shirley

**Faculty & Staff**

Professor Victor Landau

Ms. Helen M. Liucci

Ms. Natalie J. Robisch

Dr. Marleigh (Grayer) Ryan

Mr. Donald F. Ziter

**Burton Bernstein**

Emeritus Professor Burton Bernstein (Physics) graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Brooklyn College in 1942 and held a master's degree in physics from Columbia University and Ph.D. in physics from MIT. In 1966, he joined the New Paltz faculty, and after more than 30 years with the College, he retired in 1998.

Bernstein was a member of the Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth-El and the Beacon Hebrew Alliance for many years.

**David Goldknopf**

Emeritus Professor David Goldknopf (English) received a B.S. cum laude in philosophy from New York University and a Ph.D. in English Literature from Syracuse University. After working at Bennett College, Goldknopf became a professor of English at SUNY New Paltz where his wife, Irma, also served as a professor.

In 1943 during World War II, Goldknopf was drafted into the military and joined the Army Air Forces where he served as a radio and communications officer for the storied 368th Fighter Group. After the war he lived in New York City, freelancing and writing fiction including numerous short stories and a novel, “Hills on the Highway” in 1948. In 1972, he published “The Life of the Novel,” a well-received work of literary criticism.

**Richard Impola**

Emeritus Professor Richard Impola (English) graduated from Calumet High School in Calumet, Mich. After high school, he was inducted into the U.S. Army. He served in

the European Theater in World War II and was wounded twice, earning a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. After leaving the Army, he enrolled at Columbia University, where he earned a BA and MA, and later a Ph.D. He came to SUNY New Paltz in 1963 and taught at the College until his retirement in 1983.

After retiring, he began translating Finnish poetry and novels into English. His translations were published in the United States and Canada, and the Finnish government recognized his dedication by awarding him the medal of Knight First Class of the Order of the Lion of Finland at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C. in 2003.

**Dale L. Stein**

Distinguished Teaching Professor (Art) Dale L. Stein earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Carnegie Institute of Technology's College of Fine Arts. In 1961, he joined the faculty at SUNY New Paltz, during which time he developed a love for the Catskill Mountain region and its history. In 1973, he was one of nine of the SUNY faculty awarded the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor and the only one in art.

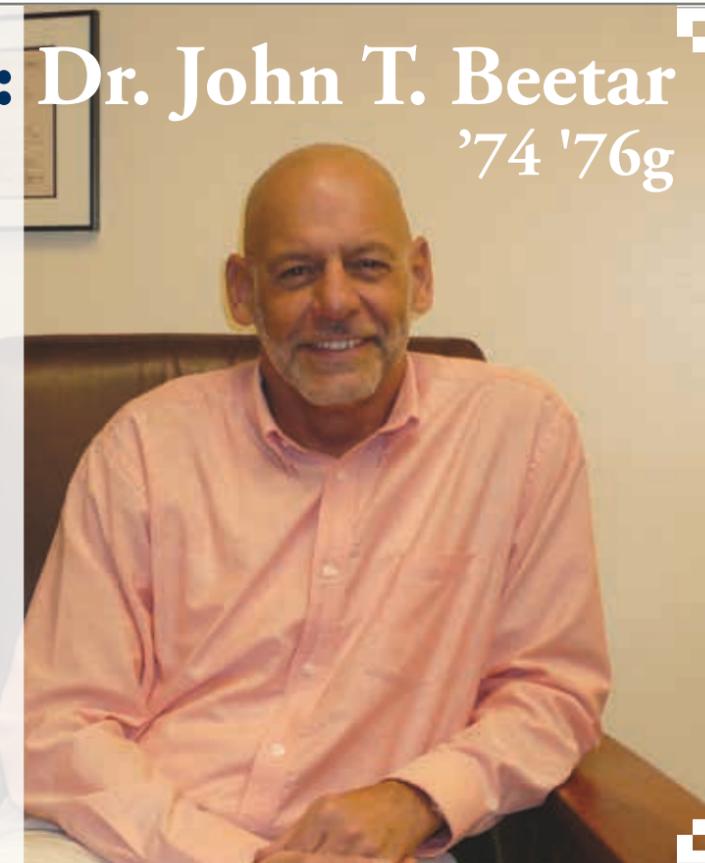
Stein was a designer and illustrator for Norcross greetings cards in New York for 11 years, but his teaching career of 25 years was his true passion. Most of his works are in private collections, including that of the former drawing curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1985, he completed a series of landscape paintings of 53 small towns in Ulster County, forming an exhibition entitled “Chorographs.”

**Planned Giving: Dr. John T. Beetar**

'74 '76g

For more than 40 years, from playing Santa at Barkers Department Store in New Paltz to directing psychological services of the school programs at Kennedy Krieger Institute, Dr. John T. Beetar '74 '76g has put young people first. Last year, he took that commitment a little further when, in anticipation of his retirement, he assigned The SUNY New Paltz Foundation as the beneficiary of one of his charitable gift annuities, joining the Tower Society.

Annuity assignments effectively move the value of that annuity out of the donor's estate, simplifying probate and saving the heirs the tax liability associated with the annuity distribution. In addition, annuities may have multiple beneficiaries. To learn more about how an annuity assignment could help you achieve your estate goals, contact Nick Rama, senior development officer, at 845-257-2602.



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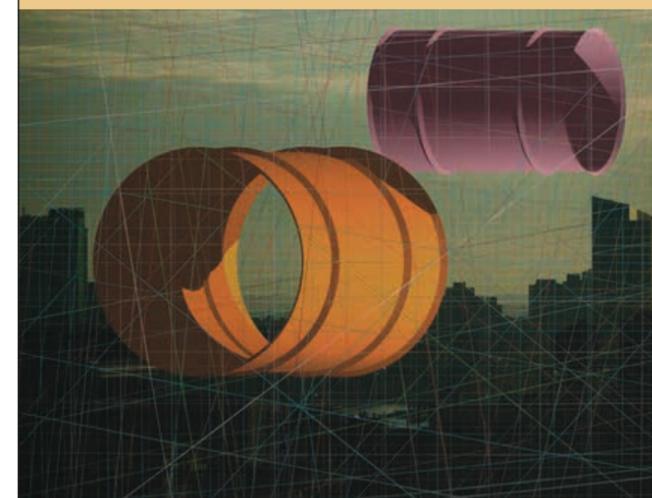


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