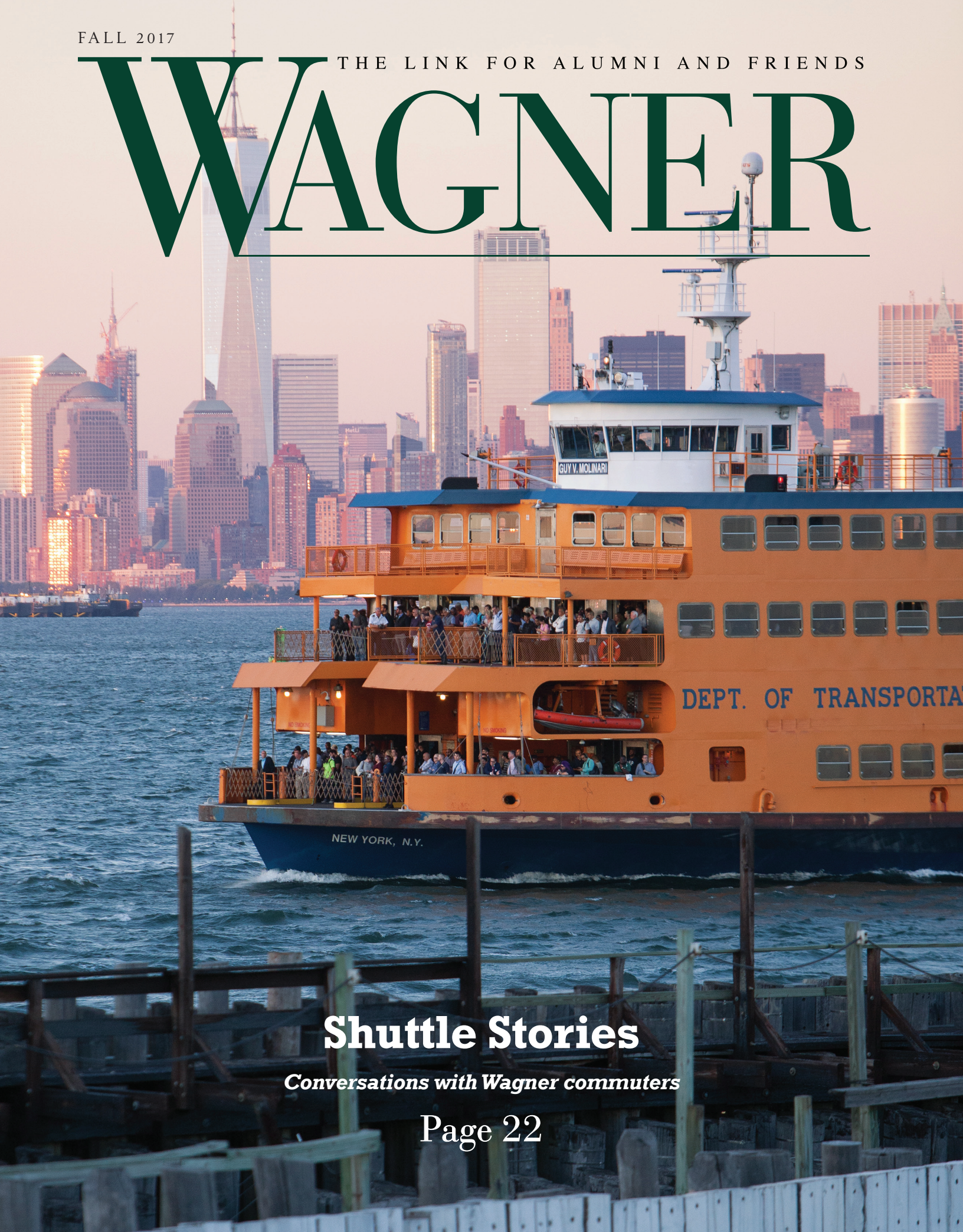


FALL 2017

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER



Shuttle Stories

Conversations with Wagner commuters

Page 22

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The Right Notes at the Right Time

After decades of playing with the stars and nurturing talent, jazz master Paul West '58 is still in the groove.

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(Ad)Dressing Wonder Woman

Elizabeth Doyle '17 and Professor Sarah Donovan reveal what philosophers see when they look at pop culture.

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Shuttle Stories

During 12 hours on the Wagner ferry shuttle, you have conversations with all kinds of commuters.



Warm-Up

Before the Homecoming game on October 14, the Seahawk Marching Band plays while the Homecoming Court lines up. It was the prelude to a long, wild night of football: Only after four overtimes did Central Connecticut edge the Seahawks, 51–45.

From the President

Supporting Students, No Strings Attached



THIS SUMMER, New York began offering a new scholarship for state universities. Its creation generated lots of news coverage, both good and bad. Those stories made me think about the extraordinary

levels of support we offer to Wagner College students — much of it made possible by the generosity of previous generations of students. A couple of stories in this issue of *Wagner Magazine* highlight some of those acts of generosity, including the incredible support of the late Don Spiro '49 H'88, who helped turn Wagner around in its darkest hour; and the gift of Maureen Robinson '67 H'03 that has endowed a faculty chair, enhancing the richness of the Wagner educational experience.

More than 90 percent of Wagner College students receive financial aid, which may take the form of direct Wagner scholarships; federal grants, guaranteed loans or work-study support; and Tuition Assistance Program aid for New York residents. Our student aid can be applied to the full range of the costs of attending college: tuition, books, room and board. To maintain their merit awards from the College, students must maintain good academic standing. That's all.

New York state's new scholarship program is billed as a "free college" plan, which is a truly admirable goal. Unfortunately, the Excelsior Scholarship (as it's called) has several shortcomings that severely limit its utility:

- It only covers tuition — which, at New York state-supported universities, is only a third of the cost of attending college. It doesn't apply to books, fees, room and board. That means the Excelsior Scholarship doesn't help students overcome their biggest financial barriers.
- It applies only to state-supported universities — even though private colleges produce more than half of all bachelor's degrees in New York, thus saving the state's taxpayers \$18,000 a year per student.

- To qualify for the Excelsior Scholarship, students must maintain a 15-credit-hour load (federal standards define full-time enrollment as 12 hours per semester), and they must be on track to graduate in four years — making everyone who needs to work full-time and attend college part-time ineligible for support.
- Students who receive an Excelsior Scholarship must sign a contract agreeing to live and work in New York state for as many years as they received a tuition award. If they don't, all of the money they received as tuition grants becomes a loan that must be repaid.

“I am proud of the generous support we receive from our former students, making possible the grants and scholarships that enable today's students to earn their degrees.”

All of these factors make me all the more proud of the generous support we receive from our former students, making possible the grants and scholarships that enable today's students to earn their degrees — without strings.

Richard Guarasci
PRESIDENT



From the Editor

Taking Time for Stories

Ever since I came to work at Wagner, in January 2007, the ferry shuttle service has been integral to campus life, offering nearly round-the-clock transportation between the campus and the Staten Island ferry terminal.

I myself have taken it often, whether on Wagner business or for after-work outings. For a long time, I have thought that a day on the shuttle would be a good way to generate a story for *Wagner Magazine*. You just never know whom you might meet, and I've often had interesting conversations with my fellow riders during these 10-minute trips. This fall, I finally picked a day and did it; see the results starting on page 22.

Here, I'd like to share a little more about the drivers. Most of them are retirees from government agencies, people who devoted their careers to public service of various kinds. In general, they aren't chatty; they keep their eyes on the road and make sure everyone has a safe trip. But, they all have stories, and I was fortunate to hear some of them during my day on the shuttle.

On one ride where I was the only passenger, I took the opportunity to chat with shuttle driver Mario Colasuonno, a retiree of the U.S. Postal Service. I asked, "What do you prefer, letter carrying or driving the Wagner shuttle?" He laughed. "You know what, I had a good time being a letter carrier. I enjoyed it," he told me.

He reminisced about walking his route in Brooklyn, picking up the mail to be delivered



from the green relay boxes on the street corners. When he came to Staten Island in the late 1970s, he drove a Ford Pinto to deliver the mail. (Those vehicles didn't work very well, he said. "How small were those? Very small.")

"Being a letter carrier, you get to meet all sorts of people," he mused. "The beauty in my eyes — it's almost corny — you get to know them and they get to know you. 'Come on in!' Christmastime, Thanksgiving, New Year's, you know, 'Sit down and have a meal.'"

I appreciated the opportunity this story gave me to get to know the Wagner community. Like Mario, I'm glad I have a job where I meet all sorts of people. It is, indeed, beautiful to listen to others' stories, sharing in the banquet of life.

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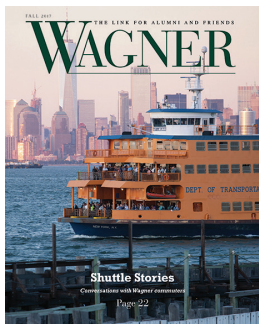
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Wagner Magazine:
The Link for Alumni and Friends
is published twice a year by Wagner's
Office of Communications and Marketing.

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On the Cover

The Staten Island ferry Guy V. Molinari comes in to dock at the St. George terminal on September 28. The boat is named for the class of 1949 Wagner College graduate who served as a U.S. congressman and Staten Island borough president.

PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BYRON

From Our Readers



“ [Wagner] has been for me many years of ‘Beautiful Upon a Hill’ and still is in my heart. ”

Here I Am

Greetings, Wagner! I am a graduate of the class of 1948. It was the largest graduating class in Wagner’s history up to that point. Dr. Langsam was president, Dr. John Bacher was dean, and Dr. Deal was head of the biology department (my major).

Since 1948, with the return of so many World War II veterans, Wagner Memorial Lutheran College grew in so many ways. Now it’s Wagner College, with an excellent reputation of which I am very proud.

After graduating magna cum laude, I married Dr. Robert Dole ’49 and lived in Rochester, New York, while he was in med school. Meanwhile, I worked in the medical research department laboratory in hematology.

Post-med school training was at Yale, New Haven, Connecticut, where he became a pediatrician and I continued motherhood. We settled in Cleveland, Ohio, and for me the years were spent bringing up four sons, all

of whom became Eagle Scouts and are doing well in their various fields.

So here I am, 91 years old and still “functioning” I just wanted Wagner to know how much I appreciate being able to graduate with a scholarship from Wagner and to live a full life.

... It has been for me many years of “Beautiful Upon a Hill” and still is in my heart.

Nieves Ribes Dole ’48
WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO

We Found Our Voice: The Book

A Facebook announcement of the publication of We Found Our Voice: A History of the Wagner College Choir by Laura Barlament elicited these responses.

“I sang from 1976 to 1979, including a fantastic tour throughout Germany! Dr. Arnold Running was our esteemed director! Great memories!”

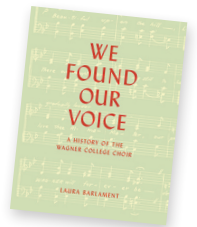
— *Dan Couture ’80*

“Received my copy last week. Great reminiscences of a wonderful college experience — being a Wagner College Choir member. Thanks for producing this.” — *Judith E. Hatke ’60*

“Thank you for bringing so much of our individual experience together in one place. Our separate stories and memories take on a whole new significance being brought together so well as your book does.”

— *Gene F. Barfield ’76*

Hardcover copies of this print-on-demand book may be ordered for \$27.97 at www.lulu.com/wagnercollegehistory. It also provides a link to a free pdf of the book.



WAGNER PLAN GRADS: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Do you know what LC and RFT mean? If you do, you are a Wagner Plan student. In 2018, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts, the groundbreaking curriculum that has defined the undergraduate academic experience since 1998. Graduates of 2002–2017, we want to hear from you! What are you up to today? How has the Wagner Plan influenced your life? Please write to laura.barlament@wagner.edu or call 718-390-3147.

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



PAGE TURNERS “The girls were excited. As soon as they learned we were creating a library, they were interested,” says Ayoub.

A Place to Think

A Wagner student opens a library for girls in her home country, Afghanistan

QAMAR MOHAMMAD AYOUB has already been on an extraordinary journey in her young life as an Afghan woman.

With her help, many more will follow.

Ayoub was born in Bamyán, Afghanistan, and was raised in that mountainous regional capital and in the national capital, Kabul.

The third-youngest child of nine siblings, she showed great academic aptitude in school. Her mother had received little education, and she promoted her daughter’s desire to learn. The family moved to Kabul so that she could receive more opportunities, such as attending an English academy.

Yet there were limits to what her family could give her. Her school, Sayed Shuhada High School, was overcrowded, with a 50:1 student-to-teacher ratio. It had neither computers for the students nor a library for the girls. (Girls and boys are educated separately in Afghan public schools.)

Ayoub wanted to study abroad. She found out about the Afghan Girls Financial Assistance Fund, an American non-profit that helps young Afghan women pursue an education in the U.S. It supports those who want to return to their home country, work for gender equality, and improve life in Afghanistan.

AGFAF made it possible for Ayoub to attend high school in Virginia. An aspiring physician, she became interested in Wagner College. “Wagner stood out to me because of its strong programs in the sciences,” she says. “I wanted to go to a small college where my professors would know me. And I love New York, of course!”

Wagner awarded Ayoub a scholarship. AGFAF supplies other essential expenses, such as books, health insurance, and the cost of traveling home during summer break.



“I’m not seeking to live my whole life here, but to have a safe place for my education and then to return to my country to make change there. Afghanistan needs me,” Ayoub says.

This past summer, Ayoub started her mission of making positive change in Afghanistan: She opened a library for the girls of Sayed Shuhada High School.

While AGFAF provided funds, Ayoub worked with school and government officials, obtained permits, and contracted with carpenters and electricians. AGFAF board member Joe Highland mentored her through this process.

“Girls’ schooling in Afghanistan traditionally is, ‘Sit down, listen, and write down what I say,’” says Highland. “We are trying to create a culture where girls read, ask questions, and discuss what they read.”

The library was created by enclosing a balcony within the school. The 500-square-foot space is filled with 1,000 books. Ayoub named the library Andeshagah, a Farsi word that means “a place to think or contemplate.”

Two local Afghan college students staff the library. In addition to lending books, it offers a book club, a public speaking class, and a photography class.

“The library operates as a center for opportunities beyond what these girls usually get,” Highland says. “It’s life-changing.”



You can follow Andeshagah Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Adeshagah.Library and learn more about AGFAF and www.agfaf.org.



First the Facts . . .

