"My work with the United Nations allows me to make a difference; it is why I do what I do.”
— Jessica Faieta ‘85 (Economics), p.18

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Cover: YouTube’s Chief Business Officer Robert Kyncl ‘95 (International Relations) sits for a portrait at YouTube headquarters in Los Angeles, Calif. Photo by Cara Robbins

Corrections:
Bruce Orenstein ’68 (Secondary Education) is Vice President – Wealth Management for UBS Financial Services Inc. in Paramus, N.J. This information was incorrect on p. 16 of the spring 2016 edition of New Paltz Magazine.

Dr. Gerald Robbins ’78 (Chemistry) received his M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. This information was incorrect on p. 22 of the spring 2016 edition of New Paltz Magazine.
This issue of New Paltz Magazine features exemplary alumni who self-identify as global citizens and have transformed the lives of others. Our cover story illustrates the far-reaching power of a New Paltz degree by highlighting the modern, international world in which we live. Our alumnus spearheads YouTube’s brand image and experience where information is shared by billions of users on a technological platform unimagined two decades ago.

Among its endless video archives, viewers can find shaky, first-hand accounts of the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The official Haitian government death toll reached more than 300,000, and hundreds of thousands of survivors were displaced. Look to page 18 to discover how one determined alumna traveled there to help pick up the pieces.

We can read in her story, (and in the numerous profiles of alumni who make giving back their life’s work), that in each notable endeavor, a piece of New Paltz has assisted in making a difference. Unearthing themes of resilience, philanthropy and global activism was the organic result of researching our alumni, seeking their stories and, in turn, telling our readers the true impact of their accomplishments.

SUNY New Paltz fosters the kind of global citizenship read about in these pages. It provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in extensive international affairs through programs and educational prospects that help build a worldwide culture of compassion and understanding. Our goal is for students to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to contribute to important dialogues as productive members of a truly global society.

Because as these alumni stories disclose, when the world is viewed through an inclusive lens, the influence on the work and lives of tomorrow is boundless.

Sincerely,
Chrissie Williams, editor
Shana Circe, director of alumni relations
AS SCHOOL DISTRICTS CONTINUE TO CONSOLIDATE AND COLLABORATE, TEACHERS WITH ADAPTABLE AND COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS IN SCIENCE AND ART BECOME A MUCH-NEEDED RESOURCE. FOR SUNY NEW PALTZ ALUMNUS STEPHEN PROTOSS ’12 (VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION), THIS MEANS REACHING MORE STUDENTS THAN EVER BEFORE.
"When I’m in my classroom, everything else goes away and the **genius** things that the students come up with really provide a sense of **promise** for our future."

Protoss demonstrates how in the pursuit of meaningful and cost-effective strategies, teachers are still capable of delivering a high-quality and forward-thinking education.

The alumnus has the good fortune of working for a district that shares his enthusiasm for interdisciplinary innovation. To provide students with state-of-the-art equipment for courses in the STEAM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics), the Rondout Valley School District purchased 10 new 3D printers in 2014 with a grant secured by Sen. John Bonacic, R-Mount Hope.

For Protoss, the new technology exemplifies a welcome collaboration between science and art. As a member of the district’s technology team, he has played an integral role in understanding and operating the new technology, finding new and powerful ways to implement it in the classroom.

“There are a lot of numbers to crunch when you listen to what teachers have to say, but when I’m in my classroom, everything else goes away and the genius things that the students come up with really provide a sense of promise for our future.”

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“'When you look at where 3D printing has been successful, it’s been because teachers applied the technology along with art and design to get the most out of it,’ said Protoss. ‘I was eager to add this technology to my curriculum and it became clear that one of our students could benefit, personally, from this new technology.’

‘Inspired by a “robohand” project built at SUNY New Paltz in 2014, Protoss and some of his colleagues used one of the district’s 3D printers to build second-grader Aidan Davidson a new right hand.'
Protoss feels that as 3D technology is further integrated into art education in Hudson Valley schools, local college students will also benefit from exploring the combination of disciplines.

“We made it red, which is Aidan’s favorite color,” said Protoss. “And the fingertips were made out of particular plastic that glows-in-the-dark.”

Normally, a similar prosthesis would cost thousands of dollars, but the group obtained open-source printing plans from E-Nable Group and purchased materials totaling less than $50.

While the creation of the prosthetic hand is a notable example of the potential of 3D printing technology, Protoss has found a number of more subtle ways it can complement traditional art activities in the classroom and draw out students’ creativity.

In hopes of sharing these practices with colleagues, Protoss has contributed to the development of the new Science Lab and Museum at Rondout Valley School District. Available for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, the laboratory allows teachers to plan field trips that give their students direct access to evolving technologies.

“I want to give students new experiences and change the day-to-day avenues of approach for their learning,” said Protoss. “There’s current national legislation that is reevaluating art as a core subject and I want our district to be ahead of that curve.”

