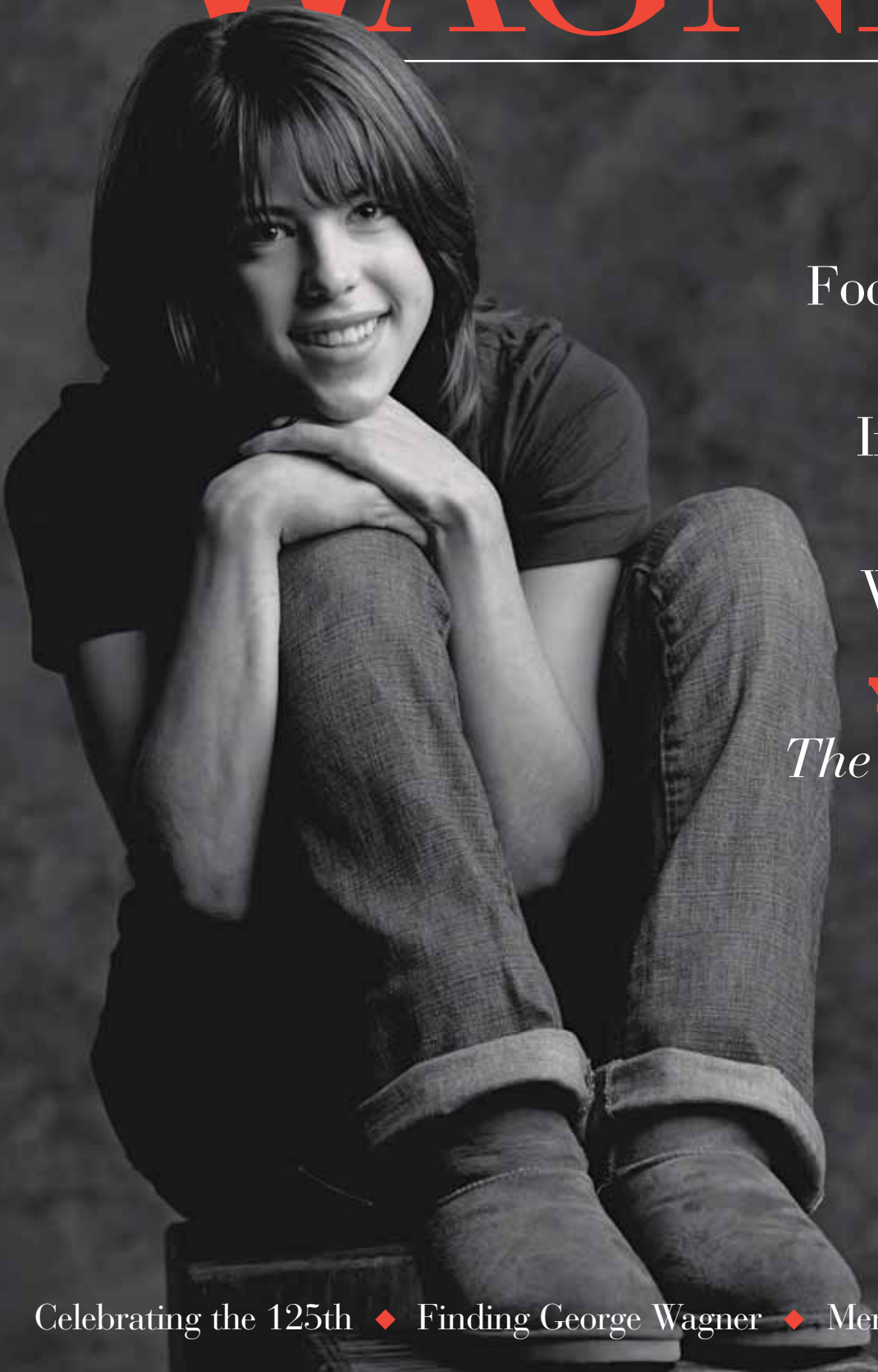


SUMMER 2008

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER



24

Focused Students

4

Intense Years

1

Wagner Plan

Year One:

The Journey Begins

Celebrating the 125th ♦ Finding George Wagner ♦ Men's Hoops Milestone Year

Wagner
Magazine
Summer 2008

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DEPARTMENTS

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Finding George Wagner

Wagner College was named for a young man who died 10 years before the College was founded. What evidences of his life still remain?

16

Year One

What's it really like to be a student at Wagner today? This first part of a four-year series takes you inside a first-year learning community.



Dedication

While rain dampened
commencement this year,
feelings flowed as strong
and sweet as ever.

PHOTOGRAPH: NICK ROMANENKO

From the President

Celebrating the class of 2008



“This class expanded our campus diversity, went abroad to study in 19 nations, designed a new academic honor code, founded the Earth Floor, and created a new nonprofit organization. They are prepared for life beyond Wagner College.”

Charles Nicolais and Stephanie Williams, headed for George Washington University.

Others demonstrate the versatility of a liberal arts education. Piotr Czech, a chemistry and physics double major, will be kicking field goals for the NFL's Baltimore Ravens; Alla Bronskaya, a dual major in theatre and economics who also completed an honors project in her minor, physics, will pursue a graduate degree in international relations at New York University.

Many business administration graduates are beginning their careers with premier firms such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, and Standard & Poor's.

Others are joining the Peace Corps or

While our cover feature focuses on Wagner's first-year class of the past year, I'd like to shine the spotlight on our newest alumni, the class of 2008.

Their record of academic achievement is superb. The 39 graduates selected for Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honor society, boasted a collective GPA of over 3.5 and résumés full of meaningful public service.

In the sciences, five have done significant research with chemistry professor Mohammad Alauddin on the problem of arsenic poisoning in the water supply in Bangladesh, a project funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Nine were accepted into medical school for next year, led by

AmeriCorps or entering seminary. Many are going into education, social work, and nursing, including Rebecca Giannattasio, a physics major who will pursue a master's in education at Columbia University's Teachers College, and Shara Zaslow, a sociology major heading for Columbia's School of Social Work.

This class matched its academic achievements with its extraordinary leadership in public service. Led by Katherine Smith, this class founded Wagner's chapter of Habitat for Humanity and built homes in Brooklyn and New Jersey as well as much farther afield, including the Gulf area and El Salvador.

This class expanded our campus diversity by founding Hillel at Wagner. Enriched by the presence of Wagner students from 11 foreign nations, this class also went abroad to study in 19 nations. They designed and implemented a new academic honor code. They founded the Earth Floor and pioneered programs in recycling and energy conservation. Two of them, Christopher and Nicholas Mustakas, created a new nonprofit organization, Knowledge Is the Cure, to arrest the spread of AIDS in Africa.

I'm proud to say that the class of 2008 is prepared for the next stage of their personal and professional lives, built on a bedrock of solid values and strong personal skills. In the 90 years since the Rev. Frederic Sutter brought Wagner to Staten Island, so much has changed on this Hill, in this city, and in the world. But one element remains steady: Wagner was built to educate persons of uncommon commitment to free inquiry and responsible citizenship. We are as true to this mission in 2008 as we were in 1918, and we celebrate our membership in the Wagner family and our affection and gratitude for this very special place.

RICHARD GUARASCI
PRESIDENT



From the Editor

Remembering Lyle Guttu, 1936–2007

I've just spent the past hour reading through the tributes to Lyle Guttu on the Wagner Web site and attempting to write this column.

At this point, I can do no better than to point you, too, to those tributes (<http://wagner.edu/news/node/841>). If you knew Lyle, read them. If you didn't know Lyle, read them. Be prepared to shed tears. Be prepared, as you consider this man's life, to be challenged to reflect on your own walk on this Earth.

I'll leave you with a few quotes from the incredible variety of people who wrote: Harvard classmates, those who got into Harvard by his recommendation, someone he coached in hockey 40 years ago, parishioners and family members of parishioners, Lutheran

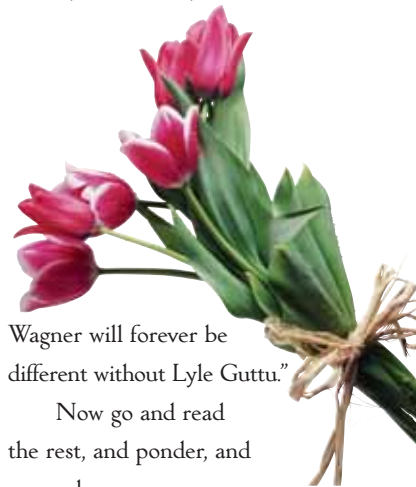
ministers from across the nation, those who were Wagner students from 1972 to 2007, those who were Wagner students before that, parents of current and former Wagner students, and Wagner faculty and staff, current and former, from every corner of campus.

"Jewish teaching tells me that we are all created *b'tzelem elohim* — in G-d's image. In Lyle Guttu, we saw a vision of *kedushah* — holiness."

"Aloud or silently, openly or behind the scenes, as a one-shot deal or over sustained periods of time, he did for so many people so much that it can only be repaid by a lifetime dedicated to doing so."

"Wagner College will no doubt hire new people to do some of the things that Lyle

did, but no one will ever replace him, nor will anyone even be able to measure all of the things that he did to make our community more human, more tolerant, more civil and good-humored. We are all diminished by the loss of anyone from our community, but this loss, this tragic loss, is one from which we may never really recover.



Wagner will forever be different without Lyle Guttu."

Now go and read the rest, and ponder, and remember.

Laura Barlament
EDITOR,
WAGNER MAGAZINE



On the Cover

Lauren Turkovich '11 of Bedford, Pennsylvania, perches on the brink of a mind-opening experience as she begins her Wagner educational journey. Her learning community is the focus of our cover feature, beginning on page 16.

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN EMERSON.

Editorial

Laura Barlament
EDITOR

Nina Ovryn
ART DIRECTOR

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Laura Barlament
John Beisser
Joel H. Cohen '50
Lee Manchester
Brian Morris '65
Joe Romano

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Vinnie Amessé
John Emerson
Jason Jones
Douglas Levere
Lee Manchester
Paul O'Mara
Nick Romanenko
Greg Schneider

Wagner Magazine Advisory Board

Lisa DeRespino Bennett '85
Susan Bernardo
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Lorraine McNeill-Popper '78
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Hank Murphy '63, M'69
Andy Needle
Nick Richardson

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Wagner Magazine
Wagner College
One Campus Road
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-390-3147
e-mail: laura.barlament@wagner.edu

Wagner College

WWW.WAGNER.EDU

From Our Readers



“Stories were told of the female residents using the urinals as flower pots — which made it easy to water the flowers.”

During my time on campus, I lived in Luther Hall, Cunard Hall (after the windstorm), North Hall (now Reynolds House), and South (now Parker) Hall. I don't know when South Hall switched back to a women's dorm, but it had to be after the class of '53 graduated.

EDMUND DIAZ '53
VIA E-MAIL

Something's Missing

I have so many wonderful memories of the time that I spent as a student at the Bregenz campus in Austria — wow — I was in the class of 1973/74.

One thing that I miss seeing in your magazine is any mention of the Christian heritage of the school. Wagner used to be a Christian school and, if I am not mistaken, there is no mention of God or our Savior Jesus Christ at all in your more recent Alumni Link. Please do not be afraid to mention him and the wonderful heritage that is unfortunately not so clear any longer.

MARK S. RICKER
LEESBURG, FLORIDA

Early 50's Memories

In your article on South Hall [“Window on Wagner: South (Parker) Hall,” Fall 2007], you said that South Hall was a women's dorm in September 1961, when it was renamed Parker Hall. I don't know all of the history of South Hall, but I know a little bit about its history from 1949 to 1953, when I graduated.

I believe that it was originally built as a men's dorm, as there were urinals in the bathroom in 1949; but, at that time, it was being used as a women's dorm.

Stories were told of the female residents using the urinals as flower pots — which made it easy to water the flowers.

At this time, men were housed in Luther Hall, which lost its roof to a tornado during a Thanksgiving break. This windstorm destroyed some of the married students' apartments, also.

When Guild Hall was built, the women students moved out of South Hall, and it became a men's dorm. During my senior year

(1952–53), four Alpha Sigma Phi brothers, including myself, shared a two-room suite on the top floor. We had four bunk beds in one room and used the other as our living/study room, the only such room on campus, to my knowledge.



We'd Love to Hear from You

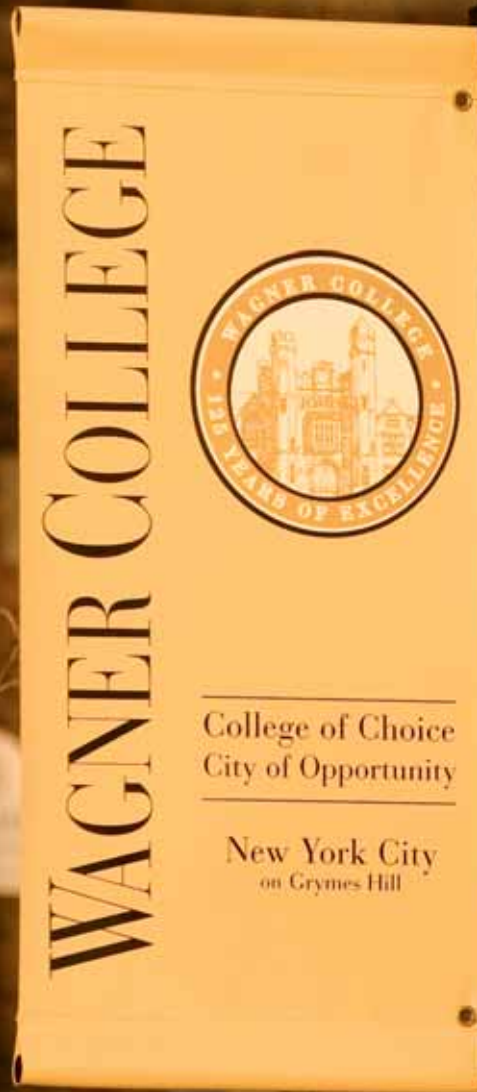
We welcome letters from readers. Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and include the writer's full name, address, and tele-

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

Write to: **Laura Barlament, Editor**
Reynolds House, Wagner College
1 Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301
e-mail: **laura.barlament@wagner.edu**

College Campus

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



Happy Birthday, Wagner!

Special events commemorate the 125th anniversary



How do you celebrate a 125th birthday?

In 2008, Wagner College is answering that question by offering a host of events — on campus, around the state, and around the country.

The College was founded in 1883 in Rochester, New York, as the Lutheran Proseminary, dedicated to training pastors for German Lutheran congregations. (A couple of years later, the trustees renamed the institution Wagner Memorial Lutheran College; read the complete story beginning on page 10.)

In honor of that German heritage, Wagner kicked off the year's celebrations with a German-themed festival at Winter on the Hill on March 1. At Reunion Weekend in early June, alumni celebrated Wagner's first decade on Staten Island, the Roaring '20s. The Alumni Office is taking the celebration on the road to various locations throughout the country. (See page 32 for more details.)

More events on campus and at the site of Wagner's founding are coming up this fall:

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 5)

• **History Forum:** At Homecoming on September 12, there will be presentations by Lee Manchester, Wagner's director of media relations and unofficial historian, and three alumni who have studied different aspects of the College's history: The Rev. Harald Kuehne '49 will speak about its religious heritage; Walter T. Schoen Jr. '58 will address Wagner's early years; and Brian Morris '65 will speak about the Rev. Frederic Sutter.

• **Archival Photo Exhibit:** From September 12 until

October 15, archival photographs and documents will be displayed in the Horrman Library.

• **Founders Day:** On October 15, the date on which the College was founded in 1883, a special event on campus will honor Wagner's history, inaugurating a new annual tradition.

• **Rochester, New York, Anniversary Event:** Wagner will remember its roots with a special event in Rochester, including dedicating a new apple tree on the site where Wagner's founders first met to discuss starting a college.

More information will be available through mailings and www.wagner.edu.

Wagner Anniversaries in 2008

10

The Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts curriculum is instituted in 1998.