300

NUMBER OF STEPS REQUIRED TO WALK
A WELL-KNOWN CAMPUS PATHWAY

37

NUMBER OF TREES THAT LINE
THIS PATHWAY



PAYING TRIBUTE The choir, conducted by Roger Wesby; student-athletes and nurses holding candles; President Guarasci speaking.



He Decided to Make a Difference

The many facets of the late Dr. Donald W. Spiro '49 H'88 shone at campus memorial service

WAGNER COLLEGE PAID TRIBUTE to Dr. Donald W. Spiro '49 H'88, chairman emeritus and lifetime member of the Board of Trustees, at a memorial service on October 13.

Spiro died on July 30 at age 91. He was one of the College's most generous donors and a key player in its success.

"In the 1980s and '90s, he was determined that this College would not fail," said President Guarasci. "And not only that, he was determined that this College would aspire to excellence."

A Staten Island native, Donald Spiro served his country in World War II and then studied business administration at Wagner, choosing it over Princeton. He managed his family's business, Capitol Market, a butcher shop and purveyor of marine institutional food, before beginning a brilliant career on Wall Street. After a couple of years with the Dreyfus Corporation, he began his 37-year career with

Oppenheimer Management Corporation. He started as a fund representative. After three years, he was named vice president for sales. In 1968, he was promoted to general partner. From 1985 to 1991, he served as chairman of Oppenheimer Management Corporation, and was named chairman emeritus upon stepping down.

During the memorial service, Norman Smith, Wagner's president from 1988 to 2001, recalled that critical moment in 1988 when Spiro stepped in to raise millions of dollars in emergency funds that would keep the College open.

"Wagner College would not be here without Don Spiro," Smith said. Spiro was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1974 and became chairman in 1989. Not only did he give of his own means, but he also recruited other key Wagner alumni to contribute and serve as trustees.

Two of those trustees, Dr. Robert C. O'Brien '66 H'95 and Dr. John H. Myers '67 H'02, spoke about Spiro's business leadership as well as his instrumental role at Wagner.

Myers, the former president and CEO of GE Asset Management, hailed Spiro as a marketing genius, a leader in corporate governance and ethics, a financial products innovator, and a pioneer in hiring women.

"Wagner was very fortunate to have a man like Don Spiro who decided to make a difference here on Grymes Hill," Myers said. "The legacy he has left at Wagner will live on."

The names of Donald Spiro and of his wife and college sweetheart, Dr. Evelyn Lindfors Spiro '49 H'92, mark many key buildings and programs on campus. Their daughter Kimberly

1/10
OF A MILE IS THE
PATHWAY'S LENGTH

...Then
the Quiz!



Which campus feature, surrounded by a pathway, is named for the man who selected Wagner's location 100 years ago this fall? ANSWER ON PAGE 11



SHARING MEMORIES Kimberly Spiro, daughter of Don and Evelyn Spiro (portraits on far left and right); Dr. John H. Myers '67 H'02.

Spiro, a current Wagner trustee, explained that “every building has a dream and a meaning.” She spoke of Donald and Evelyn’s deep devotion, which inspired their many gifts.

Donald Spiro believed in promoting students’ access to technology and athletic excellence, leading him to fund the College’s first computer lab in the Spiro Communications Center and a major expansion of the Sutter Gymnasium into the Spiro Sports Center. His gifts to the health professions at Wagner were motivated by his love for Evelyn, a nursing graduate. In 2005, Wagner opened the Evelyn Lindfors Spiro Nursing Resource Center. In 2006, Wagner’s department of nursing was named the Evelyn L. Spiro

School of Nursing. In addition, the Spiros funded a summer internship program for Wagner’s nursing and biology students at the hospital and biomedical laboratories of Johns Hopkins University.

Dozens of nursing students and student-athletes attended the memorial service, and the Wagner College Choir provided the music. Another speaker at the service was the Rev. Sarah Barnes ’11, recipient of the Dr. Donald W. Spiro Award for Outstanding Academic and Co-Curricular Achievements, the top student honor awarded each year to a senior at commencement.



Evidence of Excellence

Annual college guides continue to rank Wagner at the top of the class

- For the 19th year in a row, Wagner was ranked in the Top 25 percent of northern regional universities in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2018 Best Colleges guide. Wagner was also ranked as a best value college.
- Wagner was named one of America’s best colleges in the 2018 edition of the Princeton Review’s *Best 382 Colleges* guide. Special kudos went to the Wagner College Theatre program, which was ranked No. 4 in the nation. WCT has been on this list for more than a decade.
- For the fifth year in a row, Wagner appeared on the *Forbes* America’s Top Colleges list. *Forbes* emphasizes “the direct benefits a college or university provides its students,” looking at criteria like graduation rates and alumni salaries.

Quote Unquote

“Luther believed our work is a way of glorifying God, of serving God, and all vocations and forms of work in the world are equal.”



Walter Kaelber, Robinson Family
Chair of Comparative Religion

REFLECTING ON THE REFORMATION
SYMPOSIUM, OCT. 23



LASTING LEGACY The Martin Luther monument in Dresden, Germany, south of Wittenberg, is one of many markers of the religious reformer's historic significance.

Reflecting on the Reformation

Wagner devotes a day to Martin Luther's legacy

WAGNER HAS BEEN a non-sectarian college for decades. But, like many American colleges, it was founded with a religious purpose — in Wagner's case, it was founded by Lutherans to educate pastors. Although it soon embraced a broader educational purpose, for 76 of the College's 134 years, "Lutheran" was part of its name (Wagner Memorial Lutheran College until 1952, Wagner Lutheran College until 1959). Scores of alumni are Lutheran pastors and Lutheran church members.

That history, plus the overwhelming historical importance of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, impelled Wagner's faculty to offer a full-day symposium this fall on the Reformation's 500th anniversary and Martin Luther's legacy.

The symposium organizers were Alison Smith, professor of history; Rita Reynolds, associate professor and chair of the history department; and Kristen Whitaker, department secretary.

In October 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther nailed 95 theses, outlining his arguments against certain practices of the Roman Catholic Church, to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. So the story goes, at least. Introducing the symposium, Provost Lily McNair pointed out that the exact details are uncertain.

"Last night, we had a very interesting conversation about whether or not Martin Luther actually *nailed* his 95 theses on the Wittenberg church door," McNair said. "There is abundant evidence, both for and against. What is certain is that on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther mailed the 95 theses to the archbishop of Mainz." Thus, he unleashed a series of events that led to the Protestant Reformation.

The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, a Wagner trustee and bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, introduced the two guest scholars who spoke: Joy Schroeder, Bergener Chair of Theology and Religion at Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio; and Anthony Bateza, assistant professor of religion at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Most of the speakers during the day-long event were Wagner faculty: six professors representing the departments of history, English, religion, and art history. In addition, Wagner's chaplain, the Rev. Martin Malzahn, and a visiting Fulbright professor, Kamil Wielecki, added to the conversation.

The many-faceted discussion addressed questions such as Luther's theology and the influence of Luther and the Protestant worldview on science and art, as well as such vexing issues as Luther's anti-Semitism and racism in Protestant churches.

At the symposium's end, Bishop Rimbo summarized the best and the worst of the Lutheran heritage in today's Lutheran world.

"The worst thing we can do," Rimbo concluded, "is look backward, and the best thing we can do is ask, 'How can our commitment to unity in Christ, and how can our commitment to unity with other faiths shape our life in the next 500 years?' The days of denominations are over. We need to take the pieces that are life-giving and fruitful for us today. Other pieces will need to be left behind."

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Printmaking Studio

BILL MURPHY, PROFESSOR OF ART, has been teaching printmaking at Wagner since 1984, in the studio located in Parker Hall's basement. Murphy is well-known for his own etchings and lithography. Here, he shares his expertise in drypoint etching, a style of intaglio printmaking, with students.

- 5 Mckenzie Kupres '18 reveals her final print. An arts administration major, she is also president of the Wagner Choir. Last spring, she went on the choir tour in Spain and captured this image of the palm trees at sunrise in Malaga, on the country's southern coast.

5

4

- 4 The inked plate is placed on the press bed and covered with dampened paper. The hand-cranked press applies an even pressure that transfers the ink from plate to paper. This press is about 50 years old and was made by Charles Brand, a famous manufacturer.

- 3 Ink is added to the plate. It sits in the lines and on the raised edges, or burrs. Burrs are unique to dry point etching and come from the act of scratching lines directly into the plate.

- 2 Joanna Catalano '18 is a theater design, technology, and management major and an art minor. "It just came to me," she says of her design. "I draw faces a lot. I like how the print turned out. I like how it makes my style look nostalgic. I usually use color. I love color. But this class is making me like black and white more."

- 1 The print starts with a metal plate. The students bring a drawing or other image scaled to the size of the plate, and Murphy shows them how to transfer it to the plate using a tool called a scribe.

1

2

3

Quote Unquote

“During pregnancy, women’s experiences affect the fetus and shape their babies’ future brain/behavior development.”



Catherine Monk,
Professor of Medical
Psychology, Columbia
University

KAUFMAN-REPAGE
LECTURE, OCT. 11



SEAHAWK STALWART Dr. Maureen L. Robinson '67 H'03 celebrated her 50th graduation anniversary this year at Wagner Reunion with fellow cheerleaders Linda Cathers Schueler '69 and Sharon Kaplan Luchow '67.

A Fund for Mutual Understanding

New endowed chair boosts the study of world religions at Wagner

WALTER KAELEBER, PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, was named this fall to the new Robinson Family Chair of Comparative Religion.

This named chair — the first in the humanities at Wagner — is a gift of Dr. Maureen L. Robinson '67 H'03, a longtime supporter and trustee. The chair is supported by an endowment, which will allow the College to fund it in perpetuity.

A Wagner English major, Robinson spent her career teaching English at Curtis High School in Staten Island.

“A great and dedicated faculty is the very heart of important educational institutions,” she says. “When I look back at my undergraduate years, it was my professors who pushed me to keep reading and analyzing the world around me.”

For the past dozen years, Robinson has annually funded a grant to support the scholarly pursuits of junior faculty in the humanities. The new endowed chair in comparative religion, she says, is a logical outgrowth of that program.

Robinson adds that studying religion at Wagner was extremely valuable for her personally. “The required religion

class, given by Lutheran ministers, was an eye-opening course on religious diversity,” she says. “It has stayed with me and guided me all my life, enhancing my understanding of history, of cultures, of my students and even in my travels.”

Kaelber, who has taught at Wagner since 1972, emphasizes the value that studying religion has for today’s students.

When he went to graduate school at the University of Chicago in the 1960s to study under

the renowned scholar Mircea Eliade, interest in Eastern religions was reaching a cultural peak as a personal quest for many young people. Over the past 50 years, the world has changed greatly, but the need for education in world religions has gained even more importance.

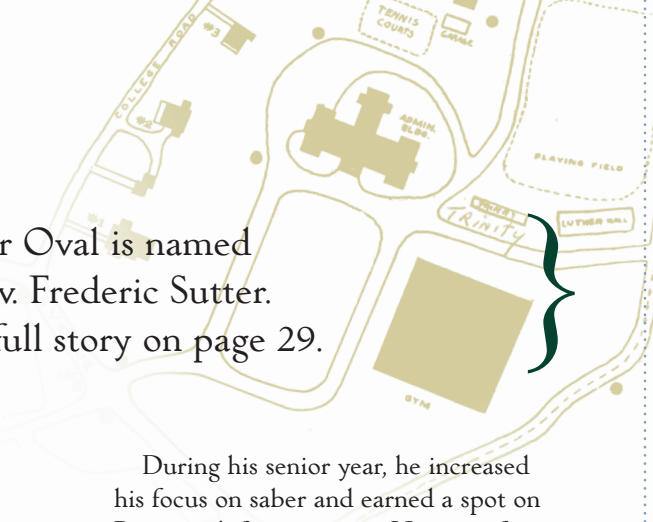
“What enables people to get along with each other and understand each other has nothing to do with technology,” says Kaelber. “How do we understand people with different beliefs? How do you work with people from other cultures? How do we reduce misunderstandings? The world is much smaller. The study of religion is a means of bringing people together in mutual understanding.”

Wagner offers a minor in religious studies, and all students must take courses in the humanities and international perspectives as part of their general education. Kaelber’s courses this fall include *Spiritual Quest in Literature*, which examines religious questions in fiction; *Hinduism and Buddhism*; and *Death and Beyond*, a cross-cultural study of beliefs and practices regarding death and the afterlife.

While the Robinson Family Chair is the first to support the humanities, the Megerle family established the Martha Megerle and Eugen E. Megerle Chairs in the Sciences in 2011. The Megerle Chairs rotate every two years among the faculty in biology, chemistry, microbiology, physics, and anthropology. Faculty in those areas apply for these funded positions in support of their research.

The Answer
 QUIZ QUESTION
 ON PAGE 7

The Sutter Oval is named for the Rev. Frederic Sutter. Read the full story on page 29.



Foiled Again

A seabird scientist coaches Seahawk saber

AS AN ORNITHOLOGICAL PROFESSIONAL, Professor Brian Palestis says, “Seahawks are not real birds.”

But when it comes to the new Seahawk fencing team, he’s all in.

Palestis is a professor of biological sciences at Wagner. His specialties are animal behavior, ecology, and evolutionary biology; he focuses on birds and has published many studies about terns. His research also touches on sports science.

Palestis is also an expert in the sport of fencing. Last year, when Wagner added women’s fencing to its roster of NCAA athletic teams, he started coaching the team as a volunteer. His specialty is the saber. (Fencing includes three events: saber, foil, and epee, each of which has its own set of rules and techniques.)

Palestis began fencing during his freshman year at Pompton Lakes High School in New Jersey. He was an all-around athlete, competing in several sports and playing football through his junior year of high school.

During his senior year, he increased his focus on saber and earned a spot on Princeton’s fencing team. He was a four-year starter and two-time Honorable Mention All-American for a team that won Ivy League titles in 1994 and 1995 and placed fourth at the 1994 NCAA championship. (His brother, Paul Palestis, a member of New York University’s fencing team, won the 1995 NCAA national individual championship in saber.)

For years, Palestis has coached and refereed for New Jersey private fencing clubs. Now, he works three hours a week with the Wagner fencers on their saber skills.

Last year, Palestis and Head Coach Fatima Largaespada coached a few student-athletes who came to fencing from other sports. This year, they have a full team that includes three experienced freshman recruits. They also gained another assistant coach, Olivia Wynn, a Temple University fencing alumna.

The season started in November, and the team has won two meets so far, defeating Queens College at the Vassar Invitational and Yeshiva University at the LIU Post Invitational.