The School of Education at SUNY New Paltz is powering up to meet this new teaching climate. The new Center for Innovation in Education at New Paltz (CIE@NP), directed by alumna and professor Karen Bell ’91g (Mathematics), debuted in fall 2015 with a mission of using innovative new technologies to expand clinically rich preparation of teachers and leaders like Protoss, and implement new educational models in classrooms spanning the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island.

The CIE@NP supports these goals through the use of 21st century instructional technologies that inspire inquiry-based teaching and learning, including state-of-the-art classroom simulation systems and 3D printing and digital design.
Where traditional media and emerging technology collide
Television has changed more in the last 10 years than in the previous 50, with businesses like YouTube and Netflix reimagining the traditional viewing experience. Billions of people are now empowered to discover, watch and share user-generated videos within a network that allows them to connect, inform and inspire others worldwide. Chief Business Officer at YouTube, Robert Kyncl ’95 (International Relations), has made a name for himself as a deal maker at this intersection where traditional media surrenders to emerging technology and growth.

“This work has a special meaning for me that goes beyond entertainment,” said Kyncl. “We did not have access to information in my life growing up behind the Iron Curtain, but now I work for a company that provides access across the whole world.”

Kyncl grew up in communist-controlled Czechoslovakia before immigrating to the U.S. to study at SUNY New Paltz. His experiences under that restrictive regime have guided him in his work as a key figure in the globalization of online media production and consumption.

Both in his current position at YouTube and in his previous role as vice president of content at Netflix, Kyncl has demonstrated an intuition for operating on the front lines of this expanding media landscape.

“Immediacy and creativity are the driving forces now,” said Kyncl. “In many ways web video is superior to television. It’s searchable, sharable and interactive, which TV is not. Certain innovations have surpassed the previous delivery system.”

In Kyncl’s view, traditional, pre-Internet media was built in a world where content creators were inherently disconnected from viewers. A small number of traditional media conglomerates and a handful of very influential people determined what most others read, listened to and watched.

The dawn of the Internet and related technologies opened up content creation to the masses, causing a substantial disruption to the previous structure. Today, many of the most viewed videos on YouTube are created not by multinational corporations, but by everyday people capable of amassing audiences and promoting consumer engagement.

“Suddenly we’re saying that everything is changing, that what you have built no longer applies,” said Kyncl. “This creates a lot of new challenges for television companies, because now people are expressing themselves in writing, music and video, without needing to ask anybody for permission to distribute it. YouTube is the platform for this change.”

YouTube has more than one billion users—almost one-third of all people on the Internet—and millions of hours of video that generate billions of views. Overall, YouTube reaches more members of the key 18–49 demographic than any cable network in the United States.

“We’ve really revolutionized how consumers experience video,” said Kyncl. “Meeting the needs of young audiences is crucial to our growth, and really exemplary of consumer interests, lifestyles and mobile sharing activities. We are a global company, and we’re seeing this impact all over the world.”

Eighty percent of YouTube’s views come from people living outside the U.S. and the company has wisely responded to this trend by launching local versions of its platform in more than 88 countries. Users can navigate the site in 76 different languages, which covers 95 percent of the Internet population.

You could ask Kyncl what’s next for YouTube, but the answer might simply be, what isn’t? As the company sees growth in nearly every theoretical corner of the web—from live streaming in 360 degrees to virtual reality viewing technologies—the opportunities seem limitless. This is a welcome
For both Luz Avila-Kyncl ’96 (Psychology), and her husband Robert Kyncl ’95 (International Relations), SUNY New Paltz offered a new home in a new country. Kyncl immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia and Avila-Kyncl from the Dominican Republic. From there, they would find success in Los Angeles, Calif., where they now live with their two daughters.

“This is where it all began, for both of us,” said Avila-Kyncl. “It makes sense to keep in touch.”

The Kyncls have taken advantage of opportunities to stay connected with the College. They hosted an alumni event in their Los Angeles home in October 2015, and returned to campus in 2016 to speak with students and faculty.

In April, Kyncl, who later received a Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University, addressed the campus community as spring 2016 SUNY New Paltz Distinguished Speaker, and Avila-Kyncl, a nutritionist and alumna of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), spoke at the Bi-Annual EOP Conference on the theme of “Strong Foundation, Strong Future.”

The conference focused on providing valuable educational opportunities and connecting student and alumni members of the EOP family. As Founder and CEO at Salud Con Luz, Avila-Kyncl used the opportunity to address how particular nutrition and lifestyle choices lead to a better life, a message she addresses daily as a nutrition coach and wellness counselor with experience in family nutrition, weight management and stress relief.

“New Paltz gave me the knowledge and the skills to fulfill these dreams and make a difference in people’s lives,” said Avila-Kyncl who earned her master’s degree in social welfare from UCLA. “It was the foundation of everything and really opened the door for my current career. I want to see current EOP students understand the power of their degree.”

situation for Kyncl, who prefers to be the first in line, not last.

