THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

# AGNER

COVER STORY:

Dan Stormer '68

Battling for

truth and justice

IN THIS ISSUE!

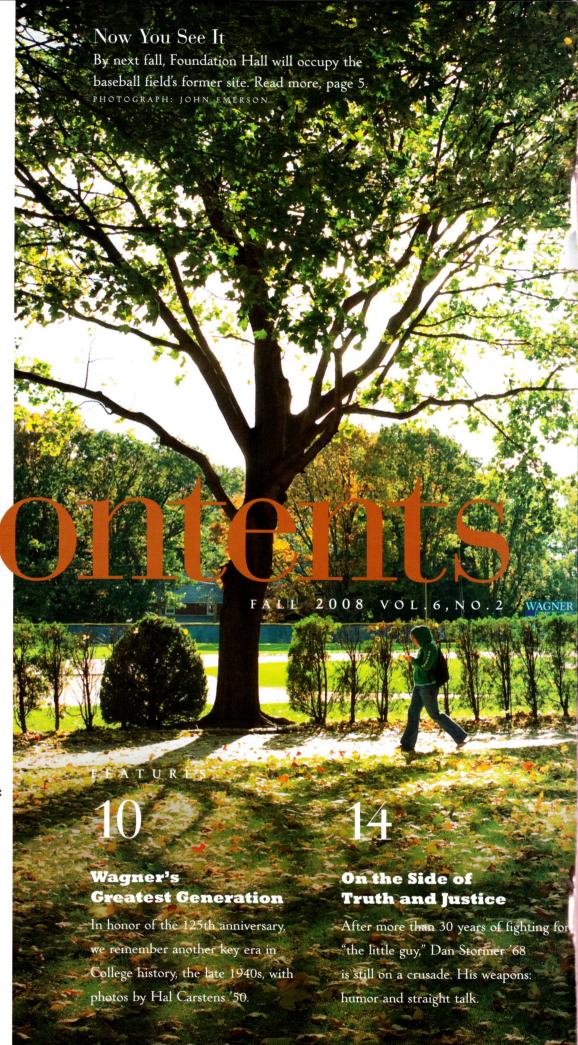
REMEMBERING POST-WAR WAGNER

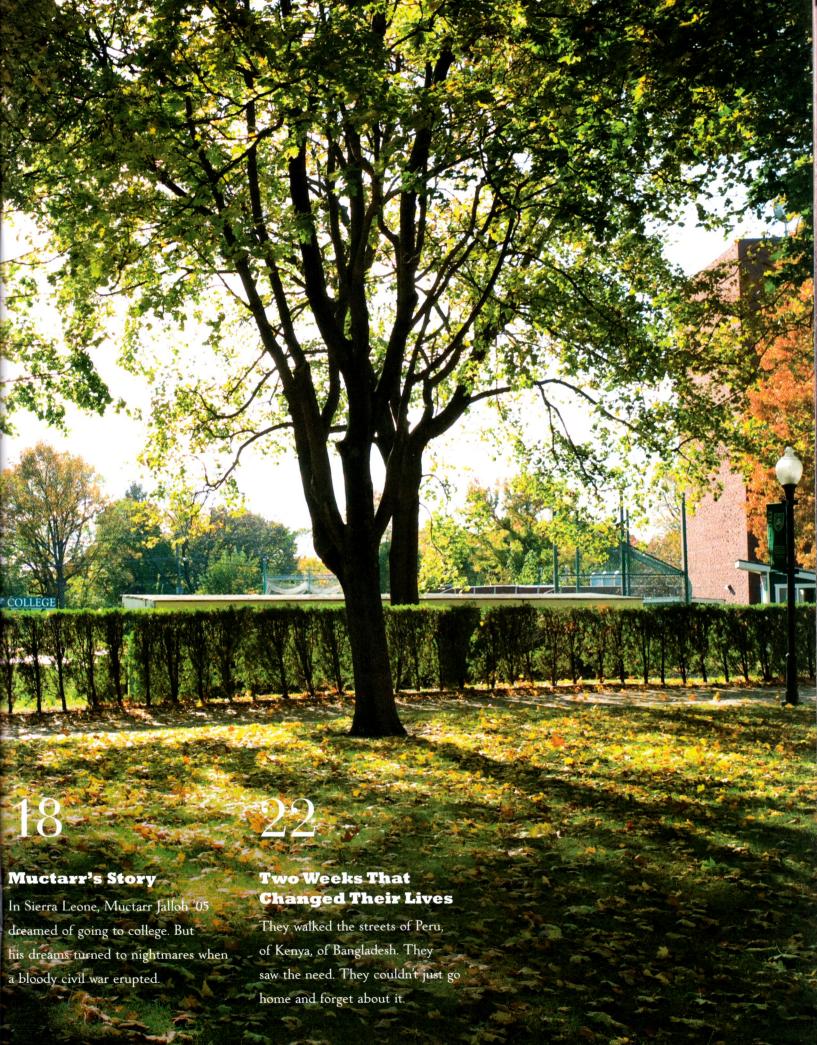
THE STORY OF MUCTARR JALLOH '05

STUDENTS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE Wagner
Magazine
Fall 2008



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## From the President

A New Type of Learner



"We must maintain and expand our remarkable dedication to 'learning by doing' - our belief that when classroom ideas are juxtaposed with real-world problems, deeper and richer learning will result."

This fall, U.S. News selected 70 colleges and universities out of the several thousand as "Up and Coming." Through a vote of presidents, provosts, and admissions deans, U.S. News identified these as the most innovative and engaging institutions. Wagner was fortunate enough to be identified as one of these dynamic colleges, and it was ranked second in the Northeast.

How is it that this small, relatively young college is able to garner the admiration of so many higher education leaders? We have articulated a clear mission, built a highly innovative educational program — the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts — and

have been achieving our strategic institutional goals.

With this new status comes added responsibility. First and foremost, we must honor the commitment we have made to our students and their families to provide a premier education based on our core values of achievement, leadership, and service. Secondly, we must continue to elevate the value of the Wagner diploma for all graduates. And finally, we must maintain and expand our remarkable dedication to "learning by doing" our belief that when classroom ideas are juxtaposed with real-world problems, deeper and richer learning will result.

At Wagner, we believe that two modalities of learning have shaped American higher education. One, of course, is liberal education. It introduces students to the breadth of human experience, as they encounter cultures and historical epochs outside of their

immediate experience as well as knowledge of the physical world and the scientific method. We teach our students that to be human is to experience great joy and great pain. Liberal education prepares our students to deal with life's unscripted challenges. While liberal education doesn't guarantee our ability to overcome the unknown, it does develop a greater sensibility for engaging that which transcends our personal experience; it offers us a greater familiarity with the new and the different.