It seems the ornithologist-coach took to the Seahawks like a duck to water.



Theatre performance majors Danielle Allen '18 and Emily Upton '20 perform in *Trifles*.

Theater’s Workshop

Wagner College Theatre is giving students the opportunity this year to be a part of creating new stage plays – and audiences the chance to watch theater-in-the-making – through its New Works Agenda. This series is being produced in Stage One, the black-box theater located behind the Wagner football field.

“We’re interested in working with students on new plays and musical theater works that have been unknown to the actors,” says Professor Theresa McCarthy, who is spearheading the New Works Agenda. “We want to give them the opportunity to create a role that has no precedent for them to emulate.”

This fall, the workshop series featured the one-act play *Trifles* by pioneering feminist writer Susan Glaspell (1876–1948) and the musical *Small Town Story*, with book and lyrics by Sammy Buck and music and lyrics by Brandon James Gwinn.


In the spring, McCarthy will direct *The Mouth Pieces* (April 6–8), an evening of three one-act musicals by two contemporary theater artists, Sophia Chapadjiev (lyrics) and Allison Leyton-Brown (music).

The student actors will learn these pieces during an abbreviated rehearsal process, mirroring how new musicals are created and “workshopped” in the professional theater world. “This is a crucial opportunity for the students to process the material much more quickly than they are accustomed to do, while maintaining the same level of attention to detail in order to prepare for their performance,” says McCarthy.

And, who knows? Today’s workshop could result in tomorrow’s Broadway hit.




DR. COACH Brian Palestis, professor of biological sciences, coaches the saber event for Wagner’s new women’s fencing team.



*After decades of playing with
the stars and nurturing talent,
jazz master Paul West '58
is still in the groove*

*the
right
notes* at
*the right
time*

BY DAVID
MCKAY
WILSON



WHEN JAZZ BASSIST Paul West '58 arrived at Wagner College in the fall of 1954, he was a very busy man, with what seemed like an attainable goal.

Years before he would play with Dizzy Gillespie or Carmen McRae, and 63 years before his latest recording was released this fall, West wanted to major in music education, intent on launching a teaching career in New York City's public schools. That would provide the financial security to raise a family, and evenings free to pursue his artistic dreams in the world of jazz.

He arrived on Grymes Hill with a basketball scholarship, courtesy of the connection he made with Coach Herb Sutter through his brother, Lonnie West '58, one of Wagner's all-time basketball greats.

West had a full-time job for three months during his freshman year, playing four sets nightly with a quartet at a Harlem club called The Baby Grand.

"I'd play until 4 a.m., take the subway to the ferry, get to Wagner, and nap in my brother's dorm room," recalls West, a trim octogenarian who lives with his wife, Mariko, in an 11th-floor Bronx apartment that overlooks the Hudson River. "I'd have classes from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., then go to basketball practice at 3. I'd squeeze in some homework, and then it was back up to Harlem to play."

He juggled his way through two years at Wagner. But in September 1956, as he prepared for his junior year, the telephone rang.

It was Dizzy Gillespie, the bebop trumpet virtuoso who was going on the road with his big band.

Was Paul West, the 22-year-old classically trained violinist, who first picked up the bass in his senior year of high school, available? Would he join the band with 18-year-old trumpet wunderkind Lee Morgan?

The decision came quickly.

"Dizzy was the king," says West.

He had a plan. He'd take a leave from Wagner, tour with Dizzy, resume his studies, and land that teaching job in a few years.

"I knew that the life of a musician did not necessarily mean steady employment," he says. "Sure, musicians can make money, but you are always traveling, and the money's not reliable for a family."

West's life didn't go exactly according to his plan. It took West until 2001 to finally obtain his Wagner diploma. Nevertheless, he enjoyed a top-flight career in performance and music education, just as he'd contemplated in the early 1950s. He performed with the icons of 20th-century jazz and emerged as a stalwart in New York's music education community.

JAZZ ROYALTY

WEST HAS ACCOMPANIED A pantheon of jazz luminaries. There were the singers: Billie Holiday, Carmen McRae, Dinah Washington, Betty Carter, and Abbey Lincoln. There were the pianists: Randy Weston, Tommy Flanagan, Kenny Barron, and Erroll Garner. And there were the band leaders: Lester Young, Milt Jackson, and Max Roach.

Jazz singers in particular wanted West backing them.

"You are there to support the artist, not to demonstrate how capable you are, playing all over the instrument with a lot of notes," he says. "You need to play the right notes, at the right time, to the right beat. You need to support the singer, both harmonically and rhythmically."

He was a music educator too, though he never received his teaching certificate. Instead, he was an arts administrator, serving as executive director of New York City's Jazzmobile program from 1969 to 1973. That's when he befriended Mayor John Lindsay, who believed in

the power of music to transform lives and build communities.

In 1973, he took charge as director of the Henry Street Settlement Music School in Manhattan's Lower East Side. Until 2000, he created the programs and atmosphere to educate a generation of New York musicians.

No college diploma was required to work at the school, part of the Henry Street Settlement non-profit, founded in 1893. It provides a wide range of social services to more than 60,000 New Yorkers each year.

"It ended up working out better for me," says West. "I became an administrator of the arts. I wasn't a teacher. I hired them."

At Henry Street, West developed programs in jazz, opera, choral, and symphonic music. He produced fundraising events as well, which featured some of the jazz world's top artists.

West, who had produced almost 300

concerts at Jazzmobile, had a tendency to dream big. In the early 1980s, Henry Street built the Louis Abrons Arts for Living Center, a facility for its multi-disciplinary programs in music, dance, theater, and the visual arts. But it didn't have the budget to operate it. West suggested bringing jazz royalty to Lincoln Center to raise operating funds for the facility.

He laid out his vision to the Henry Street board for a benefit concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. West would conduct the Henry Street Orchestra, featuring singer Carmen McRae. Then Tony Bennett would sing with the Count Basie Orchestra.

"Some people doubted I could do it, but the board backed me, and we filled Lincoln Center," says West, pointing to the concert's poster, which hangs in his Riverdale living room. "We received millions in publicity and awareness.

That concert was the pinnacle."

At Henry Street, he met jazz pianist Randy Weston, the composer, educator, and band leader who melded African rhythms with Western jazz. Weston needed rehearsal space for his band. West found a practice room for him at Henry Street. Weston later called on West to conduct orchestras in Manhattan and Montreal.

Last fall, West participated in Weston's jazz history program at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

"Paul has a wonderful touch as a conductor," says Weston. "He's very calm, and knows the feelings of the jazz musicians."

Now 83, West has outlived many of his contemporaries, several of whom succumbed to alcoholism or substance abuse. West, the son of a Wagner-educated Lutheran minister, credits his Harlem upbringing for keeping him on the straight-and-narrow.



“I was a strong-minded Christian,” says West. “I knew my limitations. Thank God I was able to repel a lot of activity that surrounded me. I had my family strength. I had to be strong enough to keep away from it, and I did. Here I am, I’m 83, and I’m still playing.”

THE STANDARDS, REVISITED

THIS FALL, WEST HAS BEEN in demand on bandstands around the New York metropolitan area, riding the wave following the release of the Mike Longo Trio’s album, *Only Time Will Tell*. Longo and West go back to the early 1960s, when they played at the Playboy Club on East 59th Street.

In September, Longo and West performed as a duo at Mezzrow in Greenwich Village. Two weeks later, they played at the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens. By month’s end, they were at Maureen’s Jazz Cellar in Nyack, interpreting some of the same standards they played more than five decades ago, like Jerome Kern’s 1930s ballad, “Yesterdays.”

“What I like about Paul is his bass line, his musicality, and his taste,” says Longo. “He plays so tastefully. And he’s got one of the swinging-est grooves around.”

On stage at Maureen’s, West perches on a stool, his argyle socks showing above his shoes, which tap to keep the beat. West strolls through “The Shadow of Your Smile,” one of the tunes Longo and West played with Dizzy Gillespie’s quintet in the late 1960s. He’s really swinging when they launch into Duke Ellington’s “Love You Madly,” venturing all the way down the neck of the bass to hit a high note.

By the time they play “Summertime” from Geršwin’s *Porgy and Bess*, West

**“Every time you play, it’s different.
That’s the uniqueness of jazz.
How do you feel that day?
Are you sad? Are you happy?
Do you want to be intellectual?”**

slows it down, as the seasoned jazz masters improvise, with West’s bass laying down the sultry melody. His eyes are closed as his hands dance along the strings.

“I like playing in a duo because it reveals the essence and importance of the bass,” says West. “It plays a dominant role, taking the role of both the bass and the drums – both rhythmic and melodic.”

He enjoys reworking the standards, which afford opportunities for improvisation as the tune unfolds.

“Every time you play, it’s different,” he says. “That’s the uniqueness of jazz. How do you feel that day? Are you sad? Are you happy? Do you want to be intellectual? It’s all about the music, and how you hear it that day.”

GROWING UP IN HARLEM

WEST’S APPRECIATION of music started young — both at home and at the church his father led in Harlem.

His father, the Reverend Paul West ’25, who was born in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, spent much of his youth in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. He moved to New York, and later enrolled at Wagner, where he studied religion.

After the senior West’s graduation, he went to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He was ordained and was called to lead the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the

Transfiguration at West 126th Street and Lenox Avenue, in a neighborhood where immigrants from the West Indies had flocked in the early 20th century. Rev. West served as pastor there until 1955.

Paul West grew up in his father’s church, where music was a central part of its worship. His mother was a piano teacher. West began his violin studies at age 6, with his uncle.

By the time he’d graduated from the High School of Music & Art, he’d performed at Carnegie Hall and conducted the high school’s senior symphony orchestra. At church, he organized a youth orchestra and chorus for teens throughout Harlem.

“There was no jazz at home,” West says. “All I heard was classical music.”

He discovered the bass during his senior year of high school. One afternoon, when the jazz band was rehearsing swing tunes from the Count Basie charts, West decided to explore the closet that stored the basses. He picked one up, and started plucking along with the band.

When it stopped, he kept playing. The teacher heard him. He was busted.

“The teacher told me if I wanted to play, to move up to the stand,” he recalls. “I didn’t know anything about the bass. But I knew the violin, and I applied what I knew.”

That set him in motion. He had a pianist friend who played jazz, and they started collaborating. He wasn’t ready for college, so he worked

THE INSTRUMENT Paul West with his double bass, which he still practices every day (*far left*). **THE BATON** West conducts the Henry Street Settlement Symphony Orchestra with Carmen McRae at Avery Fisher Hall in January 1983 (*top right*). **THE KING** Dizzy Gillespie’s band at Birdland in 1957 with Paul West on bass, Dizzy with his trademark bent trumpet, and the actor Marlon Brando on conga (*bottom right*).

JAZZ STARS Dizzy Gillespie's band in 1957: Paul West, Ernie Henry, Bennie Golson, Charli Persip, and Lee Morgan (*opposite, top left*). **FAMILY** Paul West, seated next to his mother, with his wife, two daughters, sons-in-law, and six grandchildren (*bottom left*). **HOME** In his living room, awards line the walls (*far right*).

at Melody Music in Midtown Manhattan, where he came in touch with the 1950s music scene.

Three years later, after enrolling in Wagner, he had his first recording date, with Ray Charles, the up-and-coming pianist and singer, on what became the smash hit, "Drown in My Own Tears."

West's work in the studio and clubs caught the ear of Gillespie, who invited him to join his 17-piece big band in 1956. West was married to his first wife, Carlotta; and, by the time the band broke up in early 1958, they had a daughter, Lera, and a second, Deborah, was on the way.

Another call came from Dinah Washington, the singer they called "Queen of the Blues," who needed a bass player for her trio.

West wasn't returning to Wagner just yet.

The band hit the road, with West driving a Chrysler station wagon and Washington riding in her Chrysler Imperial. Reality hit home one night, away from his baby girls, when Washington sang the slow ballad, "I Thought About You."

The lyrics touched his lonely heart.

"Tears came out of my eyes," he recalls. "Dinah turned around, and

retirement home in the Catskills. His mother stayed after his father's death in 1957, and West moved his family to a bungalow next door. He landed a teaching job at the Otisville Training School for Boys during the day and played a steady jazz gig at night at the Concord Hotel.

New York City, however, beckoned. In 1963, he was back, playing with the house band at the Playboy Club. It was a steady job.

It brought him back to Wagner, commuting over the Verrazano Bridge in his Pontiac Bonneville from Brooklyn, intent on earning his diploma. On Grymes Hill, he found inspiration from music professor Harald Normann.

Normann instructed West to play all the instruments he'd need to teach in the New York City public schools. West also played in the college band Normann led, which performed in 1964 at the World's Fair in Flushing, Queens, with West conducting one tune for that performance.

"Dr. Normann and his wife, Polly, were very supportive of what I wanted to do," he recalls. "My plan was to get away from going on the road."

That didn't happen quite yet. The calls kept coming in. There was British

jazz band in 1968 when the Navy spy ship *USS Pueblo* was attacked by North Korea in the Sea of Japan. While West was in Los Angeles, awaiting his plane, the State Department canceled the trip.

Stranded briefly in L.A., he connected with the local jazz scene. One night he showed up at the Lighthouse Club to hear Dizzy Gillespie's quintet. Gillespie motioned him up to the bandstand.

The band's bass player had just been removed from the club by local police who were investigating a crime.

"Dizzy says to me: 'I need a bass player. Can you play?'" recalls West.

He played that night, and joined the band, with Mike Longo on piano, and off they went for more than a year on the road, until he was tapped to become executive director of New York City's Jazzmobile program.

LEE MORGAN'S MURDER

DURING HIS STINT at Jazzmobile, West reconnected with Lee Morgan, the youthful trumpeter. It wasn't pretty at first, when he came across Morgan in an alleyway, strung out on heroin. But Morgan soon found love, with a woman named Helen Moore, and recovered. West hired him for teaching and performance gigs with Jazzmobile as Morgan once again found his footing in music.

"I thought the best situation for him would be to get him involved with young musicians, who would look to him for musical and spiritual guidance, where he'd give of himself, and develop a sense of worthiness."

That helped, but not enough.

West was a witness to the tragic incident.

One snowy night in February 1972, West went downtown to hear Morgan play at Slug's Saloon in the East

"The second night we played the song again. The same thing happened. I felt such loneliness. I wanted to be with my babies and wife."

says, 'I got you!' The second night we played the song again. The same thing happened. I felt such loneliness. I wanted to be with my babies and wife."