“It’s better to work for a tailwind company than a headwind company,” said Kyncl. “And in order to know what’s tailwind you need to know what way the wind is blowing. Tailwinds cover up a lot of mistakes, which gives you the opportunity to try a lot of new things. If you have headwind, you might be afraid to try new things and appear less innovative and less fun. We’re trying to tell everyone where the wind is.”

For Kyncl, the breadth of YouTube’s current reach and future capabilities is something to be proud of, but it also means that no one platform can meet the needs of every audience without a bit of fine-tuning.

This is particularly true at the intersection of media and politics. The billions of videos entering the online collective consciousness via YouTube, and the exposure to new cultures and ideas they introduce, are not equally welcome in all nations. Kyncl and YouTube are facing challenges in the form of censorship and intellectual property concerns that have the potential to disrupt both business and policy.

Kyncl sees this as yet another opportunity for growth and experimentation, a chance for us all to play a part in reevaluating societal expectations and ultimately paving the way to change.

“Here in the States, we’re afforded an openness not seen in many places around the world,” he said. “At YouTube we stand by our position that people should not be persecuted for what they watch and what they upload, but regulations are highly variable from country to country. This makes my work a challenge, but also very rewarding. For me, it’s a battle that’s worth fighting.”

“People should not be persecuted for what they watch and what they upload.”
What's it like to...

*teach in a maximum-security prison*

by Joseph DiPietro ’08
(Psychology–Psychobiology)

There are certain experiences in life that change the way you see the world, that challenge assumptions you never even knew you had. For me one of those experiences started on a snowy winter evening in the small town of Auburn, N.Y. It was the first time I stepped behind the walls of a maximum-security prison.

As a graduate student studying neuroscience, I first heard about the Cornell Prison Education Program, or CPEP, from a colleague in the lab. He explained that it is a privately funded education program taught by instructors from Cornell, and that it provides inmates at Auburn Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in upstate New York, the opportunity to enroll in college-level courses and earn an associate degree. This sparked my interest, and so the following semester I submitted my course proposal to teach an introductory neuroscience course, the first of its kind in CPEP’s 10-year history.

I admit that when I first began preparing my lectures, I assumed I would have to teach a very refined version of a neuroscience class. After all, unlike my undergraduate students at Cornell, many of my CPEP students would have little or no background in biology, let alone neuroscience. It turned out that this assumption (which felt more like an obvious reality at the time) was completely false. In fact, their ability to grasp the material in many cases matched the average college student. What differed was their approach.

For the typical college student, university life is more than lectures and assignments. College is a time where young people discover themselves emotionally as well as academically. It is a time to grow, as much as it is a means to a degree and a career. For my students in prison, there were no extracurricular activities, and as sad as it is to admit, for some of them there is little hope for a future outside prison walls. College classes provide an escape from the mostly dull routine of prison life. When it was finally time to attend class, all those pent-up thoughts and feelings about the class material burst out of them in the form of brilliant class discussions, less focused on facts and figures, and more on how what they learned meant in the context of their own experiences, and life itself.

I can’t speak for every person in prison, only the handful I met while teaching this course. As I got to know them, it was clear to me that they are people, human beings with feelings and desires, hopes and dreams, many as thoughtful and intelligent as any person living a free and productive life. My students learned neuroscience. I gained a sense of humanity for society’s most forgotten.

Joseph DiPietro ’08 (Psychology–Psychobiology) is a doctoral candidate at the Fetcho Lab in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He was a Teaching Assistant for the Introduction to Neuroscience class at Cornell (Department of Neurobiology and Behavior), where he is an instructor of neuroscience for the Cornell Prison Education Program at Auburn Correctional Facility. DiPietro co-wrote “Teaching Neuroscience in Prison” along with Sam Doernberg, a first-year pre-doctoral fellow in the Department of Bioethics at Cornell University. The narrative was featured in The Atlantic in April 2016. This piece was written by DiPietro for New Paltz Magazine.
Jessica Faieta ’85 (Economics/Business Administration) was there for it all.

“Every time I have moved to a new country, I have been very lucky to live part of its history,” said Faieta. “My work with the United Nations allows me to make a difference. It is why I do what I do.”

During her 25-year career, Faieta has lived in 12 countries, witnessing extreme poverty and war on one hand, and profound growth and the power of humanitarian influence on the other. Faieta has served with the United Nations (U.N.) in various roles throughout Central and South America. She is currently regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Faieta holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a master’s degree in international affairs from Columbia University. She is a Yale University World Fellow.

Faieta helps to reduce poverty and promote environmental conservation and the advancement of women around the world. She acknowledges her recent experience in Haiti with changing her outlook on life.

As the senior country director leading the U.N. Development Programme’s recovery and reconstruction efforts after the January 2010 earthquake, Faieta witnessed the harrowing magnitude of property damage and loss of life first-hand.

“It was a sobering experience, but rewarding,” said Faieta. “It allowed me to see how bringing people together can make a difference, even when a country is totally devastated. I am extremely proud of that time and all we were able to accomplish.”

The origins of her work in international relations can be traced to her choice to leave Ecuador to study at SUNY New Paltz.