The other American learning modality is professional education. Its pedagogical premise is applied learning, fieldbased experience as the arena and method of gaining knowledge. This occurs in architectural studies, medicine, engineering, nursing, and many other applied disciplines.

The Wagner Plan integrates these two formerly exclusive modalities, producing a new, more powerful pedagogy of the practical liberal arts predicated on critical reading, reflective writing, and engaged field work. This new method is more likely to result in learners becoming more cosmopolitan and knowledgeable, as well as more adept at becoming reflective practitioners in their chosen careers.

This new type of learner also understands that achievement must be accompanied by leadership and service — the other core components of Wagner's mission. They learn that leadership is not power and rank, but the ability to bring diverse groups of people together to enhance the common good.

> This is the ultimate goal of the Wagner Plan, and this is why higher education leaders admire Wagner College today. This is why our reputation for educational excellence is earned and deserved. It is our responsibility to protect, preserve, and extend it.

> > RICHARD GUARASCI



New York City

## From the Editor

Unexpected Opportunity

'Il admit that I groaned when, shortly after beginning work at Wagner's communications office in January 2007, I learned that a major anniversary was happening the next year.

I knew that the upcoming 125th would mean long committee meetings and lots of extra work.

Now that it's almost over, though, I concede that this was not a bad time to arrive, because I learned so much about the core values that have sustained this place over the years. One example: unexpected opportunity.

Take the story of Muctarr Jalloh, told in this issue. He graduated from Wagner just a few years ago, having survived terrible trauma during the civil war in his native Sierra Leone.

His story starts to turn around when he comes to New York and meets thenProvost Richard Guarasci. Sweeping away all barriers, Richard makes it possible for Muctarr to achieve his dream of a college education.

This is not a unique enrollment circumstance in the annals of Wagner College. Recently I received a memoir from Trygve Skarsten, who

graduated from Wagner 59 years ago. He was the child of Norwegian working-class immigrants living on Staten Island.

No one in his family had been to college. When his high school graduation was approaching, a teacher told him he should go to college. Go to talk to Wagner's registrar, Marguerite Hess, she said.

Miss Hess told Trygve that she was sorry, but in 1946 Wagner was overflowing with returning veterans. It was too late to apply. "As I was about to leave," he continues, "Miss Hess turned to me and asked what my grade average was at Port Richmond High School during my senior year. When I told her '99.5,' she looked at me incredulously and said, 'You're in!' And so I became a freshman at Wagner College without even

applying. In addition, Miss Hess gave me a halftuition scholarship."

Miss Hess's instincts were spot on —

Skarsten graduated from Wagner and earned a PhD from the University of Chicago. He taught at several fine colleges and served as president of Trinity Lutheran College.

Happy birthday to the College that gives long shots a chance!

Laura Barlament EDITOR,

WAGNER MAGAZINE



#### On the Cover

Civil rights attorney Dan Stormer '68 "battles injustice like the comic book heroes," says a former colleague. He's shown here at his office in Pasadena, California.

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL SEXTON

## WAGNER M A G A Z I N E

Fall 2008 • Volume 6 Number 2

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Wagner College

## From Our Readers



66 The magazine has changed its look many times over the years, but it has never looked better than your summer '08 issue. 99

#### So What?

Just wanted to compliment you on this [summer '08] issue as an outstanding (much better than prior publications) issue.

I especially liked the interviews with the freshmen about the Wagner Plan.

An idea for a story — or maybe I missed it: How are some of the Wagner Plan graduates using this unique educational method in their careers? Not statistics on graduates landing jobs here and there, but real-life stories of a grad or two who can speak to the work-world advantages of having "grown up" in the

Wagner Plan. It's the "so what" question. Now that you've graduated and gotten a job, what do you attribute that to?

DIANE BORST BERG '59
Editor's Note: Excellent question!
We plan to follow some of the students featured last issue throughout
their Wagner Plan experience and
beyond, so we hope to offer an
answer in the future.

#### **Never Better**

If I'm not mistaken, Wagner Magazine was launched in 1964 by the two guys who then comprised the school's p.r. office: Gene Wilburn and his assistant,

Sal Asselta. At the time I was an undergrad English major who worked part time for Gene and Sal. The new magazine was a rather amazing departure from the old *Link* publication in a number of ways, one of which



was classy black and white photography, often featuring work by Burk Uzzle.

The magazine has changed its look many times over the years, but it has never looked better than your summer '08 issue. Exceptionally well done. Looks great ... reads easily ... and covers the full range of topics that alumni need to hear — everything from class notes to campus features to fundraising highlights.

I was particularly delighted to find that my friend Brian Morris '65 is writing for *Wagner* again. I generally refer to Brian as "Brain." You see, Brian was always a superb writer — absolutely one of the best — but was sometimes challenged at the keyboard; a transposed *i* and *a* in one of his publi-

cations produced the name that has stuck in my memory.

May Wagner continue to prosper, and may all your future magazines be as terrific as this latest one.

RUSS JOHNSON '67

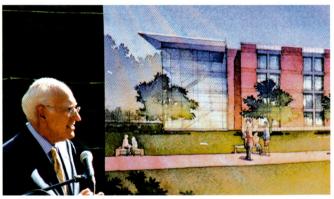
**REFLECTION** In the summer '08 issue, Brian Morris '65 recalled interviewing the Rev. Dr. Frederic Sutter (*left*).

#### We'd Love to Hear from You

We welcome letters from readers. Letters should refer to material published in the magazine and include the writer's full name, address, and telephone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length.

Write to: Laura Barlament, Editor
Reynolds House, Wagner College
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e-mail: laura.barlament@wagner.edu

# College Campus Learning, teaching, giving and achieving on Grymes Hill and beyond



**NAMED** Wagner trustee Michael Manzulli, Richmond County Savings Foundation's president, announces the \$5 million gift for Foundation Hall.

#### A Solid Foundation

Naming gift made as construction proceeds on new residence hall

Just a couple of months after ground was broken on the old Wagner baseball field, the College's much-anticipated new residence hall received its name: Foundation Hall.

This name honors the Richmond County Savings Foundation, a Staten Island charitable funding organization that made a \$5 million, five-year commitment to the building project.

This gift sets several re-

cords — it's the largest gift ever made for a residence hall at Wagner, the second-largest single gift the College has ever received, and the largest gift the Richmond County Savings Foundation has ever made.

"Our board realized that Wagner is a nationally recognized educational institution that has done wonders in boosting its image and credibility nationwide," says Cesar Claro, the foundation's executive director. "It's a great asset and neighbor on Staten Island."

Scheduled for completion by next fall, Foundation Hall will

primarily house seniors and is designed to facilitate their transition into careers or graduate study.

"In the same way our firstyear program is a bridge to college life, this senior program and residence will offer a gateway to life after commencement," says President Guarasci. "Foundation Hall is such an appropriate name for this building, because it not only honors the Richmond County Savings Foundation, but it also expresses the foundation that Wagner strives to give to every student — a foundation of striving for excellence and serving one's community."

