

FALL 2011

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER



Fearless

*Claire Mintzer Fagin '48 H'93
Doesn't Take 'No' for an Answer*

Built to Last: *The Horrmann Library at 50* • **Germfighter:** *Vincent Fischetti '62 H'10*

Contents

Wagner Magazine | Fall 2011

VOL. 9, NO. 2

DEPARTMENTS

2 **From the President**

3 **From the Editor**

4 **From Our Readers**

6 **Upon the Hill**

32 **Sports Roundup**

34 **Alumni Link**

38 **Class Notes**

44 **In Memoriam**

45 **Reflection**

Sight Unseen

For the first time in more than 80 years, Main Hall (or, to an earlier generation, the Ad Building) is offline this year while undergoing a major exterior restoration. A new roof, windows, mortar, brickwork, and ornamentation promise to secure this architectural landmark for 80 years to come.

PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BYRON

FEAT U R E S

12

Built to Last

How the Horrmann Library came to be 50 years ago, and how it keeps thriving in the information technology age.



18

Fearless

A lifetime of nursing, caring, and defying authority led Claire Mintzer Fagin '48 H'93 to Ivy League leadership.

24

Germfighter

In the war on microbes, Vincent Fischetti '62 H'10 points the way forward, with potentially life-saving discoveries.

From the President

Restoring a campus icon, celebrating student success



A national survey reveals the effectiveness of the Wagner Plan.

architectural icon of Wagner College, Main Hall has served our students, faculty, and staff for more than eight decades. But, for some time, it has been in need of care and attention. Earlier this year, I gave the approval to begin the work to restore this campus symbol to its former elegance, security, and soundness. Once we have restored the integrity of the building, and it is again weather- and waterproof, we can begin in earnest to consider the restoration of the interior.

I think we will all be pleased with the result of the work once it is complete. Please consider participating in this year's annual fund, which will be used, in part, to support this project. *(Read more, page 7.)*

Securing a building like Main Hall helps us to continue the most important work that we do here: providing a solid start to the young men and women who come to Wagner. Recently, I received more evidence that the Wagner Plan, our innovative curriculum, equips our students with just that kind of preparation.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

collects information about student learning and personal development at hundreds of colleges and universities. What we have found most useful about NSSE is the opportunity to compare our students' performance with those in peer groups. Not surprisingly, Wagner students placed significantly higher than other students in the comparison groups.

Wagner students outperformed national averages in four NSSE benchmark categories: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, and enriching educational experiences. Drilling down into these benchmarks, we see that our students outscored comparison groups in areas that include participation in community projects, working on research with a faculty member outside of a course (by a large margin), performing community service or volunteer work, and completing a practicum, internship, or clinical assignment.

Such results are not only gratifying and encouraging, but additional proof that the Wagner Plan is an effective curriculum that prepares students for the world.

I invite you back to campus to visit with our incredible students, and to see the work we are doing. I wish you the best for a wonderful holiday season and a very happy, healthy, and productive new year.

RICHARD GUARASCI
PRESIDENT



From the Editor

Wagner's part in a 'rare success story'

Last year in *The New Yorker* magazine, James Surowiecki wrote about several recent national crises that were “abetted by inept regulation.” Failure of oversight by the Minerals Management Service, for example, contributed to the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Securities and Exchange Commission failed to spot the frauds committed by Enron, WorldCom, and Bernie Madoff.

In contrast, Surowiecki wrote, the Food and Drug Administration is “a rare success story.” The FDA’s pristine reputation has not only enhanced its authority with industries it regulates, but also has helped those industries prosper. “The pharmaceutical industry, for instance, would be much smaller if people were seriously worried that they might be poisoned every time they took a new drug,” Surowiecki noted.

This article caught my eye because I had recently

heard a Wagner alumnus speak with heartfelt passion about his work for the FDA. Pharmaceutical microbiologist Dennis Guilfoyle M’82 is an International FDA Expert, working out of the agency’s Northeast Regional Laboratory.



He has done more than 150 inspections of pharmaceutical and medical-device manufacturing plants. “On an inspection, I start from a very visceral spot. I visualize that [the product] is going to be used by someone that I love,” he said. “To find a pathogen before it hurts someone is very satisfying.”

Guilfoyle is part of a Wagner tradition at the Northeast Regional Lab. Many alumni have worked there; currently, Kent Hermann ’95 M’98 is the lab’s deputy director, and Jennifer Tantillo Canale ’96 and Laura

Schankweiler Howard ’92 work there as microbiologists. They are all helping to detect various harmful pollutants and microbes in foods,

drugs, cosmetics, and other products sold to Americans, and to verify that these products do and are what the manufacturers say they do and are.

Wagnerians should be proud that so many of its graduates have found professional success in this important arena of public service. You can also be proud of the College’s program in microbiology (*read more, page 27*), which gives students a solid knowledge base — and, just as importantly, the ethical commitments that our country sorely needs.

Laura Barlament

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On the Cover

Claire Mintzer Fagin ’48 H’93 defied her parents’ wishes to attend Wagner College and become a nurse, then upended common hospital practices, reshaped nursing education, and became the first woman to serve as president of an Ivy League university.

PHOTOGRAPH: DEBORAH FEINGOLD

From Our Readers



Tributes to a Professor Who Changed Lives

In the last issue of *Wagner Magazine*, there was a piece in the Class Notes about a publication that I am editing which will focus on laboratory-based communicable disease surveillance globally. I am very proud of this work and look forward to its completion. It was with sadness that I learned in the same issue of *Wagner Magazine* about the passing of Professor Edythe Kershaw Larson. Professor Kershaw was chair of the Department of Bacteriology and Public Health at Wagner in 1969. When I applied to Wagner that year, my undergraduate academic record was less than stellar, but Professor Kershaw believed in me and gave me the opportunity to



prove myself. It was her decision to accept me into the MS program at Wagner that led to my further pursuit of a Ph.D., followed by a postdoctoral fellowship, 25 years working in public health at the state, national, and international level, and now nine years at the University of Vermont chairing the Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences. Although I had lost touch with Professor Kershaw over the years and never adequately thanked her for her faith in me, I felt it was still important and appropriate to do so now. Thank you, Professor Kershaw.

BURTON W. WILCKE JR. M'71
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR,
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL LABORATORY
AND RADIATION SCIENCES,
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

It is with heartfelt sadness that I read of the passing of Professor Edythe Kershaw Larson. I first met Dr. Kershaw when I enrolled at Wagner College in 1966, when she and

“ Professor Kershaw believed in me and gave me the opportunity to prove myself. ”

Dr. Natale Colosi were initiating a program in bacteriology and public health.

My enrollment in Wagner College was the result of my being dismissed from Long Island University (Brooklyn campus) by the dean, who stated in writing that I would never be a success in graduate studies. During my two years at Wagner College, Dr. Colosi and Dr. Kershaw literally embraced me and guided me to the completion of my master's degree in 1968. At the time, I was a supervisor of the microbiology laboratory at Elmhurst Hospital, an affiliate of Mount Sinai Hospital. Drs. Colosi and Kershaw augmented my evolving academic and professional skills in clinical microbiology by having me give discussions to my classmates, who enjoyed the interactions.

Upon graduating from Wagner College, I was accepted into the Ph.D. program at St. John's University in Queens,

New York. During an early episode, I encountered some academic difficulties in one of my science courses. I was fortunate to cross paths with Dr. Kershaw at a meeting of the New York City branch of the American Society for Microbiology. She inquired as to how I was doing at St. John's, and I explained to her my difficulties. She responded, "Make it work," words that to this day I pass on to students engaged in academic endeavors.

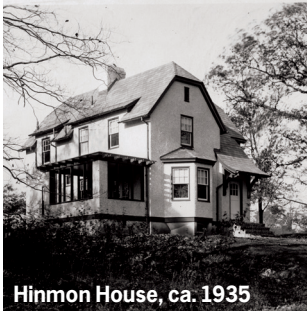
Drs. Kershaw and Colosi gave me a second chance, which enabled me to earn my doctorate at St. John's University under the mentoring of the late Dr. Michael A. Pisano. This achievement inaugurated a fabled career in clinical microbiology at the Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine and enabled me to receive Mount Sinai's highest accolades as well as induction into Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

In retrospect, both Dr. Kershaw and Dr. Colosi are among the special individuals who entered my life and through their wisdom brought me to my present status. All are remembered with fondness.

EDWARD J. BOTTONO M'68
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MEDICINE
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE,
MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

An Addition to the Haas House Story

Regarding the "Haas House"



("Window on Wagner," Summer 2011): In 1927 my parents (the Rev. Dr. Willis Stuart and Erma Hinmon) and I moved in; my father taught Greek and Latin. My brother was born in 1930, and we lived there until 1945. Dad retired in the early '60s.

ERMA HINMON COLIN '43
SPRINGFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Magazine Inspires Memories

I just want to mention a few items from *Wagner Magazine* that have pleased me.

One, the beautiful two-page photo leading into your [2011] summer edition. I remember well that view à la 1946, because it's the same as in 1942-43, when I was one of the aircraft spotters who staffed a turret at the back of the Ad Building [Main Hall]

during the first years of World War II. We were dedicated to trying to keep New York City safe by scouring the skies for all aircraft which approached up the Narrows and identifying all planes, because one might, just might, be an enemy with bombs attached ready to attack the city.

I left college in 1943 to join the U.S. Marine Corps. My dad, Professor Theodore W. Gibson, was head of Wagner's math department; both he and my brother, Ted Jr. '42, were also meteorologists. Ted Jr., an Air Force veteran, helped chase Rommel across the desert of northern Africa, and then went into Sicily and Italy. I helped teach celestial navigation to Marine Corps pilots on their way to the South Pacific, where, of course, during the war there were no landing lights on carriers nor landing strips on small islands, let alone a GPS system. You probably heard the saying, "Once a Marine, always a Marine," so I'm still a Marine and proud of it.

I thoroughly enjoyed the feature "Just Right for Each

Other" [summer 2011] regarding Mike '49 and Margaret Christie '49 Nicolais. I also appreciate, for us oldsters, the identification of different buildings, and where located on campus, because when I was there from '41 to '43, we didn't have but the first, basic buildings. All the classrooms, library, auditorium, etc. were in the Ad Building; plus Cunard Hall, the athletic field for our football games, plus a men's and a women's dorm and faculty houses. Times have changed, eh? Wonderful!

I also deeply appreciate the article "My Most Important Lesson" by Claire Regan '80 in the fall 2010 issue. I was the New Dorp High School reporter to the *Staten Island Advance*,

with guidance by Les Trautmann '40, in 1939-41, earning a whole 10 cents a published inch, and maybe padding it a little so I'd cover my bus fares. But it always ran full length as submitted to Mr. Trautmann. Like Claire, I knew I belonged on newspapers, and did, for almost 35 years, including the *Littleton (CO) Independent*, *Orlando (FL) Sentinel*, *Hickory (NC) Daily Record*, *Yuma (AZ) Daily Sun*, and *Portsmouth (NH) Record*. My varied length of stay with each were because a husband's job meant a move across country or, as in the Arizona stint, it was too hot for this northeastern gal.

Keep up the good work, and know that it is appreciated.

MARGARET GIBSON FISH '45
RENO, NEVADA



Lower Manhattan, ca. 1946

We'd Love to Hear from You

We welcome letters from readers. Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and include the writer's full name, address, and

telephone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length.

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Upon the Hill

Learning, teaching, giving and achieving on Grymes Hill and beyond

Signs of the Times

Alumnus gives students a behind-the-scenes view of Times Square

What makes Manhattan's Times Square so spectacular? Some of the credit goes to a Wagner alumnus: Harry Coghlan '87, president and general manager of ClearChannel Outdoor, New York Division. This summer, thanks to Coghlan, Wagner students spent a day seeing firsthand the work of this international leader in outdoor advertising.

The meeting took place in the heart of Manhattan at ClearChannel's Spectacolor Division, which produces many of the displays that make Times Square and Las Vegas sparkle. Coghlan and other company executives led an interactive presentation, answering students' questions and sharing their career stories.

Two other Wagner alumni at the meeting — Bart Chinnici '86 M'01, vice president for strategic projects and initiatives, and Dennis McCaffery '06 M'07, financial analyst — demonstrate how the alumni network benefits Wagner students: McCaffery is one of dozens of Wagner interns Chinnici has hired during his career.

Following the meeting, Coghlan had a surprise for the students: Wagner College and the Wagner College Seahawks were featured on ClearChannel's Spectacolor HD screen on Times Square.

Wagner's connection to New York City is a "beautiful thing," said Coghlan. "At Wagner, you're a part of the city, yet you feel like you're away from the city. There's that deep connection to it, where you can see it and be a part of it."

To see a video about the experience, go to www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine. 

Leader in Learning

Guidebooks highlight programs linked to student success

As the new academic year began, annual college guidebooks again heaped accolades on Wagner College.

In *U.S. News & World Reports* "Best Colleges 2012," Wagner was again recognized on four lists of "programs to look for": First-Year Experience, Internships, Learning Communities, and Service Learning. Only six colleges and universities nationwide were recognized for four or more of their high-impact programs.

"It is no coincidence that these four program areas are precisely those given greatest emphasis by the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts," said President Guarasci. "Since 1998, the Wagner Plan has combined a very strong first-year program with practical internships, multiple service-learning experiences, and three learning communities placed at the beginning, middle and end of our students' undergraduate careers."

Wagner also appeared for the third year in a row on the Northern regional universities "Up-and-Comers" list, and it jumped from #25 to #21 in the overall regional universities rankings.

WE ARE A PART OF IT

Harry Coghlan '87, president and general manager of ClearChannel Outdoor New York Division, arranged for a Wagner College display on the ClearChannel Spectacolor HD screen on Times Square. *Pictured:* Victoria Crispo '00 M'02, Bart Chinnici '86 M'01, Jason Hyland '13, Matthew McGuinness '13, Edgar Sheppard '12, Tulin Aldas M'06, David Lopez '13, Melissa Speranza '12, Kenny Howard '12, Dennis McCaffery '06 M'07, Quintin Anderson '12, Coghlan, Adams Issaka '12, and Mike Sheridan M'12.



In addition, Wagner is listed, once again, in the Princeton Review's annual *Best 376 Colleges* guide. Only about 15 percent of U.S. colleges are profiled in the book. Wagner also appeared on several of the book's Top 20 lists, including "Best College Theater" and "Class Discussions Are Encouraged," as well as the roster of "Great Schools for Education Majors."

Beauty Takes Time

For the first time in 81 years, a semester without Main Hall

Immediately after commencement on May 20, work began in earnest on the restoration of Main Hall. After years of leaking classrooms and temporary patch jobs, Wagner College was in the position to attack the root of the problem: The 80-plus-year-old building needed a new roof, new windows, repointing of the brickwork, and restoration of concrete ornaments, which had been degraded by acid rain.

As so often happens in life and construction, it took starting the job to see how extensive the necessary repairs were. Not only would it cost more than originally projected, but it would take more time. Much more time. Main Hall would not be available for the fall semester, perhaps not even the spring.

Staff members quickly huddled to find solutions: more than a dozen classrooms, art and dance studios, faculty offices, and the Main Stage Theatre would be inaccessible for the fall — but at a college, no matter what, the show must go on.

Bringing temporary classrooms to campus was not feasible. The space had to be found in existing campus buildings, and found it was: From Reynolds House to Harborview Hall to the Union, the Spiro Sports Center, and more, every available space on campus has been transformed, for a time, into a classroom or office. The theatre program is producing its Main Stage shows nearby on

Staten Island, at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center's Music Hall.

"These solutions may cause inconveniences by making some spaces, which will be pressed into use as classrooms, less available for other uses," said President Guarasci in a message to campus. "But, these are necessary inconveniences, because I cannot permit further deterioration of Main Hall."



A CLOSER LOOK

President Guarasci keeps tabs on the Main Hall restoration work.

The work on Main Hall is proceeding well, and the current estimated cost is \$12 million. This year's Annual Fund is

dedicated to raising money to defray the expenses of restoring this Wagner icon.

Where Stars Are Born

Wagner Theatre recognized for developing young artists' careers

Wagner College Theatre received the Emerging Young Artist Award from the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island in October.

Melanie Franklin Cohn, COAHSI's executive director, said that Wagner Theatre was singled out "for being a great community asset, for its achievement of being the most highly recognized theater program in New York City, and for encouraging and helping young artists achieve their career goals."

Exemplifying Wagner Theatre's success are the four alumni in Broadway shows this year: Scott Barnhardt '01 in *The Book of Mormon*, Monette McKay '07 in *Memphis*, Christina DeCicco '02 in *Sister Act*, and Katie O'Toole '10 in *Jersey Boys*.