“I am fortunate to have been born into a family that had an international outlook and encouraged me to study abroad,” said Faieta. “When I came to New Paltz, it was my first time living outside of Ecuador. It was an eye-opening experience that combined my education and my convictions.”

Now in the later stages of her career, Faieta is looking to reconnect with her roots. She has kept in contact with family and close childhood friends in Ecuador, and recently returned to New Paltz to revisit the place that helped launch her career.

“I often miss being a part of my own country,” she said during a spring 2016 visit to the College. “This is part of the reason that I have come back to the United States. New Paltz helps connect me to something that was part of my life back home. I have a lot of memories from all those years ago; they were very important days of my life.”

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▲ Jessica Faieta ’85 (Economics/Business) was the keynote speaker of the 2nd Women’s Leadership Summit held on campus in April 2016.
Dentist and Air Force Reservist Major Stanley Michel ’02 (Biology) has embraced a life of service. “I have always believed in helping those less fortunate,” said Dr. Michel, who recently traveled to Haiti to provide much-needed dental care to underserved citizens. Dr. Michel worked with three other dentists on this humanitarian mission where they treated more than 500 people in five working days.

“The days were long and hot,” said Dr. Michel. “Residents of this remote part of the island have no access to electricity or running water so we work from sun up to sun down, but we leave with a true sense of accomplishment.”

A Haitian-American whose parents emigrated in 1978, Dr. Michel’s family ties to the region and his altruistic nature have kept him involved with the mission for the last three years.

The skills performed during the trip are common practice in a deployed or field environment, which is nothing new to Dr. Michel, who serves as Chief of Dental Services at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Dr. Michel was awarded the degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston, Mass., where he received a Health Professional Scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. After graduating, he served as Dental Officer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, for three years before he left active duty for the Air Force Reserve in 2009.

Dr. Michel recently sold his practice in Buffalo, N.Y., to enter the Endodontic Program at New York University Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he is chief endodontic resident.

“My experience and education, coupled with my personal ties to Haiti, make this a trip worth taking time and time again,” said Dr. Michel. “I can share my expertise with other dentists and rely on my military training at the same time.”
If Michael Vaughan-Cherubin ’04 (International Relations) could tell his younger self that one day he’d turn his passion for sports into a satisfying career, he wouldn’t have believed it.

“I never dreamed that sports would be such a large part of my career or that I could make a difference in the lives of children around the world,” said Vaughan-Cherubin, program manager for the U.S. Soccer Foundation and managing and founding partner for Global Game Changers.

In 2000, Vaughan-Cherubin was recruited to play soccer at New Paltz. He later made the varsity basketball team and joined the rugby team his senior year. While sports played a major role in his New Paltz career, he remained focused on finding professional gratification through the international relations program. He eventually landed a life-changing role with PeacePlayers International, whose mission is to unite, educate and inspire young people in divided communities through basketball.

Changing lives through sports

“PeacePlayers brought everything I had been working on together,” he said. “I spent nearly four years in the West Bank and Israel working with the program and I saw how powerful sports can be even in areas of serious conflict. It really brings everyone together on an even playing ground, regardless of individual backgrounds. Israelis and Palestinians came for the basketball and often left as friends.”

 Vaughan-Cherubin’s experience was an ideal extension of his New Paltz education. He pursued graduate work in international studies at American University and currently works with the U.S. Soccer Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Committed to helping young people embrace an active and healthy lifestyle, the U.S. Soccer Foundation uses sports to nurture critical life skills that foster structured physical activity, nutritional education and mentorship to help kids excel.

“Children in underserved communities face distinct challenges, from a lack of access to healthy foods to a shortage of safe places to play sports and consistent mentors,” said Vaughan-Cherubin. “Our collaborations with coaches, parents, and community volunteers help to improve the well-being of this population and in turn transform our communities.”

Though his day-to-day tasks of training the national training staff often keep him off the field, Vaughan-Cherubin continues to stay connected by coaching young athletes in his own community of Washington, D.C. He feels it’s important for his success, and that of the program, to always remain involved with the children who need it most. “Whether it’s figuring out a tough math problem, or scoring a rewarding goal, when children are engaged they open their eyes to new possibilities,” he said. “That’s what we do here: we show them what they’re capable of in sports, and in life.”
New Black Studies professors appointed

SUNY New Paltz is proud to have one of the first Black Studies Departments in the country, started in 1969, and is committed to sustaining this important program following an unprecedented number of nearly simultaneous faculty departures through retirement, resignation or reassignment.

To that end, the College appointed two new full-time, tenure-track faculty, Cruz Bueno and Nicole Carr, and a visiting lecturer, Bula S. Wayessa, in the Department of Black Studies after a national search last spring.

Bueno previously taught at Wesleyan University, Central Connecticut State University and most recently at Siena College, where she served as assistant professor of economics. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and previously served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Black Studies at the College.

Carr formerly taught courses in Africana Studies and African-American Literature at the University of Miami. From 2009-2014, she served as a composition instructor at Barry University, in Miami Shores, Fla. She earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Miami.