The building will house nearly 200 students and will cost approximately \$24 million to construct. Read more on page 25.

#### The Class of 2012

By the Numbers

480 number enrolled

**34** number of states of origin

**65** percentage not from New York state

number of nations of origin

**20** percentage students of color

**86** percentage living on campus

FALL 2008

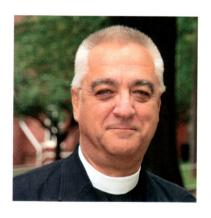
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#### **A Faithful Presence**

#### Interim chaplain strengthens religious programs

The Rev. Richard F. Michael, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church on Staten Island since 2001, has been appointed Wagner's interim chaplain. He succeeds the Rev. Lyle Guttu, who died last December. ◆ Michael has planned several initiatives. "I want to coordinate the programs of campus 'religious' life and their leaders, so that everyone has space and time needed for the practice of their faith," says Michael. He also plans to create an Interfaith Council to initiate interfaith activities and dialogue. ◆ As he spends time on campus and serves a resource to the community, Michael hopes his presence will encourage students to think of Trinity as the "cam-

pus church." • A native of Hanover, Penn., Michael holds a bachelor's degree from Susquehanna University and a master's of divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary.



{QUOTE/UNQUOTE}

66 It's by looking backward that sometimes we gain the courage to advance. 99

-Lori Weintrob, associate professor and chair of the Department of History, speaking at the 125th anniversary panel discussion on September 12



#### **Up and Coming**

Keep your eye on this school, says *U.S. News* 

**W**agner College continues to gain notice for its innovative curriculum and eyepopping campus.

In the annual "America's Best Colleges" issue, U.S. News & World Report created a new category: "up-and-coming schools," defined as "colleges and universities that have recently made striking improvements or innovations — schools everyone should be watching."

Out of the 3,000 colleges and universities in the nation, only 70 were chosen for this new listing; Wagner College was ranked second in the Northeast.

Wagner was ranked 23rd in the category Best Universities — Master's, Northern; and was listed among the "Programs to Look For," which are "academic programs that are commonly linked to student success," in the categories first-year experience, learning communities, and service learning.

The Princeton Review again placed Wagner College in the top 10 most beautiful campuses and best college theatres in its annual *Best 368 Colleges* guide. For a glimpse of Grymes Hill, go to the MSN Travel page (travel.msn.com) —Wagner is among 15 campuses featured as "America's most scenic colleges and universities."

#### Explore Wagner's Past

New publication shines light on College history



Did you know that in 1894, Wagner Memorial Lutheran

College raised its tuition 25 percent — from \$32 to \$40? That penmanship was part of the original curriculum? That the Cunard estate on Grymes Hill (Wagner's current location) was purchased from Oberlin College of Ohio for \$63,000? That the associate superintendent of New York Public Schools once said, "Wagner College is the only college in New York that has a future; the rest all have a past"?

All of these tidbits and many more are to be found in a new publication edited by Lee Manchester, director of media relations and unofficial College historian. Wagner College: Four Histories pulls together several

long-buried manuscripts and old publications on Wagner's past, while also adding significant new research by Manchester on the College's genesis.

Downloads of the book are free; print copies can be purchased at cost. For either one, go to http://stores.lulu.com/wagnercollege.

Celebrate Wagner History in the Place Where It All Started

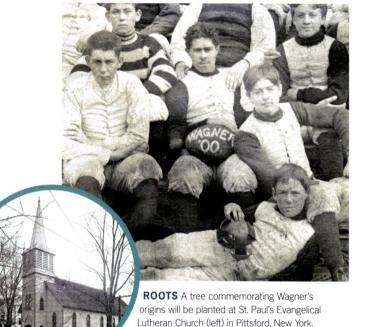
On October 15 —
the day the Lutheran
Proseminary of Rochester,
New York, opened its doors —
Wagner College celebrated
Founders Day with a festive convocation and dedication of the
Grymes Hill Founders Tree.

On November 9, a sister tree, the Rochester Founders Tree, will be planted in Pittsford, New York, on the spot where Wagner's co-founders, the Reverends George Gomph and Alexander Richter, met to plan the school.

The ceremony begins with a worship service of thanksgiving at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsford. The Founders Tree dedication will follow the service.

The Rochester weekend also includes two events on

Saturday: a wreath laying at the grave of George Wagner, for whom Wagner College was named; and a reception for Wagner alumni and friends at the George Eastman House. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@ wagner.edu or 718-390-3224.





#### **Home on the Hill**

Physician assistant program moves to campus

The Wagner College Physician Assistant Program now has a home on the Grymes Hill campus. ◆
During the summer, all offices and classrooms were moved from Staten Island University Hospital
to the freshly renovated third floor of Cunard Hall. ◆ The tight integration of classroom learning
and clinical experience, however, remains intact — a hallmark of a program that has exceeded the
national average in preparing its students to pass the licensing exam on their first attempt. The
program is affiliated with hospitals and medical centers in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

PHOTOGRAPH: BILL HIGGINS FALL 2008 7

# CollegeCampus

#### **Trustees Appointed**

Physician and lawyer bring years of professional experience to board

The Wagner College Board of Trustees elected two new members this summer: Robert Bonvino '71, M.D., of Morganville, New Jersey, and Howard G. Meyers Jr. '63, of Staten Island.

An obstetrician and gynecologist by training, Bonvino has served as a consultant to two presidential administrations on issues of health care. He is coauthor of the upcoming book *Medical Disaster Response: A Survival Guide for Hospitals in Mass Casualty Events*, based on his professional experiences in the aftermath of 9/11. Currently a private con-

sultant and physician, Bonvino served until recently as the senior vice president for government relations and

corporate development for the New York University Downtown Hospital.

Meyers is a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Meyers, Meyers & Tonachio, where he specializes in not-for-profit, securities, health, and trust and estate law. Meyers began his practice more than 40 years ago with Seward & Kissell in New York, before becoming general counsel at Hornblower, Weeks, Hemphill-Noyes Inc., a predecessor of Smith Barney. In 1975, he started his own firm with State Senator John J. Marchi. Meyers previously served on Wagner's board as vice chairman.

WINDOW ON WAGNER: Student Life, 1915–16

Photos can bring the past to life – and, sometimes, the past speaks back.

That was our recent experience with a photo from the College's 125th anniversary

calendar. The May photo shows the student orchestra in 1916–17. Kathryn Wahlers Reisch '59 wrote to tell us that "the violinist, second from left in the back row, is my husband's uncle, Conrad Rupprecht Reisch, from Plantsville, Connecticut."