65

Wagner's nursing program begins as the Nursing Cadet Corps in 1943.

75

Wagner becomes coeducational in 1933.

90

Wagner moves to Grymes Hill on Staten Island in 1918.

125

Wagner is founded as the Lutheran Proseminary of Rochester, New York, in 1883.

{LOSSES}

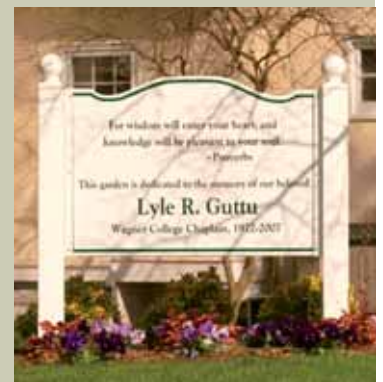
A Season of Sadness

Wagner loses beloved chaplain and promising student-athlete

The transition from the year 2007 to 2008 was a tough one for the Wagner community, which suffered the untimely loss of two dynamic members in December and January: the Rev. Lyle R. Guttu, College chaplain for 35 years, and student-athlete Nicholas Magaraci '09 of Norwood, New Jersey.

Guttu died on December 16, one day after he was struck by a car while crossing a busy intersection on Staten Island.

Guttu was born in 1936 in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. His path to Wagner went via Harvard College, where he received an A.B. in history in 1958; Union Theological Seminary, where he received a B.D. in 1965; and ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He not only served as chaplain at Wagner, but also as dean of students (1975–85 and 1990–92), special assistant to the academic vice president (1985–88), vice provost (1992–2000), and special assistant to the president (2000–07). See pages 42–43 for a memorial to Guttu.



IN MEMORIAM The garden next to Chaplain Lyle Guttu's former house was dedicated in his memory in April. Plans are to convert the house into an ecumenical worship and meeting space.

Nick Magaraci was found dead in his off-campus apartment on January 26. His death was ruled a suicide.

"A model Wagnerian, Magaraci was socially active as a member of the Delta Nu fraternity and an accomplished member of the Seahawk wrestling squad," reported *The Wagnerian* on February 6. "He was working toward a major in sociology."



Sounds Good to Us *Wagner garners kudos*

SEE US ON TV: Wagner College was featured on the new Association of American Colleges & Universities TV. You can view the video at www.aacu.org/aacutv/index.cfm?wagner=1.

NATIONAL PRESS: *USA Today* cited Wagner on November 4 in "What Schools Across the USA Are Doing to Engage Students." The article focused on "colleges that report higher-than-average levels of engagement.... Since Wagner College in New York City adopted learning communities on a broad scale a decade ago, the ratio of students leaving before graduation has dropped from one in four to one in 10."

PRESIDENTIAL HONORS: Wagner won a spot, with distinction, on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Wagner students invest 80,000 hours each year in community activities.

From Loser to Leader

Kurt Landgraf '68 gives commencement address

Disarmingly describing himself as "one of the great losers of all time," Kurt Landgraf '68 H'08 delivered the commencement address to Wagner's 610 newest alumni on May 16.

Landgraf is president and CEO of ETS, a company best known for standardized tests like the SAT and GRE. Previously, he was chairman and CEO of DuPont Pharmaceuticals.

Landgraf told a little of his own story before giving the graduates some words of advice. After graduating from high school, he played on a minor league baseball team before being recruited to Wagner College. He was far from being an eager student, he said, and had no high opinion of his own abilities.

"I ran into one professor



THE MENTOR'S TOUCH Kurt Landgraf receives his honorary degree from Claire Maher, widow of the late Professor William Maher.

here, Dr. William Maher. For reasons I don't quite know, he decided I was worth something. ... Then I decided I was worth something, and it changed my life," he said.

In honor of this special relationship, Landgraf received the hood for his honorary degree from Claire Maher, widow of William Maher, professor of economics, who died in 1993.

"Do what you believe is right, recognizing that the short-

term consequences may be unpleasant," Landgraf went on to tell the graduates. "Set your principles and follow them."

Also receiving special honors at commencement were the Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman; the late Rev. Lyle Guttu, represented by his children, Allison and Mathias Guttu; and the Wagner family, represented by Margaret-Anne Milne, the great-great-granddaughter of John Wagner, the College's founding benefactor.



New Views

Morning mists hover over the mountains north of Hanoi, Vietnam, one destination of the 2008 Expanding Your Horizons travel and study program at Wagner. This group compared views of the Vietnam War.

**WINDOW
ON WAGNER:**
Pape House

Most Wagner alumni remember the two nearly identical Prairie-Style cottages opposite Cunard Hall. After all, they were two of the original buildings on the Grymes Hill campus.

Those two cottages and Reynolds House (as it's known today) were built on the Cunard estate while it was being operated as a summer hotel in the early 20th century. When the College bought the property in 1917, it winterized the cottages to make them serviceable year-round.

For many years, two professors and their families lived in each cottage. One of those occupants was William Ludwig, the only faculty member to move with the College when it migrated from Rochester to Staten Island. Even years after he retired in 1936, his former home was known as Ludwig Cottage.

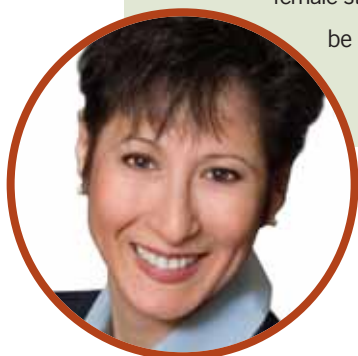
After World War II, Wagner began using the cottages for new purposes. In the 1956 college catalogue, one of them was identified as the Senior Honor House, home to seven female students. By 1958, Ivy House (as it came to be called) was a residence for 14 women.

By the early 1980s, the old cottages

were being used for the admissions and security offices. A few years later, admissions had taken over both.

In 2001–02, the cottages underwent a dramatic metamorphosis. Henry V. Pape '36, a career civil servant, dedicated about \$300,000 to refurbishing buildings from his days on campus. This gift allowed the College to add a connecting structure between the two cottages and to build a new porch and exterior. The resulting enhanced home for the admissions office is one of the simplest, most attractive buildings on the campus.

Dedicated in October 2002 to the memory of Ann C. Pape, Henry's late wife, the Pape House was born as a welcoming center for future Wagner students. — *Lee Manchester*



New Leadership

Myra Garcia committed to 'Putting Wagner First'

Myra Garcia, formerly associate vice president for development at Seton Hall, has been appointed vice president for advancement at Wagner College.

"Myra is one of the outstanding talents in college advancement

today," says President Guarasci.

Noting recent progress in Wagner's advancement area, Garcia says she is thrilled to have the opportunity to take the program to a new level. "We have a strong alumni relations effort, but innovative new programs will make it stronger. The annual fund has been growing, but we need to raise our alumni participation to competitive levels," says Garcia.

"Our campaign, Putting Wagner First, launched in October 2007, is already nearing

the \$40 million mark, as alumni and friends generously step up to support scholarships, endowment, and the construction of a new academic building. I am committed to building a state-of-the-art advancement effort to match our well-recognized undergraduate programs."

Garcia previously served as director of development for a community arts school and for the Elisabeth Morrow School in New Jersey, and as regional development officer for the

Thunderbird Graduate School of Global Management.

A native of Montville, New Jersey, Garcia holds a bachelor's in music performance from Montclair State University and a master's in education from Seton Hall. She serves on the boards of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District II, Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute, and the New York City chapter of Women in Development. She also works with the Phoenix Philanthropy Group.

A Wiki for Wagner

Write your own Wagner history

If you're one of the millions of people for whom the Internet has become an indispensable reference on anything and everything, you've undoubtedly looked at a few pages on Wikipedia, the Web-based encyclopedia that features collaborative, user-generated content.

This winter, Wagner debuted its own version: Wagnerpedia is live on the 'Net and open for contributions.

Located at wagnerpedia.wagner.edu, it was the brainchild of Jeffrey Gutkin, director of academic computing at Wagner. He initially envisioned it as a way for students and faculty to share experiences and photos from their trips abroad through the Expanding Your Horizons program.

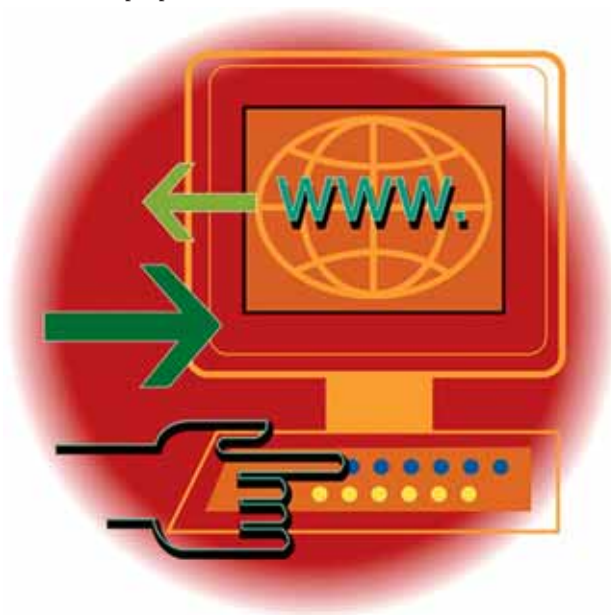
Soon, he realized that such a site could offer much more —

students could post their academic work for collaborative review; alumni could contribute to ongoing research; student clubs could document their activities; alumni could share class histories and Wagner memories; community members could work together with students and faculty on projects; and so on.

"The more people that look at it, the more people will want

to use it," Gutkin says. "You don't know where it might go."

Wagnerpedia is built on the same technology as Wikipedia. Anyone in the world can go to the site and easily build or edit pages. Because "wiki" technology tracks and saves all changes that are made, users can see when pages are added or edited, and even restore changed pages to a previous version.



{ NEW LOOK }



Sneak Peek: Nicolais House

Earlier this year, work was completed on a renovation and expansion of the Wagner College president's residence, Nicolais House. Funded by a generous gift from Margaret and Mike Nicolais '49, the work included the addition of a large space for entertaining, featuring a spectacular view of the lower bay of New York Harbor.

Study of poetry and visual culture wins award

"Who but Donne would have thought that a good man is a telescope," complained the irascible Samuel Johnson about one of John Donne's famously mind-bending poetic images.

Professor of English Ann Hollinshead Hurley includes this quote in her most recent book, *John Donne's Poetry and Early Modern Visual Culture* (Susquehanna University Press, 2005), recipient of the 2008 John Donne Society Award for Distinguished Publication. Hurley's study illuminates Donne's verbal style by placing him in the context of the visual culture of his day.

A member of Wagner's English faculty since 1996, Hurley teaches Shakespeare and his contemporaries, advanced drama, and a senior seminar on the European novel and narrative theory. With art professor Jebah Baum, she has taught a first-year learning community on literature and the visual arts.

Her next book, *Women Editing/Editing Women: Early Modern Women Writers and the New Textualism* (forthcoming from Cambridge Scholars Press), deals with two other Hurley specialties: women writers of the 17th century, and the study of rare books and manuscripts.



Finding George Wagner

A HISTORICAL DETECTIVE STORY BY LEE MANCHESTER

Most Wagnerians are familiar with John Wagner, the College's founding benefactor. A German immigrant who built a thriving contracting business in 19th-century Rochester, New York, John Wagner joined the board of a fledgling school known as the Lutheran Proseminary. It had been founded in 1883 by two German Lutheran ministers to train young men as pastors for German-speaking congregations. In 1886, Wagner bought the school its first permanent home, a stately building at 4 Oregon Street in Rochester. In return, the trustees named the school for his son, George, a 19-year-old who had died before his dream of becoming a minister could be fulfilled. The Lutheran Proseminary became Wagner Memorial Lutheran College.



That's the story known by all Wagner College history buffs. We know John Wagner, too, from the familiar portrait: Neatly dressed in a coat and tie and a stiff high collar, silvery whiskers outlining his jaw, he almost appears wistful, as he looks up and away beneath bushy brows, his lips slightly parted, hinting at a half-smile.

But who was George Wagner, for whom the College was actually named? What evidences of his life had not been lost to time and chance? Would it be possible, after all this time, to get a glimpse of the young man whose life secured the existence of a now 125-year-old institution of higher education?

A CLUE EMERGES

I began seeking answers to these questions earlier this year, in the basement of Horrmann Library. Behind the double-locked door of the windowless Markham Room

sit Wagner College's archives, such as they are: three metal filing cabinets and a half-dozen cardboard boxes filled with dusty photographs and brittle, folded documents.

It didn't look promising, and I knew that my chances of finding anything useful there were slim. Every time offices have rotated from building to building around the Grymes Hill campus, "useless" old papers have been thrown away. Little remains of the precious few records brought to Staten Island when Wagner College left Rochester in 1918.

Nevertheless, the only way to find answers is to look. I set myself to the task of patiently paging through the dusty files.

After several sessions of this mind-numbing exercise, it happened: Out of a folder came a scalloped-edged, black-and-white snapshot. On the right-hand side of the photo stood the Rev. Frederic Sutter, founder of the modern Wagner College, and Walter Langsam, the College's president in the years following World War II. On the left stood three



Uncle George Wagner

FINDING GEORGE WAGNER

women: one elderly, one in mid-life, and one a teenager. In the center of the photograph hung the well-known portrait of John Wagner.

The few strands of hair I have left on my head stood up as my intuition told me this was something important, possibly the golden key to the puzzle I was trying to unscramble.

"The portrait was presented to the College by Mrs. Mark G. Clark, Geneva, N.Y., the only grandchild of the late benefactor [John Wagner]," said the October 1947 *Wagner College Bulletin*. "Mrs. Clark was accompanied by her daughter and granddaughter, Mrs. Laurence Gracey and Margaret Ann, both of Geneva, N.Y."

Descendants of our founding benefactor — wow! After



The Founding Gift

ABOVE, JOHN WAGNER'S GRANDDAUGHTER UNVEILS HIS PHOTOGRAPH IN 1947, WITH REV. SUTTER LOOKING ON.

RIGHT, THE HANDWRITTEN RECEIPT FROM WAGNER COLLEGE CO-FOUNDER ALEXANDER RICHTER FOR JOHN WAGNER'S \$12,000 GIFT, WHICH BOUGHT THE SCHOOL ITS FIRST PERMANENT HOME. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT, AN ENGRAVING OF THE BUILDING BOUGHT WITH JOHN WAGNER'S FOUNDING CONTRIBUTION.

61 years, was it possible that any of them might still be alive? If so, would they be able to tell us anything about their famous forebear, or add to the lore of our founding? And might they have a family photograph containing an image, even a small one, of young George Wagner?

AN INTERNET ODYSSEY

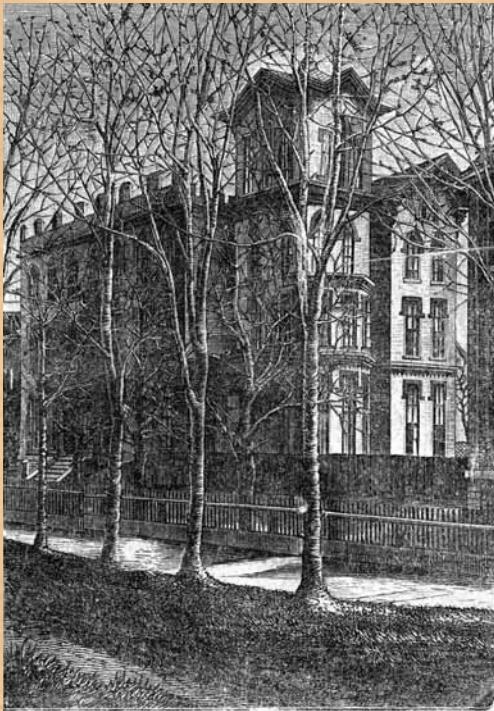
I knew there was no chance that Mrs. Mark G. Clark, already elderly in 1947, was still alive. But perhaps I could find her daughter or her granddaughter. Now that I had names to work with, my search could move into the 21st century: I fired up my computer and logged on to the Internet.