Wayessa, who earned his Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, has been hired as a one-year visiting lecturer of black studies. His past professional positions include serving as a sessional instructor of anthropology and archaeology at the University of Calgary; a lecturer of history and heritage at Jimma University; and a sessional instructor at Destiny Travel Industry College and Ethiopia Adventist College, both also located in Ethiopia. He is an Ethiopian citizen with permanent residency in Canada.

Alumna, author urges graduates to embrace the ‘next chapter’

Author, attorney and advocate Regina Calcaterra ‘88 (Political Science) encouraged graduates at the May 2016 Commencement to begin life’s next chapter with flexibility and enthusiasm.

“I thought that I became an author after publishing my book, but I was wrong,” said, Calcaterra, whose New York Times best-selling memoir “Etched in Sand” addresses themes of resilience derived from her experiences in and out of foster care on Long Island, N.Y.

“I was the author of my own story, and you, 2016 SUNY New Paltz graduates, are the authors of yours,” she said.

“Know that the characters and plots will keep changing, and enjoy the drafting stage – it truly is the best part.”

This year, 1,870 undergraduate and 522 graduate degrees were conferred, recognizing August and December 2015 graduates and May and August 2016 candidates. Margaret Hack ’15 (English), of New Windsor, N.Y., gave the valedictory.

(left bottom) SUNY New Paltz students cheer during Commencement; (left, top) Regina Calcaterra ’88 (Political Science) gives the commencement address; (right, top) a post on the SUNY New Paltz Instagram site (www.instagram.com/sunynewpaltz) reads “Forever thankful for the opportunities here. Forever indebted to the people who I’ve met. Forever grateful for these past 4 years. Forever Orange and Blue. Forever New Paltz!! #NPalumni #npsocial #sunynewpaltz #newpaltz #beautiful64.”
First World welcomes new alumni

The 42nd annual First World Graduation welcomed more than 100 new members of the SUNY New Paltz Class of 2016 into the First World New Paltz alumni society. This long-standing, alumni-and-student-driven tradition celebrates the accomplishments of students of color at New Paltz.

"This class has done great service for this community," said Anthony Winn ’92 (Business Administration), president of the SUNY New Paltz Alumni Council.

For many in attendance, the most powerful moment was delivered by graduate Akeem Samuels ’16 (Psychology), who moved audience members to tears recounting his childhood journey to New Paltz from Guyana and the Caribbean. He acknowledged the support that allowed him to overcome barriers to academic success, and announced that this year he became a U.S. citizen.

"I stand humbled and honored before all the people who’ve influenced me to become the person I am today," said Samuels. "I can proudly say, ‘We did it.’"

Alumni awarded Fulbright Scholarships to teach abroad

Three SUNY New Paltz alumni have been awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarships—the highest number awarded in a single academic year in the College’s history.

Clare Profous ’15 (Spanish/International Relations), Andrew Ugolino ’15 (Second Language Education), and Jeremy Acevedo ’15 (Sociology), have been recognized as Fulbright Finalists and will serve abroad as English Language Teaching Assistants.

"The awards recognize their hard work and academic achievements," said Center for International Programs Dean Bruce Sillner. "We are confident that they will be excellent ambassadors, not only for SUNY New Paltz, but also for the United States."

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for study and research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs, offering opportunities in over 140 countries to recent graduates and graduate students.

These honors add to the College’s strong record of helping students and alumni to access support for international study. New Paltz is a leader in the SUNY system in connecting students with opportunities including the Fulbright, the federally funded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and other valuable resources for travel abroad.

School of Business names Alumnus of the Year

Among the 2016 School of Business Hall of Fame inductees was Jason Dahl ’90 (Business Administration), who was named Alumnus of the Year.

Dahl is a senior portfolio manager with NewBridge Asset Management, a Victory Capital Investment Franchise, and a member of the Large Cap Growth and Global Growth portfolio management teams. Dahl earned his MBA from Pace University.

The School of Business Hall of Fame was established in 2001 to recognize and acknowledge those who have made significant contributions to their respective business professions, while also having a significant positive impact on the educational activities of the Business School.
I had the State and Local Government course with Dr. Gerald Benjamin in the Spring of 1974. I wanted to relay my heartfelt congratulations to the professor on the fantastic honor with The Benjamin Center.