{ PROFILE }

Who Is the Class of 2015? Fun facts about Wagner's newest students

Our Name Is For 20 of us, Matthew or Emily — the class's most popular names. *We Come From* 34 states (including Alaska) and nine countries (Brazil, Canada, China, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Poland, and Vietnam). *To Reach Grymes Hill, We Traveled* 260,124 miles — enough to circumnavigate the globe more than 10 times. *We Will Blow Out Lots of Candles* in March — 50 of us were born in that month in 1993. *Our Ethnicity Is* White (71.2%), Hispanic (9.6%), Black (8.5%), Asian (2.7%), American Indian/Alaska Native (0.4%), more than two races/ethnicities (3.6%). *We Plan to Major in* For 30 percent of us, the answer is business, nursing, education, or theater; 50 percent of us picked other majors, like biology, English, and psychology; and 20 percent are undecided. *We Are Involved in* Community service (34%), intramural sports (22%), national honor societies (21%), performing arts (17%), student government (8%), and Habitat for Humanity (8%) are our biggest activities. *Our First Big Experience as Wagner College Freshmen* For about 200 of us, being evacuated to the gym on August 27 as Hurricane Irene approached New York City.

Faith Matters

James Smith '05 appointed as Wagner's new full-time chaplain

There's a new face in the chaplain's office at Wagner College. New to the chaplain's office, that is, but not new to Wagner.

Some may remember James Smith '05 as manager of the men's basketball team, a member of the Wagner College choir, and a resident assistant in Harborview Hall. Today, he is the Reverend James Smith, having graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia last year.

Returning to Wagner completes the homecoming cycle that drew him into the ministry. For his first two years of higher education, Smith majored in radio and television production at a community college. But as the son of a longtime pastor — Mack Smith of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wyandanch, New York, in central Long Island — James Smith says the call eventually proved irresistible.

"No P.K. (preacher's kid) wants to acknowledge 'the call' right away, but it's always there," he says. "I finally stopped fighting it." Following in the footsteps of his sister, Juli Smith '04 M'08, he came to Wagner. He



was a part of the Upsala scholarship program for ministerial candidates.

Succeeding Rev. Richard Michael, Smith is serving in a full-time capacity as the lead chaplain.

"Our call to Pastor Smith indicates our commitment to Wagner's historic heritage as a Lutheran institution and our recognition of the special relationship we have with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our desire to serve those of all faiths, including those who would identify their spirituality in humanistic rather than theistic terms," says President Guarasci. "With Pastor Smith now on board, Wagner College is prepared to take the next step in developing its capacity to nurture the growth of the whole student — mind, body and faith — into a more complete picture of the educated global citizen," he continues.

The cottage which had formerly served as the chaplain's on-campus residence is being refurbished as the Wagner College Center for Spirituality, with offices for Pastor Smith and the College's associate chaplains, informal meeting spaces, and a chapel for all the faith communities served by the College.



Coursework A BRIEF LOOK AT INTERESTING WAGNER CLASSES

LC 21: Connecting with Gotham through Literature, Learning, and "Knowing" the Community



This fall, the first-year learning community taught by Professors Mary Zanfini and David Gordon includes two different sets of students, both new to Wagner. Although much divides them, by coming together they have discovered more commonalities than you might expect.

The first set of students are some of this nation's top high school graduates. They can boast of stellar grades and extracurricular leadership. In other words, they are Wagner freshmen. Many of them want to major in education, and are taking this LC, which includes an introduction to literature and a multidisciplinary course in

"Ways of Knowing," as their first step toward that goal.

The second set are a group who never expected to be a part of a college course, who struggle to find meaningful work and a place in society. They are program participants in Lifestyles for the Disabled, a Staten Island organization (led by Richard Salinardi '69) that provides enriching learning experiences for intellectually disabled people.

The interaction is focused on writing poetry. The Wagner students have developed lesson plans to teach simple poetic forms to the Lifestyles program participants, who are visiting the

**WINDOW
ON WAGNER:**
Reynolds House

The building we know today as Reynolds House has been called by several names: North Hall, the Women's Dormitory, and the Music Building.

But when it was first built, it was called the Hotel Bellevue.

Amzi Lorenzo Barber bought the Cunard estate in 1889 and started leasing it out in 1894 as a resort hotel for New Yorkers escaping the city's summer heat. The hotel became so successful that its managers started using the main house on the adjacent Jacob Vanderbilt estate, also owned by Barber, for overflow housing – until the Vanderbilt house was destroyed in an August 1904 fire. College records indicate that Reynolds House was probably built the following year to make up for the lost guest rooms.

Its architectural style is eclectic. When first built, it had the hipped dormers, second-story shingling and first-floor clapboard siding typical of the Shingle style, popular in the late 19th century in Northeastern seaside resorts – but its most prominent architectural feature was a two-tiered, full-height entry porch with two-story columns that was emblematic of the Folk Victorian style. That distinctive feature was removed in the building's most recent renovation.

On Dec. 26, 1941 – during winter break – a fire broke out in the North Hall women's dormitory, causing \$18,000 in damages. Residents were housed for the remainder of the year in Cunard Hall, the faculty cottages on campus, and several private homes on Grymes Hill.

In 1970, Reynolds House was the scene of a historic event in the life of Wagner College. On April 23, 27 African-American students occupied the office of the dean of the college, which was located in what is now the Reynolds House library. The students were pressing the College to take specific steps to become more racially inclusive. Forty years later, those students returned to campus to recount their efforts at a widely celebrated 2010 alumni seminar.

– Lee Manchester

Pictured below: Reynolds House from a 1919 postcard



Piecing Together the Past

Anthropology professor Celeste Gagnon took Rose Tobiassen '12 and Violeta Capric '12 to Peru's Moche River Valley this summer to conduct bioarchaeological research — the study of human remains to understand peoples of the past. They spent five weeks combing through boxes of bones at the Museo de Huacas Moche (*shown at left*). Through visual observation, they analyzed the sex, age, and many health factors of the deceased, allowing

them to create a picture of everyday life in Huacas de Moche, a major city in 300–700 A.D. (*shown below*). “It was such a learning experience to take a box of skull fragments and piece them together like a puzzle,” says Tobiassen. “The [bioarchaeology] class we took [at Wagner] was great, but I learned way more from this.”



Music worth rediscovering

Flutist-composer Johann Joachim Quantz (1697–1773) wrote 500 pieces for the flute. He had a demanding patron: King Frederick the Great of Prussia, a major historical figure whose many talents included composing and playing the flute himself.

In two new CDs of never-before-recorded works by Quantz and King Frederick, Wagner music department chair David Schulenberg helps to bring this richly varied music back to life.

Johann Joachim Quantz: Seven Flute Sonatas and Seven Flute Sonatas by King Frederick "The Great" of Prussia showcase these composers' lively Baroque counterpoint and elegant, expressive melodies.

Accompanying Mary Oleskiewicz on transverse flute, Schulenberg plays harpsichord and fortepiano, along with Stephanie Vial and Balázs Máté on cello.

King Frederick's sonatas were even recorded in the music room of his palace, Sanssouci in Potsdam, Germany, using recreations of his original instruments.

Schulenberg is an international authority on the music of the Bach family and a highly respected performer on early keyboard instruments. The CDs are available from Qualiton.com.



Living History

Lecture by bestselling author sparks campus discussion

For the first time this fall, three key campus programs came together to create a wide-ranging discussion about health, science, race, and ethics.

Wagner's annual summer reading for new students was the New York Times bestseller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. On October 12, Skloot came to campus to deliver the sixth annual Kaufman-Reppe Lecture. The lecture was part of the Founders Day Convocation, a Wagner tradition revived in 2008. About 250 people attended, and the event was broadcast on campus over the Internet.

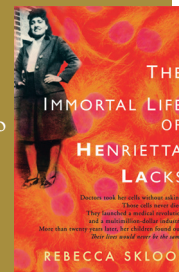
Skloot's lecture focused on the extraordinary story

of Henrietta Lacks, a young black woman who died of cervical cancer in 1951 in Johns Hopkins Hospital. Doctors took a sample of her cancer cells for research purposes, and these "HeLa" cells became the first to be successfully kept alive in the lab. Still used in scientific research to this day, HeLa cells have contributed to medical advancements such as the polio vaccine, cancer treatments, and in vitro fertilization. Ethical questions surrounding the use of Lacks's cells have also given rise to patient safeguards such as consent procedures and institutional review boards.

But, ethical and legal questions still swirl around ownership of body tissues used for scientific purposes, provoking debate at Wagner College, as well.

Pre-med student Melanie Valencia '12, who participated in a summer research internship in the oncology department of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, was reading Skloot's book when she was asked to work with HeLa cells.

"When I was handed the tubes, I trembled," she recalls. "Objectivity should not be put at stake, but I believe that an understanding of where the samples are coming from is important, especially the fact that they are coming from human beings. I believe more emphasis should be put on the ethical education of young scientists."



{ AWARDED }

Remembering Our Roots

On Founders Day, the College honors outstanding student groups for community service and academic achievement. A new award with special historical meaning was presented this year: the Rev. Dr. Frederic Sutter Founders Day Award for Service. Maria Hartmann created the award to honor her great-grandfather, the founder of Wagner's Staten Island campus, and she attended the convocation to present the award to Kevin Ferreira '13 for his work with the immigrant community in Port Richmond, Staten Island.



Kevin Ferreira '13

The Horrmann Library in 1961. Its flexible design has allowed it to adapt to changing times.



Built

to

*By Norman E. Berg
& Laura Barlament*

Last

What factors drove the construction of Horrmann Library? Fifty years later, what keeps it vital and thriving in a radically changed world of information technology?

“Nowhere more sharply than through a library does the whole world confront a man. Nowhere, perhaps, can a man better develop his capacity to confront the world.”

— Richard Heindel, president of Wagner College (1958–1961), Horrmann Library dedication address, September 30, 1961

When Wagner College decamped from Rochester to Staten Island in 1918, it brought along 16 students, one professor, and 2,000 books. Along with the students, the books were installed in North Hall (now Reynolds House), which mainly served as the college dormitory. After the construction of South Hall (now Parker Hall) in 1922–23, the library briefly acquired a larger room there, before finding a more permanent location on the top floor of the brand-new Administration Building (now Main Hall) in 1930.

The early 1930s also marked the point in Wagner College history when the institution transitioned from its roots as a combined high school and seminary prep school into a true liberal arts college. Between 1932 and 1933, Wagner’s first



year as an accredited college and as a co-ed institution, the enrollment nearly doubled, from 117 to 203. By 1942, the student body exceeded 500. Nevertheless, the library in Main Hall’s attic remained adequate.

Then came the end of World War II and the GI Bill-fueled student boom, beginning in 1946.

By 1950, enrollment had reached around 2,000, and the College had added graduate programs to its curriculum. The *Wagner College Bulletin* of April 1948 bragged of the Main Hall library, “The spacious reading rooms and the volumes on the shelves foster thoughtfulness and study”; but accompanying photographs showing jam-packed tables belie those words. After all, the library had seating for only 100 students at a time, and a collection of only about 40,000 volumes. To most observers, it was plain to see that Wagner needed a more functional, spacious, and up-to-date library.

Pressure for a new library came from all directions — beginning with the students. A headline in the December 2, 1953, issue of the *Wagnerian* reads, “Financial Drive for New Library Opened; Campaign Planned by Student Committee.” The College administration voiced its support for the students’ ambitious goal to raise \$5,000 to pay start-up planning costs for a new library. The next year, more official pressure came to bear on the issue. The New York Education Department, in its 1954 “Evaluation of Wagner Lutheran College,” stated: “There is no use belaboring the point that Wagner College needs a library building. It does, and the matter is urgent. The collection cannot now be expanded; the student



body cannot logically be increased; and the library program cannot be given those refinements which contribute to its maximum effectiveness.”

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Wagner’s accrediting agency, put the College on notice during its review in 1957 as well: “The complete inadequacy

of these facilities restricts all aspects of the library program.”

According to the December 1957 *Wagner College Bulletin*, “Criticism of the situation by the Middle States Association was tempered by the fact that the College has already taken steps to provide a library building.” Indeed, about 85 benefactors had contributed more than \$58,000 toward the effort, and architectural plans had been drawn up for a 200,000-volume library building in the Greek Revival style .

As the winter of 1957 melted into the spring of 1958, so came the turning point in Wagner College’s quest for a new library: a gift of \$100,000 from the Horrmann Foundation. The gift announcement was timed to coordinate with the College’s 75th anniversary campaign kick-off meeting. Accepting the gift from Horrmann Foundation President Walter E. Badenhausen, the Rev. Dr. Frederic Sutter of Wagner College’s Board of Trustees announced that the new library would be named the Horrmann Library. This naming honored not only the 1958 gift, but 40 years of philanthropy and support shown by the Horrmann family toward Wagner College. (*See sidebar.*)

Throughout 1959, screaming headlines in the *Wagner College Bulletin* pleaded for additional support for the Horrmann Library’s construction. New architectural sketches revealed a building plan that closely resembles the one we know today — not a Greek Revival temple, as pictured a couple years earlier, but a modern-looking facility with large, plate-glass windows. Finally, groundbreaking took place on May 7, 1960.

One thousand guests cheered the Horrmann Library’s dedication on September 30, 1961. In the end, the project cost about \$1 million and provided space



Building Horrmann Library, 1961

I had the unenviable job of vacuuming the entire library on the third floor of Main Hall. The salary was \$20 a week. By the time I finished, I went back to where I had started and realized the dust had returned and the library was back to normal. I clearly remember looking out of the library window as the construction site of the Horrmann Library was underway. There were three huge boulders in the middle of the project that had to be dynamited in order to be removed.

Hank Murphy '63 M'69
Staten Island, New York

Cushions, Ice Cream, and Calculus, 1961–64

I remember the “eccentric” designer who wanted the green cushions on the blue chairs and the blue cushions on the green chairs. For some time in the early days, the designer would return and make this color change, for everyone else put green with green and blue with blue. We always had fun rearranging them after the designer visit.

I remember walking in the front door one time with an ice cream cone and the librarian chiding me with, “You can’t bring ice cream in here.” In a precursor of the “attitude” of the later sixties, I recall saying, “You don’t have a sign that says that.” I was summarily thrown out of the library!

One day I was in the stacks, and a little 12-year-old fellow was looking high (well, as high as he could) and low, when I asked him what he was looking for. He said he wanted to know what the long “Ess” meant in a mathematics book he had. It was the integral sign — the main symbol of half the calculus sequence taught at Wagner. As I was a mathematics major, I sat right down and began to explain it all to him. This was the beginning of my college-level teaching of mathematics, pre-Ph.D. I believe his presence was an example of how open the library was to the community beyond the college.

Brian Winkel '64
Professor Emeritus,
Department of Mathematical Sciences,
United States Military Academy,
West Point, New York

Getting (Too) Comfy on a Horrmann Couch, 1968

In the fall of 1968, I attended a particularly onerous wrestling practice. Back then Wagner College sponsored the great sport of wrestling under Bill Lied. Bill had wrestled in the Pan American Games, had coached 18 national wrestling champions, and had been a referee in the Tokyo Olympics. He knew his stuff and was a tough-love coach. Three hours of practice could be exhausting.

There was a physics test the next day and I needed to study. After wrestling practice, I went to the Horrmann Library, where many of us studied while stretching out on the long, blue couches. Getting comfy on a couch with class notes, a yellow pad, and a pencil in hand, I proceeded to review everything that might be on the test. The next thing I knew, I was waking from a deep sleep and all of the lights in the library were out!

The library had closed, and it was midnight. Using a librarian's desk phone, I called campus security. They ordered me to stay where I was. They didn't want the alarm set off, which would call NYPD, and nobody wanted that headache.

A few minutes later, two security guards unlocked the front door. While facing their high-intensity flashlights, I was asked with even higher intensity, "How did you get in here?" I said, "Well, I never left. The librarian locked me in." I'm not sure they really believed me, but I presented my student ID and was finally allowed to leave.

I passed the next day's test, and many others after that. In June 1969, I graduated from Wagner College with a bachelor's in physics, which started me on a successful 40-year career in design engineering. Maybe I owe it all to the good sleep I had on that long, soft couch in the Horrmann Library?

Leigh Ramsay '69
Poway, California

Visiting the Horrmann Library, 1976

A young butcher journalist, scraggly from a beard he's been trying to grow for two years, fought the Grymes Hill winter wind as he climbed the steps between the Union and North Hall on his way to the Horrmann Library. After finding the set of double doors that open, he proceeded, ID in hand, past the desk librarian, past the quiet rows

of tables and print-drenched students, beyond the smirking precipice [sic] of our former President Arthur O., now hanging between the library's two bathrooms, around and down to the lower floor's office door between the books.