He stopped touring and moved his family to upstate New York. In the mid-1950s, his parents had built a

singer Petula Clark, famous for the song "Downtown," who came to tour the U.S. and Canada. There was French singer Charles Aznavour, who arrived for six weeks in North America.

He was all set to travel to Asia with a U.S. State Department-sponsored



Village. Morgan was drunk. Morgan's wife, Helen, was not happy to see another lady on Morgan's arm.

She approached West in the bar, and asked him to intervene. West told Morgan that he needed to send the young lady home in a cab. Morgan didn't listen. Morgan and his wife got into a verbal battle over his betrayal. Then Morgan shoved her out into the cold, without a jacket.

She returned, irate.

"I'm on my way to give Helen her coat, and she taps Lee on the shoulder," West says. "I'm five feet away. Her hand is in her hand bag. Then, boom! The gun goes off. No dialogue. No nothing. And Lee Morgan was dead."

West was a primary source for the 2016 documentary *I Called Him Morgan*, which explores the young jazz trumpeter's all-too-short life. He was also on a Lincoln Center panel that discussed Morgan's life — and death — at the movie's New York Film Festival premiere.

"The movie really hit me emotionally," says West. "I thought back on what his stature could have

been, when you think of the talent he demonstrated as a youngster. In 1972, he was on his way back, to be one of the leaders of the pack."

FINALLY A WAGNER GRADUATE

AFTER RETIRING from Henry Street in 2000, West again focused on his Wagner diploma. Over the years, he'd cobbled together credits from City College of New York, Pace University, and Orange County Community College, with the lion's share of his credits from Wagner.

What he lacked was enough credits in his major — music education.

"I was possessed with finishing this thing," he says.

The problem dated back to 1956, when he was working full time and taking three music courses. That's when he butted heads with one of his professors over music theory, which he'd learned at the High School of Music & Art, and in jazz clubs around New York.

They disagreed over such issues as chord progressions and the development of Johann Sebastian Bach's

fugues. West recalls that his fellow students encouraged him to speak up if he disagreed, which West often did. The professor didn't like West's attitude one bit. He flunked West in all three courses, despite the fact that West had received an A in each class.

The professor cited West's absenteeism — more than three per course — as grounds for the Fs.

"He was really angry with me, and I could understand that," West says. "I was excessively absent, as I was working all those jobs and commuting to Wagner. But I'd completed the courses. I worked really hard for it. I had paid my dues. I only wanted to get what I earned."

College officials reviewed his record. They reversed those flunking grades. In 2001, West received his Wagner diploma.

All was forgiven. In 2008, the class of 1958 — his class — gave him a plaque, honoring his time at Wagner. In 2012, West's trio performed at Wagner College President Richard Guarasci's 10th anniversary celebration at the Ritz-Carlton in Battery Park City.

"I deeply appreciate what Wagner gave me," says West. "Wagner was home to me." ■

What Philosophers See When They Look at Pop Culture

(A D) D R



PHILOSOPHY PROFESSORS and senior philosophy majors: Aren't those the types who sit around and debate the fine points of Plato's metaphysics? Wouldn't you picture them, dressed in their tweed jackets and holding their pipes, turning up their noses at a flashy movie about a pretty, scantily clad superhero like Wonder Woman?

Yet the summer blockbuster movie *Wonder Woman* is precisely what we — a philosophy major and an associate

ESSAYING WONDER WOMAN

By Elizabeth Doyle '17 and Sarah Donovan

professor of philosophy — have been discussing. While we do enjoy pondering the postmodern critique of the Enlightenment subject, we bonded in a different way this summer. That's when Ms. Doyle noticed a timely new book on Professor Donovan's desk, *Wonder Woman and Philosophy: The Amazonian Mystique*. Donovan had contributed a chapter to this book. Doyle was intrigued. She borrowed the book, and a conversation began.

We believe that pop culture is

a place where philosophy can and should be applied. With Doyle graduating in December with a degree in philosophy, what better moment to think collaboratively about pop culture and the wide world Doyle will enter? With whom would it be better to think it through than one of the most successful female superheroes, Wonder Woman?

The philosophical topics *Wonder Woman* opens up are numerous. But since we have already mentioned

clothing (and, just to set the record straight, we do not wear tweed), we would like to focus our critique on something that may seem stereotypically feminine: what Wonder Woman is wearing. Our intention, however, is not to comment on Wonder Woman's style, but rather to show that the scenes where she changes her clothing present opportunities to think philosophically about gender roles and expectations.

SCENE ONE: The Glasses Really Make the Outfit

FOR ANYONE who hasn't seen the movie, let us set the scene. It introduces Wonder Woman as a character named Diana who has spent her entire life among a society of female warriors on Paradise Island. Into this feminist paradise bursts Steve Trevor, a World War I Allied spy who crashes through the island's magical, protective barrier. The idealistic young superhero insists on leaving with him when he promises to help her pursue her mission to defeat the God of War.

They proceed back to London, circa 1917. Steve wants Wonder Woman to blend in. Her style of dress — the typical Wonder Woman outfit with combat bustier, short skirt, and boots — is not socially acceptable here. Steve and his secretary, Etta Candy, take Wonder Woman to an upscale clothing store to buy her an “appropriate” new outfit.

The scene is set up for comedy, as we see Wonder Woman inspect and appear in a series of clothing styles. Wonder Woman asks if a lace-trimmed silk corset, which resembles her warrior's bustier in form only, is what counts as women's armor in London. We watch her model a frilly, full-skirted purple dress (the “war crinoline” style) with heels she can barely walk in, and then rip an elegant pencil skirt when she tries a karate-style kick. Finally, after settling on a sober outfit that look like a form-fitting version of Steve's suit, she walks out of the store still carrying her enormous sword and shield.

There is obviously humor to this

scene; but, if you stop to think about it, there is also a deeper philosophical message to it. Much has been written in feminist philosophy about social ideals of femininity as expressed in clothing. Wonder Woman's trip to the clothing store is a great example of a woman being pushed to achieve social acceptance in her environment.



While Wonder Woman is permitted to choose an outfit with another woman's oversight, Steve is the one who has the final word. At the end of the marathon shopping spree, Steve whisks in and asserts his authority. Expressing his disapproval with a subtle eye roll, he reproaches Etta, “Miss Candy, the whole point was to make her look less distracting.” Grasping for a solution, he places on Wonder Woman's face a pair of black-rimmed eyeglasses. “Better,” he declares.

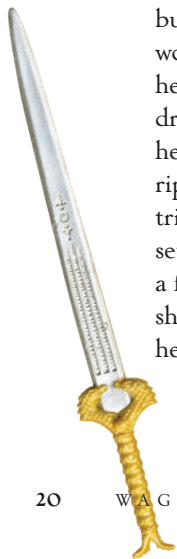
Glasses will make no difference,

as Etta's sarcastic response indicates: “Really, specs? Suddenly she is not the most beautiful woman you have ever seen?” Steve may think he knows best, but Etta (like most women) is as much an expert (or even more of an expert) on what “distracts” people (i.e., men) as he is. Nevertheless, both women comply with the addition, leaving the man as the official master of Wonder Woman's appearance.

We both noticed that this scene got big laughs in the theater. What does that laughter mean? Is it funny because we think that women are no longer held to expectations about how they ought to look — in other words, the scene is a humorous cultural artifact? Or, is it a knowing laugh that indicates camaraderie, because we have experienced the very same cultural dynamic? Or do we laugh because we have accepted society's expectations about how women should look? Do we laugh because we do not register that this scene points out a reality that is damaging to women?

SCENE TWO: She Wore What into No Man's Land?

IN THE SECOND SCENE, Wonder Woman and Steve have arrived at the warfront trenches. The land between the Allies and the Germans is too dangerous to cross and, therefore, is appropriately called “no man's land.” Wonder Woman, however, says they must cross it in order to save a captured village on the other side. Steve insists this is impossible, and that she must give up the idea of



saving everyone. Wonder Woman reacts defiantly by letting down her flowing hair, putting on her warrior princess crown, taking off her cloak to reveal her Amazonian warrior outfit underneath, and climbing a ladder out of the trench to cross no man's land alone.

This scene is lauded by many as one of the signature scenes of the movie (a picture of it is featured in a widely publicized *Wonder Woman* poster). It is clearly a triumphant scene for Wonder Woman, because she has decided that

Are we most comfortable with female fighters who are emphatically female, who conform to and display the popular image of sexy femininity?

she doesn't take orders from Steve and has confidence that she, a woman, can do what no man (literally!) has been able to successfully do. Boldly deflecting bullets and bombs, she clears the way for the men who follow her. We could take the easy road and simply label this a moment when Wonder Woman becomes a leader and

a hero (which it is), but it is surely more complex.

We were especially taken by the depiction of Wonder Woman as she enters no man's land — in particular, her clothes and her body. She looks stunning, in the mold of a 21st-century fashion model, as her outfit features her flowing hair, high cheekbones, flawless skin, long legs, and hourglass figure. How would a different outfit alter the viewer's experience of the scene? Would people have wanted to watch Wonder Woman cross no man's land in a traditional army uniform, her body encased in bulky layers and her hair concealed under a helmet? Are we most comfortable with female fighters who are emphatically female, who conform to and display the popular image of sexy femininity?

Further, what did it mean for our experience of Wonder Woman as a hero to watch her in a slow motion sequence? Anyone who has watched a blockbuster superhero movie has seen a male superhero fight in slow motion. We could say that this is just the norm of the genre. But even if it is the norm, does it mean the same thing for us to



watch Wonder Woman run and fight in slow motion as it does for us to watch a Batman, a Superman, or a Thor do the same? Historically, it has simply not meant the same thing for women to be looked at as it has for men to be looked at. Women have been objectified, or made into sexual objects, in a way that men have not. And so, we have to ask if Wonder Woman can be filmed running and fighting in slow motion like a male superhero, and not have it entail objectification?

LIBERAL ARTS in the Mainstream

OUR OBSERVATIONS about these two scenes exemplify the thoughtful reflection that Socrates intended for all philosophers to engage in — especially when it comes to our role models. We hope that our analysis and philosophical reflections have provided some insight into how a liberal arts degree prepares students not only to enter careers, but also to ask interesting and life-enriching questions using even the most “poppy” of pop-culture subjects as a starting point. Socrates says that the unexamined life is not worth living. We think that Wagner graduates from all sorts of majors understand the value of the intellectual curiosity that Socrates is promoting. And while Wagner is not launching Doyle into the world after intense physical training to defeat the God of War, we feel confident that she is ready for whatever comes next (tweed jacket optional). ■

Elizabeth Doyle '17 (right) graduates from Wagner College with a B.A. in philosophy in December 2017. Sarah Donovan (left) is an associate professor of philosophy and interim dean of integrated learning.





SHUTTLE *stories*

A Day on the Wagner College Ferry Shuttle

BY LAURA BARLAMENT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETE BYRON

WHITEHALL
TERMINAL

EVERY MORNING AT 6:10 SHARP, a white 11-passenger van rumbles away from its starting point next to Parker Hall and out to Howard Avenue. It takes a right, and continues to Victory Boulevard and down the big hill, Manhattan's skyline gleaming on the horizon.

It's the first run of the day for the Wagner College ferry shuttle service. Every day of the year except for Easter, Christmas, and New Year's, the Wagner vans make two trips per hour between the campus and the Staten Island ferry terminal — from whence the famous orange ferry boats connect to Manhattan. The day ends at 1:10 a.m., with the last run from ferry to campus.

Launched a dozen years ago, the ferry shuttle service has blossomed into an essential part of life at Wagner College, strengthening the College's connection to the entire New York City metro area.

"The ferry shuttle has turned out to be a major part of what we offer students and faculty," says Miles Groth, professor of psychology, who has been teaching at Wagner for 24 years, commuting via public transportation from his home in Manhattan.

On Thursday, September 28, photographer Pete Byron and I spent 12 hours taking the shuttle, collecting stories of the people along the way. The result: a portrait of Wagner College life in its connection to greater New York.

WAGNER
COLLEGE

ST. GEORGE
TERMINAL



6:10
A.M.



7:40
A.M.



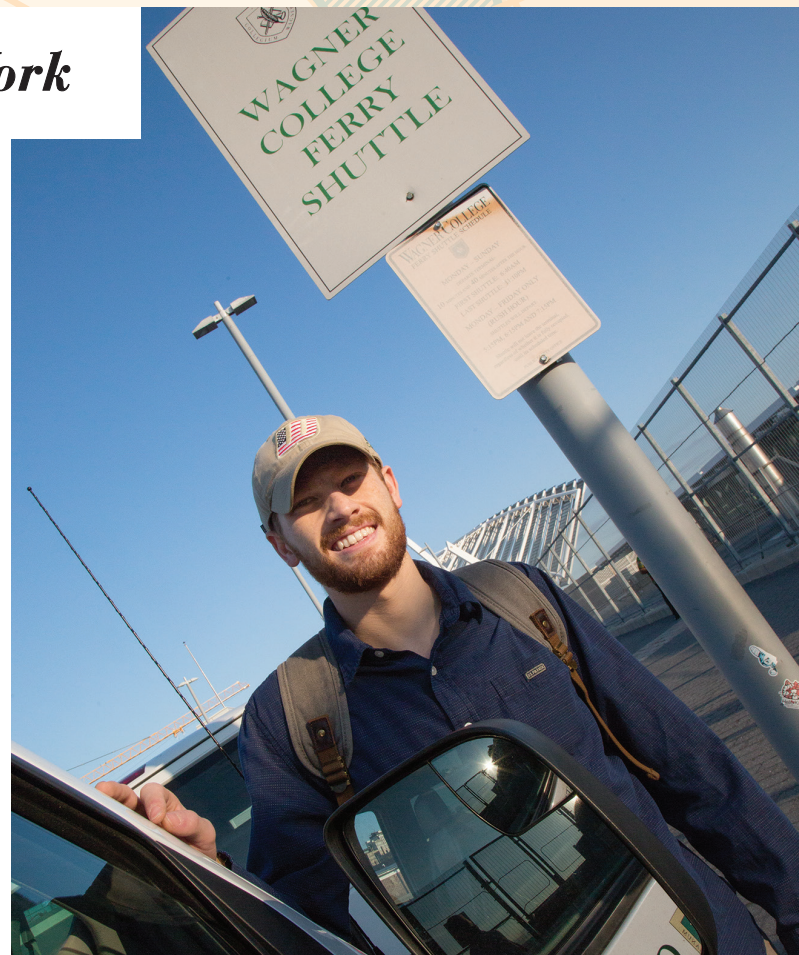
A Young Alum Going to Work

DEVON FLINT '17 graduated in May and lives in a house near campus. His roommates are Wagner students now in their final year in the physician assistant master's program. They have an intense schedule, and so does he. He's friendly but not very talkative.