Reisch shared with us extracts from the letters Conrad wrote during his student years to his brother, Otto:

September 9, 1915 – "The expenses will pile [up] pretty soon I guess. 2 different societies – 35 cents for a starter and 10 cents a month for each. Orchestra will also cost 25 cents for a start and small amounts for music."

October 7, 1915 — "One of our professors is a thoroughbred German and gets excited about the war very easily. Sometimes when we haven't gotten our lessons, we direct his mind and get him talking about the war instead of the lesson. The only trouble with this is that he gets so excited he doesn't hear the bell and keeps us in longer than necessary."

February 9, 1916 - "The orchestra has a couple big things in

view and we're even starting in on the graduation music. We've got to play for an entertainment next Wed. night and in Mar. we've got to play for a big banquet given by the Lutheran Athletic Association. I've got to play a couple solos, and I'm also on the committee to arrange the darn thing. Then right after that we expect to go to Buffalo and give a couple of concerts up there. It's a pretty sure thing so we're practicing 4 times/hours a week."

Just before Washington's Birthday, 1916 – "Just had our picture taken, i.e., the orchestra, and I guess they'll come out pretty good too." – Lee Manchester



#### Election Excitement

A mixed picture at Wagner

This fall as the presidential elections approached, the record interest and involvement of young voters nationwide raised a question: How high was the political interest level of Wagner students?

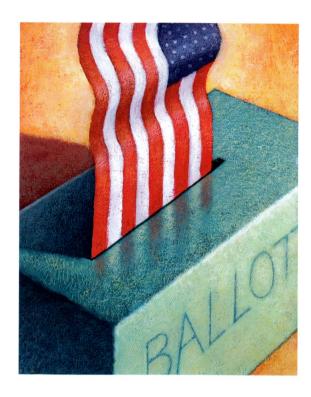
The answer from Patricia Moynagh, assistant professor of government and politics, was simple: "Uneven." A small group of students were extremely involved, she said, but most showed a lesser degree of interest.

Professor Moynagh also serves as director of the Wagner chapter of Project Pericles, a national organization that promotes democratic government and citizenship among college students.

Students involved in Project Pericles are among the most politically engaged, and several of them echoed Moynagh's thoughts.

"Wagner students are probably more politically engaged this year than ever before," said Gretchen Jacobs '09 of Mannsville, New York. "[But] I'd like to see more student interest all around rather than just more intense efforts by the same students."

Project Pericles students promoted voting and political engagement throughout the fall. They conducted voter registra-



tion drives, educating students that they could register in New York and helping them to obtain absentee ballots; they sponsored an essay contest with a \$250 prize (topic: Which candidate would be the best president?); and participated in a one-day training program about effective political advocacy.

Tyler Seling, a freshman from Plymouth, Michigan, was one of the participants. "I was interested in finding a way to advocate for the things I believe in, as well as fighting the apathetic state of American college students," he said. "I feel the majority of students on this campus are interested in this year's election,

but many aren't too sure about the candidates, and therefore they are too timid to get involved."

Emily Burkhardt '11 of Aurora, Colorado, who is serving this year as Moynagh's assistant in directing Project Pericles, used every opportunity to educate students about the importance of voting — including the bulletin board of the Harborview Hall floor where she is a resident assistant.

"A bigger percentage of youth are going to vote this year than in a long time, but it's more of an expectation," said Burkhardt. "They say things like, 'Yeah, I'm registered, yeah, I'll vote,' but with no sense of why."

# Arts Letters

# Esser defends and defines jury consulting

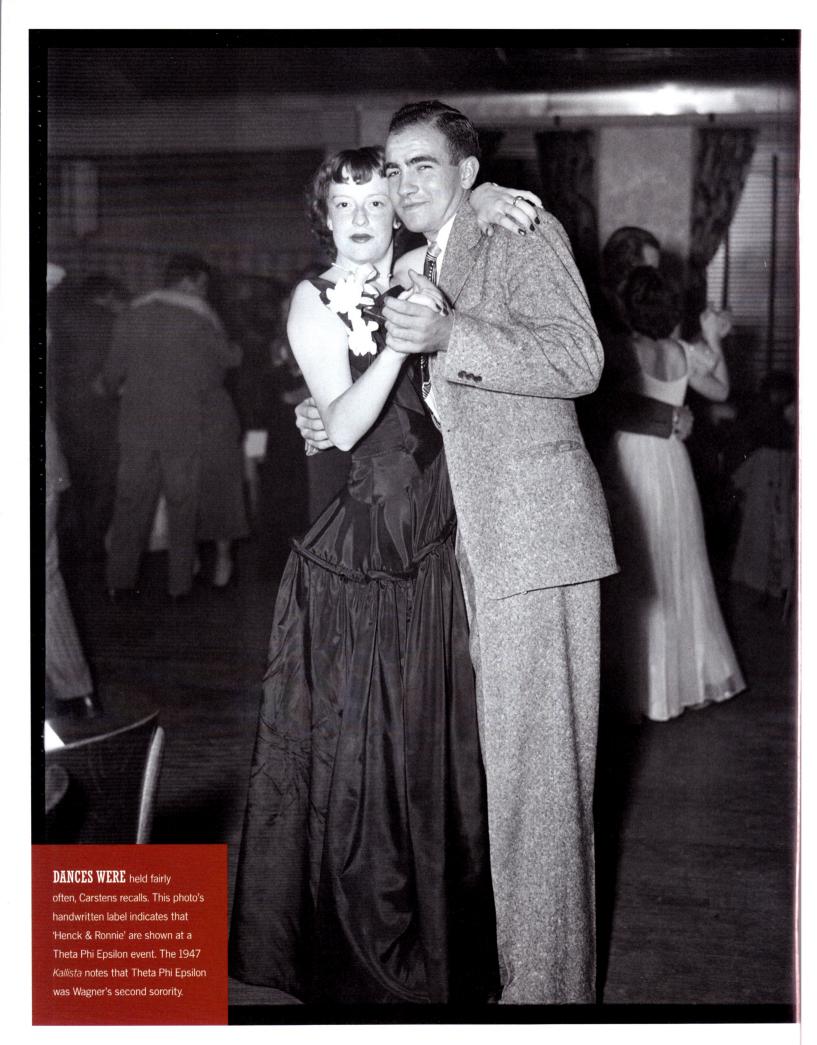
Since the 1970s, trial lawyers have increasingly employed jury consultants to help them refine how they make their cases.

Ironically, while jury consultants have helped lawyers understand the media-driven myths that jurors bring to trials, the consultants themselves have been cast in mythic bad-guy roles, as anyone who has read John Grisham's *The Runaway Jury* or seen the movie with Gene Hackman can attest.

In The Science of Courtroom
Litigation: Jury Research and Analytical
Graphics (ALM Publishing, 2008),
Wagner sociology professor John Esser
and his co-editors combat such notions
as they present a history of the field and
practical advice for lawyers on doing jury
research and communicating with juries.