The custom of identifying women by their husbands' names might have proved a hindrance, but I got lucky. Shortly after sitting down at my computer, I was able to locate a Lawrence W. Gracey (our 1947 editor had misspelled his name) of Geneva, New York, and the name of his wife: Elsie C. Gracey. With Elsie's name, I hit the jackpot.

Elsie Gracey had owned a landmark homestead outside Geneva. Now known as the Barron-Gracey Mansion, it was on the market, and its eager realtor had conveniently created Web pages about the house and its most recent owner — including stories from the local newspaper about Elsie Gracey's life and her 100th birthday on April 16, 1998.

Chapin St Joseph St
Rochester, N. Y., Aug 18
Wee the Trustees of the Wagner Memorial
College of Rochester N. Y. hereby
12,000.00 Recd of Twelve thousand dollars
and Wife to us Paid for the Beau
named Institution, as a Memorial for their
Also Five thousand three hundred
5,356.80 Subscription Collected by J. E. Wagner
Memorial Lutheran College of Rochester
over to the Trustees of the above named
A. R.
Prob.

FINDING GEORGE WAGNER



**WAGNER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN COLLEGE,
Rochester, N. Y.**
(Siehe Notiz Seite 116.)

Although I realized the chances of Mrs. Gracey's still being alive were virtually nil, those articles helped me find the next clue: the married name of Elsie Gracey's daughter.

The teenaged girl who had visited Grymes Hill in 1947 had grown up to be Margaret-Anne Milne.

One more round of Internet searching revealed not only that Milne was an active member of her community (she had even been named "woman of the year" in 2000), but also that she worked as an organist — and she had a personal Web site that invited inquiries about her services.

I picked up the phone, punched in the number, and ...

"Yes, I'm Margaret-Anne

Milne," said the voice at the other end of the line — and, yes, she was the great-great-granddaughter of John Wagner.

TREASURE IN A CARDBOARD BOX

Two weeks later, at her invitation, I was knocking on the door of Mrs. Milne's Rochester townhouse.

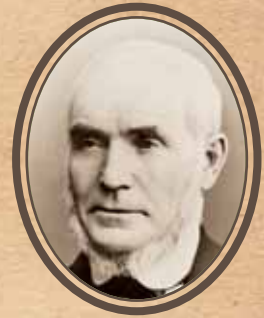
"You must be from Wagner College," she said, smiling, as she opened the door, showing me inside. At the dining room table she introduced me to her daughter, Susan Milne Carney, who had just lifted the lid off a medium-sized cardboard box. Inside was a stack of folded, yellowed papers, a photo album, and several small, framed photographs.

Before delving into it, we talked about what the two women remembered of their family's history — especially of John and George Wagner's stories.

Referring to a list she had once made from gravestones in the Wagner family plot in Rochester's Mount Hope Cemetery, Margaret-Anne gave a brief rendition of the early years of the Wagner family in America.

The Wagner patriarch, Johann Georg Wagner Sr., left his native Bischmisheim, in what is now southwestern Germany, in 1838. His son and namesake, the John George Wagner who became the founding benefactor of Wagner College, was 14 years old at the time his family settled in Rochester, where he picked up the carpentry trade. John married a girl named Catherine and, by the time he'd turned 23, had fathered the first of five children.

"But my great-grandmother, his daughter Caroline, was the only one of the five to make it to her 20th birthday," Milne said. A son and a daughter died before reaching



JOHN WAGNER



GEORGE WAGNER



CAROLINE WAGNER
VOSHALL



*...st 4th 1889
...orial Lutheran
...knowing the
...from J. G. Wagner
...fit of the above
...son J. G. Wagner Junior
...fifty six 89/100 dollars
...for the Wagner
...W. G. and Paid
...nd Institution
...ichter, Pres.
...Margaret-Anne*

FINDING GEORGE WAGNER



HATTIE VOSHALL AND
HER FATHER



their first year; another son died at age 12. The last to pass on was John George Wagner III. At the age of 19½, young George was stricken with typhoid fever. He died on October 15, 1873.

Ten years later, to the day — on October 15, 1883 — two ministers founded the school that was shortly thereafter renamed in George's memory: Wagner Memorial Lutheran College.

Caroline, the only surviving child of John Wagner, married her father's business partner, Charles Voshall, and the couple had one child: a girl. This was Hattie, the Mrs. Mark G. Clark of the 1947 photo that had sent me on my search.



HATTIE VOSHALL
CLARK



Hattie also had only one child, Elsie, who likewise had only one child, Margaret-Anne — the result being that all the Wagner family papers and photos were passed down from mother to daughter to granddaughter to great-granddaughter, undivided and intact, a historical treasure trove.

GEORGE WAGNER FOUND

The box on Mrs. Milne's dining room table included a few old documents written in German on thick, crackly sheets of folded parchment. It was easy to figure out what some of them were: travel papers replete with Prussian tax stamps, official seals, signatures and counter signatures documenting the Wagner family's exodus to America.



ELSIE CLARK GRACEY



One of the documents, however, was almost impossible to decipher. Dated 1886, it was written in a 19th-century German cursive script now out of use. Enough could be puzzled out, however, to convince us that it had something to do with John Wagner's gift to the College.

Only after I returned to Staten Island with computer scans of the document was Veronica Knight, a native of Germany who works as an administrative assistant at the Horrmann Library, able to determine its exact nature: a resolution by the College's Board of Trustees thanking John Wagner for his generous gift and renaming the College in young George's memory.

Another scrap of paper found in that cardboard box in Margaret-Anne Milne's dining room contained a handwritten receipt — in somewhat fractured English — from Wagner College co-founder Alexander Richter acknowledging John Wagner's gift to the school.

We scanned document after document, photo after photo, into my laptop computer, working our way through

The German Connection

BELOW IS ANOTHER TREASURE FROM THE WAGNER FAMILY ARCHIVES, CONNECTING THE MODERN GENERATION WITH ITS GERMAN ROOTS. THIS DOCUMENT IS THE COVER PAGE OF THE PASSPORT ISSUED TO JOHANN GEORG WAGNER SR. WHEN HE AND HIS FAMILY LEFT THEIR HOMELAND FOR "NORD AMERIKA" IN 1838.



FINDING GEORGE WAGNER

the box until all that was left was a small album of family pictures, all by itself at the bottom of the cardboard carton.

That last item in Mrs. Milne's family treasury, it turned out, was the crown jewel of the entire collection.

"I was going through this album this afternoon," Milne said, pulling out the antique book of photographs, "and I found a picture of young George. It's the first time I've ever seen it."

The photograph on the opening page of the album had been neatly labeled in pencil, "Uncle George Wagner," by Milne's grandmother. An unsmiling young man looks directly at the camera, lips slightly parted. His dark hair, although slicked down, curls around the edges. He's dressed like his father in formal coat and tie, but — as if anticipating future growth — the jacket and vest are just slightly too big for the boy. It's a picture of youthful promise.

Susan Carney confirmed her mother's identification of the photo, recognizing it from its similarity to an oil portrait that hangs in her dining room, another element of the treasure trove handed down from generation to generation in the Wagner family.

"You can tell it's the same man," Carney said, noting that he's gained the nickname "Waggie" in her household. "I wonder if the portrait was painted from that photo? The hair is very similar, and he was about the same age."

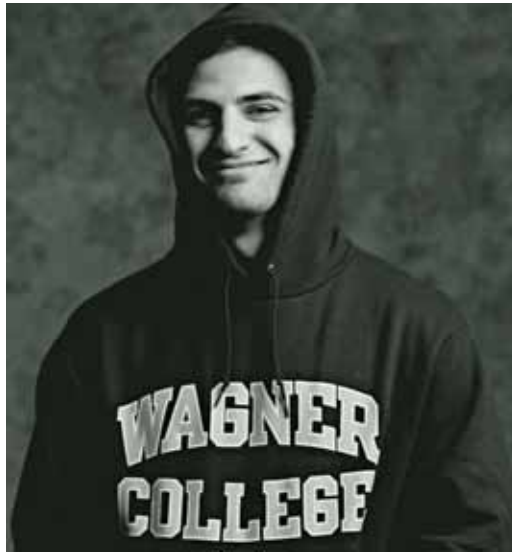
The photo, which I scanned with all the rest into my laptop computer that evening, was the first image Wagner College had ever acquired of the person for whom it had been named so long ago.

At last, we had found George Wagner.

Closing the Circle

INSET, LEFT, ARE TWO OF THE WAGNER WOMEN WHO BROUGHT JOHN WAGNER'S PHOTO "HOME" TO GRYMES HILL IN 1947, GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER HATTIE CLARK AND HER DAUGHTER MARGARET-ANNE. ABOVE, MARGARET-ANNE MILNE, HER DAUGHTER SUSAN CARNEY, AND A PORTRAIT OF THE YOUNG MAN FOR WHOM WAGNER COLLEGE WAS NAMED, GEORGE WAGNER.

Lee Manchester, Wagner College's media relations director, is author or editor of six books on regional history, including The Plains of Abraham: A History of North Elba and Lake Placid (Utica, N.Y.: Nicholas K. Burns Publishing, 2007), winner of a Special Appreciation Award at this year's Adirondack Literary Awards program. Contact him at lee.manchester@wagner.edu.



In this first installment of a four-part, four-year series,

YEAR
ONE



community, the beginning stage of the Wagner Plan. Story



*The Wagner Plan
centers around
“learning communities”
that integrate
practical experience
with academics.*

Ten years ago this fall, the College adopted a bold new curriculum: The Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts.

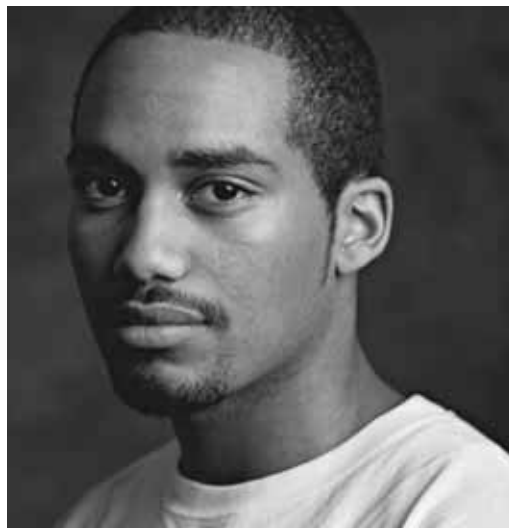


Wagner Magazine will introduce you to a first-year learning



What does the Plan mean for today's Wagner? What's it really like to be a student at Wagner today?

by Laura Barlament. *Photographs by John Emerson.*



TOP ROW: PETER WESTWOOD, BRIANNA STIMPSON;
MIDDLE: KYLE GLOVER, SAM HOERDEMANN; BOTTOM: KATIE JO YOUNKINS, JAREN HALEY, COLLEEN HOFFMAN.



On Friday afternoon, August 24, 14 brand-new Wagner students make their way to Main Hall room 11 for the first meeting of their reflective tutorial. It's the first day of orientation for the fall semester of 2007, and understanding what exactly a "reflective tutorial" is supposed to be is only one item on a long list of new things to figure out.

Their day began with moving into their dorm rooms. They've been buried in information on everything from residence-hall rules to dining plans to Internet connections. They've said good-bye to their families. Whether they came from Tottenville, Staten Island, or Torrance, California, they have one thing in common: They're overwhelmed.

One by one, the students enter the room and take a seat at the tables, arranged in rows, facing the front. No one talks. No one switches on the lights. They wait in the dark to meet their first college professor.

It's the beginning of a journey into college life.

First Taste of College

A professor of religion at Wagner College since 1971, Walter Kaelber is clearly in command when he enters a classroom.

"You are probably tired, so I want to make this easy," he says as soon as he walks through the door in his trademark cowboy boots. First, he tells them to move the tables into a U-shaped arrangement. "So you can look at each other," he says.

Kaelber, a veteran teacher of first-year learning communities, takes an easy, bantering tone as he gets the meeting rolling. "I went over your files, and almost everyone picked this LC as their number-

one choice," he says. "Which says to me that you're certifiably insane."

All first-year learning communities include a reflective tutorial and two courses from different disciplines, related to each other by a common theme. In this case, the theme is "Perception, Illusion, and the Social Construction of the Self," and the classes are Religion 105: Religions of the East, taught by Kaelber, and Sociology 203: Principles of Social Psychology, taught by Laura Martocci, a sociology faculty member and assistant dean of experiential learning. Kaelber's group will join the 14 students in Martocci's reflective tutorial to compose Learning Community 5.

Kaelber reviews the basic outline of the learning community, but then goes back to the personal. "Here's what I know from reading your files. Don't worry, there's no damaging information about what you do late at night. I know your names, your birthdays ..." He shuffles through his papers, then blurts out, "Where's Kyle?" A guy with a striking mane of curly sandy-colored hair raises his hand hesitantly. "You, Kyle, have the same birthday as my wife," Kaelber says.

From the files, he continues, he also knows something about their anticipated major, career direction, and athletic participation. "Hopefully I'll get to know a bit more about you today," he adds, "if you choose to volunteer that for me and your fellow journeyers here."

Starting at the top of the list, Kaelber calls on Nick Boghos. When Kaelber hears that he's from Boston, he asks, "Red Sox fan?" "More of a Patriots fan," Boghos replies. Kaelber confirms that Boghos is on the wrestling team. "I'll keep my distance," says Kaelber. When he was in college at Bucknell, Kaelber explains, his roommate was a wrestler. "During wrestling season, he would go on a diet that made him mean!" He lowers his eyebrows and shakes his head at the thought.

One by one, Kaelber focuses on each student. Ben Pratt, also from Boston, specializes in card tricks. Brianna Stimpson, a theater major, comes from Freehold, New Jersey, and goes by "Bree." Three students are from California. "How do you feel about



I wasn't a big fan of Dr. Kaelber on the first day. He acted like he knew everything. Later, I found out he did know everything.

NICK BOGHOS

Arnold?" inquires Kaelber mischievously of Patrick Heffernan, also a theater major, who's from Orange County. "I like *The Terminator*," Heffernan says nonchalantly. "*Terminator III* is pretty good."

Besides teaching these students in two courses this semester, Kaelber will also be their academic advisor until they declare a major. All of this contact aids him in advising the students, Kaelber says. "Every school says we have a professional and caring faculty. It really is true at Wagner."

Nevertheless, Nick Boghos later confesses that he wasn't thrilled with his introduction to academic life at Wagner. "I was thinking, 'I can't believe I have to do all this reading,'" he recalls. "I wasn't a big fan of Dr. Kaelber on the first day. He acted like he knew everything, and that turns me off."

That first impression didn't last long, though. "Later, I found out he did know everything," Boghos says. "And I ended up wanting to do the reading. I actually raised my hand a lot and shared my opinions. Dr. Kaelber made me want to participate."

In fact, by the end of the semester, says Boghos, "Knowing Dr. Kaelber was the most important thing I got out of the class."

For his part, Kaelber grins when he reflects on teaching freshmen. "It's kind of cool to have a classroom full of these newly minted freshmen. It's their first time away from home, and they're nervous and excited. They're all in that same mindset. They're worried about everything — from what they're wearing to whether they can do the work. And you have the chance to give them a good taste of what college should be like."

Breaking the Ice

Four days later, at the first meeting of Kaelber's Religions of the East, the ice has clearly been broken among the 28 students.



“It’s kind of cool to have a classroom full of these newly minted freshmen. You have the chance to give them a good taste of what college should be like.”

WALTER KAELEBER, ABOVE

Everyone is chatting, about everything from textbooks to lip balm.

For Kaelber, one of the primary functions of a learning community is that it gives students a place to bond. "That may be the single most important thing it does. They may be complaining, but they're complaining together. At least they're bonding. They have a common enemy," he says with a laugh.



**YEAR
ONE**
THE WAGNER PLAN

The LC also creates a built-in academic support group in an environment of raised expectations. The students study together, check their understanding of assignments with each other, and keep each other on track in general.