—Marion L. Ekronen ’76 (Sociology), (see pg. 50)

Upcoming Alumni Events

DEC 6
Alumni Night at the Hawk Center: Women’s Basketball vs. Cortland (on campus)

MAR/APR 16
Distinguished Speaker Series

APR 21-23
Alumni Days of Service (worldwide)

APR 22
Alumni Night at the Theatre: The Comedy of Errors (on campus)

JUNE 9
40 Under Forty Alumni Award Ceremony

JUNE 12
19th Annual Doug Slipped Classic Golf Tournament

There are selected events for alumni and friends. For a full listing visit www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/events

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Morgan Lee's (Elementary Education) novel "A Christmas" from the continent of Antarctica, where she embarked on "the Merry Christmas" from the continent of Antarctica, where she embarked on "the
journey from the front lines of civil rights marches in the 1960s to success on stage and screen as a director and actor. The event was sponsored by the Black Studies Department. Currently professor emerita in Anthropology, (see pg. 33)
and screen as a director and actor. The event was sponsored by the Black Studies Department. Currently professor emerita in Anthropology, (see pg. 33)
91 Charles J. Larrovio (Educational Administration) gave a talk and held a book signing in Godfrey, N.Y. The talk was titled “Stephen Crane, the Red Badge, and the Orange Blossoms.” Stephen Crane, who had no military experience himself, used the local Civil War regiment and the 124th New York State volunteers, as a basis for his classic novel, “The Red Badge of Courage.”

92 William H. Richmond (Political Science) was promoted to vice president at Belman Communications, a public affairs firm in upstate New York. He has been with the firm for 18 years. The firm specializes in crisis communications, government relations and marketing for Fortune 500 firms, non-profits, and mid-size companies.

93 Kevin R. Bryant (Political Science) has been appointed as Kingston, N.Y., corporation counsel. Previously he served as a special prosecutor for many local municipalities in Ulster County, as an assistant public defender in the county office of the Public Defender, and as a private practice attorney. In 2015, he was appointed to the Professional Standards of the State of New York Supreme Court Appellate Division.

Geoffrey R. Derram (Philosophy) ’89 (NYU Painting Drawing) was featured in a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings titled “Fictive Landscapes,” at K. Imperial Fine Art in San Francisco, Calif., in April 2016. This is his first solo exhibition with the gallery. He previously showed work with K. Imperial Fine Art at New York’s Art on Paper fair in March 2016. In February a solo exhibition of his work, titled, “Which Nature,” was held at the Mark Florsum gallery of the Taft School in Watertown, Conn., where he was a visiting artist in residence. To view his work visit: www.geoffreyrderarm.com.

Alicia L. Hyndman (Communication Media, Black Studies) was selected in November 2015 as New York State Assemblywoman for District 29 in Queens and she was sworn in on January 10, 2016 to a two-year term.

94 Joseph J. Lauro (Painting) has work on exhibit somewhere this year at the Maser Gallery in Rochester, N.Y. He continues to dance for the joy of it and keeps the energy moving at the Afro-Caribbean Dance class with Pa Faa and Mark Morris Dance Group Center in Brooklyn. He also has been involved with work in Haiti for many years. Last year, he has been a teaching-artist for elementary school and summer enrichment programs.

95 Lori A. Beek (Secondary Education 7-12 Mathematics, Physics) was the keynote speaker at the scholarship reception at SUNY New Paltz. Her gift created the School of Education Diversity Scholarship that has helped 12 students since 2006.

96 Matthew J. Corozine (Theater Arts) is celebrating 16 years of creating Matthew Corozine Studio Theatre (MCS). MCS, recently expanded into a 50-seat theater on W. 38th Street in New York City. Matthew, with studio staff, teaches acting classes rooted in the Meisner Technique and produces original and published work with his actors. MCS actors are currently represented on Broadway in film and TV. Please visit www.matthewcorozinestudio.com for more information.

Laurna Y. Ferreira (Spanish) has been named a 2015-17 Empire State Fellow. The fellowship program selects 10 professionals to train with top-state government officials for careers as future-makers. Laurna will be placed with the New York Department of State for her fellowship tenure. Over the course of her career, Laurna has been committed to education. She is a former New York City Teaching Fellow and received her M.S. Ed. from City College, CUNY While a student at the CUNY Graduate Center, she worked as a research assistant to develop diagnostic tools for measuring proficiency of immigrant students in urban schools at the Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society (RISLUS).

97 Radamas Carlo (Psychology) is employed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a vocational rehabilitation specialist helping military service men and women with serious mental illness find gainful employment. He was named by the Hispanic Coalition of New York as one of their “40 under 40 Rising Latino Stars.” Dr. Carlo also serves on the Executive Committee for the 64th Infantry Honor Task Force (The Borinquenos), who were honored by President Obama with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015.

Shelli E. (Hannif) Pomeroy (Graphic Design) is owner of Silk & Willow, a silk-dyed business in the heart of New Paltz. Her husband Joe manages the business end and day-to-day operations assisting in prepping the materials Shelli uses in her dye. In just the last couple of years, her work has become synonymous with some of the most influential fashion and wedding blogs of today. She has mastered the art of turning the simplest bouquet or gift wrap into beautiful heirloom treasures.

Sherry L. Saturno (English) has won the 2016 “Media Award Best Documentary Film via the National Association of Social Workers, SOHO Gold Medal in 2015. The work was chosen by guest curator: The work was chosen by guest curator: The work was chosen by guest curator: The work was chosen by guest curator:

“My egg, Painting, 24 x 18. W. x 1.5 in, by Joseph Laurro ’93 (Painting) (see this page)
what motivates professionals to dedicate themselves to the humanity of care, including working with the elderly and the sick.