Esser holds a J.D. as well as Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin and has spent his career focusing on the sociology of law, which led him into freelancing as a jury consultant. While Esser says he can't manipulate a jury to his will, as Grisham's character can, he can help detect types of jurors who would scuttle the case, and help lawyers make their cases effectively.





# WHEN THE GREATEST GENERATION

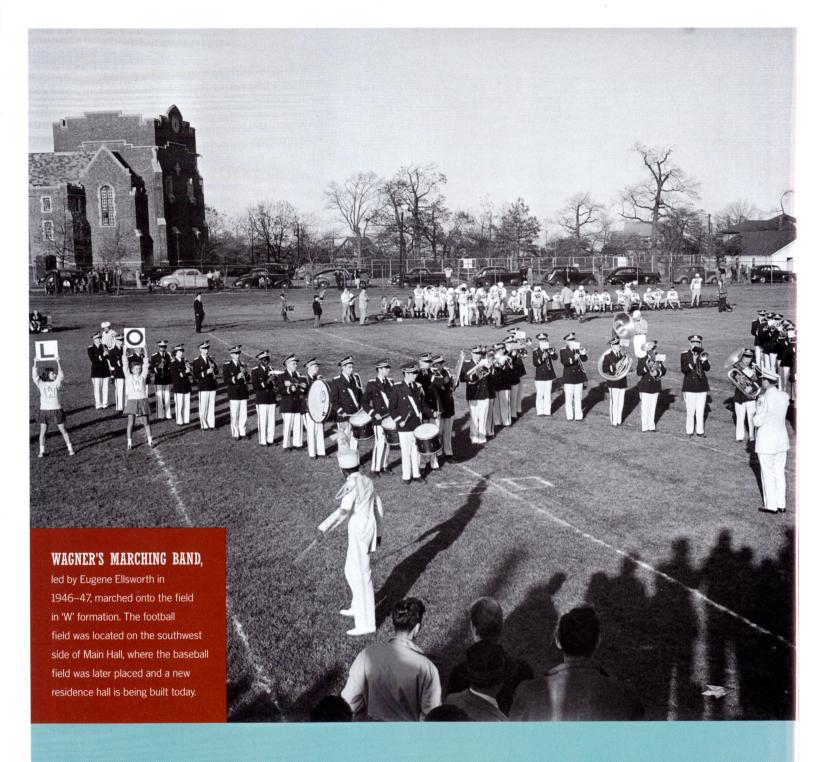
In honor of Wagner's 125th anniversary, we remember another key era in College history Photos by Hal Carstens '50 Story by Laura Barlament

hen Hal Carstens '50 arrived at Wagner College in 1946, it was a time of revival for the school and for the nation. Finally, the war was over, and the men were back. "The 'Little Family on the Hill' has grown far beyond expectations," wrote the 1947 *Kallista* editors in their introduction to a yearbook twice as thick as those of the previous several years. • During this crucial era, Hal

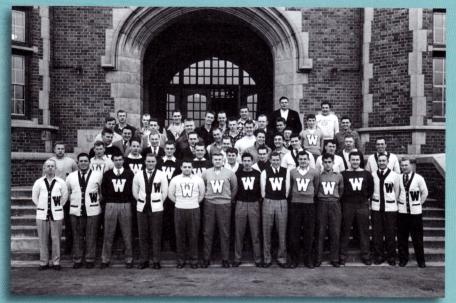
Carstens (who was among the returning vets) captured charming views of campus life with his Kodak Medalist camera. (For the real camera junkies out there: He used a Kodak XRF 3.5 lens and 620 film.) ◆ Recently Carstens gave to the College his original Wagner photo collection from 1946–48. Many of the negatives, which measure two and one-quarter by three and one-quarter inches, are neatly numbered and filed in paper sleeves with typewritten labels. ◆ "I was taking them for the *Wagnerian*, for the yearbook, and for my own amusement," Carstens says. In his spare time, he also made a Wagner movie with his Sigma Delta Phi brothers. Carstens was the producer and the cameraman (he used his own hand-cranked 8-mm camera) for *Tales* 

of Wagner: Fraternity brothers played all the roles — including the female characters — in this story of a country bumpkin's introduction to college life. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

**LITCHFIELD WAS** the name of the dog pictured above right, Carstens recalls. He was "an overgrown, pampered springer spaniel belonging to Dr. Langsam," Wagner's president from 1945 to 1952. "He wandered the campus like he owned it."



The movie was a hit on campus, where the fraternity screened it repeatedly. "We made the fantastic sum of \$80," Carstens recalls. ◆ Carstens went on to a long career publishing magazines and books devoted to model-building — a hobby that he started as a boy. While he was in high school, he started writing articles and submitting them to magazines like *Railroad Model Craftsman*. "Lo and behold, they published them!" he comments, as if he's still surprised, 65 years later. ◆ He attended Wagner College from 1946 until 1948, when he transferred to Fairleigh Dickinson University, completing his bachelor's degree in business in night classes while working on time and motion studies — i.e., timing workers and looking for ways to improve their efficiency. ◆ In 1952, the editor of *Railroad Model Craftsman* asked him to join the staff.



#### KALLISTA, 1947:

"Put on your ole green sweater
With the great big white letter
And we'll open up another keg of beer
For we all came to college,
But we didn't come for knowledge,
So we'll raise Hell while we're here!"

**IN THE LATE 1940s**, the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge "wasn't even a twinkle in the engineer's eye," Carstens remarks.





THE STANDS were usually filled for Wagner football games, says Carstens.

**SIGMA DELTA PHI** brother George Beharry '50 was from British Guiana. Carstens said he had no intention of joining a fra-

ternity until he found out what a diverse membership it had, including Lutherans, Jews, blacks, and whites.

Carstens eventually bought the company, which publishes Railroad Model Craftsman, Flying Models, Railfan, and Railroad, among others. Carstens' son, Henry, is the publisher now, but Hal is still writing. "I carn my keep," he says. ◆ During my conversation with Hal Carstens, I was amazed at his prodigious memory for people, events, and other details — all of which is reflected in this article. What is the secret for such a good memory? "Gin," Carstens stated firmly. "Good gin — in moderation."

Do These Photos Spark Memories? Please write to Laura Barlament, editor, Wagner Magazine, at laura.barlament@wagner.edu or 1 Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301.