"I'm sorry," he says. "This is just usually my most miserable time of the day. ... Thinking about work till I get there. I have a lot of things to do."

Flint works as a video editor with an advertising agency in Manhattan. He started this commute eight months ago, as a senior arts administration major. His internship turned into a full-time position. Despite the long hours and long commute, he likes the job. "It's cool, it's really interesting stuff. It's just stressful. Everything's got a deadline."

He has continued coming to campus to take the Wagner ferry shuttle even after graduation, since he lives nearby and knows it's completely reliable. This upstate New York kid has become a real city commuter.





A Professor Begins His Day

FOR DANE STALCUP, assistant professor of modern languages, literature, and culture, the first class of today is Introduction to French Translation. His students are working on Ernest Hemingway’s *A Moveable Feast*, about his youthful expatriate years as an apprentice writer in Paris. For anyone interested in literature, riding the shuttle van with Dane Stalcup is an invitation to that bounteous table.

We talk about Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and Alice B. Toklas. We talk about Stalcup’s favorite writers, Karen Blixen in English and Balzac in French. We talk about the fantastical 19th-century German writer E. T. A. Hoffmann.

Stalcup lives on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Typically, he says, “the ferry is for grading or social media, and so is the van. Or emails.” His favorite part of his commute, however, is the 20-minute ride on a CitiBike (NYC’s bike share system) from his apartment to the ferry terminal. “It’s a scenic route along the river by Chinatown and under the bridges,” where he passes groups practicing tai chi in the morning. And, he reflects, “I like the boat. The morning’s always nice. In the evenings sometimes I have ice cream, or Pat Moynagh [professor of government and politics] and I have a beer.”

Some people just know how to turn life into a moveable feast.



9:10
A.M.



Interns Behind the Scenes of the Entertainment Industry

ELISE BEGG’S long hair is still wet, but it’s not because she just rolled out of bed. She has been up since 5 a.m. Her day started with team practice — water polo is what brought this Southern Californian to Wagner. She finished her workout, took a shower, and got dressed for work as a rights management intern at The Orchard,



9:40
A.M.



FERRY SHUTTLE
By the Numbers



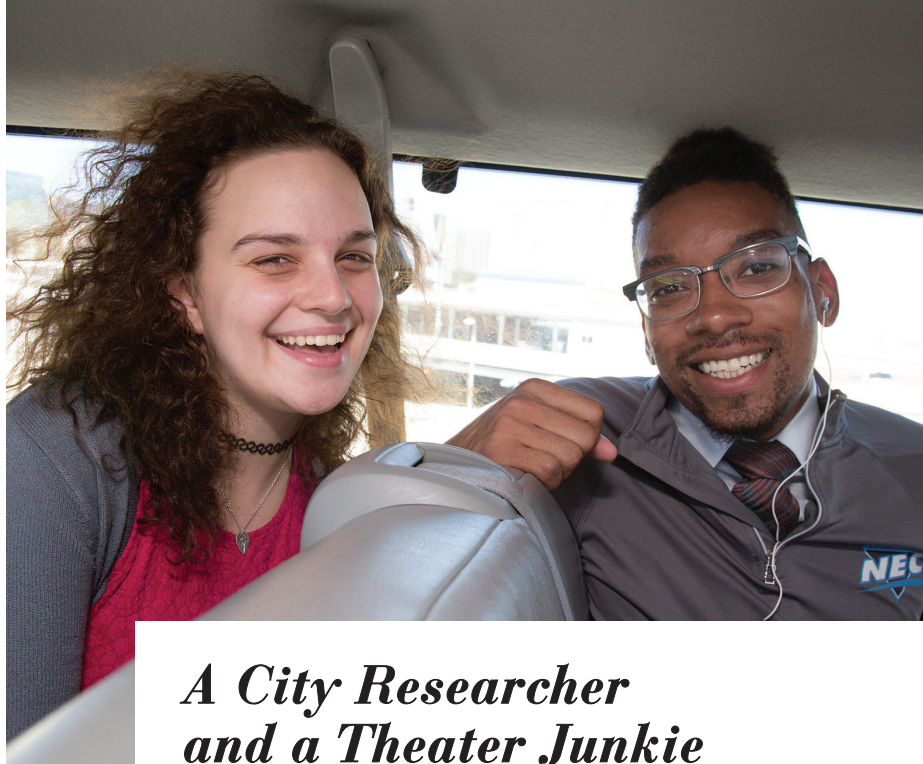
a music, film, and video distribution company. It's her senior year as a business marketing major.

Her schedule is tight, but she is not fazed by it. "Yeah, it just takes a lot of planning. The company I work with is pretty flexible with my hours. I work 9:40 to 4:30 on Tuesdays, and then 11 to 6 on Thursdays, and 12 to 6 on Fridays. I cram all of my classes into Mondays and Wednesdays. I'm up from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, out of the room."

To be efficient, she's productive on her commute. "Recently, I've been using it to work on my senior thesis paper. I wrote my abstract on the shuttle the other day."

MEGHAN GUNTHER '19, an arts administration major, is going to an internship as well. She's working at a casting company, not for credit, but for the experience.

"We do TV shows and Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. We just bring people in every day and have them audition. It's fun. I schedule actors and I bring them in, and I watch them audition. And I make comments. Obviously, I don't have a lot of say in who gets picked, but I get to comment, and I get to experience the audition process professionally, which is cool. I'm kind of the liaison between the casting directors and the actors."



A City Researcher and a Theater Junkie

QUINCY RASIN '18, a North Carolina native majoring in public policy and administration, is headed to his senior internship with the New York City Housing Authority, or NYCHA, in Lower Manhattan. Serving more than 400,000 people in 326 public housing developments, it is the nation's largest agency of this type.

At the same time, Rasin is working on a senior thesis about gentrification and the displacement of low-income residents in Central Harlem.

"Tonight for my internship, they are taking me to a town hall meeting," he says. "There are new zoning laws that are happening, and there's going to be a town hall tonight about what that may entail. I already developed some surveys that I hope to get filled out, collect some primary data. So, today's going to be a long day."

How does he use his commute? "I listen to music and read for my thesis or for my classes. I was reading [Robert Caro's] *The Power Broker* for fun, but my class reading has interfered with that. That's a very big book. It's about Robert Moses, the man who built the city."

His fellow student commuter, **OLIVIA BISHOP '19**, a theater studies major from Pennsylvania, is departing for her part-time job as a page at the Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center. "They have a lot of materials about theater in New York," she says. "To be exposed and to be around theater stuff all the time is really nice. A lot of the materials that I need for school are there, too."

Bishop, who wants to be a director someday, believes in the power of theater to "tell the stories that people aren't aware of." She has recently enjoyed such Off-Off-Broadway productions as a two-person silent version of *Macbeth* and a one-act about death row inmates. "However, I am very excited for *SpongeBob SquarePants*, the musical," she adds. "I'm interested in seeing everything."

TOTAL RIDERSHIP, 2016: 117,380

BUSIEST MONTH, 2017:
September (15,099 riders)

BUSIEST DAY, 2017:
April 27 (1,042 riders)

TRIPS PER DAY: 76*

MAXIMUM RIDERSHIP CAPACITY, PER DAY: 3,344*

*During the fall and spring semesters.



11:40
A.M.





2:40
P.M.



Long Hours and Long Commutes

IT'S LIKE A FACULTY MEETING on this trip, with six professors representing six different departments: psychology, English, philosophy, art, sociology, and music.

BERNADETTE LUDWIG, assistant professor of sociology, says that it is unusual for her to be leaving campus this early.

What's been keeping her so busy? This semester, Ludwig co-teaches a First-Year Learning Community and supervises her students' community hours. She also teaches a sociology course on gender. She has been staying late to help with "a modified version of the 'Clothesline Project,'" which is a nationwide domestic violence awareness initiative. The Wagner Clothesline Project will "draw attention to domestic violence that goes against all different genders and not just women," she explains. Several student groups and faculty are collaborating on this effort, which will culminate in displays of T-shirts decorated with stories contributed by the Wagner community. Plus, Ludwig

has a close connection to the Liberian immigrant community in Staten Island, and she's returning to campus on Saturday so that she can take students to the annual Liberian cultural festival.

Coming to campus is a considerable time investment, as she lives in Harlem. During her two-hour commute, she says, "I listen to the NPR app. I grade. And sometimes I take a nap on the ferry."

At the mention of a nap, philosophy professor **JOHN DANISI** breaks in with his commuter sleeping story: He rides the 1 train every day at 6 a.m., from 242nd Street in the Bronx to South Ferry. He always rides in the first car. For a time, he and three other men, construction workers going to Lower Manhattan, would all nod off during the one-hour ride. When they were approaching South Ferry, Danisi adds, "The engineer would wake us up."



DRIVER Q & A with Brian Tooker, U.S. Postal Service Retiree

Q: HOW'D YOU START DRIVING THE SHUTTLE?

A: After he retired, eight years ago, he was visiting his wife, Patricia Tooker, dean of the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing. That's when he learned about the shuttle service.

"I said, 'I could do that!' [George Pepio] said, 'Why, you lookin' for a job?' And I said, 'Yeah, yeah! I'd be interested.'"



Three Friends Exploring the City

Pullybank arrived here in January of this year as a transfer student and already feels comfortable taking the subway by herself. “It would be a shame if I just stayed on campus,” she says. “I’m so far from home, and I might as well actually experience it over here.”

AN INTERNATIONAL TRIO of women’s water polo team members — two freshmen and a sophomore — are headed to Union Square for a dinner-and-a-movie outing.

They know they want to see the movie *Friend Request*, but all other details are up in the air.

“It’s been like a long, hard week,” says **MILLIE PULLYBANK ’20**, of Melbourne, Australia. “So I personally just wanted to get off campus.”

“We’ll probably get lost,” says **KATIE CAMPBELL ’21**, of Saskatchewan, Canada, after a discussion of which train it is, exactly, that goes to Union Square. “Learning the subway is so hard. When my mom comes, she says, ‘You’re going to show me.’ And I’m like, ‘Nope.’”

As they find their way in college and city, the ferry shuttle frequently figures into their plans. Campbell has been visiting museums. “Sometimes I go for Starbucks,” adds **SERENA THURMAN ’21**, of San Diego, and everyone laughs. “Yeah, ’cause it’s right off the ferry. Wagner Starbucks just doesn’t taste real.”



4:40 P.M.



A First-Year Student Commuter from Staten Island

DARIA MIGNOLA ’21 is taking the ferry shuttle not to catch the boat to Manhattan, but to connect with the Staten Island Railway, which ends at the St. George ferry terminal. She commutes to the campus from Prince’s Bay, on the South Shore of Staten Island, via the railway and the ferry shuttle.

She often times her trip home, like today, to meet her mother, who is coming home from work in Manhattan. Daria is the daughter of Lora Giacomoni-Mignola ’85, assistant vice president for quality, risk, and patient safety at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation; and Brian Mignola ’84, a Staten Island family practice doctor.

As a Staten Islander and the daughter of two alumni, Mignola has known about Wagner all of her life. Now, she is discovering it for herself.

“I’m the first person awake every morning in my house,” she says. “I love to go to school.”

She’s taking Learning Community 14: Society and

the City, which is allowing her to explore more of her hometown than she ever had before through field trips and guest lectures. She’s also enjoying Foundations of Music Theory and learning more instruments — she already sings and plays the trumpet.

For her major, she’s considering biology and the pre-veterinary curriculum. She’s making great new friends, going out to Manhattan with them, connecting with fellow student commuters, and looking into joining various student organizations — the Art Club, WCBG radio, and a sorority (when she’s eligible next semester).

“Even though I’m a commuter, I’m barely home now,” she notes. But she still looks forward to the train ride to Prince’s Bay with her mother and the chance to talk over everything she’s experiencing.



6:10 P.M.





Completing a Quick Errand and a Long Day at the Lab

ADAM WILLIAMS '20 is returning to campus from a quick trip to Manhattan to acquire a specific item needed for Kappa rush. “I had the task of purchasing three bandannas,” he says. “I tried to get bandannas last night, and I couldn’t, so I took the ferry shuttle to go to Michael’s on 22nd Street to get these bandannas. So today was a pretty quick errand.

“Mission accomplished. Very efficient,” he concludes.

Williams goes to Manhattan frequently, four or five times per week, to visit friends. He’s a business marketing major from Portland, Oregon, who wants to go into the fashion industry. “That’s what drew me to New York, the fashion industry.”

BRANDON HART '17 M'19 is also a frequent Manhattan commuter. He’s ending a long day, spent at Rockefeller University. At this biomedical research institution in Manhattan, Hart is working in the Laboratory of Bacterial Pathogenesis and Immunology, headed by Vincent Fischetti '62 H'10.

Hart completed his bachelor’s degree in microbiology in May, and is continuing his studies in Wagner’s microbiology master’s program as well as in a two-year fellowship at Rockefeller. He spends at least 20 hours a week at the fellowship, traveling there three days a week. He also works 20 hours per week as a graduate assistant in Wagner’s Center for Leadership and Community Engagement.

It may be a lot, but he’s doing what he loves to do. Fischetti’s lab focuses on developing novel antibiotics to address the problem of drug-resistant infections. Hart is contributing to that effort.

“I’m working on a specific part of the project, which is awesome, and I have some autonomy,” he says. “So, that’s really cool. I love it.”

“‘I’ll sleep eventually’ is my motto,” he notes with a smile. ■



6:40
P.M.



The DRIVERS

GEORGE PEPIO, who retired from Wagner in January, was the first shuttle driver and manager. In conjunction with then-Chief of Staff David Martin and then-Public Safety Director Tony Martinesi, Pepio created the ferry shuttle service in 2004–05. They established a safe, reliable system that became highly successful; in 2016, the ferry shuttle transported 117,380 passengers.

The drivers are key to the service’s success. Most of the three dozen or so drivers on the roster are, like Pepio, retirees from government agencies like the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the New York City Department of Sanitation, and the U.S. Postal Service. Seasoned professionals, they enjoy the job

and know how to handle any conflicts that arise.

They also care deeply about the students. Pepio, an MTA Bridges and Tunnels retiree, took on the ferry shuttle program with great personal engagement.

“I enjoyed the students in the early years,” he recalls. “I saw the freshman class, and they graduated four years later. You see them grow up. I felt like the eyes of their parents.”