Through the red curtains in John Auh's office, the office of Horrmann's chief librarian, one can watch the square fill then empty then fill again with students. ...The reporter nervously looks around the office for an ashtray. Not finding one, he sticks his hands in his pockets and attempts to divert his attention by reading the book titles on the shelf. Finding this activity to be as equally unsuccessful as the last, he finally turns his eyes toward the square to watch a group of female students pass by.

"I wonder if they can see in here?"

John Bradley '76, from "Librarian Chief Visited," *The Wagnerian*, January 26, 1976

Horrmann in Wagnerian Personal Ads, 1985–1986

To Dr. Pepper in the library,
You owe me dinner
The Aid
(November 25, 1986)

My name is Cliff. I am looking for a girl who will share the same interests as me. They include: quiet evenings in the school library, a nice movie rated PG13, reading Shakespeare books and of course long walks in the park.
(December 10, 1985)



The Class of 1959 Learning Commons includes multimedia rooms for group study and collaboration on the library's main floor.

The Horrmann Family and Wagner College

As if we needed any more proof that beer and books are not incompatible: the Horrmann Library could be said to owe its existence to the frothy favorite of college students everywhere.

The Horrmann Foundation's \$100,000 gift to build Wagner's library was the culmination of a 40-year relationship between the Horrmann family and Wagner College. The story begins with German immigrant businessman August Horrmann Sr., who settled on Staten Island in 1870 and opened a successful brewery that came to be known as Rubsam and Horrmann. It continued to thrive under his children's leadership after his death in 1900.

When the Rev. Frederic Sutter, Wagner class of 1894 and longtime trustee, sought to bring the College to Staten Island in 1918, August's eldest son, William, provided key support. William's sister Minnie married Adolph Badenhausen, and that family also became an important Wagner benefactor. The Horrmanns and the Badenhausens participated in every Wagner fundraising campaign in the early part of the 20th century, contributing to the College's endowment, Guild Hall, and the gymnasium. Family members played key roles on the Board of Trustees, on fundraising committees, and with the School of Nursing.

Sadly, Rubsam and Horrmann beer is no more, although it was the only one of several German breweries on Staten Island to survive Prohibition. In 1953, Piels Brothers took it over. It closed for good in 1963.

Sources: *Wagner College Bulletin*, April 1958; and *Discovering Staten Island: A 350th Anniversary Commemorative History*, co-edited by Kenneth M. Gold and Lori R. Weintrob, Wagner associate professor of history (History Press, 2011).

Codes of Conduct

Then

Dress Standards for Women

Library: Regular classroom attire [a skirt and blouse or sweater, or a dress] is worn except on Saturdays and days when classes are not held. At these times Bermudas and slacks may be worn. *Source: Wagner College Women's Dormitory Booklet, ca. 1962*

Smoking and Talking

Katherine Haskell Tyler Browsing Area: This area, furnished with comfortable couches and chairs, is located on the north side of the first floor overlooking the Narrows. New books of general interest are shelved here, and smoking is permitted in this one area only. Smoking is to be confined to this area, and lighted cigarettes are not to be carried either to other areas or to the adjacent stacks. Since this is an open area next to the general study area, please refrain from conversation here as well as in other parts of the library. *Source: Horrmann Library Handbook, 1961*

Now

Smoking

In accordance with city ordinance, smoking is prohibited in all Wagner College facilities.

Cell Phones

Talking on cell phones is prohibited in the library. Cell phones should be turned off upon entering the building.

Overdue Book Fines

Then

5 cents per day (1962)

Now

10 cents per day (2011)

Firsts

First Book: The first book published by a Wagner administrator was *Bibliographies of Twelve Victorian Authors* (H.W. Wilson Company, 1936) by librarian Robert Deily. *Source: The Wagnerian, March 5, 1936*

Special Collections

- The Edwin Markham Archive: correspondence, personal ephemera, and book collection of American poet Edwin Markham.
- The Wagner College Archive: materials related to the history and campus publications of Wagner College.
- The Sutter Memorial Archive: collection of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Student Meeting Rooms

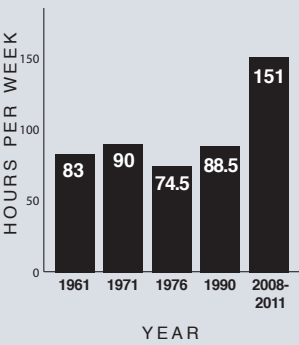
Then

In 1987, the Hornung Student Discussion/World War II Collection Room was opened. "Student groups preparing for class presentations or exams are especially welcome to use the new room," the *Wagnerian* said.

Now

In 2011, the Class of 1959 Learning Commons was opened, providing work space equipped with the latest computer technology for student groups.

Weekly hours of operation



Volumes in the collection

1918	2,000
1924	2,500
1940	15,000
1948	40,000
1959	50,000
1965	65,000
1966	75,000
1967	100,000
1969	120,000
1970	140,000
1971	150,000
1972	190,000
1982	250,000*
2006	161,231
2011	141,000**

* Includes bound periodicals. To meet accrediting standards, the library added all book donations to the collection.

** The collection was purged to include only current and relevant books beginning in the late 1990s to make space for computer workstations. Now the library also offers digital access to more than 20,600 magazine, journals, and newspapers and 30,000 ebooks.

Digital Assets and Technology

- Access to more than 30 research databases; 20,600 magazines, journals, and newspapers; and 30,000 e-books
- 41 general-use computer workstations and 10 laptops for library use
- The Class of 1959 Learning Commons with multimedia technology and SmartBoards
- SmartLab with 30 student workstations and one teacher's station with SmartBoard
- Assistive technology computer workstations with tools such as text magnification software, voice recognition software, and a hands-free mouse.



Horrmann Access

To learn about access to the Horrmann Library for alumni and community members, visit www.wagner.edu/library/policies.

for 90,000 volumes and seating for more than 400 students. Recently inaugurated Wagner College President Arthur O. Davidson, plus four former Wagner presidents, attended the ceremony, which also featured the awarding of honorary degrees to the heads of three major publishing houses.

“It is uniquely appropriate that this Lutheran institution should dramatize ... the role of the Library and of the Publisher as part of the higher learning of mankind,” said Victor Weybright of the New American Library of World Literature. “You are creating a college that adorns not only our great metropolis, but our country and the world beyond.”

Fast Forward

This year, the Horrmann Library celebrates its 50th anniversary. And what a different world it is! Seismic shifts in what we now call “information technology” have affected libraries as sharply as any other human institution.

Fortunately, the library’s original planners built in the possibility of change, even if they could not have foreseen the particular changes that would occur. “From an architectural point of view, the building is designed to have complete flexibility for interchange of bookstacks, furniture, and partitions,” the *Wagner College Alumni News* pointed out in October 1961.

Indeed, the library’s leaders have taken advantage of this flexibility over the years — especially within the last decade, as a library’s utility has come to be measured less in terms of volumes, and more in terms of electronic resources. Computers, databases, and e-books have proliferated, displacing stacks, bound periodicals, and desks. Librarians are accessible not only at the reference desk, but via social

media tools, from the Horrmann Library blog, to real-time online chat, to Twitter feeds (@HorrmannLibrary), to Facebook, to the newly redesigned website (www.wagner.edu/library).

Library Dean Dorothy Davison says that these changes have been driven not only by technology, but also by Wagner College’s educational goals. “Information literacy is one of the pedagogical pillars of the Wagner Plan,” she says. “Wagner students need to be educated in the effective use of technology and information to meet the challenges of the future.

“The ideal enhanced learning environment brings together a comprehensive, integrated set of academic resources for today’s student to explore digital resources and technology,” she continues. This vision led to a major renovation of Horrmann Library’s main floor, unveiled this spring: the Class of 1959 Learning Commons.

“The concept of the Learning Commons is rooted in both the traditional service model offered at Horrmann Library and the new paradigm of active learning,” says Davison. Its major feature is a set of new multimedia study rooms on the main floor. These glass-enclosed, soundproofed spaces allow students to collaborate on group assignments and practice their presentation techniques with computerized whiteboards and other technology. Since opening, these rooms have been in constant use.

The Learning Commons also includes new offices for the reference librarians, where they may meet with students and faculty for research assistance. The library also doubled the number of fixed computer



workstations on the main floor, provided a bank of laptop computers for use anywhere in the library, and carved out more types of spaces for study and meetings. The central reading room remains open space for quiet study. But one corner was enclosed for individuals who want to escape the busy hum of the main room.

The Learning Commons was made possible by generous funding from alumni, the Friends of the Library, and a special gift from the class of 1959. The class of 2011 also dedicated their senior class gift to the library for technology enhancements.

The way in which students use the library to get information has changed significantly over the past 50 years, and will continue to do so well into the future. As the academic heart of Wagner College, the Horrmann Library has adapted well to these changing needs and will remain a vital part of the College for many years to come. ■

About the Authors: Norman E. Berg is a member of the Friends of the Library and husband of Diane Borst-Manning, '59, chair of the Friends of the Library. His two books, Regret to Inform You and My Carrier War, are available in the Horrmann Library. Laura Barlament is editor of Wagner Magazine. Thanks to Dorothy Davison, dean of the Horrmann Library, and Archivist Lisa Holland for their assistance.

The Horrmann Library provides 41 general-use computer workstations.

FEARLESS

CLAIRE MINTZER FAGIN '48 H'93,
one of Wagner's first nursing graduates,
proves no challenge is too great for a 'real nurse'

By Lee Manchester

Claire Fagin showed from an early age that she had a mind of her own. In 1943, she was 16 years old, the daughter of immigrants in New York City. Her parents had decided that she was going to become a physician like her aunt, Dr. Ida Mintzer, the director of dermatology at Queens General Hospital. They had even taken to calling their daughter "Clarence" to steel her for the very male world of medicine.

After enrolling at Hunter College, however, something became clear to Claire.

"I had a vision of myself, and that vision did not include going to medical school," she recalls. "It was not a role model I could accept."

With the help of a friend, behind her parents' backs, Fagin conducted her own research on nursing careers. After determining that she wanted a baccalaureate nursing



program, not just hospital training, there were only three choices open to her —

one of which was Wagner. The dean of the College's brand-new nursing program was Mary Burr.

"She was teaching in the evenings at Hunter, and I made an appointment to see her," Fagin says. "I fell in love with her right away; she was so warm and motherly. ... She told us she would take us at the beginning of the term in January, and that was wonderful to us; I wanted to get out of Hunter in the worst way."

Claire enrolled at Wagner College.

Then, she went home and told her mother.

"She went berserk," Fagin recalls. "She telephoned my father at his grocery store across the street, and for the first time ever





FAMILY TIES Harry Mintzer, pictured with Claire, wanted his daughter to become a doctor like his sister. They all attended Claire's Wagner graduation in 1948; pictured are her mother, Mae Slatin Mintzer; aunt Dr. Ida Mintzer; and another aunt, Jessie.

he closed the store in the middle of the day and came home."

Not knowing what else to do, Harry Mintzer called his sister Ida, the doctor, for advice.

"Ida said, 'Harry, stop worrying. When she goes through the nursing program at Wagner College, she'll get her bachelor's degree. After that, she'll be able to decide whether to become a doctor.'

"That calmed my father down," Fagin says. "I was so grateful five years later when everyone, including Aunt Ida, came to my graduation."

For all of her long and productive life, Claire Mintzer Fagin '48 H'93 has made up her own mind and led by her own lights, no matter what others have thought. That fearlessness helped her spearhead reforms in healthcare, change the direction of nurses' training, build the top-rated nursing school in America, and become the first woman to lead an Ivy League university. All along the way, she drew on her early decision to become an R.N. — which, as she once told a reporter, to her means "real nurse."

DEFYING DOCTOR'S ORDERS

After all of the family turmoil, Fagin's defiant choice turned out to have been a good one. "The picture that I have of Wagner College during that time is very fine," she recalls. "And the gorgeous alma mater — I've remembered the words to this day: 'Beautiful upon a hill, looking out to sea.' It was so perfect; the place and the song went together so wonderfully."

She began her nursing career at Sea View, a tuberculosis hospital on Staten Island, but her real passion was for psychiatric nursing. After about a year, she joined the staff at New York's famous Bellevue Hospital, and she soon discovered that she needed to deepen the theoretical side of her education. She enrolled in the graduate nursing program at Columbia University's Teachers College, earning her master's degree in 1951.

Her next step took her farther away — to Bethesda, Maryland. "I don't know that I would ever have left New York, because I was very, very homebound," Fagin says, "except that I had met this incredible woman while I was getting my master's, Gwen Tudor, and she was going to start up the Clinical Center at NIH," the National Institutes of Health, one of the world's foremost medical research centers.

Fagin joined her mentor at the NIH Clinical Center. It was during this period that she met Sam Fagin, an engineer living in suburban D.C. The two were married in 1952.

At Clinical Center, an important seed was planted for her professional future as well.

"Everybody came through Clinical Center — and I mean everybody, from all over the world," Fagin recalls. One of those people was filmmaker James Robertson, who screened a documentary on the

common practice of separating parents from their children in hospitals. Robertson's film touched a special chord with Fagin.

As an infant, Fagin's mother had been quite ill. "I was taken care of by my darling aunt and uncle," Fagin says. "Then my mother came back when I was 11 months old." Fagin believes that the separation from her mother, followed by the separation from her aunt and uncle, traumatized her, creating psychological challenges for her as she grew up.

That's why, when Robertson showed his film at Clinical Center, "naturally, it went 'splung,'" she says, like an arrow piercing her heart.

A few years later, Fagin had an encounter of her own with parent-child separation in hospitals. The Fagins had returned to New York and adopted their first son, Joshua. When Josh underwent surgery for a hernia, Claire and Sam wanted to stay with him while he recovered.

"They tried to get rid of us, but we refused to leave, because by that time I had seen that film [by James Robertson], had read everything there was to read about separation, had read Anna Freud [the prominent child psychologist], had read everything imaginable, and they were not getting us to leave," she says.

A hospital guard threatened to remove the Fagins by force. "All you're going to be doing is exacerbating his separation," warned the pediatrician.

"Doctor, you obviously don't read the literature," was Claire's reply. "And I left her and that hospital."

Shortly thereafter, Fagin enrolled in the Ph.D. program at New York University, where she chose for her dissertation topic the issue of "rooming in" versus separating children from



PERFECT CHOICE Claire Mintzer graduated from Wagner in 1948.

parents during hospitalization.

It was that dissertation, completed in 1964 and published in 1966, that first brought Fagin into the national limelight.

According to biographer Susan M. Reverby, “[Fagin’s] groundbreaking study ... demonstrated the critical importance to patients and nurses of allowing parents of hospitalized children to room together. Her published monograph and articles in the mid-1960s, as well as her television appearances and media visibility, were highly influential in transforming hospital practices across the country.”

INNOVATOR

The next stage of Claire Fagin’s career involved a series of administrative appointments where she made big waves that lifted each program to a new level of excellence.

Fagin joined the faculty at NYU, directing the graduate program in psychiatric nursing. In 1969, when NYU nursing moved to eliminate specialty programs like hers, she made her own move, to lead the Department of Nursing at Herbert Lehman College in the Bronx.

There, she developed a new baccalaureate program that prepared nurses for primary care practice, a new concept at the time.

“Nobody else was doing this then,” she says, “and all I had was a concept. I had to gather people around me who could put meat on the bare bones I gave them.

I loved my faculty — I called them ‘my jewels,’ and I brought some of them with me to Penn.”

The University of Pennsylvania recruited Claire Fagin in 1977 to become dean of its troubled School of Nursing — and, because they had sought her out as a known innovator, she was well positioned to institute the changes necessary to build the school up.

“I would always throw out challenges,” she says. “I would meet with one group and tell them that we had to double the master’s program, that we couldn’t survive with a master’s program that size. A faculty member looked at me and said, ‘How on earth do you expect us to do that?’ I said, ‘I expect it — and we’re going to do it.’”

Under Fagin’s leadership, the entire nursing faculty at Penn had to get doctorates. To go along with the extra training, Fagin secured grant funding to support their work, and she saw through the completion of a new building and the creation of a new doctoral program for the school.

By the time Fagin left the dean’s office at the end of 1991, Penn had the top-rated nursing program in the country — and her faculty loved her for what she’d done to pull them into the top tier.



IVY LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Claire Fagin stayed on at Penn Nursing as the Leadership Professor, an endowed seat. The next spring, taking a break in Paris with her husband, they read the news that Sheldon Hackney, Penn’s president, had been nominated by newly inaugurated President Bill Clinton to head the National Endowment for the Humanities. Until that moment, Fagin says, she hadn’t given a thought to becoming the next president of the University of Pennsylvania — but, suddenly, the idea intrigued her.