They'll need this peer group, because Kaelber makes it clear that they're here to think for themselves, not to be spoon-fed. He has assigned them two textbooks to give them two different perspectives on the material. His lectures will present yet another perspective. "There will be apparent contradictions," he warns. "When you notice these, ask about them."

“I ask (students) to write about questions like, ‘Do you have free will?’ Philosophers have been debating that for centuries. I set the bar high, and they meet those expectations.”

LAURA MARTOCCI, *BELOW*



Furthermore, Kaelber emphasizes, they will be responsible for their own pace and style of learning. "I don't care in what order you do the readings, or when you do the readings," he says, "but when you show up for the quiz on September 20, you need to have that material mastered. It's a short quiz, but it's brutal."

Having set up these ground rules, Kaelber plunges into a free-wheeling lecture on the origins of Hinduism. All the while, he relates the events, which took place thousands of years ago on the other side of the globe, to the students' lives today. Breaking down boundaries — between the past and present, peoples and places, religion and sociology — is the other main point of learning communities, says Kaelber.

"If the learning community is done properly, they get to understand how disciplines are interrelated," Kaelber says. "Knowledge is a piece. Boundaries between disciplines are artificial. They can apply what they learn in one class to other classes. Knowledge is not hermetically sealed. That's very important."

From the students' perspective, the lesson of "interdisciplinarity" may not come across as such. But one thing they do know: This stuff that Kaelber is teaching them is strange and fascinating.

"I had no background in religious studies," says Heather Philben, an aspiring biopsychology major from Massachusetts. "I don't even know much about my own religion. In Dr. Kaelber's class, I have learned more about my own beliefs. There are certain ideas about Buddhism and Hinduism where I have said, 'Oh, I believe that, but I didn't know it was part of a religion.'"

Or, as Kyle Glover simply puts it, "It really does make you think, and it messes with your head."

Mental Calisthenics

“Reality is created in exchanges between people. Reality is not something out there.”

It's September 19, and Martocci is reviewing the concept of the "self" in social psychology — one of those ideas that most people take for granted. Martocci makes the students engage with the material through writing and discussion. In the first meeting of Laura Martocci's social psychology course, the students had to write their own definition of "the self," their own identity, and their own obituary.

"I make the distinction for them that in high school, they had to memorize stuff," says Martocci. "I'm here to exercise their thinking muscles. They have to make arguments to support what they say. There isn't one right answer."

Martocci knows that turning unconscious assumptions into intellectual concepts can be alternately boring and frustrating for the students. "The problem is that students tune out because they think it's stuff they already know," she explains. "They think, 'Oh, we're just talking about emotions.' It's like driving on black ice — you find out when the test comes that you've lost control of the car. I'm taking what's intuitive and packaging it intellectually."

Beginning a new topic, she asks them to write their own definition of "family." For a few minutes, quiet reigns in the room, and then they share their ideas. The students' idea of family centers around a caring community of people. Martocci then reads the Federal government's definition of family: "Two or more persons, including a householder, related by birth, marriage, or adoption, who live together as one household." In other words, she says, this public definition of "family" is more about economics than ties of affection. This sparks a firestorm of discussion — What is "family"? And do our ideals match the realities of our lives?

"She gets people involved," says Ben Pratt. "It's a lot more interesting than just sitting and taking notes."

"Every semester I push my students harder," says Martocci. "This semester, I pushed them the hardest ever. I mean, these are freshmen, and I give them writing assignments about the meaning of life. I ask them to write about questions like, 'Do you have free will?' Philosophers have been debating that for centuries. I set the bar high, and they meet those expectations."

The Wisdom of the Aged

Every reflective tutorial requires students to spend 30 hours in learning opportunities outside of the classroom — i.e., "experiential learning." In Martocci's RFT, students are going to local nursing homes, in teams of two, to talk with senior citizens about their life stories and memories. The students' goal is to create a biography of their interview subject, and in the process gain new insights into concepts they're learning in social psychology — self, family, gender, race, and so on.

Yesterday I taught fourth-graders about perspective. I couldn't have done that if I didn't really understand it myself.

ALEX MALLILO



For Heather Philben and Alexandra Mallilo, this assignment is a joy. They are working on the story of Sally Romagnano, an 82-year-old grandmother and great-grandmother, originally from Brooklyn.

The chemistry between Mallilo and Romagnano is obvious on a visit one day late in the semester. Mallilo, as aspiring education major from Long Island, is returning a photo album she had borrowed from Romagnano. Sitting together on the bed, they flip through its pages. Mallilo knows a story behind almost every photo; she knows Romagnano's family members, friends, and pets.

"We're her friends," says Mallilo. "It's nice, because you're getting credit for something you want to do."

An additional motivation for the students is that they will present their findings to the seniors and their families at the end of the semester. "You don't want to disappoint the family or the residents after you've spent so much time with them," says Mallilo. "This assignment is more than just for us — it's for the family, too."

Despite the students' worries, the presentations do not disappoint the large crowd of visitors who gather in Spiro Hall on a Saturday afternoon in December. The seniors and their families listen



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appreciatively to the students' rich and detailed portraits of the seniors' lives.

For the students, this project did more than improve their skills in researching, writing, and presenting information — it gave them an expanded view of where learning and wisdom can be found.

In the words of Annie Powers and Samantha

Siegel during their presentation about 71-year-old Livio DiCamillo: "He's a friend and a mentor, a person we aspire to be like. We're very proud of him."

A Spiritual Quest

Meanwhile, Kaelber's reflective tutorial has taken a more inward, spiritual focus.

Deepening their knowledge and appreciation of Eastern religions, the students have toured several New York museums' collections of Asian art. In class, they've probed deeply into literature and films that reflect on the mystical themes of Eastern religions within a Western context, especially via the works of turn-of-the-century German author Hermann Hesse, three of whose novels they've read this semester.

By the time of their final discussion on Hesse, the students still find the works baffling. But, as Kaelber notes after reviewing their quizzes, they have read the assigned book, *Journey to the East*, with care.

Indeed, this class has become quite personal for many of the students. "I like to think I'm on my own journey right now," says Kyle Glover, echoing one of the semester's big themes. "I've chosen

to fully immerse myself in hopes it'll make me a better person."

Kaelber leads the class not with answers, but with questions. Drawing on what students have understood, he sparks discussions that lead to a greater level of understanding.

"You'd go into class with one opinion on [the book], and walk out of class with another opinion on it," says Nick Boghos. "Class was more like a thinking exercise, working with other kids on what was real and fake in the books."

A New Voice

Working with others on figuring out what's real and what's fake — that may be the best description of what Wagner is trying to give students through the Wagner Plan: a collaborative experience of questioning, of thinking critically, of testing ideas.

In the process, students learn, above all, to trust their own ideas and to express their new-found voices.

"I never thought I'd get so much out of a semester of college," says Heather Philben. "Whether it was from the classes or just being away from home for the first time or having Manhattan right outside my window, I felt like I've never grown so much in such a short amount of time."

"I really haven't had an opportunity to use my brain like this before,"

I never thought I'd get so much out of a semester of college. I've never grown so much in such a short amount of time.

HEATHER PHILBEN

adds Kyle Glover. "I've blossomed mentally, emotionally, spiritually. I'm grateful to Wagner for that."



The Big Picture

What are Wagner students required to take these days?

General education requirements fall into four categories:

- **Foundations** Writing, math, computer sciences, and speech courses hone students' skills in communications, information technology, and quantitative reasoning.
- **Intercultural Understanding** These courses help students to understand and work well with diverse peoples. Required are an "international perspectives" course and an "American diversity" course.

● **Learning Communities** After the first-year LC, students take an intermediate LC before the end of their junior year. It can take a variety of forms, from interdisciplinary seminars to study abroad programs. The senior LC is tailored to each major, and it combines coursework with a reflective tutorial that includes 100 hours of field experience.

● **Disciplinary Perspectives** These courses give students a breadth of knowledge in the humanities, sciences, and the arts. Required are three units of social sciences, three units of humanities, two units of the arts, and two units of sciences.

Putting WAGNER first

Newsletter of The Campaign for Wagner College

In This Issue:

PAT '57 AND MARION DUGAN
Charity Navigators

CAMPAIGN FOCUS
The Annual Fund

CAMPAIGN PROFILE
Walter Baumhoff '59

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Chris Mustakas '08

Charity Navigator Founder Pat Dugan '57 Makes Leadership Gift to Campaign

In April, Wagner announced that entrepreneur and philanthropist Pat Dugan '57 and his wife, Marion, made a \$1 million commitment to The Campaign for Wagner College.

The gift will endow a scholarship fund for students with academic promise and financial need.

Coming from the man who founded Charity Navigator, a highly

regarded Web-based charity evaluator, this gift is an important vote of confidence in Wagner College.

For Dugan, Wagner College was a place of second chances. "My grades in high school were pretty poor, and I shouldn't have gotten into college at all," says Dugan. "I also had no money. But Dean Adolph Stern, who lived in my neighborhood, arranged for my acceptance and a



AT THE ELLIS ISLAND campaign kickoff last October, Carin and Richard Guarasci greet the Dugans.

partial scholarship. I am indebted to Wagner."

Dugan also says he was struck by the College's improvements and achievements since the late 1980s. "I got the impression that they were doing well and deserved help," he says.

Dugan majored in bacteriology at Wagner. After serving as a Coast Guard officer for three years, Dugan worked in pharmaceutical sales and advertising before starting his own medical advertising agency. Out of that business, he spun off PDI Inc., now a publicly traded company,

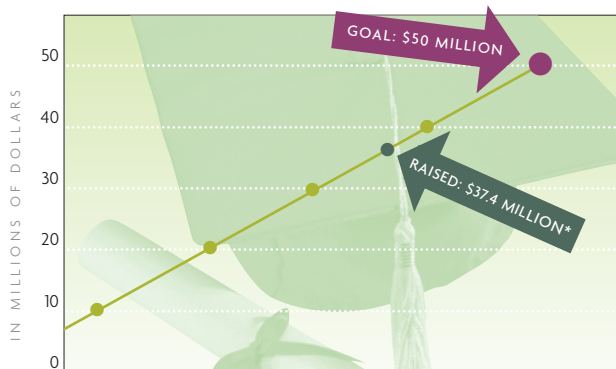
which provides services in pharmaceutical marketing.

In 2001, Dugan founded Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org). It provides free, unbiased information about the financial health of more than 5,000 charities.

Helping others achieve their goals by giving them access to information and education is, in fact, a theme that ties together Dugan's diverse initiatives in the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds.

Now, he is extending that generous spirit toward Wagner students as well.

Campaign Update: Enthusiastic Response



*INCLUDES gifts, pledges, and oral commitments made between January 1, 2004, and March 31, 2005.



Campaign Events: Regional Gatherings

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Robert C. O'Brien, Co-Chair
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ALUMNUS '59, TRUSTEE

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ALUMNUS '06

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CELEBRATING WAGNER'S 125th

anniversary and the Putting Wagner First campaign, alumni and friends gathered around the country. Left, good cheer around the table in Sarasota, Florida. Below right, alumni and friends on a tour of the wine country in Napa Valley, California. Bottom left, President Guarasci speaks with Ellen Rosato-Keane '76 and Rita Meehan at the zoo in Naples, Florida.



FRIENDS OF WAGNER Barry Smith '69 and Michele Smith in Houston (right, center), and Claire Arnold '69 and Cynthia Olcott in Boca Raton, Florida (right, below).

WAGNER FACT: Certain kinds of planned gifts allow you to invest in Wagner's future and produce a lifetime income for yourself and a beneficiary. Call Frank Young, director of major gifts, at 718-420-4494 for more information.



The Annual Fund: Everyone's Opportunity to Make a Difference

Contrary to popular belief, it's not just the select few who are able to make million-dollar gifts to Wagner College. Through the power of the

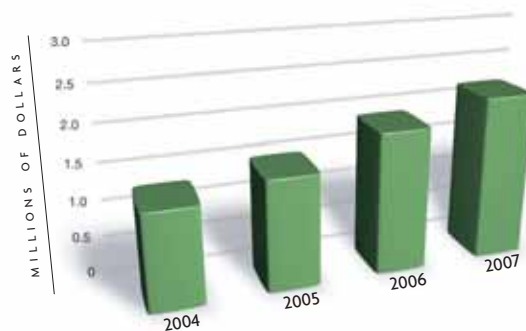
Annual Fund, everyone has the chance to participate in a million-dollar gift every year.

The Annual Fund is Wagner College's yearly fund-raising program, and its primary purpose is to raise money for student scholarships. Over the past several years, these unrestricted gifts to the Annual

“The president and senior staff have renewed my interest and made me feel that my support, of any size, is important. In such an environment, giving is fun.”

WALTER BAUMHOFF '59

A Growing Factor: Annual Fund Totals, 2004–08



2008:
\$1.1 million
(as of March 1)
and growing

The Annual Fund has risen steadily over the past few years. You can be a part of this year's Annual Fund by making a gift before August 31, 2008. Call toll-free 1-888-231-2252, visit www.wagner.edu/institutional_advancement/gift_clubs, or use the envelope enclosed in this magazine.

Fund have contributed nearly \$1 million per year for this purpose.

The Annual Fund also has the flexibility to accommodate donors' individual interests, from the library to the theatre. Alumni also target their

annual gifts for special purposes. The class of 1958, for example, is endowing a scholarship in honor of their 50th anniversary.

Whatever your interest and ability to give, the Annual Fund has a place for you.

Campaign Profile: Walter Baumhoff '59

Unforgettable Lessons: Though it has been nearly 50 years since his graduation, Walter Baumhoff '59, who lives in Palm Springs, California, clearly remembers lessons he learned from Sigvart Steen, chair of Wagner's music department.

◆ As choir manager, Baumhoff helped to organize tours locally and around the Eastern seaboard. "Professor Steen taught me focus, discipline, and the joy that comes with having done something especially well. He had exacting standards," says Baumhoff. "Yet, he was kind and patient in the supervision of my work, and he taught me the value of humor. I count my years as a music minor and choir member as among the most satisfying of my entire Wagner experience." ◆ A former student life administrator at institutions such as St. Lawrence University, Dominican College, and the Buckley School, Baumhoff maintains close ties with Wagner as a trustee and donor. ◆ "I believe money does the most good by being spread around," he says. "To me, endowment giving has the longest possible return." Baumhoff is also working with his classmates on a 50th reunion gift. He says he has always been able to match his giving interests with Wagner's needs. "The president and senior staff have renewed my interest and made me feel that my support, of any size, is important. In such an environment, giving is fun."



WAGNER FACT: Wagner's founding benefactors, John and Catherine Wagner, gave \$12,000 in 1886.

PHOTOGRAPH: GREG SCHNIEDER



A Passion for Teaching *The First Braren Scholar*

Chris Mustakas '08, the first recipient of the Howard '50 and Ruth Traeg '56 Braren Scholarship, did not expect to find a passion for teaching when he entered Wagner four years ago.

"I had no idea about going into education," says Mustakas. "But I took an education class and loved it. Then, I took a special education class. The next thing I knew, I wanted to be a special education teacher."

Inspired by education professor and autism specialist Mapy Chavez-Brown, Mustakas spent a semester teaching and doing research at the New York Center for Autism Charter School. He presented his findings at an international conference in Chicago right after his graduation.

The Brarens gave this scholarship in memory of their parents, Ralph and Margaret Braren and John and Lucy Traeg. "We had been talking about it for a long time," says Howard, "and decided now is the time to do it because of the campaign."

PHOTOGRAPH: JASON JONES





Back from the Brink

Life's promise was restored to a Wagner senior **By John Beisser**

Imagine you're a perfectly healthy 18-year-old, a freshman at a prestigious college, out on your own for the first time. You've been a top athlete your whole life, in addition to being a serious student. Classes are going well. You're on the football team.

Now, imagine that a few short months later, you're being told by a team of doctors that your heart is irreparably damaged — that, in order to live, another must die.

For Alvin Grant '08, this scenario was his dream come true transformed into a living nightmare — one from which he almost did not wake up.