In addition to the ferry shuttle, Wagner has expanded its transportation services to supporting students’ work in Port Richmond and other community placements in Staten Island.



WHY IS WAGNER COLLEGE ON GRYMES HILL?

A century ago, a Lutheran pastor and an anniversary party played key roles in finding this place

THIS FALL, Wagner College marked the centennial of an occasion that utterly changed the institution: the purchase of the Staten Island campus.

As Wagner history buffs will recall, the College was founded in Rochester, New York, in 1883 as a Lutheran seminary prep school. The school consisted of a single building on a one-third-acre residential lot. Its maximum enrollment was 49 students, and it had no room to grow.

Since 1901, the statewide church body that ran the College had known that a move would be necessary; they finally made the decision in 1916 and chose semi-rural Staten Island, which had been consolidated into the City of New York in 1898, as the College's new home. The man charged with finding a specific site was Staten Island pastor and Wagner alumnus Frederic Sutter, class of 1894, recently elected for the second time to Wagner's Board of Trustees.

"I had no idea where to put a college, and neither did most of the clergy and laymen who drove all over Staten Island to find a suitable location," Pastor Sutter said in a 1968 memoir. "We had pretty much decided on the plot of land next to what is now the football field" — a seven-acre plot with a three-story house known as Fair Acres.

At the last minute, however, Sutter's attention shifted. The night before the papers for the sale of Fair Acres were to be signed, he attended a golden



wedding anniversary party. At that celebration, he said, "My attention was called to another tract of land on Howard Avenue, known as the Belview property" — also known as the Cunard estate.

"Early the next morning," Sutter recalled, "I inspected it. ... The property consisted of about 38 acres and had on it several cottages and what is now

known as Cunard and North [today's Reynolds] halls. Thus, in September 1917, the college purchased the Belview property ... which at that time was owned by Oberlin College."

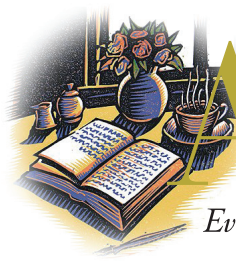
Oberlin College owned this property, which included the 1852 Italianate villa of the Edward Cunard family, because a man named Amzi Lorenzo Barber, an Oberlin College graduate (and trustee) had bought it in 1889 and left it

to his alma mater upon his death in 1909. Barber had leased it out as a summer resort colony known as the Bellevue Club or the Hotel Bellevue.

There was still some work to be done on the property before Wagner could move in. The resort's summer cottages had to be winterized, and a new house had to be built for the college president and his family — but the work proceeded swiftly and, by September 1918, Wagner Memorial Lutheran College (as it was known until 1952) was holding its first classes on the new campus. — *Lee Manchester*



'A SUITABLE LOCATION' The Rev. Frederic Sutter and his wife, Emma, pose for a photo on Wagner's new campus. The former Cunard estate had been used as a resort hotel (seen above).



AlumniLink

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

Three Heads in a Science Lab

The historic hunting trophies of Megerle 405 get a face lift

MEGERLE LABORATORY 405 has housed some special guests for more than 40 years.

The heads of a Cape buffalo from southern Africa, a North American caribou (a.k.a. reindeer), and a Central African topi (a subspecies of antelope) have long surprised students and visitors on the fourth floor of Megerle Science.

“They were in the lab when I was a freshman in 1973,” states Kathy Bobbitt ’76 M’78, a Wagner bacteriology (now known as microbiology) major who went on to earn her Ph.D. at St. John’s University. She’s now an associate professor of biological sciences at Wagner.

In 1973, Wagner President Arthur O. Davidson received an African hunting trophy collection from the estate of Lauritz Melchior H’50 (1890–1973), a famous opera singer and friend of the College. The collection comprised 41 trophies, including a reedbeek from Kenya and “a world-record (14 and 4/8”) bushbuck from Mozambique,” according to a 1973 article in the Wagner archives. Over the years, unfortunately, most of collection has been lost.

According to a small plaque that has survived all these years, the topi was a trophy of the Chapin Ruwenzori Expedition, Kenya, 1926. Today, this area is called the Rwenzori Mountains, which cross the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo; but in 1926, all of that land was part of the British Colony of Kenya. James Paul Chapin (1889–1964) was an interesting man who worked at the American Museum of Natural History, and it is quite

possible Lauritz Melchior was with this hunter/taxidermist on this expedition.

About a year ago, the biology department decided to refurbish the three animals, which were showing their age at almost a century old. This summer, Professor Linda Raths and I led this new adventure that took us and our animals to Queens, where taxidermist John Youngaitis — the last tradesman of his kind in New York City — operates his business.

It wasn’t easy; the largest trophy, the Cape buffalo, is more than two feet wide and weighs around 50 pounds. Fortunately Jonathan Blaize, assistant professor of biological sciences, came to our aide in transporting the trophies via Wagner College van.

During their four-week rehabilitation process, the animals were thoroughly cleaned, their fur was conditioned, and frayed areas were patched. The taxidermist expertly repaired the topi’s cracked nose and enhanced all three with hand painting to refresh the noses and eyes. With Public Safety setting us up for the return trip, Facilities helping with the move, and freshly painted walls courtesy of Campus Operations, our endeavor culminated with our animal family proudly displayed back in the lab. — *Stephanie Rollizo, Faculty Secretary, Biological Sciences*



A WILD RIDE The Wagner vans carried some unusual cargo this summer. Above, Lauritz Melchior left his hunting trophies to Wagner in 1973. At left, center photo, Stephanie Rollizo and Linda Raths pick up the trophies from taxidermist John Youngaitis. At right, Timothy Umana of Wagner’s shipping and receiving department unloads the restored reindeer.

Welcome to Wagner

A new team is guiding the College's outreach to alumni

WAGNER'S OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS has a new team on board since this summer. Karen Moran was named director of alumni relations as of July 24, Juliana Formica M'14 began her work as alumni relations officer in early May, and Nicolina Astorina started as alumni coordinator on September 6. Now that the office is fully staffed, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce them.

First, a few updates about previous staff: Chris Fourman '09 M'11, former director of alumni relations, moved into a new role in Reynolds House as a major gifts officer. The two other team members, Rebecca Colucci Kelly '06 and Heather Wolf '15, advanced to new stages in their careers with different organizations. Rebecca joined Sunrise Senior Living as a life enrichment manager, while Heather was named a senior consultant with the Munshine Group.

Karen Moran is a South Jersey native who graduated from The College of New Jersey and began her career in alumni relations at Princeton. Her previous experience also encompasses positions at Rider University, Albright College, the American Cancer Society, and Christian Retreats Network.

She is married to Tim Moran, director of housing and residence life at Seton Hall University, and they have a four-year-old daughter, Isla.

"I fell in love with inspiring nostalgia in people," Moran says about her interest in alumni relations. "I enjoy finding out about people's stories and using it to provide experiences that bring them back to campus."

She is now focused on getting to know the College and

its alumni. "It's important for me to understand Wagner alumni to learn how best to engage the alumni. What are their interests? How do they want to be engaged with Wagner?"

Juliana Formica has a long history with Wagner, even though she didn't attend here as an undergraduate. Her parents are Bianca '80 and William '81 Formica, and multiple other family members are alumni. Juliana earned her bachelor's in hospitality management from St. John's University, Staten Island campus. Then, she went to Wagner for an MBA in marketing, working as a graduate assistant in athletics marketing for two years, 2012–14.

She worked in fundraising for the March of Dimes on Staten Island before coming back to Wagner as an alumni relations officer.

Nicolina Astorina, a resident of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, completed her undergraduate degree in English, with a minor in psychology, across the street from Wagner, at the Staten Island campus St. John's University. While working on her master's degree in English at SJU, she served as a graduate assistant in alumni relations. "I was interested in event planning and outreach and what it takes to bring alumni back here," she says. "It's always good to be involved and to keep coming back to campus."



Fun Facts



When **Karen Moran** started college, she wanted to become an engineer so that she could design theme parks. But, a series of rollercoaster accidents in the news and a feeling that she didn't fit in with the engineers led her to business instead, where she could still use her math skills.



Juliana Formica completed her entire education on Grymes Hill, attending Wagner's pre-school, Notre Dame Academy on Howard Avenue from first grade to high school, St. John's Staten Island campus for her bachelor's degree, and Wagner for her master's degree.



Nicolina Astorina is a fluent speaker, reader, and writer of Italian. Last summer during a stay with family in Italy, she toured the Gole dell'Alcantara, a canyon created from the lava flows of Mount Etna.

Contact the New Team

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nicolina.astorina@wagner.edu
718-390-3224





HOMECOMING 2017

Upcoming Events



FEBRUARY

College Choirs' Tribute to Black Music
February 21, 9 p.m., Performance Center,
Campus Hall

**Wagner College Theatre: Bloody Bloody
Andrew Jackson**
February 22–March 4, Main Stage

This rock musical about the founding of the Democratic Party and America's seventh president brings our nation's past into the raucous, comedic present.

**College Choirs at Black History Month
Town Hall**

February 24, 12 p.m., First Central Baptist Church, Staten Island

MARCH

**Wagner College Theatre: The Dance
Project 2018**

March 1–4, Stage One

Original choreography and music will be featured in a collaboration between Wagner Head of Dance Rusty Curcio and Musical Director Lauri Young.

Wagner College Choir at Carnegie Hall

March 19, 8 p.m., Carnegie Hall,
New York

The Wagner Choir joins a concert where choirs from around the nation perform together in Carnegie Hall.

APRIL

Wagner College Theatre: Hair

April 19–29, Main Stage

Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical celebrates the Sixties counterculture with an infectious rock soundtrack, reminding us of what it's like to be young and to believe you can change the world.

**Wagner College Treble Concert Choirs:
Spring Concert**

April 22, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island

Wagner College Choirs: Final Concert

April 22, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island

MAY

Baccalaureate

May 10, 4 p.m., the Oval

Commencement

May 11, 10 a.m., the Oval

JUNE

Reunion Weekend

June 1–3

Welcoming back all alumni to Grymes Hill, especially those marking milestone reunions (years ending in 3 and 8).

CHANGE HAPPENS. Please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 718-390-3224 or check wagner.edu/calendar for updates.

Regional Alumni Events Nationwide

A series of Alumni and Friends Dinners are being scheduled for February and March of 2018. Details and reservations are still being confirmed. If you would like more information, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 718-390-3224 or email them at alumni@wagner.edu.

February 1
Scottsdale, Arizona

February 7
Dana Point, California

February 8
Los Angeles

March 13
Tampa, Florida

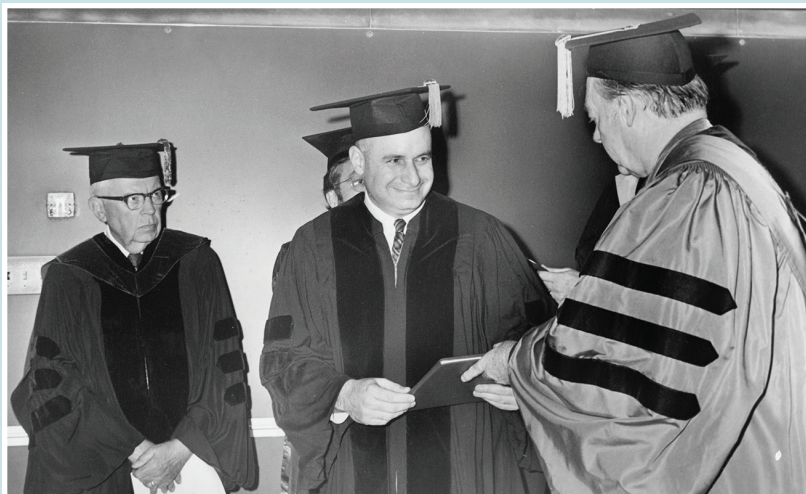
March 14
Naples, Florida

March 15
Palm Beach, Florida



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, cheerleaders and Greeks, freshmen and faculty added up to a record crowd on October 14. Heightening the drama, Patrick Larkin '07 (disguised in the Seahawk costume) popped the question to Nicole D'Orazio '11 from the main stage (top center photo). Will there be wedding bells next year?

History Makers: Peter Berger '49 H'73 became 'one of the greatest sociologists of religion and modernity'



During Faith and Life Week in March 1973, Peter Berger '49 receives an honorary degree from President Arthur O. Davidson, while Trustee Andrew G. Clauson Jr. looks on.

IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, Wagner's enrollment swelled as veterans returned to college en masse on the G.I. Bill.

Amidst those who had fought the Nazis, there were also a couple of students who had escaped becoming the regime's victims. One of them was Peter Berger '49 H'73.

Peter Berger was born in 1929 in Vienna. His parents, Jewish converts to Christianity, fled Vienna in 1938 upon the *Anschluss*, or annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany. They spent the following years in Palestine, then under British control, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1947.

By 1949, at age 20, Peter Berger had already attained his B.A. in philosophy from Wagner College. "It was part of his becoming integrated into American society," says his son, Thomas Berger, a professor of international relations at the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University.

Howard Braren '50 H'12 remembers Peter Berger as a quiet, studious young man who lived down the hall from him in the dorm (today's Reynolds House). Berger's roommate was Friedrich "Fred" Katz '49, a fellow Austrian Jewish émigré who also had an intellectual bent.

Katz, who died in 2010, became a distinguished historian at the University of Chicago. Berger writes in his memoir, *Adventures of an Accidental Sociologist*,

that he was "inspired by religious fervor" and "wanted to become a Lutheran minister." He went to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, a path often trod by Wagner graduates; but after a year, Berger decided theology school was not the right choice for him.

He switched to sociology, earning a Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research. It was there that he found his intellectual home and launched a brilliant career as a professor, scholar, and writer.

Peter Berger died this year on June 27, at age 88. The *New York Times* called him "an influential, and contrarian, Protestant theologian

and sociologist who, in the face of the 'God is dead' movement of the 1960s, argued that faith can indeed flourish in modern society."

Berger's most famous work on this topic was *A Rumor of Angels: Modern Society and the Rediscovery of the Supernatural*, published in 1969. Berger returned to Wagner in March 1973 to speak about "Religion and Political Language in America Today" as part of Faith and Life Week, an annual tradition at the College for many years. The College awarded him an honorary doctorate at that time.

Berger was also noted for his work on the sociology of knowledge. His 1966 book *The Social Construction of Reality*, co-written with Thomas Luckmann, was translated into more than 20 languages. The International Sociological Association ranked it No. 5 among the 20th century's most influential sociology works.