When she and her husband returned to Philadelphia a few days later, they saw a front-page article in the *Daily Pennsylvanian*



‘REAL NURSES’ The 1947 Wagner R.N. graduates, with Dean Mary Burr, front and center, and Claire Mintzer, second row, second from left.



DEAN FAGIN As dean from 1977 to 1992, Fagin led Penn Nursing to become the nation's top-rated program.

that listed her name toward the bottom of a roster of possible candidates for acting president.

As she was soon to learn, however, Fagin was anything but a long shot for the job. She received a call that night asking her to meet with Allen Shoemaker, the chair of Penn's board of trustees, later in the week.

"When I met with AI, I came prepared to convince him that I was the right person for the job," Fagin recalled in an autobiographical essay. "From the beginning of the interview, it was clear that my 'sales'

pitch would be unnecessary and that I was being offered the position then and there."

Fagin says that she was "thrilled ... to be the first woman chief executive officer of Penn. I knew that the success or failure of my presidency would cast a long shadow on the future, but despite the possible outcomes, the appointment sent a message that Penn was ready for a non-traditional appointment. For this 254-year-old university, the message for women was hailed with enthusiasm."

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Claire Fagin took over the interim presidency of the University of Pennsylvania on April 14, 1993.

The very next day, nine members of the Black Student League confiscated an entire issue of the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, which had been running a conservative column they considered inflammatory. Racial tensions immediately rose.

The following week, another race-related story hit the papers, adding to the tensions at Penn.

"It dealt with an event that had occurred in January involving a group of black women

students and a white male freshman," Fagin recalls. "Close to midnight on a school night, the women were celebrating the founding of their sorority with traditional chants outside a high-rise dormitory. Many students yelled out of the windows, and one student was identified who allegedly called the women 'black water buffalos' and told them to go to the zoo if they were looking for a party."

News stories about the *Daily Penn* confiscation and the "water buffalo" incident drew national interest because of former president Sheldon Hackney's upcoming NIH confirmation hearings.

"I had dealt with issues of diversity, race relations and political correctness before," Fagin says, "but never at the level of intensity that we were experiencing at Penn. ... After I was in that job for two weeks, I was walking around with tears behind my eyes, it was so horrible."

To deal with the immediate crises, Fagin found herself doing double duty as both president and press representative, making connections with editors at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Washington Post*. And it helped. "They toned down a bit," she says.

HEALER

But Fagin's real agenda for her year as interim president was not to improve Penn's media relations — it was to rebuild the university community itself.

"I had been at Penn 17 years by the time I became president, and I had seen the sense of community erode. To me, it had been the most warm and embracing campus you could possibly be on, and somehow it had lost that," she says. "What I wanted to do was rebuild that sense of community. It wasn't like some kind of myth I was trying to recreate — I was there, I know what happened. I don't know why, but I had that capability."



PRESIDENT FAGIN At Penn's 1994 commencement, interim president Fagin celebrates the end of an eventful year at the famous "Ben on the Bench" statue.



MUCH HONORED *Left*, Fagin received an honorary doctorate from Wagner at commencement 1993. Pictured with her husband, Sam, and sister, Sylvia Snyder. *Right*: Penn's Nursing Education Building was renamed in Fagin's honor in 2006.

Throughout her presidency, she focused on the work of a special Commission on Strengthening the Community, completing its goals before she left office.

Fagin believes that the challenges of that time in the university's history called for the unique strengths associated with a female approach to leadership.

In an autobiographical essay, she cited several studies of the differences between male and female leadership styles that had "focused on the more interpersonal strategies women are comfortable with and use, on the reduction in hierarchical methods of administration and management, on the increased focus on communication-listening as well as speaking and sharing information, and on consensus building. Those strategies and styles describe much of my own management. ... The climate at Penn when I became interim president called for this interpersonal style."

"At that time, nobody could have handled it but me, and I knew it," Fagin says. "I'm a nurse, and I'm a healer — so I healed."

WORKING LIKE A DOG

Though Fagin's term as interim president of the University of Pennsylvania ended on June 30, 1994, she by no means retired from her career as a scholar and leader in the nursing profession. She continued her study of nursing home reform, examined the economic pressures that were forcing the healthcare system to abandon patients, and developed a nationwide program to build nursing capacity for geriatric care.

In 2006, the former dean was given a rare honor: The building that housed the Penn Nursing program she had led for 15 years was renamed Claire M. Fagin Hall.

Today, Fagin consults for several nursing schools and research projects, serves on corporate boards, and "works like a dog" with her fellow board members of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York to improve home nursing care in New York City. And she continues to provide career advice to colleagues in the fields of nursing

practice, research and education.

She has been widely recognized and much honored: former president of the National League for Nursing, winner of the American Nurses Foundation's First Distinguished Scholar Award and the Lillian D. Wald Spirit of Nursing Award, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Honorary Fellow of the (U.K.) Royal College of Nursing, a Living Legend in the American Academy of Nursing, and recipient of 15 honorary doctoral degrees and counting — including one from Wagner College in 1993.

"Whatever I have achieved, the awards I have gotten, the personal rewards I have felt, would not have come my way were I not a nurse," Fagin says. "I feel I have given a lot to the profession, but I am not even near to repaying what it has given me. I shall always be grateful for the stroke of fortune that brought me to choose this wonderful field." ●

GERM

In the war on microbes, Vincent Fischetti '62 H'10 points the way forward. Through ups and downs, successes and setbacks, he is making discoveries that just may, one day, save your life.



FIGHTER

By Laura Barlament

Photos by Pete Byron

Back in the 1960s, many medical experts thought they had harmful microbes licked. The previous 20 years had been a “golden age of antibiotic discovery” that would eradicate diseases like polio, typhoid, cholera, and measles in Western societies. In 1962, Nobel Prize-winning medical microbiologist Macfarlane Burnet wrote, “At times one feels that to write about infectious diseases is almost to write of something that has passed into history.”

In that same year, one of the happy graduates who crossed the stage to receive his diploma on Grymes Hill was Vincent Fischetti. He had completed his Bachelor of Science in bacteriology and public health, and already had a job lined up

as a laboratory technician at Rockefeller University, a storied biomedical research institution in Manhattan.

But first, he was getting married to his longtime sweetheart, Barbara. Thanks to his father, the owner and operator of a Long Island landscaping business, they were headed to Paris for their honeymoon, and staying at a hotel overlooking the Paris Opera. One of those magical evenings in Paris, Vince looked out the hotel room window and saw a stately figure walking on a red carpet into the opera house: It was Charles de Gaulle, the great World War II general, then president of France.

Twenty-five years later, Fischetti looked up at that same hotel room window as he walked into the Paris Opera House on the red carpet. The occasion was the 100th anniversary of



the Pasteur Institute, one of the world's great scientific research centers focused on infectious diseases, and Fischetti was an honored guest. Over the years, the optimistic pronouncements of Macfarlane Burnet and others had not proven true. The fight against infectious diseases had not ended; if anything, it had become even more intense.

Fischetti had become something of a general himself: a leader in the ongoing war against harmful bacterial infections.

In fact, in many ways, Vincent Fischetti '62 H'10 is changing the nature of the war itself, opening new fronts in the fight against man's smallest and deadliest enemies.

Total Immersion

When you step off of a charmless stretch of York Avenue in Manhattan onto the campus of Rockefeller University, it feels like you are entering an enchanted garden. Behind an ornate wrought-iron fence, you glimpse tree-lined paths, brick facades, and a geodesic dome, like a giant white egg laid in the greenery.

This wondrous place has been Vince Fischetti's professional home ever since he first came to work here in August 1962, and was immediately immersed into the struggle to understand and outwit the microbial world.

Rockefeller University is not what most people think of when they hear the word "university." It has no undergraduate students; it awards only Ph.D.s, and it is structured around laboratories

— more than 70 of them at this point, all focused on different aspects of biological and biomedical research.

To the young Vince Fischetti, this place was, indeed, a microbiologist's paradise. As a young boy, growing up in West Hempstead, Long Island, he had spent many happy hours engrossed in his microscope, watching things move in the water he took from a pond near his home, and teaching himself how to preserve the microscopic creatures on slides.

But young Vince was not just a nerdy bookworm — he started mowing lawns on his father's work crews at age 10, and he also showed a gift for athletics. He was small but quick and strong, and he excelled in high school as a sprinter and a halfback. That took him away from the microscope for a while — but

when it came time to go to college, he was steered by science.

Turning down college football scholarships (at 140 pounds, he says, "I knew I would have gotten killed"), he chose Wagner College and enrolled as a pre-dental student. When he took his first microbiology course, though, he was smitten. "This is what I love to do," he thought, peering through microscopes and studying those tiny worlds. He declared a major in bacteriology and public health, the highly unusual undergraduate program founded by Edythe Kershaw and Natale Colosi just a few years prior (see story, opposite page), and never looked back.

His roommate, Ted Caccia '62, remembers Fischetti studying in their room every night, while Caccia was out playing intramural basketball. They both belonged to Delta Nu fraternity,

as did Frank Catalfumo '62, a fellow bacteriology major and boyhood friend of Fischetti's.

"He was a very organized studier," says Catalfumo. "He took magnificent notes. I would study for exams the night before. Vinnie would be sleeping, and I'd review his notes."

Catalfumo, now a successful plastic surgeon in Florida, tried to persuade Fischetti to go to medical school with him — to no avail. Fischetti knew that his calling was in the laboratory. In December of his senior year, he attended a seminar on virology at Rockefeller University and afterward wrote to all of the speakers to ask if they had openings in their labs. His letter was forwarded to Maclyn McCarty, head of the Laboratory of Bacterial Pathogenesis and Immunology.

With this connection, Vince Fischetti had found his place. One member of the McCarty lab, John Zabriskie, needed an assistant. A physician-scientist, he was interested in understanding the microbial chain of events that triggers scarlet fever. Every morning, Zabriskie met with Fischetti to discuss what needed to be done in the lab that day. Then Zabriskie went to the hospital to work with patients, leaving his assistant to figure things out mostly on his own.

"I cannot believe they pay me for this," Fischetti thought. "I was in the lab doing experiments,



*'This is what I love to do,'
he thought, peering
through microscopes.*

THE NEXT GENERATION

MICROBIOLOGY IS STILL SERIOUS FUN FOR WAGNER STUDENTS

Although decades have passed and the name has changed, Wagner College's program in bacteriology – today known as microbiology – continues to flourish. Lately, in fact, it's been spreading like bacterial colonies on a petri dish.

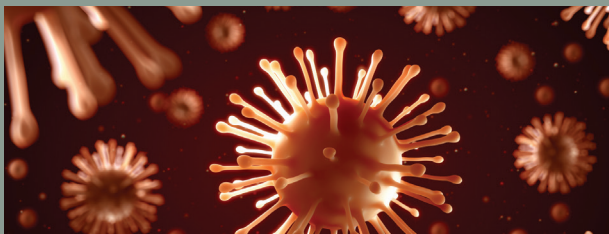
The program that launched Vince Fischetti's career (and many others') coalesced into a major, bacteriology and public health, in the early 1950s. Its name was updated to microbiology – reflecting its focus on all microbes, not just bacteria – in 2000.

"Wagner's microbiology program provides an in-depth, hands-on education in the manipulation, identification, and characterization of clinically and industrially important microorganisms," says Roy Mosher, associate professor and director of the master's program in microbiology. This type of undergraduate program at a liberal arts college is "extremely unusual," he says; there are none others like it in the Tristate area, and perhaps not in the entire Northeast.

The creation of a Microbiology Club this fall demonstrates Wagner students' enthusiasm for the study of organisms too small to see with the naked eye. On a chilly, wet October afternoon, the club held a party in the Coffeehouse to celebrate its founding, and 500 people showed up.

"I'm very persuasive," says the bubbly, gregarious club president, Julia Mullins '12, to explain how her 40-member group created one of the fall's biggest campus events. Plus, the club has caught their fellow students' attention with creative educational endeavors, such as hand sanitizer giveaways, handouts with "Fun Facts About Microbes," and a raffle of colorful, plush educational toys shaped like microbes.

Mullins came to Wagner thinking she would major in biology, but switched to microbiology after hearing about it from friends. The club's



vice president, Corey Gaylets '13, discovered the major through his First-Year Learning Community, which combined introductory microbiology with a course in experimental design. Although Gaylets originally harbored ambitions of becoming a doctor, he says, "Now I think I want to be a microbiologist and do lab work."

Since microbiology is not taught in high school, Mosher says, "making [students] aware that they can major in this subject is the key." Including microbiology in the First-Year Program during the past few years was a deliberate move to attract student interest in the major – and it has worked. Every year, says Mosher, around five students from the first-year LC declare microbiology majors.

Another factor boosting microbiology is the new five-year combined B.S./M.S. program, which started in fall 2009. Most students are signing on for this option now, says Mosher.

Microbiology has become a close-knit and enthusiastic subculture at Wagner, say Mullins and Gaylets. They enjoy their professors, crack nerdy science jokes, take pride in their spotless labs and research displays on the third floor of Megerle Science Building, and look forward to excellent post-graduate job prospects as microbiologists in government agencies and industries ranging from pharmaceuticals to cosmetics to foods.

In 2008, funds from an anonymous donor made possible the renovation of the microbiology laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment. "It's been nice to show prospective students around the lab," Mosher says. "That has enhanced our ability to impress students. It shows that the College takes the program seriously."

being on my own, making decisions. ... I was like a pig in shit. That's when you love what you're doing, you're immersed in it."

A Perennial Problem

Coincidentally, it was one grandfather's tragic

experience with scarlet fever that inspired the founding of Rockefeller University itself.

In January 1901, a young boy fell ill with scarlet fever. He died days later. Neither the disease nor its outcome were unusual in those days. But this boy's grandfather was John

D. Rockefeller Sr., one of the wealthiest men ever to walk this earth. Later that year, pushed by this family tragedy, he founded the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. It was the first of its kind in the United States.

At that time, no one even knew what caused scarlet fever,

much less how to treat it. Today in the United States and other developed nations, scarlet fever is easily treatable by a course of antibiotics. The groundwork for this medical triumph was laid by a woman whose black-and-white photo hangs in Vince Fischetti's office: Rebecca Lancefield.

“She’s called ‘The Mother of Streptococci,’” Fischetti says. Lancefield discovered that certain streptococcus bacteria, *Streptococcus pyogenes* or group A, were the culprit behind not only scarlet fever, but also other common diseases such as strep throat. Because of her work, therapies and tests were developed that enable doctors to quickly detect and treat strep throat, making its potentially lethal complications, like scarlet fever and rheumatic fever, almost unknown in developed countries today.

But, Fischetti points out, the solution is not perfect. Strep throat and its more dangerous relatives are the only common childhood diseases for which there is no vaccine. Outbreaks of rheumatic fever still occur

periodically in the United States. And in the developing world, where rapid strep detection and antibiotic treatment are not available, rheumatic fever is still a significant public health problem. Every year, rheumatic fever outbreaks leave surviving victims with permanent heart damage, unable to work.

That’s only one of the problems that has impelled Fischetti’s work. While the antibiotics developed over the past century have markedly improved human health, infectious bacteria have evolved along with them, developing new defenses against attack. Antibacterial resistant strains have multiplied, especially in hospitals, outpacing scientists’ ability to develop new drugs. Biological terrorism, such as the

anthrax attacks of the fall of 2001, have raised new concerns and needs for protection.

Plenty of work for microbiologists like Vincent Fischetti.

A Virulent Cast of Characters

On every front of the war against infectious disease, Fischetti is developing tactics that have never been tried before.

Primarily, his tactic is prevention — rather than developing treatments for infections, he is focusing on how to prevent infection from happening at all. And preventing infection requires understanding how bacteria work — *really* understanding how bacteria work.

“This whole lab has always been interested in understanding the very earliest events in infection,” Fischetti says. “Because if you understand what’s happening during those earliest events, hopefully you can stop it. Then you prevent infection, rather than waiting for the infection to happen, and then treating the infection.”

His first project at Rockefeller University, the scarlet fever study with John Zabriskie, introduced him to key microbial characters that have loomed large in his work ever since. They knew that group A streptococci released a toxin that caused scarlet fever. But what was it in the bacteria that produced the

toxin? Zabriskie had a suspect: bacteriophages (also known as phages), a type of virus that attacks bacteria. With Fischetti’s help, he proved he was right. “It was a major finding at the time,” says Fischetti.

While working full-time on this project, Fischetti earned his master’s in microbiology at Long Island University. It took him four years to finish, working on it at night. Then, his Rockefeller mentors told him, “That’s nice, but if you really want to advance in this field, you need a doctorate.”