A strapping 6-foot-2-inches and 205 pounds, Grant was the model of fitness, a high school standout in three sports — football, track, and basketball. He was also an excellent student who had his pick of colleges following his senior year at Albany (New York) High School. When he entered Wagner in the fall of 2004, he began pursuing an art degree and competed on the junior varsity team, with an eye toward earning a spot on the lineup as a linebacker in the spring of 2005.

It was late November 2004 when the symptoms first surfaced: a general feeling of lethargy with occasional shortness of breath.

Grant figured it was simply a chest cold.

"I felt fine for a couple of days, but then it gradually came back. When I went home to Albany on winter break, it just progressively got worse," he recalls. "There was no pain at first, it was mainly the breathing and lack of energy. I couldn't do much of anything. I could barely walk to the mall if I wanted to."

Grant was staying with a friend over that winter break, as his mother lives in his family's native country of Jamaica, and his father is deceased.

"It was maybe a day or two after New Year's, and I knew something wasn't right, that I wasn't getting any better," he says.

He went to Albany's Memorial Hospital and, following a battery of tests, was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a serious disease of the heart. The disease results in an abnormal enlargement and thickening of the heart muscle, which weakens its pumping power.

Grant is the third of five children, only one of whom, a brother, lives in the U.S.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

With his mother in Jamaica, Grant's support group consisted of his brother, his aunt, his girlfriend and her parents, along with cousins and uncles.

"After I received the diagnosis, I really wouldn't give it too much thought throughout

the day," he recalls. "I tried to distract myself with drawing or reading. I didn't really think about death. I just didn't let it envelop my mind."

His condition rapidly deteriorated, and it became obvious he had to take the spring semester off. In late January 2005, he was transferred to the Heart Institute at the

Albany Medical Center.

"That's when they started talking to me about a possible transplant," he says.

Although Grant says he was never told specifically how long he could live without a transplant, he could read between the lines. He knew the clock was ticking.

"I was also told that should I go onto the list, I'd shoot basically to the top," he says.

On February 12, his name was placed on the waiting list for a heart transplant with the United Network for Organ Sharing. Late in the evening on April 16, he got the news. There had been a car crash in Vermont; a young woman was brain dead. Her data was entered into the system. It was a match.

Grant received his new heart in a four-hour procedure at the medical center.

"As soon as I woke up, there was this warm sunlight coming through my window," he recalls. "I felt real good, kind of a surreal sort of thing."

After weeks of arduous physical therapy, his strength and energy returned. Amazingly, he returned to his studies in the fall. Today, Grant is a senior at Wagner with his sights set on a career in graphic arts. He can do anything and everything that most other people do — with the exception of playing tackle football.

Grant has never spoken directly to the family of the young woman who was killed in that crash, the 22-year-old aspiring nurse whose death gave him life. With the hospital acting as a liaison, he has written the family letters of thanks.

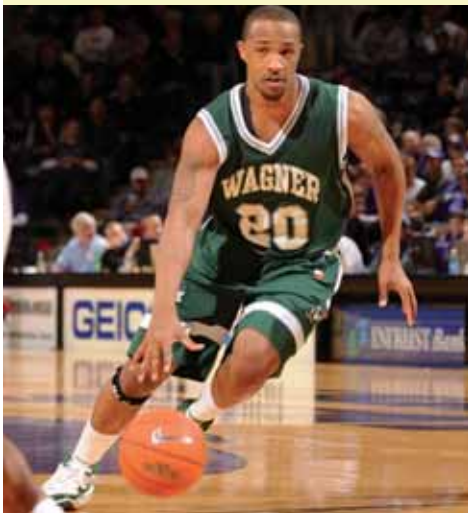
If there's one message 21-year-old Alvin Grant would like to be heard regarding his ordeal, it is simply this: "Please check off the box on your driver's license indicating you are an organ donor. It could save someone's life. It saved mine."

John Beisser is Wagner's assistant athletic director of media relations.

Another Score

Basketball standout Jamal Smith also recovered from serious heart ailment

Alvin Grant is not the only current student-athlete at Wagner to have suffered from cardiomyopathy. Standout basketball player Jamal Smith '08 also received the devastating diagnosis in 2004. ♦ Whereas Grant's was a slow, deteriorating disability, Smith's was a sudden attack. One day in December 2004, he was running sprints in practice with the basketball team when he blacked out. ♦ A battery of tests and doctor visits followed. Finally, Smith had his case examined by specialists at Johns Hopkins in his native Baltimore. They restricted him from all physical exertion. ♦ "Eventually I asked them if I could play basketball again," Smith says. "That's when they told me I probably never would play ever again." ♦ Fortunately, the doctors were wrong. About eight months after Smith was diagnosed, doctors discovered that his ailment, brought on by a viral infection, had healed itself. ♦ "It was the day before practice (in October 2005) that I got a call from the doctors, and they cleared me to play," Smith said. "That was the happiest day of my life." ♦ Smith has become a cornerstone player in the Seahawk program.



Named team captain for the 2007–08 campaign, he helped the Seahawks to a school-record 23 wins, and he is on pace to join the 1,000-point club as a fifth-year senior in 2008–09. He graduated in May with a bachelor's in business, and plans to finish his master's degree in marketing in 2009. — J.B. with reporting by Sean Brennan



SWEET VICTORY The Seahawks defeated Sacred Heart 100–92 in an epic double-OT win on Valentine's Day.

Men's basketball sets new record for season wins

Seahawks delivered a memorable milestone season in 2007–08

Guided by its talented senior trio of guard Mark Porter, center Durell Vinson, and forward James Ulrich, the Seahawks compiled a sparkling 23–8 record and a second place finish in the Northeast Conference (NEC). The 23 victories are a school record, besting the old mark of 21, reached in 1967–68, 1978–79, and 2002–03.

During the campaign, head coach Mike Deane became just the 29th coach in NCAA history to eclipse the 400 career-win mark.

The season contained its share of nail-biting moment. Five times, Wagner and its opponent went into overtime; in all five games,

the Seahawks emerged victorious. Five games was the longest winning streak of the season, but the Seahawks reached four in a row on two other occasions.

Porter delivered a team-high 16.3 points to lead the squad, while also handing out a team-high 5.5 assists per outing in earning First-Team All-NEC honors. The 6-foot-2-inch guard finished his career ranked among the top 10 in Wagner history in 10 statistical categories, including career scoring, where he finished eighth with 1,577 points.

Vinson, a 6-foot-7-inch center and a former high school teammate of Porter's at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, New Jersey, was also a First-Team All-NEC performer. He averaged 13.6 points and an NEC-leading 11.5 rebounds, a figure which ranked him third in the nation. The fourth-leading rebounder in Seahawk history, Vinson ranked 25th all-time in scoring with 1,144 points.

Ulrich, a 6-foot-7-inch forward, finished his career 35th all-time in scoring with 1,023 points. He averaged a career-high 10 points per game as a senior.

Wagner also received major contributions from a number of other players, including a pair of juniors: team captain and forward Jamal Smith (11 points per game) and guard Joey Mundweiler (10.3 points per game).



Seahawks Football 2008

Sept. 5.....at Stonehill College

Homecoming/Hall of Fame Day

Sept. 13.....Iona

Sept. 19.....at Marist

Family Weekend

Sept. 27.....Bryant College

Oct. 4.....at Central Connecticut State*

Oct. 11.....Monmouth*

Oct. 18.....at Saint Francis (Pa.)*

Oct. 25.....Robert Morris*

Nov. 1.....at Sacred Heart*

Nov. 8.....Duquesne*

Nov. 15.....at Albany*

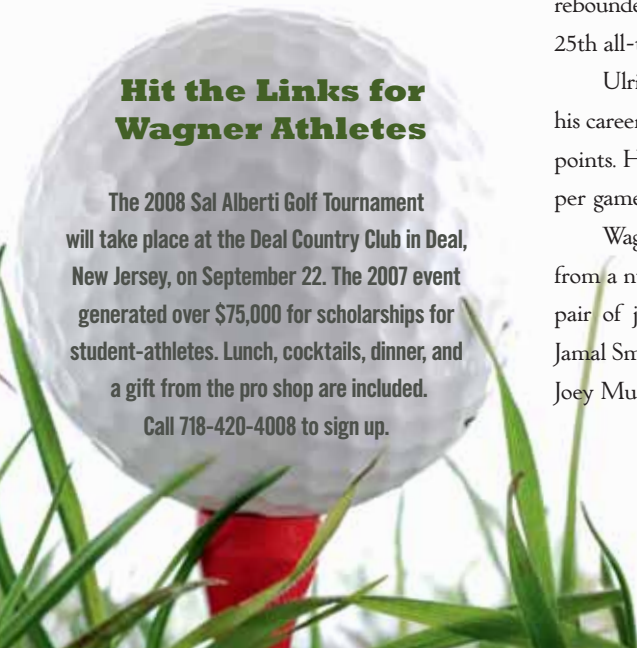
For tickets
Call 718-420-4039

* conference games

Hit the Links for Wagner Athletes

The 2008 Sal Alberti Golf Tournament will take place at the Deal Country Club in Deal, New Jersey, on September 22. The 2007 event generated over \$75,000 for scholarships for student-athletes. Lunch, cocktails, dinner, and a gift from the pro shop are included.

Call 718-420-4008 to sign up.





AlumniLink

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



HANDOFF Wagner's 125th anniversary party at Winter on the Hill was outgoing alumni director Gail Kelley's '97 (far right) final event in that role. Jake Browne '05 M'08 (beside Gail) was appointed alumni director in June. Also enjoying the fun are (left to right) Ken Krista; Kristen Krista, major gifts officer; and Darby Biggart '06, a Wagner staff accountant.

New alumni director named

Jake Browne '05 M'08 has been named Wagner's new director of alumni relations, replacing Gail Kelley '97. After seven years at Wagner, Kelley left in March to launch her own company, Dunn & Overwith LLC, a personal concierge service.

Browne arrived at Wagner College in August 2001 as a first-year student from Logan Township, New Jersey. He graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in history and a

French minor and immediately joined the staff of the Office of Admissions. Browne will receive his MBA from Wagner in August.

"Jake has proven himself a capable member of the admissions office, successfully bringing in significant numbers of new students and recruiting, training, and managing volunteers," says Myra Garcia, vice president for institutional advancement. "He will bring professionalism, a strategic focus, enthusiasm, and maturity to his new role."

{ FROM THE HILL }

Dear Alumni,

The Office of Alumni Relations has been extremely busy this year celebrating Wagner College's 125th anniversary. From Grymes Hill to the hills of San Francisco to the Texas Hill Country, we've been taking our show on the road. Check our listings on page 32 for upcoming events!

As a 2007 Wagner graduate, I'd like to highlight how active our young alumni are in supporting the College. We've had several well-attended happy hour events, including one at Ristorante 110, owned by George Gaspar '88. During



Songfest on April 5, more than 125 attended the young alumni happy hour. Not only was much fun had by all, but more than \$1,300 was contributed to the Douglas M. Krueger '03 Scholarship Fund. The class of 2008 has already stepped

up to the plate, too, raising money for a scholarship as their senior class gift (see page 32).

I am excited about the events coming up this summer and fall. I love meeting alumni and swapping stories and memories. My favorite is learning just how many of you have sledded down the hill on a lunch tray.

I look forward to hearing more stories and seeing you at upcoming events!

From the Hill,

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
ALUMNI RELATIONS
718-420-4165
KARA.MCGANN@WAGNER.EDU





Alumni Opportunities

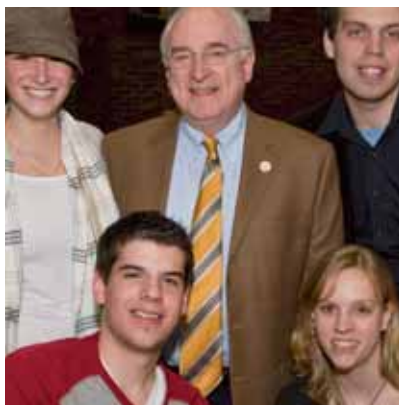
REVISIT BREGENZ The Office of Alumni Relations is leading a trip to Bregenz, Austria; Munich, Germany; and Prague, Czech Republic, September 27– October 6. Visit www.wagner.edu/alumni/bregenz2008 for complete information and itinerary.

BLACK AND LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Black and Latino alumni are invited to join a new group focused on professional networking, reigniting old friendships, and assisting Wagner College with special projects. The first official gathering will be held during Homecoming, September 13. Contact Daymon S. Yizar '82 for more information: dyiz@aol.com or 914-682-0205.

'Zum Wohl!'

Wagner's 125th birthday celebrated German-style

With over 300 people in attendance at this year's Winter on the Hill, it was an amazing way to kick off the 125th anniversary of Wagner. The day started with a matinee performance of *The Mikado* and a women's basketball game. Then everyone headed to the Union for a reception and dinner for alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students. The dining hall was converted into a traditional Hofbräuhaus complete with a German-style dinner. Carl Westerdahl '59 hosted the event, including a polka band and German dancers. We ended the night with the men's basketball win.



THE WAGNER UNION was transformed into a festive Hofbräuhaus for the 125th kickoff celebration on March 1. Guests included (top right) Ken '59 and Frances Goehl; (bottom right) Ken Nilsen '88 and Lauren Patsos '07; and (bottom left) Rebecca Murdock '10, President Guarasci, Phil Pallitto '09, Brandon Tarpey '08, and Morgan Scott '08.

Senior class leaves the gift of opportunity

For the past several years, the senior class has worked to leave behind a significant gift to Wagner as part of their legacy. This year's senior class chose to help a fellow student make a dent in his tuition bills and achieve what the seniors are now enjoying: a valuable college degree.



THE SENIOR LEGACY

Derek Blauser '09 received the Class of 2008 Scholarship.

With the 16-member Senior Gift Committee leading the charge, the class raised money for the Class of 2008 Scholarship. Events such as the Spring Break Cruise, 99 Nights Until Graduation, and a Homecoming 50/50 raffle were fun as well as profitable. The scholarship was awarded to Derek Blauser '09, a business administration major from Barnegat, New Jersey.

Blauser won't be the only recipient of this graduating class's largesse. The class of 2008 hopes to keep up the momentum and raise \$100,000 to

endow their scholarship by 2023.

"I am so pleased to see that this year's senior gift is not something physical, but instead the gift of education," says Morgan Scott '08, president of the Student Government Association and member of the Senior Gift Committee. "I think this is a sign of the change that is taking place within our school's culture, that the class of 2008 has chosen to give back to future students the education and experiences that we have enjoyed here at Wagner through a scholarship that will continue on for years."



THE NAPLES ZOO provided a picturesque locale for one of Wagner's regional 125th celebration gatherings, proving that President Guarasci (top left) feels comfortable talking about Wagner in any setting. Top right, Janet Merkel '57 checks out the lion's den; below left, she enjoys the boat tour with Pat Peterson. Gail Kelley '97 is waving goodbye at bottom right.



Upcoming Events

For each of the cities and states listed below, the Office of Alumni Relations will bring Wagner's 125th anniversary celebration to your area. Mark your calendar and watch your mailbox for more information, or visit www.wagner.edu/alumni.

**July 17
Long Island**

**July 19
Alumni Trip
to the Bronx Zoo**

**August 2
BarAnticipation
in Bel Mar, N.J.**

**September 13
Homecoming**

**September 27-
October 6
Bregenz/ Munich/
Prague Trip**

**October 2
Philadelphia**

**October 3
Washington, D.C**



Under the Tuscan Sun

Wagnerians bask in 'bella Italia'

This spring, 27 alumni and friends of the College enjoyed a spectacular trip to Italy, with a Wagner twist. ● The travelers toured Florence, the Tuscan countryside, Rome, Sorrento, and Pompeii. Mitchell Shenker, senior director of dining services at Wagner, arranged for a wine-tasting at the picturesque Villa Vignamaggio in Chianti. Before departing, the group sang Wagner's alma mater at the farewell dinner at Ristorante Galeassi in Rome. For some, the trip didn't stop there: A remnant of insatiable globetrotters remained to spend a few more days in Venice. ● The next opportunity to travel abroad with the Wagner Alumni Association will be September 27-October 6, with the destinations of Bregenz, Austria; Munich, Germany; and Prague, Czech Republic.