# Anthe Uside of Justice Justice Justice Justice

Dan Stormer '68, a lawyer who fights for 'little guys' around the globe By Laura Barlament

t happened on Christmas Eve, 1960. Dan Stormer, 13 years old, was riding in the car near his home in rural northeastern Pennsylvania. His 16-year-old brother was driving. At an intersection, a drunk driver blazed through a stop sign, hitting the Stormers' car broadside. They were very lucky — no one was killed. Months later, the shock was wearing off when the police appeared at the Stormers' door. "Now you have to understand," says Stormer, "we're at the end of a dirt road, middle of nowhere. The only time cops came there, they weren't good moments." This was one of those moments. The officers had come to deliver the news that the driver who had hit the Stormers' car was suing Dan's brother. This situation threw the family into crisis. They had no money, no lawyer. They lived from subsistence farming and Stormer's mother's work in a hospital kitchen. That's when Dan Stormer first learned of the profession of law and its potential to help people like his family. We went down to the county seat, which was Honesdale. They had a voluntary legal aid program, and we went in and talked to a lawyer. At the end of it, she said, 'I think I can help you.' At that moment, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. And I never backed off that. The idea of being able to help someone really struck me, what a good thing that was." For more than 30 years, Stormer has helped individuals — from migrant farm workers in Colorado to poor villagers in Nigeria — fight back against abuse by corporations, governments, or any other powerful entity. "Dan battles injustice like the comic book heroes," said a former colleague, Wayne Lieb, in a 1985 profile. His cape is still flying.

#### "He will take on the most hopeless lost

In 1985, Dan Stormer had recently made his first foray into pursuing public-interest law in private practice.

It was a new move for Stormer, and a typically gutsy one.

For the previous four years, he had worked for the Western Center on Law and Poverty in Los Angeles, earning a steady salary and quite a reputation.

Focused on defending the rights of poor Californians, the center seemed an ideal place for Stormer's interests. "I could never represent corporations," he says, with the plainspokenness that ruffles some feathers while also winning the hearts of juries. "I'm on the side of truth and justice."

One of his cases forced the state to continue paying Aid to Families with Dependent Children, even though the California legislature had failed to pass the budget.

Another groundbreaking case was a lawsuit against the City of Visalia for racially discriminatory hiring and promotions. "I got the largest award ever in a case against a public entity. It was only \$700,000," he remarks — but it was unprecedented. People took notice.

Those people included Los Angeles lawyer Barry Litt, whose firm focused on criminal defense and personal injury litigation.

"We wanted to develop an area of law that could be both viable economically and that could accomplish things which make an impact on society," Litt said in 1984, when Los Angeles Lawyer magazine featured Stormer. "We added Dan because he was the best in the area," Litt continued.

In the new practice, Stormer handled cases on a contingency fee basis — in other words, he would be paid if he won the case.

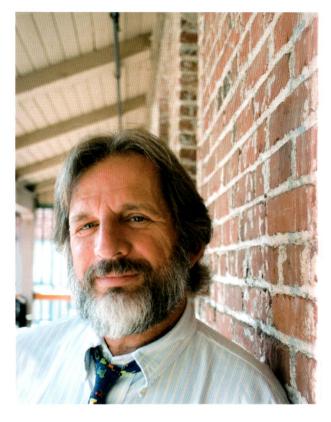
But Stormer seems never to have shied away from risk or to have worried about money. He is in private practice to this day, currently as part of Hadsell Stormer Keeny Richardson & Renick, LLP, and has appeared in numerous state-wide and national top lawyer lists.

"He has no fear of anything, as far as I can tell," says Della Bahan, a colleague and longtime friend. "He will take on the most hopeless lost cause, if it's a good cause. If anyone can win it, he will."

I t's this willingness to take on tough cases for the right reasons

— no matter how high the odds are stacked against them —
that gives Dan Stormer his caped crusader image.

After graduating from New York University's law school in 1974, he began practicing with a focus on the rural poor in



Colorado. (Incidentally, he says he spent most of his law school years skiing on Colorado's slopes.) He then moved on to a more controversial challenge: representing prisoners in the Washington state penitentiary. That's where he also started making a larger-scale impact, as he succeeded in having conditions in the state penitentiary declared unconstitutional in federal district court.

In private practice, he continued to achieve some spectacular successes, which drew a great deal of media attention, as well—like the case of Janella Sue Martin, a longtime employee of Texaco who sued the oil giant on claims of sexual harassment and discrimination. In 1991, a jury awarded her a total of \$20.3 million in compensatory and punitive damages; it was the largest amount ever awarded in such a case.

Stormer went on to handle many more sexual discrimination and harassment suits, especially in the entertainment industry. He also went to bat for people suffering from discrimination for other reasons. He represented Mitchell Grobeson, for instance, who is often cited as the Los Angeles Police Department's first openly gay police officer. Grobeson resigned from the police force because of harassment related to his sexual orientation and filed suit in 1988. This case was settled in 1993, with Grobeson winning \$770,000 and the city council agreeing to new policies to recruit and train gay officers.

Another major case that reveals Stormer's fearlessness was taking on the Los Angeles County court system because the courthouses were not accessible to people with physical disabilities.

#### cause, if it's a good cause. If anyone can win it, he will."

"There are not many lawyers who will take such a case — suing the court system," says Nora Quinn, who worked on a number of accessibility cases with Stormer while she was legal director of the Disability Rights Legal Center at Loyola Law School. "But Dan never hesitated." A settlement resulted. "The courthouses are much more practical now for disabled people," Quinn says.

P erhaps the most striking cases Stormer has taken on, though, are the those in which not just people's livelihoods but their very lives were threatened —yet they fought back.

In 1996, he argued the case of 72 Thai citizens held captive and forced to work 18-hour days making garments in El Monte, California. Laying the groundwork for future cases, they decided to sue not just the manufacturer directly enslaving the people, but also the whole supply chain that used their products. And the case was successful.

That case launched Stormer into the arena of international human rights and in serving as lead trial counsel for *Doe v. Unocal*, the first case in which a corporation was successfully brought to court in the US for offenses committed in another country.

California-based Unocal became a partner in a multinational effort to build the Yadana gas pipeline through Myanmar (Burma), from the Andaman Sea to the Thai border. The Burmese military ruthlessly cleared a path for the project, enslaving, killing, raping, torturing, and driving out poor villagers along the way. The suit, filed in 1996, held Unocal responsible for those atrocities.

This complex, multi-part trial extended over years. Backed by the Bush administration, Unocal won some phases of the battle; but the final result was that the corporation agreed to a settlement in 2004, establishing a fund to help the villagers recover from their losses. It also established a powerful legal precedent that US companies could be held liable for turning a blind eye when conducting business in countries where human rights are abused.

This fall, Stormer is bringing his latest foray into international affairs to court: Bowoto v. Chevron Corp. This case originated in the oil-rich Niger Delta, where locals and Western oil companies have frequently clashed since the late 1990s. In May 1998, a group of villagers held what they describe as a peaceful protest against Chevron's environmental and economic practices. The Nigerian military attacked the protesters, killing and injuring some, and detaining and torturing others. The plaintiffs contend that Chevron directed and paid for the attack. Stormer is arguing their case.

hough he readily admits to a passion for battling injustice, Stormer does not have some kind of superman complex.