Berger wrote many more books. He retired as a professor emeritus at Boston University, where he founded the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA) in 1985. His longtime colleague Robert Hefner, who followed him as the CURA director, says that Berger "will be remembered as one of the greatest sociologists of religion and modernity in the period stretching from the late 1950s to today."



ClassNotes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1950

Donald C. Betzler celebrated his 96th birthday in August. He and his wife, Mary Bartell Betzler, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in September at a party thrown in their honor in Boulder City, Nev. Mary also celebrated her 96th birthday in October. They last attended the 2010 Wagner reunion, and are proud supporters of Wagner. Don supported Wagner for many years through matching gifts from his employer, Exxon.

1952

Fred J. Brockmann and **Lee Schriever Brockmann** '53 celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 8. The couple met

at Wagner in 1949 and married in 1952, the day after Fred graduated. Afterwards, Lee finished her senior year while Fred worked on his master's degree. They live in Sarasota, Fla.

1953

Lee Schriever Brockmann and **Fred J. Brockmann** '52 celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 8. The couple met at Wagner in 1949 and married in 1952, the day after Fred graduated. Afterwards, Lee finished her senior year while Fred worked on his master's degree. They live in Sarasota, Fla. **Miriam Plitt** continues her work with the editorial team for *Creative Expressions*, a

magazine published yearly by residents of Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster, Md.

1954

Dana Jacobsen, the daughter of **Jacques Noel Jacobsen Jr.** '54 M'63, notified us in August that her father died on December 16, 2016, following complications from surgery. "My father attended Wagner College, as did many of his family members," she noted. "He had an intimate relationship with Wagner College throughout his life." Jacques was the son of the late **Anita Kershaw Jacobsen** '63 M'68 and the nephew of the late **Edythe Kershaw Larson** '44, who was a professor of bacteriology at Wagner for

many years. Jacques himself studied bacteriology (microbiology) at Wagner and was a science teacher. He also studied archaeology and taught Egyptian and Near Eastern archaeology at Wagner. Jacques is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marion M. Jacobsen, four children, and four grandchildren.

1955

David E. Williams, M.D., retired from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., after 36 years as a consultant in internal medicine. He has four children and eight grandchildren.

1960

Frances Ricciardi Saraceno lives in Esopus, N.Y., and

Keep in Touch!

Email: alumni@wagner.edu

Web: wagner.edu/alumni

Mail: Alumni Office, Reynolds House, Wagner College, One Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301

Deadlines: This issue reflects news received by November 1, 2017. The submission deadline for the Summer 2018 issue is June 1, 2018.

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.

spends her summers in Ayamonte, Spain, as has been her tradition since 1971. She earned her master's in Spanish from Middlebury College. She has three daughters: Maria, a Spanish teacher and department chair for the Monroe-Woodbury school district (N.Y.); Gina, a French and Spanish teacher at Hyde Park High School (N.Y.); and Francesca, who is an English teacher living in Italy.

1962

Richard Bertucco was in Guam from March to May of this year, visiting his daughter Kristina. She is a teacher at the U.S. Air Force elementary school, where she celebrated her 20th year. Richard, who lives in Lake Geneva, Wisc., enjoyed painting scenes on the Pacific coastline. Dr. **Bjarne "B. J." Gabrielsen** presented a talk about his cancer website, Godandprostate.net, at an annual medical symposium, Medicine and Religion, this fall; his co-presenter was Dr. Jacek Mostwin from Johns Hopkins. B. J. has served on the chemistry faculty at Wagner College and the University of Florida, where he became "a diehard Gator." He worked at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Frederick and Bethesda, Md., from 1986 to 2006, when he retired as senior advisor for drug discovery and development. He

received the NIH Award of Merit in 2002. He and his wife, Marie, live in Punta Gorda, Fla.

1966

Jeffrey D. Forchelli is an attorney and managing partner at the law firm Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP, based in Uniondale, N.Y. He received an ICON Award from *Long Island Business News* this fall, based on his years of experience, achievements, and ability to lead, motivate, and teach others. He was also selected by his peers as a 2017 New York Super Lawyer and as a 2018 Best Lawyer in America in real estate.

1967

John Castellano and his wife, Roseann, celebrated their 50th anniversary in July. The *Staten Island Advance's* Carol Ann Benanti wrote about them in the August 7 issue of the newspaper. John and Roseann marked their special day by attending a mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral for people celebrating their 50th, 60th, and 65th wedding anniversaries. They told Benanti that the secret to their marriage's success is "patience, understanding, love and sacrifice." **Russ Johnson** released the e-book of his fifth novel, *Eyes in the Cave*, through Amazon on July 9. It is part of his NYPD Detective Pete Nazareth series.

1972

Richard Eterginoso retired this year from the New York City Department of Probation after 31 years of service; he most recently served as a supervisor. During his career, he received a Medal of Valor in City Hall's Blue Room, a letter of commendation from the assistant regional director of the FBI, and a certificate of honor as a first responder during 9/11. He was named Employee of the Year in 2000. He is a longstanding member of the Wagner College Hardwood Club. He lives in Staten Island, his home of 45 years, with his oldest daughter.

1977

Luga Podesta, M.D., joined Missouri-based Bluetail Medical Group in October to spearhead its new office in Naples, Fla. Luga is a sports medicine physician who specializes in the non-surgical treatment of orthopedic, musculoskeletal, and sports-related injuries. Previously, he was director of sports medicine at St. Charles Orthopedics in Port Jefferson, N.Y. "I consider partnering with Bluetail Medical Group an outstanding opportunity to create and spearhead a new state-of-the-art practice that focuses on non-surgical, regenerative orthopedic and musculoskeletal medicine," he says. He has nearly 30 years of experience treating

professional athletes, musicians, performing artists, and many others.

1978

Nick Kvasic retired from coaching girls' soccer at New Dorp High School, Staten Island, this fall, the *Staten Island Advance* reported on October 20 in a story entitled "New Dorp legend Nick Kvasic to coach his final soccer game on Sunday." It was his 37th season. Highlights of his teams' achievements include going to nine Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) city championship games and winning six of them. But, Nick told the *Advance*, "Wins and losses weren't that important to me. ... I really just wanted to see that the kids played to their potential every single game."

1979

In June, **Wayne T. Wendel '79 M'84** completed his 25th year of teaching social studies in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District in N.J.

1980

Jeff S. Dailey presented a concert on October 20 in memory of Wagner College music professors Ronald Cross and Arnold Rosner. Featuring the Festival Chorus of Collectio Musicorum, it was held at Christ and St. Stephen's Church in Manhattan. The program included pieces by Cross

and Rosner as well as music by Mattheus Pipelare (ca. 1450–1515), whose forgotten works were brought back to light by Ron Cross. **Mary E. Mongioi** was selected by her peers as a 2017 New York Super Lawyer. She is an attorney and partner at the law firm Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP.

1983

Scott Fink is a member of the Board of Directors for Metropolitan Ministries, a community nonprofit based in Tampa, Fla. He served as chair for a new residential project in Holiday, Fla., Miracles for Pasco, which was completed on August 18. Like Metropolitan Ministries' MiraclePlace facility in Tampa, Miracles for Pasco offers safe shelter, three meals a day, counseling, child care, educational services, and job placement to individuals and families who might be homeless otherwise. **Karin Prussak** was named an assistant professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science in Jacksonville, Fla., in February.

1986

Patricia Denise Coscia is working as a model and actress as well as publishing poetry magazines. Her work was included in a children's book of poetry for 2017. She lives in the Bronx.

Tom Marchetti '06 married Elaine Nessel on August 6, 2016, in Geneva, N.Y. Pictured: **Kevin McKenney '07** (best man), **Michael Coleman '06**, Elaine Nessel (bride), **Tom Marchetti** (groom), **Nick Gross '07** (groomsman), **Jared Jax '06** (groomsman), **Phillip McKenzie '05**, and **Luke Morris '06** (groomsman).



Kristina Ketelsen '09 and **Pawel Gradzki '09** M'11 were married on June 3, 2017, in Red Bank, N.J. They were joined by **Walter Hameline**, Wagner director of athletics, and alumni **Lauretta Zitano '81**, **MaryJo Balve '82**, **Franze Balve '82**, **Joanne Love '81**, **Dana Ketelsen '81**, **Kevin Ketelsen '79**, **Matt Abbey '09**, **Alissa Cafaro Abbey '09**, **Kenneth Formica '81**, **Andrea Formica '82**, **Peter Demeropoulos '83**, **Jennifer Merezio '09**, **Marissa O'Brien '09**, **Keith Heaney '10**, **Joe Kross '09**, **Bradley Hyde '10**, **Adam Ziegler '09**, **John Popaca '09**, **John McGowan '09**, **Michael Durkan '09**, **Ashlee Hillier '10**, **Bianca Formica '80**, **William Formica '81**, **Jaron Stunkard '09**, and **Blake Lintelman '08**.



Kevin Kearney '10 and **Sloane Herrick '10** were married on July 15, 2017, in San Diego, Calif. Pictured: (front row left to right) **Zach Spector '12**, **Colin Macdonald '11**, **James Johnston '10**, **Thomas Iannacone '12**, **Kevin Kearney '10**, **Sloane Herrick Kearney '10**, **Emily Mihalick Jeffries '10**, **Holly Shriver '10**, **Allyssa Agro '10**, and **Mary Jebran '10**, along with (back row left to right) **Nat Harting '10**, **Tyler Jeffries '10**, **Alanna Nevins '11**, **Caitlin McGee '10**, and **Jillian Porter '10**.



Joseph Cardone '11 and **Christine Gomez '12** M'14 were married on June 24, 2017, at Chateau Briand in Long Island, N.Y. The couple is pictured surrounded by their Wagner family: **Cindy DelVerne-Gomez '81**, **Jaclyn Gomez '17**, **Cori Curylo-Sciortino '07** M'08, **Audrey VanDina '81**, **Brittany Chiaffarano '12**, **Michael Pinto '10**, **Michael Ditommaso '11** M'12, **John Rice '11**, **Elizabeth Bennett '12** M'14, **Alyssa Hook '11**, **Christine Barclay '13** M'15, **Anthony Arpaia '18**, **Gia DeStefanis '13**, **Christina Moore '12**, **Lisa Schneider '12**, and **Brian Conlan '11**.



UNCOMMON LIVES



Arnold Obey '68

He Runs the City

CLAIM TO FAME Arnold Obey '68 holds an elite standing in the world of marathon runners. The retired Staten Island public school principal, who celebrated his 70th birthday this year, has completed 37 consecutive New York City Marathons.

THE MARATHON LEADERBOARD Today's TCS New York City Marathon started in 1970, and Obey has run every one since 1980. According to marathon records, 21 people have completed 35 or more; the top finisher has run 41.

EXCEPTION Obey (pronounced "OH-bee") kept his perfect record of consecutive marathons despite suffering a stroke and undergoing heart surgery in 2012. The marathon was canceled that year because Hurricane Sandy had devastated large portions of the city just days earlier. Staten Island, where the marathon begins, was especially hard hit.

"YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!" Obey grew up in the Bronx and came to Wagner for the opportunity to attend a small college on a basketball scholarship. During his sophomore year, he tried out for the track and field team to keep up his conditioning after basketball season ended. He ran sprints and also held the school record in the triple jump for over 30 years, with a leap of 44' 11 1/2". (In 1991, he was inducted into the Wagner Athletic Hall of Fame for his basketball and track and field achievements.) "When I saw the long distance runners – the guys running a mile, 2 miles – I said, 'You're out of your mind!'"

A NEW HABIT That changed after he graduated. Besides teaching in Staten Island public schools, he coached basketball and was a high school referee. But, he wasn't playing, and he wanted to stay in shape. So, he joined a neighborhood running group. His wife, Cheryl, would run with him; it turned out to be a good time to "solve the world's problems," as he says jokingly, or at least to talk through family issues. Daily at about 5:30 a.m., he started with 3 miles, before building up to 5 miles, 7 miles, a half marathon, and finally a marathon.

SCENIC START One of Obey's favorite scenes comes right at the beginning, when the runners cross from Staten Island into Brooklyn on the Verrazano Bridge, and he looks at the view of Manhattan across the harbor and the FDNY boats shooting out red-white-and-blue-colored water down below.

BEST OF ALL Obey has completed multiple Boston Marathons as well as the Disney World and the Philadelphia marathons, but NYC remains his favorite because of the crowds and entertainment all along the way. And that's the simple reason why he keeps doing it, year after year: "I enjoy it, it's a good time."

1987

Harshan Bhangdia was named chief financial officer of Ellucian, a leading provider of higher education software and services, in July. A certified public accountant since 1994, he previously served as vice president, controller, and advisor to the chief financial officer at Quintiles IMS, where he worked for 15 years.

1990

Chris DiBello, a former Wagner football player and national championship team member, passed away unexpectedly in October 2016 after a stroke. Chris's family and friends honored his life by hosting a golf tournament to raise money for causes such as the American Stroke Association, Camp Sunshine, and his memorial scholarship fund, the Chris DiBello #32 Foundation. The tournament was held on the anniversary of his death, October 13, 2017, in Northborough, Mass.

1994

Bobby Hopson, a star of Wagner basketball, came from the storied Bridgehampton (N.Y.) High School program that is the subject of a new documentary, *Killer Bees*, by filmmakers Orson and Ben Cummings. Shaquille O'Neal is an executive producer. Bobby was part of a panel discussion at the film's debut in

October at the Hamptons International Film Festival. “The story goes beyond basketball to examine issues of race and absurd income inequality as community leaders fight to keep the school open and preserve a place for the black population in the Hamptons,” say the filmmakers.

1998

Gregg Gavioli hosted fellow Theta Chi fraternity alumni at his beach house in Avon by the Sea, N.J., this past Labor Day. This annual meet-up on Labor Day Weekend included **Robert Addonizio** '96, **Andy D'Orio** '95, **Anthony Labella** '95, and their collective 11 kids —

“potential future Wagner students,” he says. **Nadia Lopez** '98 H'16 was featured in the August 2017 issue of *Glamour* magazine. The article, entitled “This Is My Job,” gives Lopez’s perspective on her work as principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and the viral social media

post that propelled her school to wide notice and support in 2015. “I felt like Brownsville was finally being given a voice,” she says in *Glamour*. “It’s now two years later, and with more than 200 students, my job isn’t done. I want to keep inspiring my kids to pursue their dreams.”