BLUE SKIES and beautiful sights made the spring trip to Italy a delight. Pictured above is one of Venice's famous canal-lined streets. Left, the group in Pompeii.

PHOTOGRAPH, ABOVE: BETTY MCCOMISKEY

New members and officers join NAA board

The National Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomed two new members and two new officers during the Reunion Weekend luncheon on June 7.

● New NAA board member **Joel Richardson '02 M'07** works in pharmaceutical sales in Brooklyn. He holds a B.S. in business administration as well as an MBA from Wagner. He's also the founder of Soul Joel Productions, which produces weekly comedy shows in Brooklyn, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Staten Island. He has been working with the Alumni Office to co-sponsor several upcoming young alumni events.

● **Don Browne '83**, another new board member and Wagner business major, is a CPA working in Manhattan and living in New Jersey. Besides representing the class of 1983 as the class fund agent, Don works with the Office of Academic and Career Development to provide internships for current Wagner students. Don and Joel will serve on

the NAA board until 2014.

● A member of the NAA Board since 2003, **Lisa DeRespino Bennett '85** was elected board president. She had served as vice president for the last year and as chair of the Communications Committee before that. Lisa holds a B.A. in theatre and speech and is a vice president and senior communications manager with JPMorgan Chase.



Two of her three stepdaughters are currently attending Wagner.

● **Tad Bender '06** became the NAA board's vice president. He graduated with a B.S. in business administration and a B.A. in economics. An analyst in the Corporate and Real Estate Restructuring Group of Credit Suisse, Tad also serves Wagner as a member of the Capital Campaign Executive Committee and as a class fund agent.



For Inquiring Minds

Can't wait for the next *Wagner Magazine*? Find out what's going on at Wagner with the monthly EBlas, brought to you by the Office of Alumni Relations. Sign up by sending an e-mail to alumni@wagner.edu.





ClassNotes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1939

Class Fund Agent: **John D. Barbes**
85 Cloverdale Ave., Staten Island, NY
10308, 718-984-8547

1941

Dorothee Holmstrup-Bryant self-published a book of her devotional writings, *Rest Stops: Meditations along Life's Highway*, for personal or small-group use. Her work has appeared in *Lutheran Woman Today* and daily devotional publications such as *Christ in Our Home* and *The Upper Room*. If you'd like a copy of her book, which costs \$12.95, call her at 201-796-6386.

1942

Class Fund Agent: **Theodore W. Gibson**
778 Ynez Circle, Danville, CA 94526

1949

Class Fund Agent: **Margaret Christie Nicolais** 1215 Latham Court,
Livingston, NJ 07039, 212-570-1049

Dr. **Norman E. Schaefer** is active with the Dictionary Project of Charleston, S.C.

He appeared in a photo in *The Bernardsville (N.J.) News* along with a third-grade class from the Millington School in Long Hill Township, all happily holding their new reference books. Norman lives in Chatham, N.J.

1950

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

1951

Class Fund Agent: **Harry A. Volz**
64 Linden Street, Massapequa Park,
NY 11762, 516-541-5517,
hvolz@optonline.net

1952

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

Fred Brockmann '52 M'54 and **Lee Schriever Brockmann** '53 have moved to Sarasota, Fla. Fred notes that for many years the class of '52 has not had a correspondent, so he has volunteered his services in this area. He is

interested in hearing from you by e-mail or phone about your present whereabouts and activities so he can send them on to *Wagner Magazine*. Please contact him at the information listed above. **George Handley** wrote to us with memories of his years at Wagner, inspired by the College's 2008 calendar that featured historical photos in honor of Wagner's 125th anniversary. He also enclosed a new publication, *Profiles in Mission*, issued by the Lutheran Archives Center of the Northeast Region, of which he is chairman. It features an article about the history of Staten Island's Trinity Church. George celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination in 2006. He lives in Falls Church, Va.

1953

Class Fund Agent: **Albert Tosi**
70 Woodcliff Lake Road, Saddle River,
NJ 07458, 201-327-3448

Lee Brockmann and **Fred Brockmann** '52 M'54 have moved to Sarasota, Fla.

1954

Class Fund Agent: **Manfred W. Lichtmann** 3112 Lahinch Drive, Myrtle
Beach, SC 29579, 843-903-5715

Wanda Schweizer Praisner '54 M'57 of Bedminster, N.J., was awarded two poetry fellowships for residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, Va., in the fall and winter of 2007. In January 2008, she was a participant in the Palm Beach, Fla., Poetry Festival. She has received many awards for her poetry, which has been published in *The Atlanta Review*, *Journal of New Jersey Poets*, and *New York Magazine*, among others. Her book of poems, *A Fine and Bitter Snow*, was published in 2003 by Palanquin Press.

1955

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

The Rev. **Russell B. Greene Jr.** '55 M'62 celebrated 50 years as a Lutheran pastor last year. He received his bachelor of divinity and master of divinity degrees from Mt. Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He began his pastorate at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Norwalk, Conn., in 1962, and he still serves there. He lives in Norwalk with his wife, Marion.

Keep in Touch!

Submit your news and photos:

E-mail: classnotes@wagner.edu

Web: www.wagner.edu/alumni/class_notes_update_form

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

Or contact your class agent, whose address is listed with your class's notes. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a class correspondent, please contact Laura Barlament, editor of *Wagner*, at laura.barlament@wagner.edu or 718-390-3147.

Publication policies:

Deadlines: This issue reflects news received by April 1.

The submission deadline for the fall 2008 issue is September 1.

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

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

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

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



George Lewis '56, in Guatemala

1956

Class Fund Agent: **George E. Lewis**
5043 Kelsie Court, Florence, OR
97439, 541-997-7778,
mrclor@charter.net

George Lewis, retired from a stint in professional baseball and 36 years as a stockbroker, lives in Florence, Ore., where he has become involved in humanitarian work through the Rotary Club. Under his leadership, his local club has prospered, gaining membership and being named Most Outstanding Club in the district. Two years ago, he volunteered to go to Guatemala on a mission to improve the health of extremely poor people by installing cooking stoves in their homes. A fellow Rotarian from the Guatemala Sur Rotary Club informed him of the great need for clean drinking water in Guatemala. Over the past few years, George's club has raised \$360,000 for water filtration systems and has recruited other local Rotary clubs to join them in the effort. Visit www.cleanwaterguatemala.net for more information and photos.

1957

Class Fund Agent: **Marie Attonito Alberti** 109 Patio Drive, Endwell, NY
13760, 607-754-3400

Janet Merkel has a one-year-old granddaughter, Maia Merkel-Leavitt. See Crib Notes on page 41 for a photo.

1958

Class Fund Agent: **H. Milton Keen**
10581 Lees Mill Road, Warrenton,
VA 20186, 540-439-1262,
mk10581@copper.net

1959

Class Fund Agent: **Phyllis Donahue**
20 Pinebrook Drive, Neptune, NJ
07753, 732-922-2139

1960

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

1961

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

1962

Class Correspondent: **Rita King**
5801 E. Edgemont Ave., Scottsdale,
AZ 85257, 480-947-3693,
ritabee@att.net

1963

Class Fund Agent: **John Donovan**
141-A Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY
10707, 914-282-8982,
jvd@concordia-ny.edu

1964

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

'Look, Guys!'

The family of the late **Chester Sellitto** '50 M'52 gathered to remember him at the Roger T. Ling/Chester Sellitto Memorial Award in the Spiro Sports Center. Pictured are his sister, Carmela Labetti; his widow, Patricia Sellitto; and his son Pete with his wife, Edelyn, and their children, McKenna and Mason. A member of the Wagner Athletic Hall of Fame, Chester was head Wagner basketball coach, 1965-72, and a history teacher at Curtis High School. Edelyn wrote: "His family is ever so grateful for the memorial award plaque. It is even more meaningful when I can show it to his grandchildren and say, 'Look, guys, that was your grandfather.'"



Julia Sinisgalli Barchitta '64 M'81 was honored by Soroptimist International's Staten Island chapter with the Soroptimist Woman of Distinction Award, "in recognition of her outstanding voluntary and professional accomplishments in the program area of education." Julia is dean of learning communities and experiential learning at Wagner College, which allows her to introduce students to the place she has called home since she entered Wagner College as a student herself in 1960. She works with many not-for-profit, cultural, political, and health-related organizations in meeting their needs and providing learning experiences for Wagner students.

1965

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Barry Faden**
4637 Torrey Pines Drive,
Chino Hills, CA 91709,
909-606-2005, bdfmarla@msn.com
Jack Felver 25244 Pelican Creek Circle,
Unit 201, Bonita Springs, FL 34134,
239-495-8861, jfelver@aol.com

1966

Class Correspondent: **Gerry Magliocca**
gerrymaglio@aol.com, 908-407-3104

The late **John Drennan** was inducted in April into the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame as an *Unsung Hero*. He was a member of the *Seahawks'* 1964 undefeated team and served for years as head football coach of Tottenville High School on Staten Island. He also had a celebrated career with the New York City Fire

Department and lost his life in a 1994 fire. **Robert C. O'Brien** was inducted into the 2008 Alumni Hall of Distinction by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, an organization of more than 100 institutions of higher education in New York state. Wagner College nominated Bob to this honor, which pays tribute to men and women who bring honor to the state of New York. A lifetime trustee of Wagner College and co-chair of the Campaign for Wagner College, Bob is managing director of Credit Suisse First Boston.

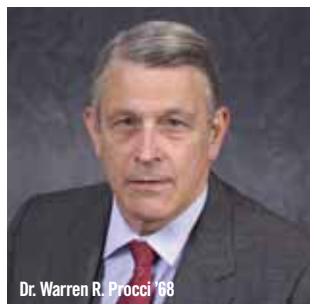
1967

Class Correspondent: Maureen L. Robinson 160 Jockey Hollow Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924-1312, 908-203-2939, mrobidwolf@aol.com

1968

Class Fund Agent: Richard W. Ball 13 Jeffro Drive, Ridgefield, CT 06877, 203-431-6062

Robert J. Malone was named to the Connecticut Superior Court earlier this year. He is a partner at the law office of Coughlin & Malone in Milford. Dr. **Warren R. Procci** has been elected president of the American Psychoanalytic Association. After serving two terms as the association's treasurer, he will preside over the organization through its 100th anniversary in 2011. "To be elected president of one's professional association represents a capstone career accomplishment," said the Staten Island native. "I feel a never-ending gratitude to Wagner, because here was my first



Dr. Warren R. Procci '68

exposure to bigger ideas than what I saw on popular TV shows or discussed on local street corners." He received his M.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1972, completing his psychiatric residency there in 1974. In addition to his private practice as a psychoanalyst and psychiatrist in Pasadena, Calif., he is a clinical professor of psychiatry at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He also teaches psychiatry at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He remains involved with Wagner as a member of the Board of Trustees.

1969

Class Fund Agent: Philip Straniere 3 St. Austins Place, Staten Island, NY 10310, 718-447-4717

Cliff Oster left his position as director of operations for Glaceau Vitamin Water and joined Skinny Nutritional Corp. as director of operations. He will be in charge of product development, purchasing, and production of Skinny Water, "the only zero-calorie, flavored water that suppresses your appetite," according to the company. **Richard Salinardi** was inducted in April into the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame as an Unsung Hero. Read more about him in our profile on page 37.

1970

Class Fund Agent: Gregory Gulbrandsen 2184 NE Meadow Lane, Bend, OR 97701, 541-382-6910, greg@cascadecreative.com

Edward Leibfried has retired from a more than 30-year career as a teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator in the Point Pleasant School District, N.J. The local newspaper reviewed his career, noting that his final position was as assistant superintendent. The paper reported that he plans to spend more time with his family — his wife, Sandy; his two children, Reed and John; and his grandson, Cole (2) — and to stay active by kayaking, a longtime hobby. The Rev. **Ron Pierre Vignec** was the 2007

recipient of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize, awarded on September 29 at the Scandinavian Cultural Center of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. "Pastor Ron," as he is known in his community, founded the Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission in east Tacoma, where he has served as a pastor and leader since 1985. He describes "Salishan" as "a linguistic term that embraces the languages of the South Puget Sound Indian tribes. ... In the Salishan community, many languages are spoken: Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, Russian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, various Slavic tongues, Tongan, Samoan, Spanish, and the dialects of Native Americans, African Americans, and Caucasians (some with a Norwegian accent)." According to the press release about the Peace Prize, Salishan is the largest Federal housing project on the West Coast. "It was once awash in violence, drugs, prostitution, and ethnic tensions, but [Vignec's] hard work has helped drop every measurable crime statistic in Salishan," the release said.

1971

Class Fund Agent: Kathy O'Donnell 3322 Woodland Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, 570-894-4731, kacod0221@yahoo.com

1972

Michael Tadross last year added to his considerable filmography by serving as an executive producer of *I Am Legend*, starring Will Smith. Michael also worked with Will Smith in *Hitch* (2005).

1973

Class Fund Agent: Henry E. Gemino 5 Strickland Place, Manhasset, NY 11030, 516-467-4191, pipe.ny@prodigy.net

Ed Bray received the Award of Merit from the Colorado High School Press Association, the *Staten Island Advance* reported. He has taught

English at Cañon City High School for 32 years, and has taught the yearbook class for 25 years.

1974

Class Fund Agent: Diane R. Recio 11 Holly Place, Larchmont, NY 10538, 914-833-0202, nrc917@aol.com

Bob Schnurr was inducted in April into the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame as an Unsung Hero. An accountant by profession, he has served as a statistician for many Wagner athletic teams ever since he came to Wagner as an undergraduate in 1970.

1975

Co-Class Fund Agents: Richard G. DePaul 8 McKay Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, 908-218-1418
Patricia Martin 1341 NE Market Drive, Apt. 355, Fairview, OR 97024, 503-669-8421, phood@mhcc.edu

1976

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

Dr. **E. John Lentini** was appointed by Massachusetts Governor Romney to the advisory committee to the Health Care Quality and Cost Council. The council will establish health care quality improvement and cost control goals. The council was created as part of the new law mandating universal health care in the state. John is the past president of the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians and is now a delegate to the National Assembly of the Task Force for the Valuation of Physician Services and the task force on Medical Cost Control with the Massachusetts Medical Society. He is a family medicine specialist in private practice at Braintree Family Physician Inc. in Braintree, Mass. He lives with his wife, Grace, in Hull, Mass.

1977

Class Fund Agent: **Jeanne Delaney-Malikian** 6 Walden Street, Somers, NY 10589, 845-277-8571

1978

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

1979

Ernie Eckstein and **Linda Greco Eckstein** '80 welcomed their first grandchild, Knox Frederick Roegner, on May 11, 2007. Their children are Kristina (26), Katilin (22), and Mark (14). Ernie is a senior allocator for J.C. Penney, and Linda teaches middle school English.