"I don't expect to change society or to have a major impact,"

he says. "I just hope that as a result of my work, if we win a case, some people will have a better life."

He also emphasizes that he has lost many cases — and that's OK. "If you're not losing cases, you're not pushing the envelope enough. Losing is how you learn."

Friends and colleagues cite his sense of humor and his ability to connect with juries with no-nonsense talk and respect as his main strengths.

In short, Stormer takes his clients and their struggles seriously, not himself. And his concern for those who need a helping hand extends well beyond the courtroom.

By his estimate, he works 10 to 11 hours per day; nevertheless, he finds the time to coach local kids' athletic teams, and to teach skiing to the disabled.

"One might expect a top attorney to be impossible to work with, filled with ego and pomposity," says Jerry Arbogast, a teacher and tennis coach whom Stormer assisted at Marshall High School in Los Angeles. "But Dan is the most down-to-earth guy you will ever meet, simply showing up with a desire to help the kids."

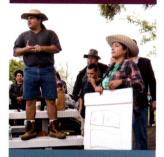
Stormer says that both pleasure and principle are his motivating forces: "The good life is doing what you want to do, based upon what you enjoy and what your beliefs are." For him, that means practicing law, spending time with his sons and his wife, skiing, teaching, and coaching.

It also includes making some unusual personal choices, like living in the Echo Park section of Los Angeles, notorious as a "poor gang neighborhood," in Stormer's words. "I wanted my kids to understand what life is about, and it's not about living in a suburb with a mostly white community."

In other words, life is found among people like those he grew up with — people who occasionally need a break so that they can not just survive, but thrive.

"My clients are truly courageous people," Stormer says. "They have no money, no power, no support. It takes amazing personal strength. I'm constantly amazed."

#### **Case in Point**



## See Stormer in Action

Two of Dan Stormer's most intriguing cases are featured in recent documentaries: 

The Garden (directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy), about the South Central Farmers of Los Angeles and their fight to keep a 14-acre community garden;