Catsyana R. (Eunice) Skory Falseti (History) finished her first murder mystery novel, “Fainting Death.” The work is based on her own experiences. She has self-published through Amazon, Kobo, Tolino and Page Foundry.

97/4 Heather M. Graham (Black Studies) currently the digital director at The Daily Gazette, was a featured panelist at the Women’s Leadership Summit at SUNY New Paltz.

Suzanne E. Gray (Sociology) is principal at Old Bethpage Elementary School in Plainview, Old Bethpage Central School District. She has been selected as the 2016 New York State Elementary Principal of the Year by the School Administration Association of New York State (SAAANS) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Katherine L. Merry (English) displayed an exhibit titled “In Celebration of Jane Austen” at the Newburgh Library Gallery in January 2016. The exhibition began when Jane Austen fan account on Instagram asked followers to submit pictures pertaining to Austen or literature in general. With the help of her sister and friends—all theatre students at SUNY New Paltz—Mr. Merry held a very informal photo shoot on the grounds of Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park in June 2014. She has been interested in photography since age 10 when she attended a “Picturing with your Polaroid!” program at her local library. Since then, libraries, books and photography have been themes she has turned to again and again. Follow Merry’s photos account camerawife on Instagram.

00/4 Thomas W. Cade (Visual Arts) recently opened a studio space in Bloomingburg, called Cade Artworks. He has been doing design, illustration and painting for over 20 years.

02/4 Tidal L. Abbott (Sculpture) is senior director of product development for Collaborations and Accessories at Sephora in San Francisco. She also gave birth to second child, Austin Kit Abbott-Buckingham, born Jan. 19, 2016.

Nisha Bansal (Printmaking) and Lisa Enged will exhibit their work “Charcoal & Glass” at MURAL on Main in Hobart. Nisha has completed various residencies and assistantships in the field of glass. Her work is an exploration of pattern, form and structure. She writes: “Like the tessellated patterns found in Islamic architecture, my work strives to meld natural phenomena with geometric form.”

Gable A. Ernst (Management) opened GLM Farm Bar & Mercantile bringing unique eating, drinking and retail to Gardiner, N.Y. One arm of the enterprise is a nano-distillery that has set up at Dressel Farms in New Paltz, where he is distilling small batches of spirits in his “old-school” 50-gallon copper still. The other arm of Gardner Liquid Mercantile (GLM) is the opening of a branch office, so to speak, of the new distillery; an eating and drinking establishment on Main Street in Gardiner that will include a retail shop on site.

Study Abroad, living-learning community enrich student’s life

DAVE SYFRAIN ’17 (French/Business)
Home Town: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Choke/Organization: Business Association Students of Color; International Student Union, French Club
Scholarship: EOP Travel Grants; SUNY Diversity Abroad Honors Scholarship; Global Kids Scholarships.

Why was it important for you to study abroad in Besançon, France, in spring 2016? Studying abroad is one of the most interesting experiences one can have: You can discover things about yourself, develop your leadership, develop your orientation skills, and more. The program I completed in France was unique because it was composed of eight weeks of classes and eight-and-a-half weeks of internships.

What/who has been your favorite course and/or professor at New Paltz? I’ve had many wonderful teachers, but surprisingly, my favorite class and professor – “Intro to Acting” with Lauren Bone Noble – is not part of my business major.

Nisha Bansal ’02 (Printmaking) on Instagram asked followers to submit “like the tessellated patterns found in Islamic architecture, my work strives to meld natural phenomena with geometric form.”

The Professor Vera E. Irwini Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide two scholarships to incoming students including: an accepted incoming freshman seeking the concentration in Theatre Performance, whose audition showed determination, and an accepted incoming freshman seeking the concentration in Theatre Design and Technology, whose portfolio showed potential and whose interview showed determination. The Professor Raymond T. Kurdt Endowed Student Travel Scholarship Fund will support annual non-renewable scholarship to two SUNY New Paltz Theatre Arts majors with a concentration in Theatre Design and Technology entering their senior year. The Professor Frank K. Kraatz Endowed Student Travel Scholarship Fund will support annual non-renewable scholarship to two SUNY New Paltz Theatre Arts majors with a concentration in Theatre Performance entering their senior year.

T hanks to a generous $237,000 contribution from McKenna Productions, six endowed scholarship funds have been established in honor of six extraordinary and beloved theatre professors at SUNY New Paltz. “These gifts, which are a direct result of continued community support and past ticket sales, will be a valuable asset to students and their future endeavors,” said Joseph C. Paparone, professor emeritus and a 43-year veteran of the SUNY New Paltz Department of Theatre Arts. “These funds help recognize the many hardworking students and their admirable devotion to theatre arts.”

New endowed scholarships

The Professor Vera E. Irwini Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide two scholarships to incoming students including: an accepted incoming freshman seeking the concentration in Theatre Performance, whose audition showed determination, and an accepted incoming freshman seeking the concentration in Theatre Design and Technology, whose portfolio showed potential and whose interview showed determination.