1980

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Edward L. Garlock** 132 Highland Drive, Bedford, PA 15522-9766, 814-623-1124, legarlock@earthlink.net
Billy K. Tyler 1807 North Gramercy Place, Apt. 5, Los Angeles, CA 90028, 323-462-7111, billyktyler@aol.com

Linda Greco Eckstein and **Ernie Eckstein** '79 welcome their first grandchild, Knox Frederick Roegner, on May 11, 2007. Their children are Kristina (26), Katilin (22), and Mark (14). Linda teaches middle school English, and Ernie is a senior allocator for J.C. Penney. **Claire Regan** captured first place among New York state newspapers with circulations between 50,000 and 125,000 in the Brightest Headline category of the 2006-07 New York State Associated Press Association writing and graphics contest. The article, shouting the headline "CALL IT FATTEN ISLAND," reported on alarming statistics citing Staten Island as the New York City borough with the highest obesity rate. Claire also

'The Purest Form of Teaching'

Richard Salinardi '69 sees potential where others see problems

As an intern at Willowbrook State School, Wagner education major **Richard Salinardi** '69 faced a choice. In his words, "Get out, or stay and accomplish something." ♦ "It was barbaric," Salinardi recalls of the infamous Staten Island institution. Intended to serve as a home for mentally retarded children, Willowbrook became a dumping ground for anyone viewed as out of the norm. Although it had become notorious for abuse, neglect, and overcrowding as early as the 1960s (Sen. Robert F. Kennedy visited in 1965 and called it "a snake pit"), it remained in operation until the mid-1980s. ♦ Where others saw hopelessness, however, Salinardi saw potential. Not only did he complete an internship there, but he also stayed on as a full-time teacher and recruited 20 other Wagnerians as interns. ♦ "We were extremely idealistic, all-knowing. It was the last time I was a 'genius,'" he jokes. "We became advocates for people who didn't count, whose existence seemed pointless." ♦ Salinardi and his interns faced significant hurdles. One of their goals was to integrate residents into the Staten Island community. But when they escorted them outside Willowbrook, frightened people would cross the street. ♦ "They don't anymore," says Salinardi, who has remained an advocate during a long and productive career. He went on to earn a master's in special education at Fordham and taught at P.S. 3 and the Occupational Training Center (now the Hungerford School). He currently serves as executive director of Lifestyles for the Disabled, a non-profit agency he founded 14 years ago to provide enriching services and opportunities for developmentally disabled adults. ♦ He and his staff of 75 – including Wagner interns – serve 200 "consumers" (as the organization's clients are called). Consumers are "proud of the real work they do," Salinardi says. They prepare and serve food in a café; grow and deliver flowers; cook, deliver, and serve food to a thousand seniors annually; and sell woodwork they craft on sophisticated machinery. ♦ Meaningful work can spark remarkable transformations, says Salinardi. "One [consumer] hardly spoke, was usually angry, sometimes violent," he recalls. "But as soon as he was put behind the café counter, he changed completely – he smiled, relaxed, became talkative, and suddenly could do things we never imagined." ♦ The first in his family to attend college, Salinardi came to Wagner on a football scholarship. Later, he coached Seahawks football for 10 years. Today, he integrates his background in sports with his passion for special education through his work with the Special Olympics – he coordinated Staten Island's games and chaired the organization's New York board. ♦ Working with intellectually challenged people is "the purest form of teaching," Salinardi says. "They're so eager to learn." – **Joel H. Cohen '50**



designed the page, which wrapped the text around an anonymous man's paunch. **John Springstead** is teaching software engineering at the Guilin University of Electronic Technology in Guilin, China, after having been

an adjunct in Wagner's computer science department for the previous six and one half years. John is at Guilin University on a one-year contract. He wrote in February, "I have been here six weeks, and I am enjoying

it greatly; but I do miss teaching at Wagner a bit, so at the end of this contract I will decide if I am going to stay or not." View photos at <http://prof-s.com/inChina>. **Billy Tyler** appeared on page 13 of the March

31 issue of *Life & Style* magazine, as he was shooting a scene with Adam Sandler for the movie *Bedtime Stories*. **Rob Weening** was appointed chief financial officer of Velocity Commercial Capital in Westlake Village, Calif., in April. Rob has more than 25 years of experience in the financial and mortgage industry, including most recently serving as vice president of financial planning and analysis at Credit-Based Asset Servicing and Securitization LLC in New York.

1981

Class Correspondent: **Lauretta Zitano**
732-449-4883

Sharon Stakofsky Davis has been serving as marketing and sales coordinator for the Simon Family Jewish Community Center in Virginia Beach, Va., since last year. She has been married for 25 years and has two sons. Her older son is studying material chemistry at the University of Virginia, and the younger plans to study economics at New York University.

1982

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

1983

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Donald T. Browne** 90 St. Marks Place N., Apt. 1B, Staten Island, NY 10301, 718-556-2508, dbrowne100@aol.com
Linda Romani 40008 N. Integrity Trail, Anthem, AZ 85086, 623-551-9136, momofdm@qwest.net

1984

James Brock Harris III has been employed with the Administration for Children's Services for the last 23 years. He has served in the capacity of borough director overseeing Kinship Foster Care Services for



Good Eats

George and Gabriella Lepore Gaspar, both '88, along with their daughter, Isabella, show off their restaurant, Gasparino's, located at 308 East 6th Street in New York, N.Y. The Web site Time Out New York says, "As the lone Italian joint on a block of curry houses, Gasparino's stands out – noodles, sausages, and tasteful decor instead of rice, spice, and Christmas lights." Find their hours and menu at www.gasparinos.com. Or, check out their newest locale, Ristorante 110 at 110 John Street.

the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Staten Island. He also runs a youth program in Harlem called Youth Step. The program is offered to adolescents throughout the five boroughs, and all programs and events associated with Youth Step are free to the public. **Alan MacKenzie** has been named executive vice president of Takeda America Holdings. He has been with the Takeda companies for 22 years, and previously served as president of TAP Pharmaceutical Products and of Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America.

1985

Class Fund Agent: **Andrew G. Williams**
5192 Round Lake Road, Apopka, FL
32712, 407-889-3524,
Andy799062@aol.com

1986

Class Fund Agent: **Wade C. Appelman**
6 Aaron Road, Lexington, MA
02421, 301-869-6508,
wadeapp@yahoo.com

Steven Peters is a lieutenant with the Ocean Township, N.J., Police Department, and he was featured in his local newspaper in January. It reported that he was honored by the Monmouth County Traffic Officers Association for his work in investigations of serious traffic accidents. He is also the public information officer for his department. In March, he attended an 11-week training program at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. **Gretchen Busch Wolfrum**, **Christine Ottway Tani**, and **Arne Abrahamson** attended the confirmation of Tristan Danischewski, son of **Lorraine Warnke**

Danischewski, on October 28, 2007, at Trinity Lutheran Church on Staten Island. Tristan's grandmother was the late **Ruth Danielson Danischewski** '50.

1987

Class Fund Agent: **Meredith Acacia**
5 Aspen Court, Jackson, NJ 08527,
732-928-8452

1988

Class Fund Agent: **Kenneth Nilsen**
807 Castlepoint Terrace, Hoboken, NJ
07030, 201-222-0182,
knilsen@stevens.edu

Richard Negrin was named to the Board of Managers of the Philadelphia Foundation, a community foundation that administers 750 charitable trusts and awards \$21 million in grants and scholarships annually to area non-profit organizations. Negrin is vice president, associate general counsel, and a member of the Executive Leadership Council of ARAMARK. He was named a "Super Lawyer" by *Philadelphia* magazine and a "Minority Rising Star" by the *Legal Intelligencer*. Previously, he was a litigator with MorganLewis and a prosecutor in the Major Trials Unit of the Philadelphia district attorney's office.

1989

Class Correspondent: **Jennifer Solaas Nilsen** 807 Castlepoint Terrace, Hoboken, NJ 07030, 201-222-0182, ramsjord@yahoo.com

Laurie Merhi '89 M'93 welcomed a baby boy, Ryan Omar Merhi, on June 2, 2007.

1990

Class Fund Agent: **Levent Bayrasli**
72 Kyle Drive, Phillipsburg, NJ
08865, 908-213-9598,
sonichros@verizon.net

Maria Giura wrote four one-hour episodes of *New Morning*, which aired on the Hallmark Channel in October,

November, and December 2007. "Produced by Lightworks Producing Group," Maria says, "New Morning explores the journeys of the human spirit." **Ken Levy** married Rachel Olin on December 23, 2007, in Miami Beach, Fla. The couple lives in Coral Gables, Fla. **Patricia Smith Amis** self-published her autobiography, entitled *Snatched from the Fire: A Young Woman's Life Consumed by Darkness*. She describes it as follows: "This is a personal testimony of how Jesus Christ delivered me from a world of domestic violence, alcohol abuse, depression, and witchcraft. I am also in the process of getting a film produced, based on the book." The book is available at Authorhouse.com and other online booksellers.

1991

Class Fund Agent: **Jennifer A. Norton-Mantegna** 802 Schley Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08755, 732-458-1412

1992

Class Fund Agent: **Natalie Migliaro** 510 DB Kellyway, South Amboy, NJ 08879, 732-952-8577, natmig@rci.rutgers.edu

Marybeth Morrison Gallagher is busy as a mom of three little girls: Elizabeth (4), Allison (2), and Kelly (15 months). She is employed as a senior physical therapist for Staten Island Hospital. **Ovies Cortizo Guadalupe** and her husband, Cesar, announce the birth of Amanda Nicole on August 3, joining her big brother, Sebastian (2).

1993

Class Fund Agent: **Stuart Plotkin** 211 Brighton 15th Street, Apt. 4D, Brooklyn, NY 11235, 718-982-6898, SPlotkin@pclient.ml.com

1994

Class Fund Agent: **James J. Hickey** 4209 Route 516, Matawan, NJ 07747, 732-290-3900 ext. 3905, james.hickey@obps.org

Veronica Schron DiMeglio has a new daughter; see Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a photo.

1995

Class Fund Agent: **Nancy L. Salgado-Cowan** 185 Heywood Court, Matawan, NJ 07747, nursenancy1@hotmail.com

Sal Cowan sent in a photo of his new baby; see Crib Notes, page 41. **Tracey Sorrentino Sheedy** '95 M'97 has become the first physician's assistant for obstetrics and gynecology in the New Milford, Conn., area, according to an article from last August in the *News-Times* of Danbury, Conn. "I can bring a woman's empathy, a woman's perspective to my work," she told the newspaper. She received her P.A. degree from Catholic Medical Center in Queens. Tracy and her husband, Chris, have two young children, Matthew and Meaghan.

1996

Class Fund Agent: **Rebecca Wallo Rose**

41481 NYS Route 180, Clayton, NY 13624, 315-778-8419, harrypotter71674@yahoo.com

Michael Murphy and **Nikki Tobias Murphy** '97 have a new baby; see Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a photo. **Gerard Sheehan** and **Christine Meilan-Sheehan** '97 also have a new baby; see Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a photo.

1997

Class Fund Agent: **Alison N. Boyd** 14 Essex Drive, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779, 631-451-8220

Julie Firestone '97, M'00 and **Brad Levine** have announced their engagement. Julie works as a social studies teacher at P.S. 39 in Staten Island. Brad is a science teacher at Tottenville High School. They are planning a July wedding. **Christine Meilan-Sheehan** and **Gerard Sheehan** '96 have a new baby; see Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a photo. **Nikki Tobias Murphy** and **Michael Murphy** '96 also have a new baby; see

Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a photo.

1998

Class Fund Agent: **Tara Yeo Lagana** 11465 Harlequin Lane #504, Fishers, IN 46038, 765-748-9088, TLLagana@hotmail.com
Class Correspondent: **Darren L. Greco** 24 Daniella Court, Staten Island, NY 10314, 718-761-6069, dgreco25@mac.com

1999

Class Fund Agent: **Vinnie S. Potestivo** 226 Shippin Street, 2nd Floor, Weehawken, NJ 07087, 201-558-7922

John Lugo has announced his engagement to **Robyn Dobbins**. John works as the director of physical therapy with Northeast Spine & Wellness Center in Clark, N.J. Robyn works as a physical therapist with Staten Island University Hospital. They are planning a September wedding.

A Playwright to Watch

Pia Wilson's devotion to writing earns artistic kudos

Pia Wilson '93 was selected for the Emerging Writers Initiative of The Public Theatre of New York, N.Y. Out of 700 applicants, only 12 won spots in this program that nurtures the artistic growth of playwrights early



Wilson (inset) and The Public Theatre in New York City.

in their careers. Pia also works as an editor and designer for the non-profit WHY (www.whyhunger.org), is a columnist for *Jersey Woman Magazine*, and publishes an online magazine, *Pia Quarterly*. "Theater is the number one focus of my life," she says. "I really care about the art of the work, the craft of writing." Learn more at www.piawilson.com.

2000

Class Fund Agent: Erin K. Donahue
5 Inverness Court, Wading River, NY
11792, 516-463-9070,
edonahue45@optonline.net

Karolyn Dunn Sliger M'00 is raising a couple of stars in the making. Her son, Ryan (3), appeared (atop Thomas the Tank Engine) in a magazine advertisement for the Oragel Training Toothbrush, and he also performed in commercials for Pampers diapers and Cheerios cereal. Karolyn's daughter, Sydney (2), is a model for Baby Gap. Maddy Sliger of Wagner's Office of the Dean of Campus Life is the proud grandmother of Sydney and Ryan.

2001

Class Fund Agent: Simone Diaz
1655 N. Colony Road, Unit 19,
Meriden, CT 06450, 203-639-4855,
simoneamcbride@yahoo.com

Anthony Canova and **Lauren Garetano Canova** '03 announce the birth of their second daughter; see Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a picture. **Bret Shuford** made his solo cabaret debut in January at the Laurie Beechman Theatre at Westbank Café in New York City. He performed contemporary and Broadway favorites, as well as com-

positions from multi-award-winning musical director Michael Holland. As announced in the last Alumni Link, **Bret** is the understudy to Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, which opened on Broadway last November. He wrote about his experience: "Understudying, you never know when you will go on — unless, of course, the actor that plays the part is on vacation. I've gone on twice this year. Both times, it was a blast. I love getting to kiss Ariel, of course, at the end. The audience always applauds. I also love getting to sing 'Her Voice' on an empty Broadway stage. It's a rush."

2002

Co-Class Fund Agents: Peter J. Herbst
24 Bethke Road, Killingworth, CT
06419, 203-314-6465,
Herbstpe@bc.edu
Renee M. Sudol 764 Constitution Drive,
Brick, NJ 08724, 732-840-2069,
nay537@yahoo.com
Cindy M. Sforza Maley

Christina DeCicco was performing the role of Glinda in the U.S. National Tour of the Broadway hit musical *Wicked* from January to November 2007. *Wicked* ran for three months in Philadelphia last year, and a feature about her in the *Sunday Times* of Primus, Penn., recounted her story of how she got the part of Glinda: "Being a brunette, I went to audition

for Elphaba (the 'wicked' witch) or Nessa Rose (Elphaba's sister). When I sang, the director asked, 'Are you a soprano?' I answered yes, of course. He said something like, 'Sure, you played Maria in *West Side Story*.' The next thing I know, I was given music, Glinda's music, and asked to learn it and come back in 10 minutes. Instead of the 'green girl,' I am the girl in sparkles."

2003

Co-Class Fund Agents: Cari A. Christopher 173 Van Cortlandt Ave.,
Apt. 1, Staten Island, NY 10301,
917-873-7808, christo@wagner.edu
Robert J. Hamm 14 College Ave., Staten
Island, NY 10314, 718-981-0515,
bobby7770@yahoo.com
Nicole Lopes Steed 2218 2nd Ave.,
Toms River, NJ 08753, 732-270-
3660, nlopes55@yahoo.com

Lauren Garetano Canova and **Anthony Canova** '01 announce the birth of their second daughter; see Crib Notes on page 41 for more information and a picture. **Jennifer Zafarino** '03, M'05 and **Robert Szot** have announced their engagement. Jennifer is pursuing a juris doctorate from New York Law School in Manhattan and is a clinical research specialist with Merck & Co., Inc., in Rahway, NJ. Robert works for Accutest Laboratories in Dayton, NJ. They are planning a June 2009 wedding.

2004

Class Fund Agent: Alexis D. Hernandez
4066 Albatross Street, Apt. 24, San
Diego, CA 92103, 619-269-2702,
lex382@aol.com

Erik R. Johnson is engaged to Bridget Schrader, a school psychologist. Erik works as an Internet marketing executive at Peterson's. They plan a May 2009 wedding. **Jenny Ludvigsen** married **Matthew Madden** '05 in Newport News, Va., on October 20, 2007. Jenny works as head staff coordinator for Home Instead Senior Care, and Matthew works as a national acquisitions trainer for Ferguson Enterprises. **Carolyn Palinkas**, a math teacher and adviser to Susan Wagner High School's chapter of the National Honor Society, Arista, has

been singing in a rock band, A Little Something Refreshing, which she started along with guitarist Matt Giordano and drummer Andrew Syvertsen.