“So,” Fischetti says, “I applied for Ph.D. programs.” He already knew exactly what he wanted to study: bacteriophages. He was accepted by New York University, and continued working in the lab at Rockefeller University. His study of the phage enzyme called lysin, which allows a phage to burst open the bacterium it has infected and release its progeny into the environment, was published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* in 1971.

Meanwhile, he had become a postdoctoral researcher at Rockefeller and started to work on another project: Defining the structure of the M protein, a molecule on the surface of group A streptococci. The long, thin strands of M protein all over the bacteria’s surface make them look like fuzzy little tennis balls. This “fuzz” surrounding the bacteria is what makes strep infectious to humans, defusing

TEST YOURSELF

Wagner’s Microbiology Club prepared this educational quiz. How many can you answer correctly? Answers are at the bottom of page 31.

1. Name the different types of microbes.
2. True or False: Most microbes cause disease.
3. What are some foods that microbes help make?
4. True or False: Microbes help to create most of the oxygen in the atmosphere.
5. True or False: Antibiotics come from bacteria.
6. True or False: There are 100 million microbes in your saliva.
7. How much of your body weight is made up of bacteria: 0.5%, 1%, or 2%?
8. True or False: Viruses are living.
9. The common cold is caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi?
10. What bacteria are responsible for food poisoning?

our immune system's defenses and allowing the bacteria to become active.

Over decades of work, Fischetti became the first scientist to clone the gene of the M protein, the first to determine its structure, and the first to completely characterize any surface protein on this class of bacterium. He also became convinced that the M protein was the most promising target for developing his holy grail: a strep vaccine.

In fact, *Science* magazine published one of his approaches for an M-protein-based strep vaccine in 1989. He tested it and found it effective in mice. But so far, no pharmaceutical company has stepped forward to fund its development for human use. There are multiple reasons for this lack of interest, with the financial calculus standing at the top of the list. Nevertheless, Fischetti has confidence that one day, the strep vaccine will be made. Rheumatic fever is a significant problem in developing countries, he says, and he is working with the World Health Organization to solve this public health concern.

A Eureka Moment

Meanwhile, his work on bacteriophages and the enzyme lysin was far from forgotten. One day about 10 years ago, he says, he was having a phone conversation



Fischetti's lysin treatments use 'nature against nature,' he says. 'It's always the best way.'

with a colleague. "We were just talking about lysins in general, and things like that," he recalls. Because he was working on his strep vaccine at the time, he had mice infected with strep throat for one of his vaccine studies. The conversation about lysins, though, gave him a different idea.

The function of lysins, after

all, is to burst open bacteria, killing them. And that's exactly the goal of antibiotics: to kill bacteria. If it works for phages, Fischetti suddenly realized, might it not work for him?

He went back to the strep throat-infected mice and added lysin to their oral cavities. He waited about an hour, then

swabbed the mice's throats and tested the results: They were clean. No more strep. No more infection.

"It was a eureka moment, no question about it," he says with a grin. "And that was what really started this whole process of using lysins as a therapeutic."

The novelty of this approach



Fischetti's antibodies are the envy of many an ill person. These scouts of the bloodstream latch onto harmful bacteria, so that the white blood cells, or phagocytes, recognize them as enemies and 'gobble them up.'

to bacteria-busting also struck the U.S. patent office, which issued him a patent in record time. Since then, he has accumulated about 40 patents for lysins and other treatments targeted at different organisms.

This specificity speaks to one of the benefits of the lysin technology: As opposed to conventional antibiotics, which can kill everything in their path — including bacteria that are

essential to human health — lysins target specific bacteria: only group A streptococcus, or only pneumococcus, or only *Bacillus anthracis* (which causes anthrax), which are all bacteria against which lysin has been shown to be effective.

Furthermore, lysin acts very fast, killing bacteria within seconds of contact. And to top it all off, Fischetti's lab has shown that bacteria will not be able to easily develop resistance to lysin-based drugs, as they do to conventional antibiotics. For a billion years before any other life appeared on earth, bacteria and phages, the source of lysin, evolved in tandem with one another, learning to exploit each other's strengths and weaknesses. A phage actually drills into a bacterium to reproduce, and

then produces lysin to get back out, exploding its host in the process. Therefore, Fischetti was able to follow phages to bacteria's Achilles heels: Molecular targets that are consistently and unavoidably lethal to bacteria. In other words, he's using "nature against nature," he says. "It's always the best way."

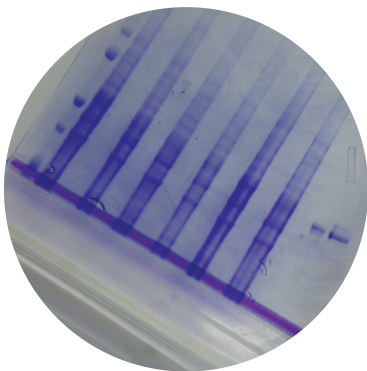
A startup biotech company, Contrafect, has licensed the technology to produce a lysin drug to treat staph, skin, and soft tissue infections; the first stage of human trials is expected to begin next spring. And many other uses for lysin are under development, ranging from an agent that can decontaminate an environment of anthrax spores without using harsh chemicals, to a lysin drug that could treat battlefield wounds infected with

MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*).

Defensive Measures

Vince Fischetti became an assistant professor at Rockefeller in 1973, an associate professor in 1978, and a full professor in 1990. He served for 10 years as editor-in-chief of a major scientific journal, *Infection and Immunity*, and he has published well over 200 papers and book chapters. Under his leadership for the past two decades, the Laboratory of Bacterial Pathogenesis and Immunology — the most historic lab at Rockefeller University — shows no sign of losing its vitality, relevance, and productivity.

The lysin technology, especially with its applications to anthrax, is the most attention-



grabbing development in the Fischetti lab right now, but it's far from the only promising project underway.

Visiting his laboratory on the eighth floor of the Bronk Building at Rockefeller University, you'll find lab benches crammed with equipment and petri dishes; old filing cabinets and handwritten signs ("If you spill buffer over counter can u please clean it up"); and graduate students and postdocs who are dressed, like college students anywhere, in T-shirts and jeans.

It doesn't look imposing, but Vince Fischetti and his longtime lab tech, Clara Wetzel Eastby '69, who has worked with him ever since she graduated from Wagner with a bachelor's in bacteriology, make sure that everything runs with razor-sharp precision. This team has a feel for microbes that is unparalleled; you could

even say that it's in the blood — literally.

At one of those crowded benches, postdoctoral researcher June Wang picks up a petri dish. Its contents are a translucent rosy color, irregularly speckled with clear circles. Inside each circle is one tiny dot. That, Wang says, is a streptococcus bacterium colony, sitting on agar gel that contains human blood. Each colony ruptured the red blood cells around it, creating the cleared zones.

"This is Vince's blood, actually," she says.

"She bled me yesterday," he adds with a shrug. He points out a second dish, which has the same rosy color, but no clear circles. "I have antibodies to this strep, because I've been working with it for so long."

Fischetti's antibodies are the envy of many an ill person. These

scouts of the bloodstream latch onto harmful bacteria, so that the white blood cells, or phagocytes, recognize them as enemies and, as Fischetti says, "gobble up the organisms." The difference between the two dishes was that the first had been kept still, and the second one rotated. That motion allowed the phagocytes to "find" the bacteria and eliminate them.

Wang's experiment on her boss's blood is a preparatory stage for her work on developing an antibody therapy for staph infections. "They're really nasty bugs," Fischetti says, noting that about 700,000 people are hospitalized each year in the US with staph infections, and about 20 percent of those infections are lethal. While Fischetti's lysin technology has the potential to clear up staph much faster than current treatments, the antibody

approach would help susceptible patients stave off infection in the first place.

In the meanwhile, his best advice to keep yourself healthy is simple: drink a lot of water. "Drinking water is healthy, and it makes you go to the bathroom," he says. "You go to the bathroom, you wash your hands. That's your best protection. Unless someone sneezes on you. There's nothing you can do about that."

No matter how complicated life gets for Fischetti — traveling from New York to Boston to Nevada to Italy to give lectures, writing and revising major papers, advising and managing dozens of graduate students and postdocs, raising millions of dollars in grant money — in a way, it's still the playground it always was.

"I always look at it as climbing Mount Everest," he says. "Every time you get a result, you see something no one's ever seen before. And that's what keeps me excited, is a finding that is new, and a finding that no one has ever discovered before."

A finding that just may, one day, save your life. ■



'You need a feel for the cell work. Other people can look at the same cells, and not see what I'm seeing.' — Clara Wetzel Eastby '69

Page 28 Quiz Answers:

1. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa.
2. False.
3. Cheese, bread, beer, pickles, sauerkraut, etc.
4. True.
5. True.
6. True.
7. 1%.
8. False.
9. Viruses.
10. Salmonella, E. coli, staph, and shigella.

Part-Time Job, Full-Time Commitment

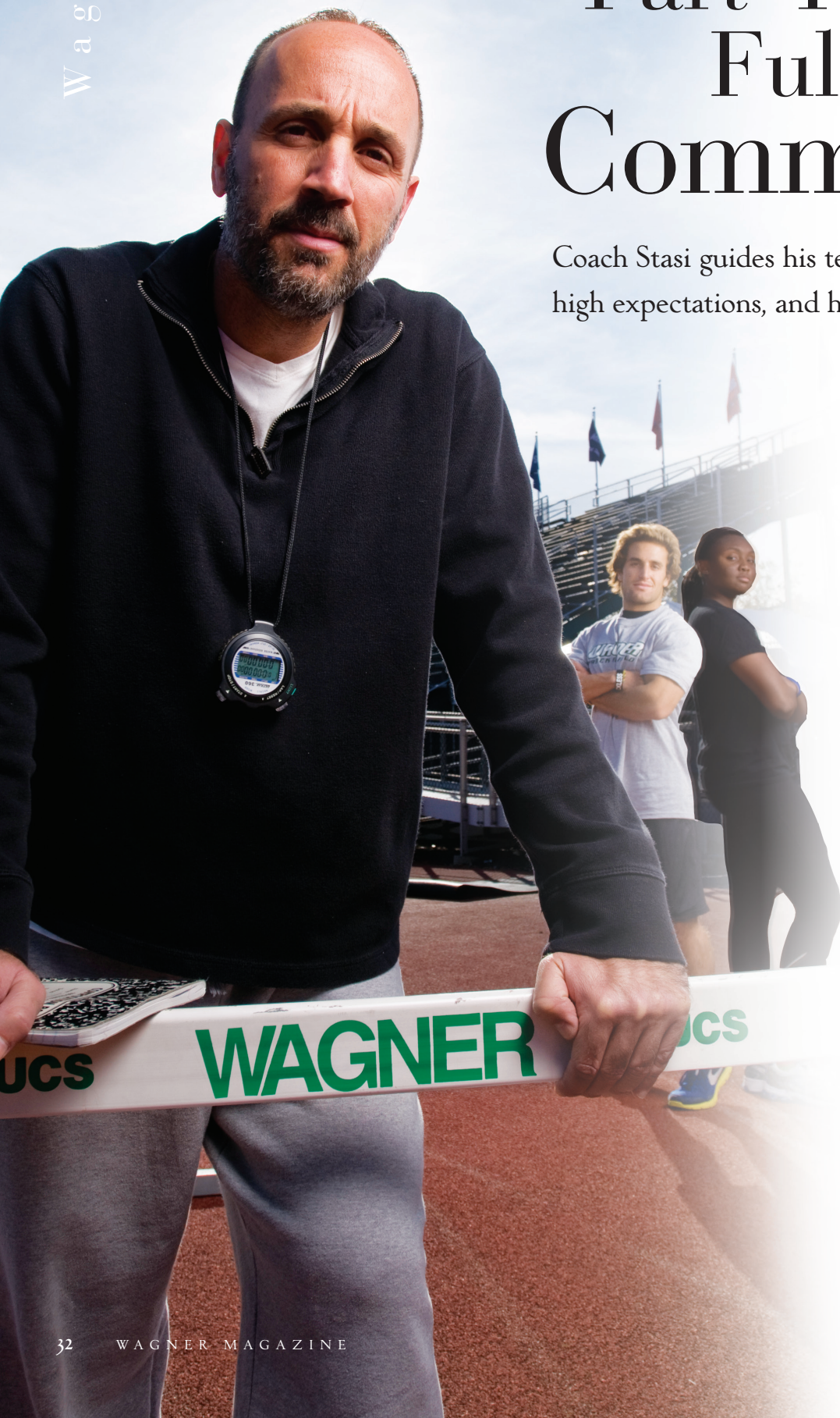
Coach Stasi guides his teams with humor,
high expectations, and heart *By Laura Barlament*

Juggling three stopwatches, a pen, and a well-worn composition notebook filled with names and numbers, Coach Joe Stasi calls out the time as eight men and 10 women pound around the track. “91. Perfect. ... 96, 99. Let’s go, ladies, look good.”

Zach Spector ’11 cruises past effortlessly. “He’s a machine,” Stasi (pronounced “Stacy”) comments of Wagner’s top contender in men’s cross country, a four-time All-NEC pick. “Stay smooth, keep them in contact,” he encourages the next panting passerby, who has fallen behind his pack.

It’s a cool, cloudy day. Stasi, his stubbly dark beard beginning to fleck with gray, wears a black Seahawks T-shirt with black shorts and gray Nikes, a green Wagner hat shading a face that often seems on the verge of breaking into a grin — except for right now. This requires concentration, monitoring essentially six different workouts simultaneously.

This scene epitomizes Stasi’s complicated life, juggling a full-time high school teaching job with part-time coaching at Wagner. That is to say, on the books it’s a part-time job, but what he does at Wagner actually makes him the equivalent of several full-time coaches: Head coach for indoor track, outdoor track, and cross country for both the men’s and women’s teams.



This kind of multitasking doesn't phase Joe Stasi. After all, he's been doing it for 15 years and shows no signs of slowing down. And the results show, both on the scoreboard and in the lives and the loyalty of his student-athletes.

"I don't like cross country personally, but I enjoy it because of Coach," says Cameo Kirk '14 after she finishes her run. Kirk specializes in 400 to 1600-meter distances in track, and was a member of several record-setting distance relay teams last year.

Before running, Kirk's neon pink top had caught Stasi's eye. "What is that color, Pepto-Bismol?" he teased.

Humor is an endearing hallmark of Stasi's coaching style, says Kevin Kearney '10. "Coach possesses a special ability to connect with his team on a personal level that I've rarely seen from other coaches around Wagner and even collegiate athletics in general," Kearney says. "It's everything from his lighthearted, joking demeanor at practice to the mid-winter dinner he hosts at his own home."

According to his runners, past and present, Stasi strikes the perfect balance between being demanding and being understanding, welcoming, and encouraging.

Kearney's story exemplifies this dynamic. According to Kearney, he was a "decent high school runner," but not one who was being recruited by Division I college coaches. Then he found Wagner College and Coach Stasi. "I could tell he was genuinely interested in me as a runner," says Kearney. "After I had meets, he would call my house and ask how my races were going."

Stasi saw Kearney's potential and pushed him to achieve it — and he did, becoming an NEC Championship qualifier, Academic All American, Wagner College record holder, and team captain.

Brecken Drager '10, a 2010 NEC Champion in the 10,000-meter and 5,000-meter, confirms this assessment of Stasi.

"Coach has high expectations and says it like it is," she notes. "He sees the true potential in each of his athletes and doesn't let them settle for less."

But while Stasi's runners are being pushed, they also know they are being cared for. "Coach caters to each athlete as an individual," says Drager. "He often had three or more available practice times in a day, and it wasn't uncommon for him to make a different workout for every single runner."

"Running track for four years under Coach Stasi were the best years of my whole life," Drager continues. "Classes and New York City and parties are all secondary memories. Running track was what defined my college years, and I attribute those great memories to Coach Stasi."



It was a challenging football season for the Seahawks. One freshman, however, came to the team unusually well prepared to face life's hurdles. In a sequence of events that bears striking similarities to the story of Baltimore Ravens offensive tackle Michael Oher, portrayed in the book and feature film *The Blind Side*, Josh Talbott (an African American) was adopted as an older teenager by a white family. Josh and his brother, Austin, played football together at Jupiter Christian High School in Jupiter, Florida. You can find a link to videos and stories about Josh and the



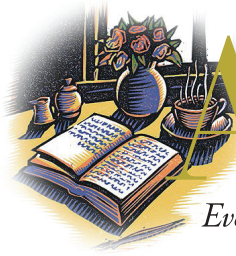
Talbott family at www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.