1999

Henry Quinlan M'99 was promoted to chief operating officer of South Coast Improvement in Marion, Mass., a construction design and engineering firm. He is responsible for oversight of all project managers and site superintendents at all South Coast Improvement projects, as well as creation and implementation of new work flow systems. Henry coached football at Wagner from 1995 to 2000. “In my career here at SCI, I’ve been lucky in that I’ve been able to channel my coaching instincts to help create construction crews that consistently deliver a superior experience for our clients,” he says.

2003

Ray Wetmore gave a talk at Wagner on September 26 about his work as a props master and designer for various Cirque du Soleil productions in Las Vegas and on Broadway and for the Barrow Street Theatre’s current production of *Sweeney Todd*.



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THE WAGNER FUND
— *Grow Wagner* —

2005

Kate Refsnyder was named head softball coach at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. She was a proud four-year member of the Seahawk women's softball team, posting a 2.25 earned run average in her senior year. Previously, she was head coach at Archbishop Carroll High and Albright College, and was an assistant coach at Coastal Carolina University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, East Stroudsburg University, and Brown University.

2006

Elisabeth Cardillo '06 M'07 is leading a new organization, Legacy Out Loud, which promotes young women's entrepreneurial skills. Elisabeth was featured on *Worldwide Business with Kathy Ireland*, in a segment that aired in October on Fox Business and Bloomberg International. **Maria Maniglia** '06 M'07 returned to Wagner as the director of financial planning, responsible for long-term forecasting for the College. After graduating from Wagner with a B.S. in business administration and an M.S. in accounting, she worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and a smaller firm in Times Square before joining the BMW Group in 2011. "I've been welcomed back to the Wagner family with open arms and I'm

excited to contribute to the success of the College for many years to come," she says. **Tom Marchetti** married Elaine Nettle on August 6, 2016, in Geneva, N.Y. See Knot Notes on page 37 for a picture. **Brian Scrocca** has joined the insurance company Alliant. As vice president of Alliant Americas middle market division, he will help expand the company's Northeast client base.

2008

Kate Smith announces the birth of her son on August 21 and also the release of her book, *Close Your Eyes Get Free*, with Da Capo Press on December 26, 2017, under the name Grace Smith. More information on her hypnotherapy work can be found at gracesmithtv.com.

2009

Kevin Burke was awarded a Boren Fellowship this fall, allowing him to continue his Russian language studies at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. He is also conducting independent research. Last year, he started working on a graduate degree in international relations, with a focus on Eurasia, at American University, and he plans to return there after his Boren Fellowship is completed next summer. He previously served in the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan for two years and worked in Almaty for four years. **Kristina Ketelsen** and **Pawel**

Gradzki '09 M'11 were married on June 3, 2017, in Red Bank, N.J. See Knot Notes on page 37 for a picture.

2010

Kevin Kearney and **Sloane Herrick** were married on July 15 in San Diego, Calif. See Knot Notes on page 37 for a picture.

2011

Joseph Cardone M'11 married **Christine Gomez** '12 M'14 on June 24 at Chateau Briand in Long Island, N.Y. See Knot Notes on page 37 for a picture. **Rob DeLuca** '11 M'13 has become a first-time restaurant owner. DeLuca's Italian Restaurant, located in Tottenville, Staten Island, boasts a coal-fired oven and a casual Italian menu based on family recipes. **Andrew Pena** '11 M'14, a double alumnus of the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing, was named ACP-Nurse Practitioner of the Year at the Staten Island University Hospital Advanced Care Provider Awards ceremony, held on November 2 at the Vanderbilt on Staten Island. National Football League linebacker **Julian Stanford** returned to the active New York Jets roster this season.

2012

Christine Gomez '12 M'14 married **Joseph Cardone** M'11 on June 24 at Chateau Briand in Long Island, N.Y.

See Knot Notes on page 37 for a picture. **Justin Lefkowitz** exhibited his "Americana Art" series in the Horrman Library's Spotlight Gallery this fall. This work is intended to draw attention to the spirit of our nation in a way that is both playful and meaningful. The series also does good in another way: Justin is donating 22 percent of the proceeds to the veterans program Building for America's Bravest.

2013

Mike Miller M'13 was named associate athletic director for marketing strategy at Columbia University in September. He was Wagner's associate athletic director for external relations for the last eight years as well as sport administrator for the men's and women's tennis and golf teams, the cheerleading and dance squads, and the marching band.

2014

Kevin Farrell '14 M'17 left his role as associate director of Wagner's Center for Leadership and Community Engagement in July in order to accept a position as program director for the New York City Center for Interpersonal Development at Concord High School in Park Hill, Staten Island. **Max Wassel** '14 M'16 was named one of the two new freshman football coaches for the 2017 season at Passaic Valley High School in N.J. Max played football

for Passaic Valley and Wagner College, and he served as an assistant football coach at Wagner in 2014 and 2015.

2015

Matthew Kane came to Wagner's campus on September 20 to speak with the students of First-Year Learning Community 2: On Passions and Reasons on the topic "Working Through Failure, Striving for Success." You can see the talk on Wagner's YouTube channel. Matt is working on his master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Seton Hall University.

2017

Hadeel Mishal was named a Newman's Own Foundation Fellow this summer. During this yearlong fellowship, she is working with the Food Trust in Philadelphia. The foundation places each fellow with a nonprofit that aligns with their interests and also provides workshops, coaching, career development, and other support. **Anthony Tucker-Bartley**, a member of Harvard Medical School's class of 2021, was part of the first class in HMS's 234-year history to spend part of orientation traveling across Boston to get to know the people and communities they will be serving. Anthony and his fellow medical and dental students were able to meet with leaders from local health organizations and tour several neighborhoods. Anthony was featured in an HMS story about this initiative.

In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family



Dr. Albert B. Accetola '41
Mrs. Charlotte Keffer Demchock '41
Mrs. Helen MacNeal Huber '43
Rev. Paul E. Hoffman '49
Mr. Joseph F. Roggenburg '49
Dr. Donald W. Spiro '49 H'88
Mr. Sanford A. Krongold '52 M'61
Miss Dorothy M. Lazareth '52
Mrs. Joyce Biller Bishop '54
Mrs. Claire E. Magnuson Guertler '54
Mr. Jacques N. Jacobsen Jr. '54 M'63
Mrs. Marilyn Chery Preede '55
Dr. Clarence D. Rappleyea '56 H'98
Mrs. Ann Pantano Fischer '57 M'63
Dr. Alma N. Quigley '57
Rev. Peter A. Anderson '58
Mrs. Lottie Carney '58 M'61
Mr. Walter Erosh '58

Dr. Walter T. Schoen '58
Mrs. Pauline Boberg Campbell M'60
Mr. Vincent N. Gattullo M'60
Ms. Carol E. Sharpe '60 M'68
Mr. Donald Cavalli '62
Dr. Bruce R. Barnhard '64
Dr. Theresa D. Harford '65
Mr. Monroe J. Klein '66
Mr. Francis R. D'Addario '68
Ms. Elizabeth Wheeler De Lucia '71
Mr. Jeffrey C. Bubb '75
Mr. Nickolas G. Mitilenes M'82
Mrs. Margaret M. Massoni '83
Ms. Colleen M. Abbate '87
Mr. Edward Garcia '87
Mrs. Esther P. Prescod Rivers '93
Mr. Antonio D. Pimenta '00



Dr. Albert B. Accettola '41

Dr. Albert B. Accettola '41, a Wagner Lifetime Trustee, died on July 18, 2017. He was 99 years old.

Dr. Accettola was an orthopedic surgeon who served as Wagner College's athletic teams' surgeon from 1949 until 1987. He was in private practice in Staten Island for many years. He also taught orthopedics as an associate clinical professor at New York University and was attending physician at the Department of Surgery at St. Vincent's Medical Center, among many other positions and accomplishments in the medical field.

Dr. Accettola graduated from Wagner in 1941 with a B.S. in chemistry. He was a fencer as a Wagner undergraduate. He went on to earn an M.D. from the Boston University School of Medicine. Elected to the Wagner College Board of Trustees in 1981, Dr. Accettola became a Lifetime Trustee in 1993. The Wagner Alumni

Association named him the John "Bunny" Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Wagner Alumni Laureate in 2007.

He was inducted into Wagner's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994. He was chairman of the Seahawk Fund Drive and a member of the Heritage Society. He also established the Rose Accettola Scholars in Nursing award at Wagner in honor of his late wife.

In 1987, Dr. Accettola retired to his 90-acre farm in Flemington, New Jersey, where he remained busy and active with farming, antique restoration, and enjoying time with children and grandchildren. He remained a voracious reader until his 99th and final year; even when his eyes had failed him, he still consumed several audio books each week. In addition to his achievements and distinguished service to many, he was known as a man of civility and compassion.



Dr. Clarence D. Rappleyea '56 H'98

Dr. Clarence D. Rappleyea '56 H'98, a former Wagner trustee, died on September 4, 2016. He was 82 years old.

Known as "Rapp," Dr. Rappleyea was an accomplished and distinguished public servant in the state of New York. He was the city attorney for his hometown, Norwich, New York; representative to the New York State Assembly for 22 years, with 12 years as Republican minority leader; and trustee and chairman of the New York Power Authority. That organization's headquarters in White Plains is named in his honor.

Dr. Rappleyea attended Wagner College and played baseball for the Seahawks before completing his undergraduate degree at the State University of New York in Albany. He served on Wagner's Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1999 and was instrumental in the College's progress during that period of time. The College awarded him an honorary doctorate in public policy in 1998. The Albany Law School also honored him by establishing the Clarence D. Rappleyea Government Scholar in Residence program.

A Life Guided By Curiosity

Pursuing One's Goals to Surprising Places By Andrew Keating '07

My nine-mile hike this fall in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, an hour south of Big Timber, Montana, began with a road closure. Over the whine of my beagle, Foster Wallace, who was anxious to get out of the car after two hours of driving, an employee of the U.S. Forest Service informed me that I could not access the road to my favorite camping spot for another four or five hours. I was encouraged to hang out at the picnic area a hundred yards back while I waited for the road to my campsite to reopen.

I knew there was a trailhead about a quarter mile past the closure point. I had never been on this trail and took it primarily out of convenience. I changed my clothes, packed a pair of waterproof trail shoes and lunch, and set off without a map or any expectations regarding where the trail might lead.

A camping trip in true wilderness should have its share of unexpected challenges. This one included snow and freezing rain, high wind speeds that forced me to relocate my campsite shortly after sunset the first night, and a five-hour road closure. Unlike my anxious beagle in the passenger seat, I was empowered by my willingness to adapt to these challenges, knowing that my experience would result in a far better story if I decided not to simply sit and wait it out.

“Each project, each step in between then and now was fueled by an intense desire to *try something*.”

It is difficult to imagine myself 10 years ago, freshly graduated from Wagner College, working in New York City, contemplating where I'd be today — 10 years in the future. In many ways, the “Last Best Place” is perhaps the last place I would have expected to be at this point in my life.

I have always enjoyed being motivated by whim and chance. My mother, who was an exceptional elementary school teacher, consistently encouraged the exploration of curiosities. I tried everything as a child. I asked questions, and I did not allow for delay in understanding the answers. As I grew older, I was fortunate to find a path of education that embraced and encouraged my curiosity. At Wagner, my desire to be an actor shifted into a passion for directing, and the College's unique English program allowed for me to turn a love for reading into a career of creative writing, publishing,

and teaching. It was by chance that I became editor of Wagner's literary journal, *Nimbus* — a role that would define my final two years at the College.

Ten years ago, I had never considered that my experience with *Nimbus* would be the first step toward publishing a book of fiction (*Participants*), founding a publishing company (Cobalt Press), or teaching creative writing at a small liberal arts college in Montana.

This is the nature of being guided by curiosity.

Six months after I graduated from Wagner, I was writing quarterly real estate investment trust reports in the penthouse office of the World Trade Center in Boston, contemplating the chief financial officer's suggestion that I should enroll in an MBA program. A year later, I was writing lottery technology proposals for GTECH in Providence, Rhode Island, with a year of graduate business courses under my belt. Another year later, I was living in Baltimore, directing a play, working in public relations for a financial publisher, and enrolled in a master of fine arts program. (Meanwhile, I was writing my MBA thesis about Barnes & Noble's Nook e-reading device, returning to Providence semi-monthly to meet with my thesis advisor.)

That is a rather truncated version of my career before I began teaching in 2012. From one year to the next, city to city, job to job, the summary

reads as erratic. However, the result is the same as I had set out for in 2003, when, as a freshman at Wagner, I declared my major and was determined to become an English teacher. Each project, each step in between then and now was fueled by an intense desire to *try something*.

I met someone in the middle of that brief summary, too. It was at a party on New Year's Eve, and I was busy convincing people that the painting of Samuel Beckett on the wall was my grandfather. I walked past her and made another non-sequitur joke; she laughed and followed with curiosity. A little over a year later, we were engaged.

Stacie grew up in two small towns in Montana, Hamilton and Belt. She had graduated from high school early and did what many teenagers, myself included, are inclined to do at that point in their lives: She put hundreds of miles between herself and home. Stacie had no plans to return permanently. The Christmas after we married, I visited Montana for the first time, experienced the two hours of driving through nothingness to get from one city to the next. The town in which we stayed for the holiday had a population equivalent to a single floor of Harborview Hall, and it was a fifteen-minute drive to reliable cellular service. The trip ended with an intentionally incendiary joke on Facebook: "I will never live in Montana."¹

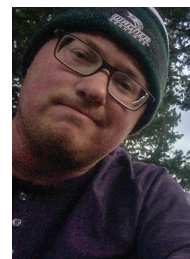
But I had fallen in love with her, and eventually Montana, and less than five years after that Facebook post, I was convincing Stacie that we should move.

To most, hiking in unfamiliar territory without a map would seem foolish, even dangerous. However, I have spent my whole life traveling without a map, without certain



direction — most of us do, really. And, while I'm not suggesting that we should all traverse bear country without a plan (I did have bear spray and a GPS tracker in case of emergency), I do think it is critical that we allow ourselves to be driven onto new trails by curiosity, whim, or circumstance, from time to time.

Andrew Keating '07 is director of communications and a teacher of creative writing at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana.



¹ Every year, Facebook's "On This Day" feature rubs this joke in my face.

WAGNER COLLEGE



Let the Good Times Roll

Samantha Quinn '19, Shaelynn O'keefe '20, and Emily Upton '20 were part of the high-energy crowd helping on freshman move-in day, August 24. Besides having a little fun with the rolling bins, they welcomed the class of 2021 by moving the new students' stuff into their rooms in Harborview Hall. "All I did was come out and park the car, and they did the rest," said one surprised parent. See a video about the day at wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.