2005

Co-Class Fund Agents: Jacob Browne
935 Castleton Ave., Apt. 1, Staten
Island, NY 10310, 718-876-9390,
jrbrowne@wagner.edu
Melissa D. Powers 313 Vesta Court,
Ridgewood, NJ 07450, 201-394-2408,
powers.mel@gmail.com
Class Correspondent: Matthew L. Sheehan 114 Farmstead Ln.,
Glastonbury, CT 06033, 860-659-0247,
msheehan05@gmail.com

Tina D'Onorio DeMeo '05 M'06 is a special education teacher in a first-grade Cooperative Team Teaching setting at Public School 22 on Staten Island. She is engaged to be married to Gianfranco DiGrigoli on August 9. **Heather Hudson** '05 M'07 is also a special education teacher in a first-grade Cooperative Team Teaching setting at Public School 186 in Queens. She is also engaged, to her college sweetheart, Stephen Depasse. They plan to marry in July 2009. **Kerry Jaeger** has been a special education teacher at Public School 188 in Brooklyn since September 2006, in a fifth-grade CTT setting. **Matthew Madden** married **Jenny Ludvigsen** '04 in Newport News, Va., on October 20, 2007. Jenny works as head staff coordinator for Home Instead Senior Care, and Matthew works as a national acquisitions trainer for Ferguson Enterprises. **Elizabeth Pawlowski** was the subject of a feature in the *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal* in March for her role in the traveling production of *The Producers*, in which she played Ulla. "Hired in 2006, Pawlowski had barely graduated from New York's Wagner College," the article said. "Because she's a native New Yorker, she wanted to see what life on the road was like." It also reported that after almost two years with the show, she planned to end her *Producers* run in April and begin auditioning again. **Danielle Torchio** married Darren Heal on February 16, 2008, on Staten Island. She is teaching elementary school and also working on a master's degree in elementary and special

Teachers' Night Out

On a cold February night, seven teachers got a holiday from their students by going out for dinner and a show on Broadway: **Ashley Voss** '05, M'07; **Mara Caputo** '06, M'08; **Kerry Jaeger** '05; **Jaime Leston** '06; **Denielle**



Diodato '06, M'07; **Heather Hudson** '05, M'07; and **Tina D'Onorio DeMeo** '05, M'06. Please see the class notes to read more about them.

education. Darren is a firefighter in Brooklyn and a former professional baseball player with the Toronto Blue Jays organization. **Ashley Voss '05 M'07** has been working as a general education teacher at Public School 6 on Staten Island since September 2007. She teaches fourth grade in a Cooperative Team Teaching setting. Her team teacher is **Mara Caputo '06 M'08**.

2006

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Leandra**

Aguirre 20-31 43rd Street, Long Island City, NY 11105, 718-843-0042, laguirre@wagner.edu

Tad Bender 21-41 35th Street, 3rd Floor, Long Island City, NY 11105, 603-673-6003, tbender@wagner.edu

Dana Guariglia 1882 Ensign Court, Tom's River, NJ 08753, 732-929-1373, dana.guariglia@wagner.edu

Mara Caputo '06 M'08 has been a special education teacher at Public School 6 on Staten Island since September 2006. Mara is engaged to be married to John Fahim in July 2009. **Denielle Diodato '06 M'07** has served as a special education teacher in a first-grade Cooperative Team Teaching setting at Public School 4 on Staten Island since last September. **Jaime Leston** is a special education teacher at Public School 373 on Staten Island. **Christina Stagliano** and **Michael Giordano M'06** have announced their engagement. Christina is pursuing a Master of Arts in speech-language pathology from New York University. Michael is a retail management associate with HSBC in Brooklyn. They are planning a September 2009 wedding.

2007

Tiffany Andrade was crowned Miss New Jersey USA 2008 last fall and was named second runner up in the Miss USA Pageant in April. A registered nurse, she took leave from the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center for the competition. **Joseph Gilmore** lives in Warwick, R.I., and has been directing local children's theater productions in the community and in the schools.

Crib Notes

Classes of 2027 and 2028

Some of the newest faces to join the Wagner family



1. **Veronica Schron DiMeglio '94**, along with her husband, Louis, and her son, Ryan (7), welcomed Emma Rose on April 19, 2007. **2.** **Janet Merkel '57** has a one-year-old granddaughter, Maia Merkel-Leavitt.



3. **Christine Meilan-Sheehan '97** and **Gerard Sheehan '96** announce the birth of Gerard James Sheehan IV on December 24, 2007. **4.** **Nikki Tobias Murphy '97** and **Michael Murphy '96** announce the birth of their daughter, Evangeline Violet, on March 28, 2007. **5.** **Sal Cowan '95** and his wife, Michele Melillo-Cowan, announce the birth of Alyssa Marie on December 10, 2007.



6. **Lauren Garetano Canova '03** and **Anthony Canova '01** announce the birth of Ava Alexandra on December 15, 2007. She was also welcomed by her big sister, Gianna Marie.

We'd love to see your baby's face. Please see page 34 for publication guidelines.

In Memoriam



ALUMNI

Mr. Ernest Graewe '40
 Mr. Frank E. Reynolds '43
 Mr. Arthur R. Collier '45
 Mr. William R. Fuhlbruck '45
 Mr. Donald W. Ahrend '46 M'57
 Mrs. Janet Johnson Little '46
 Dr. Ralph E. Betancourt '49
 Mrs. Miriam Fielding Debus '50
 Mr. Paul M. Kane '50
 Mr. Walter Barth '51
 Mr. Mel Lichtig '52
 Harry August Schildt '54
 Mrs. Doris Ahrens Roehrich '55
 Rev. Robert J. Furreboe '56
 Mrs. Elizabeth Hammel Hall '56
 Mrs. Patricia A. Hill Graeff '58
 Mrs. Carolyn Rosa Hart '58
 Mr. Walter Schick '61
 Mr. Kenneth R. Behrins '63
 Dr. John D. Lawson '63
 Mr. John G. Ottenheimer '63
 Mr. Nicholas J. Reuter '63
 Ms. Karen Falborn Cernik '64
 Ms. Marilyn E. Gurney '64
 Mrs. Margaret A.
 "Peggy" Mangogna '64 M'69

Lt. Col. Edward H. Meiser M'64
 Mr. Bruce C. Andrus '65
 Mr. Allen H. Beyer '65
 Mr. Charles R. Daly '65
 Mr. Warren R. Haring M'65
 Mrs. Jean Cambria Gowski '66
 Dr. Carolyn G. Plonsky '67
 Mrs. Janet Skinner Polay '67
 Dr. Sandra Lanasa Wertz M'68
 Mr. Maurice "Mo" Shaw M'69
 Mr. Nicholas Netti '71
 Mrs. Joyce Levine Abecassis '73
 Mr. Norman Robert Ferren '86
 Mrs. Elizabeth Malloy Hartell '88
 Mr. Nicholas Magaraci '09

FORMER EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF WAGNER COLLEGE

Ms. Annabelle Diamond
 Mr. Wellesley "Wess" Bowdish
 Rev. Lyle R. Guttu
 Mrs. Judith Kyros
 Mr. Irving Lieberman
 Ms. Eileen Matera
 Mr. Andrew Soboleski
 Mrs. Thelma Callahan Whitney

The Rev. Lyle Guttu

*For 35 years, he was
Wagner's chaplain and resident
Renaissance man*

Editor's Note: The following is an abbreviated version of President Richard Guarasci's eulogy at the memorial service for the Rev. Guttu, held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Staten Island, on December 21, 2007. Guttu died on December 16. Read more on page 6 and at <http://wagner.edu/news/node/841>.

For Wagner College, Lyle Guttu was the ultimate Renaissance man. Beyond the many official roles he held since 1972 — chaplain, dean of students, vice provost, special assistant to the president — he was our master of ceremonies, counselor, confessor, travel guide, teacher, and connoisseur of the arts and books. He was the perfect host, always opening his home and his heart to newcomers. Beyond our campus, he served as pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn for nearly 30 years. On top of that, he was a former ace hockey player in his hometown of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and at Harvard College, where he earned his undergraduate degree. But most of all, he was our friend.

How could one man be so many men; how could he play so many roles with such grace, discretion, and good humor?

For me, one hint of his remarkable human skills is



visible in a Sacred Place: his office. Located on the fourth floor of the Union, it is a breathtaking pastiche of books, memos, catalogues, notes, letters, photos, magazines, newspapers, stationery, picture frames, and other forms of kitsch and exotica. At first blush, you might wonder how so much clutter could be humanly assembled in piles that formed such serious challenges to the law of gravity. Lyle had taken disorder to a higher plane, one unknown even to experts on chaos theory.

But the more I pictured it, the more I realized that this office represented the essence of Lyle Guttu. Seemingly disconnected, upon reflection we see that all of his roles and all of his eclectic constellation of friends were, like his office, held together by a magnetic inner core of rock-solid, small-town Minnesota values of resiliency and stability, personal decency and compassion, coupled with a Harvard education that taught him to never stop learning.

These core values and his religious faith helped him to pastor Wagner through many challenges and conflicts. They helped him counsel so many students, colleagues, and friends in times of turmoil. And they helped him overcome his own shortcomings and traumas. In short, he was a good man, a very good man, with a talent for

finding peace within the chaotic swirl of emotions and events that surround our everyday lives.

I have been having a conversation with Lyle for the last three days, and one of the stories we keep discussing is just a single, typical moment with Lyle — an evening spent together in Manhattan.

Surreptitiously, I had discovered that he was

approaching his 70th birthday. I told him to choose any restaurant he liked and we would celebrate together.

He diligently searched Zagat's guide and other reference materials for a great place, preferably one previously undiscovered by either of us. It turned out not to be a very good place — but, as was so typical of Lyle, he was the perfect companion. We talked about our hopes and dreams, our families, children, and friends. It was a simple celebration of our friendship. Somehow, this nondescript

Midtown Manhattan restaurant with a disappointing menu was transformed into another Sacred Place.

That was Lyle's magic. He made you and your life feel important, special, and sacred.

—Richard Guarasci,
president, Wagner College



LYLE GUTTU in 2005

BELOW, left to right: The Rev. Lyle Guttu in his first year as Wagner chaplain, from the 1973 *Kallista*; Guttu as dean of students in the *Kallista* of 1978 and 1979; three unmarked photos, probably from the 1990s, showing Guttu in his various ceremonial roles — making an award, officiating at commencement, and praying at baccalaureate.



Losing History

Recalling 16 hours with a Wagner legend By Brian Morris '65

It was 1968 — the spring of that year, I believe — when I arranged to sit down with the Reverend Dr. Frederic Sutter to record his oral history of Wagner College, which was then celebrating 50 years on its Staten Island campus.

At 94 years old, with declining eyesight, strained hearing, and failing stamina, Dr. Sutter became as animated and energetic as a man 50 years younger while speaking about his beloved achievement. He spoke for nearly 16 hours over the course of four afternoons in the parlor of the parish house of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stapleton, Staten Island, where he had served as pastor since 1907.

Oh, how I wish I had retained those audio tapes, instead of discarding them or taping over them for a later interview with someone whom I no longer remember. I am a history nut, after all, and preserve whatever I can get my hands on, especially items of Staten

Island history. Why I did not value those 16 hours of tape I can never explain. Maybe one could rationalize such a choice by thinking that if you've just heard a story, then it isn't truly history. But that explanation only satisfies me sometimes, and not very much any longer.

I was apprehensive when I entered his parlor on the first of those four afternoons: This was the founder of Wagner College on Staten Island; this was the man whose impact on the culture of this community was measured in superlatives; this was a man considered to be "God's ambassador." Yes, I was in awe. And fueling my anxiety was the knowledge that he was 94 years old, probably with little valuable information that he could mine from his brain.

Oh, how wrong I was — what remarkable vitality!

What keen wit! What humility as he willingly spread credit for Wagner's accomplishments among so many

“Oh, how I wish I had retained those audio tapes...”

others who had contributed through the years. He lauded presidents, deans, and faculty — especially faculty.

At the end of the little book that was prepared from my 16 hours with Dr. Sutter, I included a statement that he uttered during the first minute of our first day: "I wonder what the Lord has planned for me to do next. He's pretty well used me up, but I'll be ready for anything He wants me to do ... especially if He plans it for Wagner College."

I have that in writing. But, I wish I still had it on tape.

Brian Morris '65 worked in public relations for Wagner College from 1967 to 1972. Retired as vice president for hospital and community relations for Staten Island University Hospital, he now teaches and serves as a marketing consultant.



THE REV. SUTTER
and Wagner President
Adolf H. Holthusen
at the laying of South
(now Parker) Hall's
cornerstone in 1922.



Campus Events

Highlighting a few coming attractions at Wagner

Admissions

Summer Campus Visit Days
July 16, August 7

Summer Overview Visit Days
July 10 & 22, August 13 & 18

Fall Campus Visit Days
October 5, November 1 & 16

Alumni and Parents

Homecoming and Hall
of Fame Induction
September 13

DaVinci Society
Scholarship Dinner
September 25

Family Weekend
September 27

Founders Day
October 15

Winter on the Hill
February 21

Arts

As Bees in Honey Drowned
Wagner Theatre
September 24–27, 8 p.m.
October 1–4, 8 p.m.
Stage One

Annie Get Your Gun
Wagner Theatre
October 1–4 & 8–11, 8 p.m.
October 4, 11 & 12, 2 p.m.
Main Hall

Viva Italia! Finale Concert
Wagner College Choirs
October 26, 4 p.m.
Campus Hall

Fall Choral Concert
Wagner College Choirs
November 2, 4 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tick Tick Boom
Wagner Theatre
November 5–8, 12–15, 8 p.m.
Stage One

The Dance Concert
November 12–15 & 19–22, 8 p.m.
November 15, 22 & 23, 2 p.m.
Main Hall

Fall Concert
Wagner College Jazz Ensemble
November 16, 3 p.m.
Main Hall

Fall Concert
Wagner College Concert Band
December 7, 3 p.m.
Main Hall

Holiday Concert
Wagner College Choirs
December 7, 7 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church

Master Class
Wagner Theatre
February 18–21, 25–28, 8 p.m.
Stage One

Three Penny Opera
Wagner Theatre
February 25–28 &
March 4–7, 8 p.m.
February 28, March 7–8, 2 p.m.
Main Hall

Arms and the Man
Wagner Theatre
April 15–18, 22–25, 8 p.m.
Stage One

On the Town
Wagner Theatre
April 22–25, 29–30 &
May 1–2, 8 p.m.
April 25, May 2–3, 2 p.m.
Main Hall

External Programs

Children's Summer Camps
June 30–August 15

Pottery Classes
Saturdays throughout the year
Weekdays June–July

Healthcare Certification Classes
Summer and Fall 2008

Legal Certification Classes
Summer and Fall 2008

Fitness Certification Classes
Summer and Fall 2008

Wedding Planner Certification Class
Fall 2008

Certified Financial Planner Class
Fall 2008

Human Resource
Management/SHRM
Fall 2008

Dates are subject to change.
Some events and programs
require tickets or fees.

For More Information

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Admissions | 800-221-1010 or 718-390-3411 |
| Alumni Relations | 718-390-3224 |
| Athletics Box Office | 718-420-4039 |
| Dean of Campus Life | 718-390-3423 |
| External Programs | 718-390-3221 |
| | Use promo code ALUM for online registration discount www.wagner.edu/external |
| Music Department | 718-390-3313 |
| Public Relations | 718-420-4504 |
| Theater Box Office | 718-390-3259 |

<http://calendar.wagner.edu>



Parting Shot

Wagner

City of Dreams

Viewed from Harborview Hall, dawn light bathes the New York Harbor while the Staten Island ferries faithfully ply their route. Ever since the College moved to Staten Island 90 years ago, it's enjoyed an intimate connection to the city. The Wagner Plan, featured in this issue, has made that tie stronger than ever.

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL O'MARA

Office of Communications and Marketing
Wagner College
One Campus Road
Staten Island, NY 10301

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