Great Expectations

Dan Hurley's Seahawks poised for Northeast Conference men's basketball dominance

What a difference a year makes. Last season, Dan Hurley's Wagner Seahawks were coming off a five-win campaign and pegged to finish near the bottom of the Northeast Conference. Following an eight-win improvement, the rapid maturation of a young team, and an influx of five highly touted newcomers, the Green & White are this year expected to challenge for NEC supremacy. Coach Hurley's squad returns all five starters from a year ago, led by senior guard and reigning First Team All-Conference selection Tyler Murray '12. The Canadian playmaker led the team in scoring at just under 17 points per game, while also serving as one of the top three-point threats in the league. Also returning is sophomore guard Latif Rivers '14, a member of the NEC's All-Rookie Team, who averaged just under 14 points a game and led the league with an 89.1 percent conversion rate from the free throw line. The season also features exciting play outside of the NEC, with Wagner making an appearance in the 45th annual Cable Car Classic in Santa Clara, California, December 29–30. *Don't miss any of the action: All Wagner home games will be streamed online. Visit www.wagnerathletics.com for complete information.*



AlumniLink

Events, opportunities, and celebrations for the Wagner family, both near and far

Share Your Expertise

Volunteer opportunities allow alumni and friends to give back

Alumni Awards

Honor a fellow Wagner graduate with a 2012 National Alumni Association Award for achievement or service. The deadline for nominations is January 13, 2012.



A nomination form and details about the award categories are available at www.wagner.edu/alumni. Winners will be honored during Reunion Weekend, June 8–10.

Alumni Board

Applications for the Board of Directors of the Wagner College National Alumni Association are being accepted for the next three-year term, 2012–15. The deadline for nominations is February 12, 2012. Learn about the duties of the position and print out an application at www.wagner.edu/alumni.

*For more information about NAA awards and board:
Office of Alumni Relations 718-390-3224 / alumni@wagner.edu*

Mock Interviews

Prepare students for the most important hour of their career: The job interview. Mock interviews can be conducted on campus, on the phone, or using Skype. February 13, March 22, and April 25 at 7 p.m.

Ask the Interviewer

Do you have experience interviewing entry-level applicants? What have you seen that makes a candidate stand out? Share your perspectives by serving on the “Ask the Interviewer” panel. February 29 and April 3 at 7 p.m.

Living and Working Abroad

Share your experiences, in person or through Skype, with navigating life outside the United States. March 6 at 7 p.m.



The Graduate's Guide to Successful Networking

Student-Alumni Networking Reception

Join Amy Jensen '07, author of *The Graduate's Guide to Networking*, for a one-hour workshop on effective networking. Immediately following Amy's presentation, students will test their skills with alumni and employers. March 21 at 7 p.m.

Career Cabaret: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Employment

Every successful person has a humorous anecdote about a mistake they made as they started their professional career. We are collecting these stories and offering them to the class of 2012 as an opportunity to listen, laugh, and learn from our successful Wagner alumni. If you have a story to contribute, submit your anecdote by February 22. Include your name, class year, major, what you learned from this mistake, current employer, and job title. Please indicate if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

*To volunteer or submit a cabaret entry:
Victoria Crispo, assistant director for career development, email vcrispo@wagner.edu / phone 718-420-4269 / fax 718-420-4012.*





Take a Walk Down Memory Lane

Wagner College Memories: A Photographic Remembrance of Grymes Hill in 99 Images, Past & Present

This 10-by-8-inch hardcover book contains 99 classic scenes, from a panoramic view of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to the Collegiate Gothic grandeur of Main Hall to winter's snow-covered calm.

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To view the book online and download a mail order form, go to www.wagner.edu/newsroom/node/135



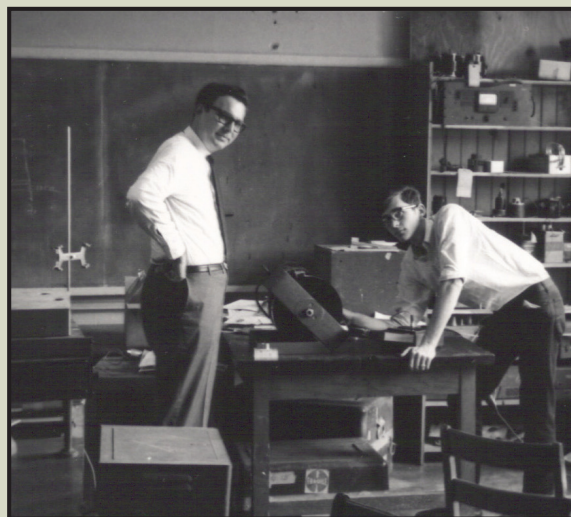
AN OLD FRIEND NEEDS YOUR HELP

Wagner's \$12 million restoration of Main Hall will secure this historic building, so that it can continue to provide generations of Wagner students with memories to cherish and learning to last a lifetime.

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{ FLASHBACK }



PHYSICS LAB, MAIN HALL 22, MAY 1968

Professor E. Thomas Henkel oversees a student conducting an experiment with an electromagnet in the Main Hall physics lab. The following fall, this lab was relocated to Megerle Hall, the new home for the science departments. The photo was taken by Leigh Ramsay '69, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics. As Main Hall (previously known as the Ad Building) undergoes renovations this fall, we are preparing a *Wagner Magazine* feature on its place in campus history. Please share your Main Hall photos and memories by contacting Laura Barlament, Editor, *Wagner Magazine*, at the Communications Office, One Campus Road, Staten Island, New York 10301; 718-390-3147; or laura.barlament@wagner.edu.

Snowcoming

A 'WINTRY MIX' DEFINED THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

On October 29, Homecoming 2011 was turned into *Snowcoming* 2011 by a completely unexpected snowstorm, the earliest and heaviest such storm in New York City history. Conditions outdoors, both on and off the field, were brutal – only a few hearty souls were in the stands to watch Albany shut out the Seahawks in the driving wind and heavy, wet snow. A large crowd of nearly 400 alumni and friends huddled inside the Homecoming tent, where it was warm and relatively dry, to enjoy food, drinks, and fellowship.



WHITEOUT The Green & White gave first-place Albany a fight before the Great Danes pulled away for a 24–0 victory, in a Northeast Conference battle played in blizzard-like conditions.



HONOREES John Chaney '88 (football; with his son, Jarrell), Andy Fellouris '86 (football), and Frank Gunther '64 (golf) were inducted into the Wagner College Athletics Hall of Fame, along with Jennifer Albrizio '85 (softball) and Milan Rikic '95 (basketball).



A WARM WELCOME Ticket taker Sierra Marantz '12 greeted a slim crowd at the stadium.



DIE-HARD A few well-prepared fans braved the weather in the stands.



SEAHAWK SPIRIT President Guarasci and Wagner friends Allan Weissglass and Bob Diamond display their Seahawk pride. Request your own banner by emailing your name, address, and class year to seahawkspirit@wagner.edu. Take your photo with the banner at an alumni event or your own adventure and email it back, so that we can add it to Wagner's Facebook photo album.

Upcoming Events

National Alumni Association

- Winter on the Hill
February 11
Alumni Reception and Basketball Doubleheader
Wagner v. Mount St. Mary's
- National Alumni Day of Community Service
April 21
- Reunion Weekend
June 8–10
- Alumni Day at Saratoga Race Course
July 21
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
- Alumni Day at Del Mar Race Track
August 4
Del Mar, Calif.
- Alumni Alaskan Discovery Cruise
August 15–22

Lectures

- Presidential Economic Symposium
April 26, 7 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Ken Langone, co-founder of Home Depot
Spiro Hall, Room 2

Music

- Choir: Tribute to Black Music
Feb. 28, 9 p.m.
Campus Hall
Music Performance Center
- Choir: Send-Off Concert
March 4, 3 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church, Staten Island
- Choir: Spring Mini-Tour
March 8, *Southern Connecticut*
March 9, *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rocky Point, N.Y.*
March 10, 7 p.m., *Zion Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Del.*
March 11, 4 p.m., *Trinity Lutheran Church, Staten Island, N.Y.*
- Treble Concert Choir:
Spring Mini-Tour
April 20–21, *locations TBD*

- Jazz Band
April 22, 3 p.m.
Staten Island, location TBD
- Treble Concert Choir:
Spring Concert
April 22, 4 p.m.
*Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island, N.Y.*
- Choir: Final Concert
April 29, 4 p.m.
Brahms' German Requiem
*Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island, N.Y.*
- Vocal Jazz Set
May 2, 8 p.m.
*Campus Hall
Music Performance Center*
- Concert Band
May 6, 3 p.m.
Staten Island, location TBD

Theatre

- *Urinetown the Musical*
Feb. 22–25, Feb. 29–March 4
*Snug Harbor Cultural Center**
- *The Dance Project*
Feb. 28–March 4
Stage One
- *Goddess Wheel*
April 18–21, 25–29
*Snug Harbor Cultural Center**
- *An Evening with Tennessee Williams*
April 24–29
Stage One

* During the renovation of Main Hall, Wagner Theatre's Main Stage shows are being performed at the Music Hall of Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island.

Dates are subject to change. Please call or check www.wagner.edu/calendar for updates.

For more information, registration, and tickets:

Admissions 800-221-1010 or 718-390-3411

Alumni Relations 718-390-3224

Music Department 718-390-3313

Theatre Box Office 718-390-3259

Who in the Wagner World Was ... Friedrich Katz?



During a long scholarly career, Friedrich Katz '49 became "the most eminent historian of modern Mexico working in the second half of the 20th century," according to the *University of Chicago Magazine*. "His October 2010 death at 83 was front-page news in newspapers throughout Mexico." Wagner College was an important way station for the budding young scholar in an early life unsettled by the tides of history.

Katz was born in 1927 in Vienna, into a prominent intellectual Jewish and Communist family. They moved to Berlin, but had to flee in 1933 as Nazism took hold, first to France, then to the U.S., and finally to Mexico. Katz, who was then 13 years old, completed his secondary schooling in Mexico City.

"Fred" Katz (as registrar's records have him) came to Wagner through family friends in New York City. He completed his B.A. degree in less than three years. His son, Penn Law Professor Leo Katz, says that this short time was very significant to his father. He roomed with Peter Berger '49 H'73, a fellow Austrian émigré who also became an eminent scholar. "It was this stay that solidified his connection with America, as well as his love of American academic life," says Leo Katz.

Friedrich Katz went on to earn his doctorate at the University of Vienna, writing a groundbreaking dissertation on Aztec society. He continued his career in East Berlin and Texas before going to the University of Chicago in 1971, where he remained on the faculty for nearly 40 years and was named the Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus. His magisterial books *The Secret War in Mexico: Europe, the United States, and the Mexican Revolution* (1981) and *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa* (1998) made a huge impact by placing the Mexican Revolution in an international context and bringing to life one of its key figures.

The University of Chicago honored his scholarship and teaching by establishing the Katz Center for Mexican Studies. The Mexican government also bestowed on him its highest honor for a non-citizen, the Order of the Aztec Eagle. "Friedrich was not just respected, he was revered here and in Mexico and indeed anywhere in the world where Mexico's revolution was studied," says John H. Coatsworth, dean of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Trygve Skarsten '49 for sending us the *University of Chicago Magazine* story about Friedrich Katz.



ClassNotes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1942

Class Agent: **Theodore W. Gibson**
2017 Pine Knoll Road #2, Walnut
Creek, CA 94595, 925-588-9691

1948

Nelda and **Ronald H. Reynier** moved from Pennsylvania to Hood River, Oreg., 16 years ago. He retired in 2005 from a 58-year career in law.

1950

Class Agent: **Robert S. Peirano**
67 Meisner Ave., Staten Island,
NY 10306, 718-351-8535

Alice Patterson Andersen attended Wagner Reunion Weekend in June and shared some of her story. She was in Wagner's third nursing class, and she went on to work as a nurse at several different locations, including the University of Pennsylvania, a doctor's office in Florida, and a school in West Chester, Pa. She retired in 1990. Her first husband had died, when some years ago, she reconnected with **Martin Andersen '51**, whose first spouse had died as well. Alice and Martin married, and they live in Pennsylvania.

1952

Class Agent: **Fred Brockmann**
3949 Wilshire Court, Sarasota,
FL 34238, 941-922-1879,
fredleebrock@comcast.net

1953

Class Agent: **Albert Tosi**
70 Woodcliff Lake Road,
Saddle River, NJ 07458

1954

Class Agent: **Manfred W. Lichtmann**
568 Harbor Watch Loop, Myrtle
Beach, SC 29579, lichtmann@
sccoast.net

Wanda Schweizer Praisner '54 M'57 and her husband, **Robert J. Praisner**, of Bedminster, N.J., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 8, with a trip to the Reefs in Bermuda, where they spent their honeymoon, and with a family trip to Germany to visit the birthplaces of great-great-grandparents. **Dorothy Rausch Randall** writes, "Un-retired yet again and just managed another successful theater benefit for the Art Omi International Arts Center in Ghent, N.Y. Topped last year by 25 percent. Living in Hoboken, N.J., with three daughters and six grandchildren. Life is good!"



Bob and Wanda Praisner (left) with family

1955

Class Agent: **Allan K. Brier**
67 Round Cove Road, Chatham,
MA 02633, 508-945-3729

1956

Class Agent: **George E. Lewis**
5043 Kelsie Court, Florence, OR
97439, mrclor@charter.net

1957

Class Agents: **Marie Attonito Alberti**
109 Patio Drive, Endwell, NY
13760, 607-754-3400 **Ewald Forsbrey**
1096 Augusta Falls Way, Naples,
FL 34119, 239-353-6240

Pauline Pape Marx and **Herbert Marx** celebrated the fourth birthday of their great-grandson. They live in Scottsdale, Ariz.

1958

Class Agent: **H. Milton Keen**
10581 Lees Mill Road, Warrenton,
VA 20186, mk10581@gmail.com

1959

Alice Campbell Burke and **John Burke '60 M'66** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They were married on July 8, 1961, at Sacred Heart Church in Staten Island. Alice is a retired elementary school teacher who taught in Staten Island and in Dallas and Plano, Tex. John is retired from the Fire Department of New York and the United States Air Force Reserve. He also worked as a substi-

tute teacher at schools in New York City, Dallas, and Plano. They live in New Port Richey, Fla., and have three children and five grandchildren.

1960

Class Agent: **Peter Welker**
P.O. Box 485, Caroga Lake, NY
12032, 518-835-3198, pwelker@
nycap.rr.com

John Burke '60 M'66 and **Alice Campbell Burke '59** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They were married on July 8, 1961, at Sacred Heart Church in Staten Island. John is retired from the Fire Department of New York and the United States Air Force Reserve. He also worked as a substitute teacher at schools in New York City and in Dallas and Plano, Tex. Alice is a retired elementary school teacher who taught in Staten Island, Dallas, and Plano. They live in New Port Richey, Fla., and have three children and five grandchildren. **Dorothea Waters Whitton** retired in 2006 from teaching as well as from her full-time work as a secretary at Palisades Medical Center in North Bergen, N.J. She continues working part time at Palisades.

1961

Class Agent: **Alma Costie Vincent**
3115 Stowe Lane, Mahwah, NJ
07430, 201-760-2703

JoAnn Benkert Campanelli worked at Staten Island University Hospital as an RN for 31 years, going on disability in 1995 before retiring. She writes, "I love to read, and I

Keep in Touch!

E-mail: alumni@wagner.edu

Web: www.wagner.edu/alumni/

Mail: Alumni Office, Reynolds House,

Wagner College, 1 Campus Road,

Staten Island, NY 10301

Publication policies:

Deadlines: This issue reflects news received by October 6.

The submission deadline for the summer 2012 issue is June 1.

Content: Wagner welcomes your news and updates, and we will happily share them with the Wagner family. We ask that you send us announcements of weddings, births, and graduations after the fact.

Photos: We accept photos of Wagner groups at weddings and other special events. With the photo, send the names and

class years of all alumni pictured; birth date, parents' names, and class years with photos of children; and dates and locations of all events.

Photo Quality: Digital and print photos must be clear and of good quality. Prints should be on glossy paper with no surface texture; they will be returned at your request (please attach your address to the photo). Digital photos must be jpegs of at least 250 pixels per inch; low-resolution photos converted to a higher resolution are not acceptable.

keep myself busy with the clubs I belong to — the Richmond Travelers, Creative Travel, the Big Apple Gals Red Hats, and the South Shore Grandmothers Club. I have also attended the Wagner College Theatre program for many years.” Her husband, Chris Campanelli, died in 1989 after 27 years of marriage. She has two children, Christopher and Lisa; a granddaughter, Christina; and two grandsons, Michael and David (DJ).