The Professor Raymond T. Kurdt Endowed Student Travel Scholarship Fund will support theatre student attendance at performance festivals such as The Humana Festival in Louisville, Kentucky, the KCACFT (Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival), or other theatre festivals that focus on performance.

The Dr. Beverly M. Ronsen Endowed Scholarship Fund will support an annual non-renewable scholarship to a SUNY New Paltz Theatre Arts major with a concentration in Theatre Performance entering her or his senior year.

ABOUT MCKENNA PRODUCTIONS, LTD
McKenna Productions has been supporting the students of the Department of Theatre Arts of SUNY at New Paltz for the last 43 years. From 1973 to 2004 they produced all of the major departmental theatrical productions and profits from these productions have been used as scholarships for theatre students.

In 2004 McKenna Productions stopped producing at the College but continued to award scholarships to theatre department’s students and expanded its support to include alumni projects. It has been estimated that McKenna Productions, Ltd has awarded nearly $1 million in scholarships and grants to the students and alumni of the Department of Theatre Arts.

If you would like to make a gift to support one of McKenna Productions six endowed scholarship funds you can do so online. Gifts may also be sent to the SUNY New Paltz Foundation at 1 Hank Drive, New Paltz, NY 12561. Please indicate the name of the endowment on your gift.
Reflector because it embodies intelligence, ingenuity, absurdity, and a tough spirit. There is something poignant about our ongoing attempts to control universal elements, despite the futility of the exercise. Sun Reflector acknowledges this dynamic yet demonstrates the vitality of creative energy.

"The Last," a spoken-word poem by Breanna Bell Metcalf-Oshinsky

Imagine this is the last part
Because I do not know what I have
Left to forget.
There are no more echoes of your voice on busy streets;
No dust you lost disturbed.
Everything of you has been moved
And I carry in the current.
I imagine this is the last part
Because I do not know what I have
Left to forget.
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“To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub; For it is that sleep of death what dreams may come When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give us pause.” — William Shakespeare 1564–1616, excerpt from 
"To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there’s the rub; 38
Enrollment increases were accompanied by pioneering initiatives to provide greater educational opportunities for African-Americans and other minorities during Neumaier's presidency.

SUNY New Paltz President Emeritus Dr. John J. Neumaier, who led the College from 1968-1972, passed away on May 30, 2016. He was 94.

Neumaier was born and raised in Germany and witnessed the growth of fascism under Adolph Hitler. In early 1939, he escaped Germany, and by 1941 he had settled in Minneapolis, Minn., with his father, where he worked as a machinist at a manufacturing plant. His mother died in a Nazi concentration camp in Poland. He later enrolled in the U.S. military during World War II and guarded German prisoners in Nebraska.

Neumaier married his first wife, Virginia, in 1944, and following the war enrolled at the University of Minnesota where he studied philosophy and earned his Ph.D. in 1953. Neumaier became a philosophy instructor at Hibbing Junior College in Northern Minnesota, and was later appointed dean. He has been credited with defining the role of junior colleges – later community colleges – in Minnesota.

From 1958-68, Neumaier was president of Minnesota State University Moorhead, a teacher-education-focused school with fewer than 1,000 students that grew to a liberal arts college with more than 9,000 students during his leadership.

Neumaier left Moorhead to become president at New Paltz, where he helped complete its transformation from a teacher's college into a center for liberal arts and educational opportunities that emphasized faculty and student participation.

Neumaier's presidency.

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In 1972 Neumaier left the presidency to take a position as professor of social philosophy at SUNY Empire State College. He was married for 45 years to his second wife, the late Sally Fletcher Lusher, a respected former Minnesota state legislator. They lived in Mount Dora, Fla., and Whitefish Bay, N.Y., and remained active supporters of the College and generously supported a scholarship in memory of Neumaier's mother.
Dr. Gerald J. Robbins ’78 (Chemistry) had a long and successful career made possible by the love and support of his wife, Marie Colette Robbins.

At New Paltz, Robbins discovered an excellent way of combining his love of chemistry with his love of helping people—a career in medicine. He later received his M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., and completed his fellowships in Internal Medicine and also Hematology/Oncology at the University of Connecticut John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, Conn.

During his 35-year career as a medical doctor, Robbins also served as president of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology (FLASCO) from 2009 to 2011 where he spearheaded a patient advocacy program that is still in action today.

Prior to his death in 2015, Robbins established a scholarship fund in the family name to benefit future students, the Dr. Gerald J. & Marie C. Robbins Scholarship Fund. This deferred gift matures after the donors’ lifetimes and will provide much-needed support to future New Paltz students.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know a New Paltz graduate who, with passion and dedication, is a leader in their profession, creates positive change in their community, or re-imagines their world in an inspiring way? Nominate them for SUNY NEW PALTZ 40 UNDER FORTY. For information about the event, eligibility, criteria, and nominating, go to: www.newpaltz.edu/40underforty.