1962

Class Agent: Rita King
5801 East Edgemont Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85257, rita.king@wagner.edu

We sadly note that **Richard Petrella** passed away on August 25, 2011, of cancer. His sister, **Elaine Petrella** '59, contributed the following remembrance: “He studied under Charles Kramer, graduating as a business major. He went on to build his own successful book fair business and promoted reading programs for 40 years. ... He was a member of Delta Nu, and is remembered for his laughter, stories, and leadership abilities.” **Beverly Hoehne Whipple** received the Gold Medal from the World Congress for Sexual Health for her lifetime contributions to the congress, held in June in Glasgow, Scotland. She gave two talks at the congress, as well as at the University of Glasgow and in Warsaw, Poland. “I had a long, long standing ovation after my Gold Medal talk,” she writes. “In addition, many people from all parts of the world came to the microphones to praise me and my work and talk about how I had helped them or their students. I was overwhelmed.” She also noted that her husband, Jim, was honored with a lifetime membership in the World Association for Sexual Health.

1963

Class Agent: John Donovan
141-A Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY 10707

1964

Class Agent: Donald T. Savage
1130 Morningside Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309, 518-372-9422, bsavage@prudentialmanor.com

1965

Class Agent: Jack Felver

84 North Smith Street, Palatine, IL 60067; 25244 Pelican Creek Circle, Unit 201, Bonita Springs, FL 34134; 239-495-8861, jrfelver@aol.com

1966

Elizabeth “Lissa” Dawson Barker was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN), and she assumed the presidency of the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) in June. “These are two high honors in nursing and I’m proud that Wagner prepared me so well for my career,” she writes. She spent 36 years in the Navy, working in many different fields of nursing and serving as a commanding officer. Now she is an associate professor and director of the master’s program in the College of Nursing at The Ohio State University.

1967

Class Agent: Maureen L. Robinson
160 Jockey Hollow Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924-1312, 908-953-2939, mrobidwolf@aol.com

Russ Johnson has been a full-time artist and workshop leader since 2001, and he is offering three workshops in 2012: “Painting Maine,” June 24–26, in Kennebunk, Maine; “Painting the Masters of Watercolor,” July 12–14, in Princeton, N.J.; and “Painting Maine Colors,” October 11–13, in Kennebunk, Maine. For complete information, contact Russ at rjworkshops@gmail.com.

1968

Class Agent: Richard W. Ball 13 Jeffro Drive, Ridgefield, CT 06877, 203-431-6062, richard.ball@ubs.com



The Ming Family

At a formal ceremony at Buckingham Palace on June 28, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II invested **Conchita Williams Ming** as an officer of

the Order of the British Empire for “meritorious civilian service to the Crown.” Specifically, Conchita was honored for her leadership of the 400th anniversary celebrations of Bermuda in 2009 and for her work as a choreographer and co-founder of the National Dance Theater of Bermuda. Conchita is pictured below at the Investiture with her husband, Henry; son, Ari; and daughter, Alana. **Dana Miller Mochel** retired from the University of North Carolina Hospitals in 2006 and started a new career at Orange County Animal Service as an animal health care tech. She lives in Carrboro, N.C.

1969

Class Agent: Philip Stranieri
3 St. Austins Place, Staten Island, NY 10310, 718-447-4717, judgphil96@aol.com

Marilyn Dobbin Kinelski announces that her first children’s book, *Am I Important?*, was published in July by AuthorHouse (www.authorhouse.com). This story introduces young children to the importance of proper punctuation. Marilyn is a former elementary and secondary school educator, as well as a certified substance abuse and violence prevention specialist and a court-appointed volunteer member of the Monmouth County Juvenile Conference Committee. She is also very involved in her church, and in July she was appointed district lay leader for the Northern Shore District of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She lives in Howell, N.J., with her husband, Ken, and one lovable Boston terrier, Fozzie. Her son, Rob, lives in California.

1970

Class Agent: Gregory Gulbrandsen
2184 NE Meadow Lane, Bend, OR 97701, 541-280-3035, greg@cascadecreative.com

Judith Hall-Laughlin was recognized in July 2011 as one of the top 25 female business leaders in Philadelphia, receiving the SmartCEO BRAVA 2011 Women’s Business Achievement Award. She is the executive director of Comprehensive Cancer and Hematology Specialists, with offices in Voorhees, Sewell, and Woodbury, N.J.

1971

Class Agents: Pamela Broderick
P.O. Box 564, Winter Harbor, ME

04693 **Kathy Chinnici O'Donnell** 3322 Woodland Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, 570-894-4731, katcod0221@yahoo.com

Carol Rabbitt Barth presented a violin and piano recital to benefit St. John’s Community Services in Washington, D.C., on September 18. Carol is a member of the D.C. board of directors and the founders board of St. John’s, which has provided wonderful services to her son, Alex, for several years. Carol accompanied violinist Holly Hamilton of the National Symphony Orchestra in this recital. She wrote, “I am very excited to present this recital. This is the best way that I know to give back to an organization that functions so well, but can function better with extra support. It is a wonderful musical experience for me to accompany someone of the performance caliber of Holly Hamilton, and has been a musical growth opportunity for me.”

1972

Bob Mazur presented a paper entitled “Institutional Will — The Organized Crime Remedy” at an international symposium on economic crime, held at the University of Cambridge, England, in September. He also reports progress toward making a movie of his 2009 book, *The Infiltrator* (featured in *Wagner Magazine’s* summer 2010 issue). He signed a deal with director Brad Furman, whose latest movie was *The Lincoln Lawyer*.

1973

Class Agent: Henry E. Gemino
5 Strickland Place, Manhasset, NY 11030, 516-467-4191, henryedmund@aol.com

1974

Class Agent: Diane “Nina” R. Recio
11 Holly Place, Larchmont, NY 10538, 914-833-0202, nrc917@gmail.com

Stephen J. Schaefer was named chief financial officer of Project Freedom Inc., located in Robbinsville, NJ. This non-profit organization is dedicated to developing, supporting, and advocating for opportunities for independent living for persons with disabilities. Learn more at www.projectfreedom.org.

1975

Class Agents: Richard G. DePaul
8 McKay Drive, Bridgewater, NJ

Maggie Breville '82

Environmental Science for Human Health

CLAIM TO FAME: As an environmental scientist and project officer for the EPA's National Center for Environmental Research, Maggie Breville '82 oversees millions of dollars in federal grants. During her quarter-century in public service, she has monitored New York City's drinking water, worked on cleanup of a Superfund site, and pioneered the EPA's process of peer review for research grant proposals.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL 'TREE HUGGER': Some environmentalists focus more on protecting nature, Breville says, and others on protecting human health. She leans toward the latter. A native Haitian who moved to the U.S. at age 5, she was pushed toward a medical career by her mother. Breville gives credit to Wagner College, where she majored in biology, for awakening her interest in the environment. Her favorite professor was biology department chair Dale Yarns, who took his students to locations ranging from upstate New York to Bermuda so that they could study biology in the field. Later, Breville earned a master's in environmental science from Tufts University.

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: "In the early '80s," Breville explains, "some groups began to look at the fact that some of the most contaminating, most polluting industries and facilities were located in areas more heavily populated by people of color." This idea became known as environmental justice, and Breville took an early interest in it. Today she oversees research on environmental pollutants' effects on Native American communities. "The tribal work is my favorite," she says, "because these communities are so close to the earth, they're basically one with the earth, more so than any other community."

CREATIVITY AT PLAY: "It's amazing," says Breville of her work overseeing scientific projects. "You're seeing cutting-edge research when they don't even have results yet and they're trying different things, so you see innovation and creativity at play."



08807, 908-218-1418 **Patricia Martin**
1341 NE Market Dr., Apt. 355,
Fairview, OR 97024, pattym.phd@
comcast.net

1976

Class Agent: **John M. Zawisny**
56 Howard Ave., Staten Island, NY
10301, 718-447-4290, jzawisny@
aol.com

1977

Class Agent: **Jeanne Delaney-Malikian**
6 Walden Street, Somers, NY 10589

1978

Class Agent: **Maria Lind Jenkins**
31 Gower Road, New Canaan,
CT 06840, 203-966-5999

1979

Class Agent: **Frank Valenti**
71 North Lakeside Ave., Jackson,
NJ 08527, 732-942-0044,
fvalenti@msn.com

Dr. **Victor Dolan** served at the central medical clinic of the Pan American Games, held in October in Guadalajara, Mexico. He says he is the first doctor selected from Staten Island to serve at the Pan Am Games, and this year is the first time that the Pan Am Games had chiropractic doctors on staff. Six thousand athletes from 45 countries participated, making the Pan Am Games second only to the Summer Olympics in size. **Phil Nuzzo**, artistic director of Brooklyn's Metro Chamber Orchestra, led the ensemble in the world premiere of a work commissioned in honor of Ron Cross, the Kurt and Auguste Riemann Professor of Music at Wagner. The composition, "Time Is on My Side" by Jay Vilnai, is "a piece with a Balkan flair on the Dracula theme," says Phil, and honors the annual Halloween concerts, "Music from the Court of Vlad the Impaler (Prince Dracula)," staged in the 1980s by Collegium Musicum Wagneriensis, directed by Professor Cross.

1980

Class Agents: **Edward L. Garlock**
132 Highland Drive, Bedford, PA
15522, 814-623-1124 **Billy K. Tyler**
1807 North Gramercy Place,
Apt. 5, Los Angeles, CA 90028,
323-462-7111, billykyler@aol.com

1981

Class Agents: **Joan Sutura** 23 Lake
Shore Drive, Rockaway, NY 07866,
908-901-8382, joansutura@
hotmail.com **Lauretta Zitano** 2129
Locust Road, Sea Girt, NJ 08750,
732-449-4883

Julie Miller had a 26-year career in pediatric and school nursing in Maine, including working in rural pediatric in Indian reservations. In 2000, she came down with a rare and debilitating neurological disease, which changed her course. She is pursuing Native Studies at the University of Maine and has begun painting. Her art is on view at <http://julie-miller.artistwebsites.com>.

1982

Class Agent: **John Spadaro**
117 Old Town Road, Staten Island,
NY 10304, 718-987-5073

Dominick Iorio received GAMA International's International Management Award and Master Agency Award in July. Dom is the managing director of Bridge Financial Group, an office of MetLife in Staten Island. The GAMA International Awards Program recognizes excellence in traditional and contemporary field management throughout the financial services industry.

1983

Class Agents: **Donald T. Browne**
31 Tannery Hill Drive,
Hamburg, NJ 07419, 973-827-4584,
dbrowne100@aol.com **Linda Appignani**
Romani 40008 N. Integrity Trail,
Anthem, AZ 85086, 623-551-
9136, momofdm@qwest.net

1985

Class Agents: **Annamarie Lambiasi**
One Campus Road, Staten Island,
NY 10301, 718-420-4163,
alambias@wagner.edu **Andrew G.**
Williams 30 Roberta Street, Apt. G,
Key West, FL 33040

Christine Dimino Postiglione wrote a note of gratitude to the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing, which they shared with us. She has worked in many different fields of medicine, and is currently enjoying emergency room nursing. After raising her seven children, she is back to nursing full time. She writes, "I love to nurse. I enjoy healing the wound, heart and the soul." She has also

been on a medical mission and has taught nurses as a preceptor.

1986

Class Agent: **Wade C. Appelman**
6 Aaron Road, Lexington, MA
02421, 781-274-8575, wadeapp@
yahoo.com

1987

Class Agents: **Meredith Lynch Acacia**
5 Aspen Court, Jackson, NJ 08527,
732-928-8452 **Karen McNeice** 54
Schley Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308,
718-356-7631, kbm1017@aol.com

Ken Mitchell was appointed executive director of the Staten Island Zoo in October. He had been serving as interim executive director since March 2010. He previously served on the New York City Council repre-

senting Staten Island's North Shore.

1988

Class Agents: **Melissa Sorensen Faherty**
12 Chesebrough Street, Staten
Island, NY 10312, 718-227-2099,
m337j@aol.com **Kenneth Nilsen** 807
Castlepoint Terrace, Hoboken, NJ
07030, 201-222-0182, knilsen@
stevens.edu

1989

Class Agent: **Peter Ottaviano**
2 Calder Court, Marlboro, NJ 07746,
732-851-6052, pottav89@aol.com

Joe Isola was featured in the *Howell Patch* of Howell, N.J., as he began the academic year in a new job: district assistant superintendent of curriculum and personnel. For the previous seven years, he was

Knot Notes

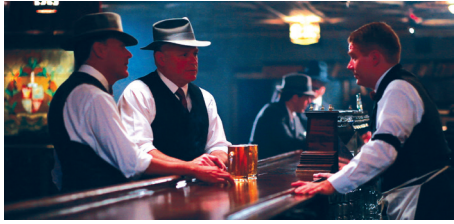
Wagner Weddings

Celebrating new commitments



Christopher Duni '07 and **Laura Woodruff '07** married on May 21 at the Sand Castle in Franklin Square, Long Island. They met as Wagner College freshmen, and they celebrated their marriage with 19 other Wagner alumni. Back row: **Gregory Avola '07**, **Jeffrey Grenier '07**, **Kate Spare Maceda '07** M'08, **Elizabeth Grabowski '07**, **Mark Magro '07** M'08, **Christina Longo DiChino '07**, **Laurel Corbin '07** M'08, **Abby Albair Storiato '09**, **Christina Martingano '06**, **Erin McFarland Scattergood '07**. Middle/Front Rows: **Danielle DeSantis '07** M'08, **Matthew Hedge '07**, **Lauren Smith '07**, **Becca Wells '06** M'07, **Molly McLeod '08**, **James Steele '07**, **Ashley D'Angiolini Chalmers '07**, **Michael Storiato '09**, **Benjamin Hegel '07**.

Have a wedding photo with "Wagner family"?
Please see page 38 for publication guidelines.



Chris Ryan '86, center, appears in a PBS documentary about the Prohibition Era. The scene was filmed in his bar in Troy, New York.

Cheers on the Hudson

With Ken Burns' new PBS documentary *Prohibition* on the air this fall, speakeasy-type settings have been in demand.

Chris Ryan '86 made his acting debut as a mouthy bootlegger in a related project, *William Kennedy's Prohibition Story*, and his picturesque establishment, Ryan's Wake Public

House in Troy, New York, served as a filming location. In this 30-minute documentary, actors including Ryan recreated scenes from the life and times of the infamous East Coast gangster Jack "Legs" Diamond. Ryan's true calling, however, is not acting, but entrepreneurship with a civic bent. "A true pub is more than a bar," says Ryan. "It's a community space, where people of all walks of life relax and congregate after work. It's often the first setting for important civic conversations that lead to real change in a small community like ours." The Wagner business major got his start in the hospitality industry by working at the Union and the Hawk's Nest. In Troy, he has helped turn the Hudson River waterfront into a bustling entertainment district through his work with Brown's Brewing Co. and its adjacent performance space, Revolution Hall. In 2005, he opened Ryan's Wake Public House on the same block, naming it in homage to the Ryan family funeral business and the tradition of celebrating life at an Irish wake.

principal of Middle School North in Howell. The article reports that he was an accounting major at Wagner College, but he found his way to education while helping to coach football at his high school alma mater, Susan Wagner High School in Staten Island. He previously taught and served as an assistant principal in Brooklyn.

1990

Class Agent: Levent Bayrasi
72 Kyle Drive, Phillipsburg, NJ
08865, 908-213-9598, sonicbros@verizon.net

Patricia Amis received the NAACP Staten Island Chapter William A. Morris Humanitarian Award in September. She is the host, founder, and executive producer of Elderview Talkshow (www.elderviewtalkshow.org) on Staten Island Community TV, which allows seniors to voice their opinions about topics that affect their daily lives. **Elena Anarumo Gallo** was promoted to the position of senior vice president and treasury management sales consultant with Wells Fargo. She lives in Eastchester, N.Y. **Maria Giura** completed her first half-marathon in October 2010. Her finish time, 2:09:41, placed her second for the Staten Island chapter of Team in Training, which raises money for blood cancers. She also reports on her literary accomplishments, which include a reading from her book in progress at the fall 2011 American Italian Historical Associa-

tion conference, along with novelist Rita Cirisi.

1991

Class Agent: Jennifer Norton Mantegna
802 Schley Ave., Toms River, NJ
08755, 732-458-1412

1992

Class Agent: Natalie Migliaro
510 Col. DB Kelley Way, South Amboy, NJ 08879, 732-721-6170, natmig@rci.rutgers.edu

1993

Class Agent: Stuart Plotkin
80 Knightsbridge Road #3F, Great Neck, NY 11021, SPlotkin@pclient.ml.com

1994

Class Agent: James Hickey
4209 Route 516, Matawan, NJ
07747, 732-290-3900, james.hickey@wagner.edu

1995

Class Agent: Nancy L. Salgado-Cowan
451 Walnut Street, Yonkers, NY
10701, nursenancy1@hotmail.com

Laura Graham was honored by the Seamen's Society for Children and Families, a Staten Island charitable

organization, at its annual gala in October. Her boss, President Bill Clinton, was the event's guest speaker. Laura is President Clinton's chief of staff and chief operating officer of the Clinton Foundation. She is also a foster mother, and the Seamen's Society honored her as one of its most dedicated and exemplary foster parents. Founded in 1846, the Seamen's Society was one of the first U.S. organizations to care for abused or abandoned children in foster homes rather than in institutions. Laura was also featured by NY1 News as Staten Islander of the Week in September.

1996

Class Agent: Rebecca Ann Wallo Rose
41481 NYS Rt. 180, Clayton, NY 13624, 315-778-8419, harrypotter71674@yahoo.com

1997

Class Agent: Alison N. Boyd
14 Essex Drive, Ronkonkoma, NY
11779, 631-732-4032

1998

Class Agents: Tara Yeo Lagana
11 Quimby Road, Turner, ME 04282, 207-713-4757, TLLagana@hotmail.com **Darren L. Greco** 24 Daniella Court, Staten Island, NY 10314, 718-761-6069, dgreco25@mac.com

1999

Class Agent: Vinnie S. Potestivo
2600 Palisade Ave., Apt. 3, Weehawken, NJ 07086, vinnie.p@wagner.edu

Robert and Kara Laurenno Ascianto announce the birth of Christian Robert on March 9. They live in Hoboken, N.J. See *Crib Notes*, page 43, for a photo. **John Carrescia '99 M'06** and his wife, Teresa, announce the birth of twins, Jenna Ann and John Anthony III, on July 22. They were welcomed by their older sister, Isabella Nicole, who was born on February 11, 2009. John is assistant vice president and controller at Wagner College. **Jo Ann Esposito Panzella** and her husband, Danny, announce the birth of their first child, Xander, on February 27. Jo Ann returned to Wagner in July 2010 to serve as bursar. See *Crib Notes*, page 43, for a photo.

2000

Class Agent: Erin K. Donahue
5 Inverness Court, Wading River, NY
11792, edonahue45@optonline.net

2001

Class Agents: Simone Diaz
1655 N. Colony Road, Unit 19, Meriden, CT 06450, 203-639-4855, simoneamcbride@yahoo.com **Michael E. Poole** 405 Pinkster Lane, Slingerlands, NY 12159, 716-764-2835

2002

Class Agents: Peter J. Herbst
24 Bethke Road, Killingworth, CT 06419 **Cindy M. Sforza Maley** 54 Webster Ave., Ronkonkoma, NY 11779, 631-676-4757, smallwonder124@hotmail.com **Renee M. Nadal** 634 Monmouth Ave., Port Monmouth, NJ 07758, 732-787-3294, nay537@yahoo.com

Katie McAvoy and her husband, Peter Caras, welcomed Bryn Noelle Caras on December 27, 2010. See *Crib Notes*, page 43, for a photo. **Christina DeCicco Sisko**, an ensemble member in the cast of the Broadway production of *Sister Act*, was tapped to play Sister Mary Robert for several performances in September.

2003

Class Agents: Cari A. Christopher
145 Tomb Street, Tiffin, OH

44883, cchristo@wagner.edu **Robert J. Hamm** 14 College Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314, 718-981-0515, bobby7770@yahoo.com **Nicole Lopes Steed** 2218 2nd Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753, 732-270-3660, nlopes55@yahoo.com

2004

Class Agent: **Alexis D. Hernandez-Hons** 5252 Orange Ave., Apt. 335, San Diego, CA 92103, lex382@aol.com

Carolyn Palinkas '04 M'06 married Patrick Vento on August 20 in Staten Island. She is a mathematics teacher and National Honor Society advisor at Susan Wagner High School in Staten Island. **Carlo Rivieccio** was featured in a play in the 2011 New York International Fringe Festival, held in August. He played the role of Marco in Craig Clary's *The Classroom*, which deals with a group of paralegals in a Manhattan law firm.

2005

Class Agents: **Melissa D. Powers** 313 Vesta Court, Ridgewood, NJ 07450, 201-394-2408, powers.mel@gmail.com **Matthew L. Sheehan** 114 Gray Ave., Apt. 3B, Syracuse, NY 13203, 315-437-5430, msheehan05@gmail.com

Christopher Cipollo married Hope Elizabeth Tuchman on August 7 at The Palace at Somerset Park in New Jersey. Both work at Susan Wagner High School in Staten Island, where he is a music teacher and band director, and she is a Spanish teacher and advisor of the dance team.

2006

Class Agents: **Leandra Aguirre** 2521 14th Street, Apt. 2, Astoria, NY 11102, 617-645-4859 **Michael A. Armato** michael.a.armato@gmail.com **Charles Bender** 18 Klondike Ave., Stamford, CT 06907, 603-759-7439, charles.bender@credit-suisse.com **Derek Lightcap** 33 First Ave., Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-570-2954, dlightcap@hotmail.com

Rebecca Colucci was part of a volunteer group that cleaned up Staten Island's Boy Scout Pouch Camp in honor of National Public Lands Day in September. The group was featured by NY1 News, calling attention to this beautiful natural area under threat of development. **Christopher DellaUniversita** '06 M'11 married **Angela Rose DeMaio** '07 on June 3 in

Our Lady of Pity Catholic Church in Staten Island. He is an operations specialist with Fidelity Investments, Jersey City, N.J. She is pursuing a master's degree in accounting at Baruch College and is a senior examiner with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in Manhattan. They live in Annadale, Staten Island. **Dana Guariglia** '06 M'07 M'10 married John Baranello on August 6. She completed a second master's degree in educational leadership in August 2010. She is a performing arts director and teacher with the New York City Department of Education. **Tiana Kalba Kostic** is a certified forensic psychophysicist and polygraph examiner with sex offenders for the state of Connecticut. "I love my job and have the opportunities I received at Wagner to thank for it," she writes.

2007

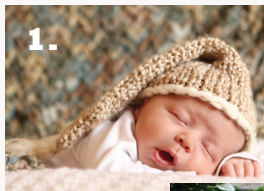
Class Agents: **Jeff Logan** 912 Garden Street, Apt. 2, Hoboken, NJ 07030, 908-625-8281 **Christopher Silvestri** 1730 E. 31st, Brooklyn, NY 11234, csilvest227@gmail.com

Whitney Branan was part of the ensemble of an award-winning production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Produced by the Gallery Players in Brooklyn, the show won several New York Innovative Theatre Awards in September: Outstanding Ensemble, Production of a Musical, Costume Design, and Choreography. Whitney reports that many members of the original Broadway cast came out to Brooklyn to see the Gallery Players show. The New York Innovative Theatre Awards honor artistic excellence in off-off-Broadway theater. **Angela Rose DeMaio** married **Christopher DellaUniversita** '06 M'11 on June 3 in Our Lady of Pity Catholic Church in Staten Island. She is pursuing a master's degree in accounting at Baruch College and is a senior examiner with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in Manhattan. He is an operations specialist with Fidelity Investments, Jersey City, N.J. They live in Annadale, Staten Island. **Christopher Duni** and **Laura Woodruff** married on May 21 at the Sand Castle in Franklin Square, Long Island. They met at Wagner College freshmen, and they celebrated their marriage with 19 other Wagner alumni (see photo, page 41). They live in Queens, N.Y. **Daniel Giordano** was in a photo feature in *ESPN The Magazine* in August. Daniel demonstrates a workout called "the pillar" with a teammate from the

Crib Notes

Classes of 2031 and 2032

Some of the newest faces to join the Wagner family



1. Robert '99 and Kara Lauren '99 Asciutto announce the birth of Christian Robert on March 9. **2. Jo Ann Esposito Panzella** '99 and her husband, Danny, announce the birth of Xander on February 27. **3. Katie McAvoy** '02 and her husband, Peter Caras, welcomed Bryn Noelle Caras on December 27, 2010.



We'd love to see your baby's face.
Please see page 38 for publication guidelines.

Old Blue Rugby Football Club of New York. **Amy Jensen** wrote a book, *The Graduate's Guide to Networking*, which is available on Amazon.com. Amy completed her J.D. at Seton Hall and now works as director for programs and publications at Marc Garfinkle Seminars, a national provider of continuing education programs for attorneys and police, and publisher of how-to books for professionals. **Julie Mason** accepted a production manager position at Radio City Music Hall. She reports to the senior vice president of productions for MSG Entertainment. She is primarily working on the Christmas Spectacular and future planning for the MSG brands. **T. J. Tauriello** reports that his senior internship as an arts administration major at Wagner has turned into his dream job. He is manager for publicity at Warner Bros Records in Los Angeles, working with artists ranging from Green Day to Josh Groban.

2008

Class Agent: **Stephanie Savoia-Pearl** 403 Elm Street, Cranford, NJ 07016, stephanie.savoiapearl@gmail.com

2009

Class Agent: **Jacob Shoesmith-Fox** 570-765-5022, jacob.shoesmith-fox@wagner.edu

2010

Class Agent: **Spencer Taylor** 4 Sheridan Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, 570-839-8139, spencer.taylor@wagner.edu

2011

Christopher Valletta began his law studies at Tulane University in New Orleans this fall. **Peter Westwood** appeared in the first four episodes of the Country Music Television reality show *Sweet Home Alabama* this summer. It featured "10 city slickers and 10 southern gents vying for the affections of Devin Grissom, a southern girl from Alabama," according to the *Staten Island Advance*. On a one-day trip to New York City, Pete took Devin on a walking tour and bought her a hot dog, but failed to win her heart. Pete told the *Advance* the show was a good learning experience.

In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family

Alumni

Mrs. Edna N. Mondelli Fraine '40
Mrs. Shirley Macdonald Wigren '41
Mr. Joseph G. Streble '45
Mrs. Phyllis Ludwig Zillmann '46
Dr. Hans G. Engel '48
Mr. Jerome Giovinazzo '49
Mr. Frank V. Silva '50
Dr. Leonard E. Brady '51
Mr. Francis T. Dolen '51
Mr. George L. Ehrhardt '51
Mrs. Lillian A. Noren Posey '51
Mrs. Marilyn Peterson O'Rourke '53
Mr. Robert E. McNamara '54
Mrs. Jeanne Rylance Elliott '55
Mr. Edward J. Rutmayer '55
Dr. Henry Hergenhan '56
Ms. Elizabeth V. Hollenbeck Schoonmaker '56

Mrs. Irene Lueders Cunningham '57
Mr. Eustace Fotiu '57
Mr. Robert L. O'Donnell '57
Mr. Thomas J. O'Neill '57
Rev. Henry R. Gureck '58
Mr. Lawrence D. Seligman '58
Mrs. Bette Jean Huot Orange '60
Mr. Thomas P. De Simone '62
Mr. E. Richard Petrella '62
Mr. George P. Trivelas '62
Rev. Arvo E. Beck '63
Mr. Louis Subashi '64
Mrs. Pamela Edwards Mondragon-Petrova '66
Mr. Ward W. Westerberg '67
Mr. Robert Sarzillo '69
Mr. Gregory Ingenito '70
Mr. Glenn Frank Laughlin '70
Mr. Peter Wiggberg '71
Rev. Leigh F. Koerbel '72

Mrs. Maureen Miller Sprague M'72
Mr. Peter L. Krinitsky '75
Mr. Gregory Lindsey '76
Mr. Mark B. Citron M'78
Mrs. Lyle L'Hommedieu Cavanaugh M'80
Ms. Verna L. Willis '95
Dr. Hugh L. Carey H'07

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

Dr. Murvel Annan
Ms. Sylvia Breitberg
Mr. William J. Hodge
Mrs. Ellie Jacobsen
Prof. Stanley Lapidow
Mrs. Janet B. Miller
Mr. Joseph Saia

REMEMBRANCES

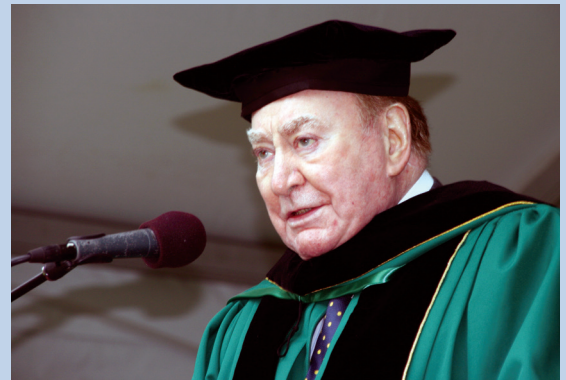
Dr. Hugh L. Carey H'07 *Former New York governor was patron of government reform institute at Wagner*

Hugh Leo Carey (April 11, 1919–August 7, 2011) was an American attorney, the 51st governor of New York from 1975 to 1982, and a seven-term United States Representative (1961–1974).

Governor Carey was also the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Wagner College, given in 2007; the patron of Wagner College's Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform, directed by Seymour P. Lachman; and the subject of Professor Lachman's most recent book, *The Man Who Saved New York: Hugh Carey and the Fiscal Crisis of 1975* (SUNY Press, 2010).

When Governor Carey passed away, Lachman was called upon to remind New Yorkers of what had made this man one of the Empire State's truly great statesmen.

In an op-ed column for the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, Lachman wrote, "Hugh Carey ... was one of New York's greatest governors. Not only did he save New York City from bankruptcy, but the way in which he did it provided a powerful example for today's government leaders. He brought together Republicans and Democrats, labor leaders and bankers, working people and business people to address a crisis facing all of them. He asked everyone to give up something, for the common good — but no one was asked to give more than their fair share."



Carey spoke at the 2007 Wagner commencement.

Will the Earth Heal Itself?

A chemist's perspective By Maria Gelabert

On a recent shopping trip to Target, I brought along my reusable cloth bags. When I remember them, I feel proud that I'm doing something small to help the environment. During checkout I lay them on the conveyor belt in front of my items, in hopes that the cashier doesn't blindly default to plastic bags.

This particular day, the cashier noticed my bags. With my usual polite procession of words, I kindly asked that he place my items in the cloth bags first. After all, I do recognize the additional effort required to use them.

The cashier, a seasoned, talkative gentleman, was perfectly agreeable to my request, but he said something that gave me pause. "The earth will heal itself," he remarked. His tone was not arrogant or critical, but it made me wonder what he intended. Was he implying that I shouldn't bother going to the extra effort of using cloth bags, because the earth can handle anything humanity throws at it? That we bear no responsibility for its care?

As a chemist, I see major problems with that line of reasoning. Earth will heal itself? Sure, on the millennial time scale, the earth will be where it was meant to be. But what are we doing to ourselves in the meantime?

Chemically speaking, there is no distinction between us and our environment. Virtually every molecule of oxygen we breathe comes from a plant, and some of the carbon dioxide absorbed by plants comes from us. That other molecule we need, water, makes up most of our bodies and of the earth. Planetary scientists use it as a marker for evidence of life. We are not only responsible for the earth; we're *part* of it. Caring for the environment has two beneficiaries: the earth and ourselves.

The main issue with our excess of plastic bags is also related to chemistry: compared to paper, plastics never fully break down. When placed in water, paper will eventually disintegrate into something similar to its wood pulp origins. Plastic bags, however, do not. Scientists have even documented a "plastic island" about 500



“We are not only responsible for the earth; we're part of it.”

nautical miles from California, nestled between Pacific Ocean vortices. It is estimated to contain 7 billion pounds of plastic waste. (And I'm worried about the bolus of plastic bags in my house, waiting for recycling!)

In my first-year learning community with molecular biologist Dr. Heather Cook, we're studying the plethora of evidence supporting anthropogenic — human-made — global warming. Hundreds of scientists working on the problem — people who are experts in ice core samples, ocean temperature, and many other markers — have contributed to the overwhelming big picture: that it's time to take care of the earth, *globally*.

I believe that with the acknowledgement that humanity and the earth are inseparable, Earth really will heal itself. But the responsibility falls on humanity to correct previous activity that has endangered the one habitat we all share. And I would argue that, in the immediate here and now, each of us can make a difference with a small change in lifestyle and a modest startup investment: reusable cloth bags.

Maria Gelabert is an associate professor of chemistry at Wagner College.

WAGNER COLLEGE



SLAM DUNK

Seahawk basketball season tipped off with a bang at Madness Before Midnight on October 14. Highlight of the evening was a dunk contest featuring Naofall Folahan '14, Kenneth Ortiz '14, Mario Moody '15, and above all, Josh Thompson '13. Turn to page 9 to see what he did to make celebrity judges (*right to left*) President Guarasci, former NBA star Darryl "Chocolate Thunder" Dawkins, Wagner dean and former women's basketball student-athlete Pat Tooker '79 M'95, and 2003 NEC Championship squad member Dedrick Dye '03 award perfect scores – and to launch a viral YouTube video.