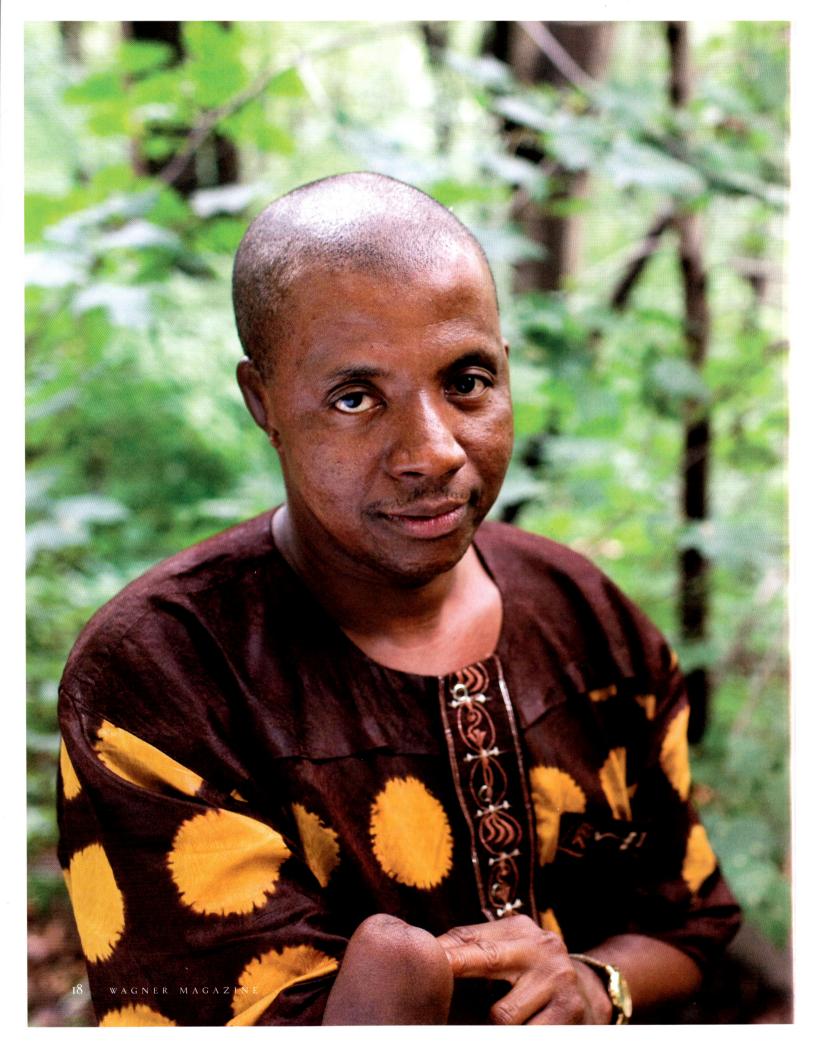
and Total Denial

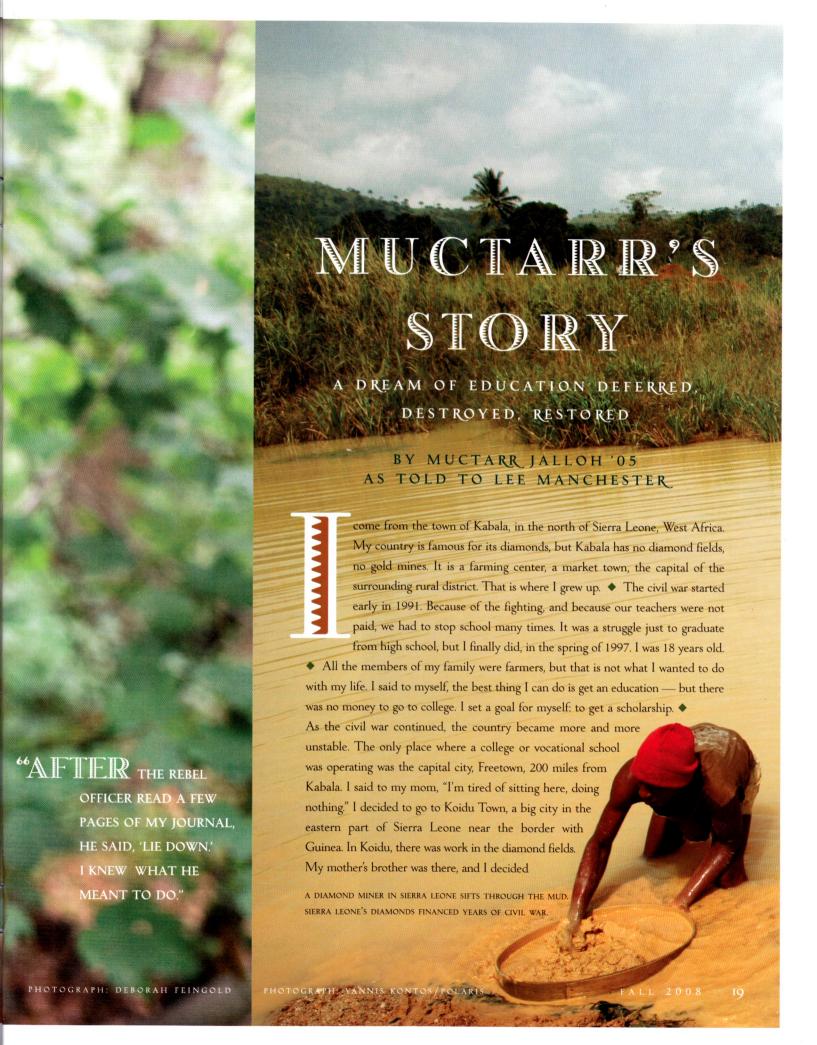
(directed by Milena

Kaneva), about

atrocities committed against Burmese villagers during the construction of the Yadana gas pipeline, and the court case against the multinational corporation that funded the work. Stormer appears in both films.

Photos, above: In a scene from The Garden, farm leaders organize the community. Below, Dan Stormer speaks about the case against Unocal in Total Denial.





to join him for a couple of months to see if he could help me with money so that I could go to a technical school. I thought that if I could not go to university, at least I could learn a trade.

Everywhere we went, we saw the corpses of people who had been shot by the rebels.



About eight months after I arrived in Koidu, we awoke one morning to the sound of gunfire. It was a rebel attack. We ran into the bush outside town and waited to see whether the government forces would

be able to push the rebels back. My uncle kept saying, "The government forces will come," but I said, "I don't believe this, Uncle. We have to leave this place."

Eventually, it was not safe to turn back, and it was not safe to push forward. We got stuck in the jungle for three months. A bunch of us lived together in one hut. I scouted for food each day — bananas, plantains, whatever I could get.

One day when I was out scouting, the rebels caught a guy. While I watched from the brush, he was killed. After a while, there was nothing to eat anymore, and everywhere we went we saw the corpses of people who had been shot by the rebels.

ne day, we could hear gunshots and people screaming. We thought that maybe this was the government forces coming back. When we made it to where we had heard the noise, we found that all of those people had been killed by the rebels.

We moved on. We walked about 10 or 12 miles, until we were stopped by a couple of 12-year-old boys who were part of the rebel forces. They told my uncle and me to go to a clearing where their commanders were sitting, about 10 or 15 men. One of them said to me, "You stand there," pointing to a place on one side of the clearing where six guys were standing, and they told my uncle to lie down on the other side.

They gave a little boy a gun to kill my uncle. The boy shot at my uncle, but my uncle rolled over toward him, so the bullet missed him. They said, "Oh, you're like the commandos," the local people who had organized to fight against the rebels. "So you know how to maneuver, how to escape the bullets."

Then a guy came up with a machete in his hand. He would grab people and push them up against a tree; another guy would blow a whistle, and they would cut your head. I watched them mutilate the other six men in my group that way, and then they came for me. The man with the machete grabbed at my shirt, but

suddenly there was a noise on the other side of the clearing, and one of the commanders said, "Leave him be. Go over there and tell them I don't want to hear this noise. Just wipe them all out." So I stood there for a while, wondering what would happen.

Finally, another guy said, "Put that guy down" — which meant that they should kill me.

He came and opened my pack. I had my high school diploma, my school ID, and a book I was writing. It was a journal of absolutely whatever happened each day, how I traveled with my uncle, what I was doing, what I was seeing.

After he read a few pages of my journal, he put everything down and he said, "Lie down."

I knew what he meant to do.

I said, "What have I done to you?"

He said, "Are you arguing with me?"

I said, "I'm not arguing with you. I know I am going to die, but I before I do, I want to know why you are doing this to me. What have I done to you? I don't know the government. I don't know the president. I don't even know the local chiefs; I'm just a layman, a poor guy. I just want you to tell me, before you kill me, why are you doing this?"

He kicked me, and I fell down. He tied my hands behind my back, and he tied my feet together. They used a pole to hang me between two big rocks. He asked someone what time it was,

and a guy answered, "It's noon." They started throwing stones at me and kicking me. I gave up; I thought I would surely die from the beating, but at some point it stopped.



At about 5:15 we were listening to the

# 'Go tell the United Nations. They can give you back your arm.'

radio. It was the BBC, the "Focus on Africa" program, and the reporters were talking about Sierra Leone. The guy who had tied me up came over to me with the machete, cut the rope around my hands and ankles, and let me fall to the ground.

When I got up, he called my uncle over and told us to go over by a fallen tree trunk.

He said, "Put down your arm."

I knew that he was going to cut off my hand, so I put my left arm down on the trunk.

He said, "Listen. I know you're a student, and I know you're right-handed."

He grabbed my right arm and put it down on the trunk. I was pleading with him, "Please, please, I know you're going to cut off my arm, but please, cut off my left arm."

He said, "Don't worry — I'm going to cut both arms. Don't tell me what to start with."

I finally gave up. I put my right hand down, and he told my uncle to hold it.

I spoke to my uncle in our own language. I said, "Hold it. Nobody's gonna blame you."

My uncle held my arm, and I watched the guy use the machete. First, he sliced my fingers off. I wondered why there was no blood coming, so I stood up. I thought it was done.

Then the guy grabbed my arm, held it against a tree, and started chopping away at it until he cut my forearm off. He took the arm, put it in my pack and said, "Go tell the United Nations. They can give you back your arm."

hen I came to, I got up and started walking into the bush. It was getting dark. I heard a call: It was my uncle. I went over to him.

I said, "We have to go," but he could not walk any more. He said, "Go. If you survive, tell them that I was killed by the rebels. If we both die, then it is in the hands of Lord."

"OK, Uncle," I said. "Everything is in the hands of the Lord." I left him and continued alone. It was raining.

Finally, I came upon a burned-out house. I crawled underneath the floor to hide myself. I slept there until morning.

When I awoke, I started walking again. After a few hours, I came upon a checkpoint manned by Nigerian peacekeepers, part of the West African force called ECOMOG. They brought me to Koquima, a nearby market town, where I stayed for about five days. My uncle was brought there, too. He had survived.

Eventually, we were taken to a hospital in Freetown, the capital. I was in the hospital for about two months; I was in a coma for a week, and it took 15 days to see a doctor. All that time, the only dressing I had on my arm and my head were the bandages applied by an ECOMOG medic. By the time a doctor examined me, there were maggots crawling in my wounds.

( CONTINUED ON PAGE 47)



Inspired by trips abroad, students take action on behalf of impoverished communities By David McKay Wilson

# Two Weeks That Call State of the state of t

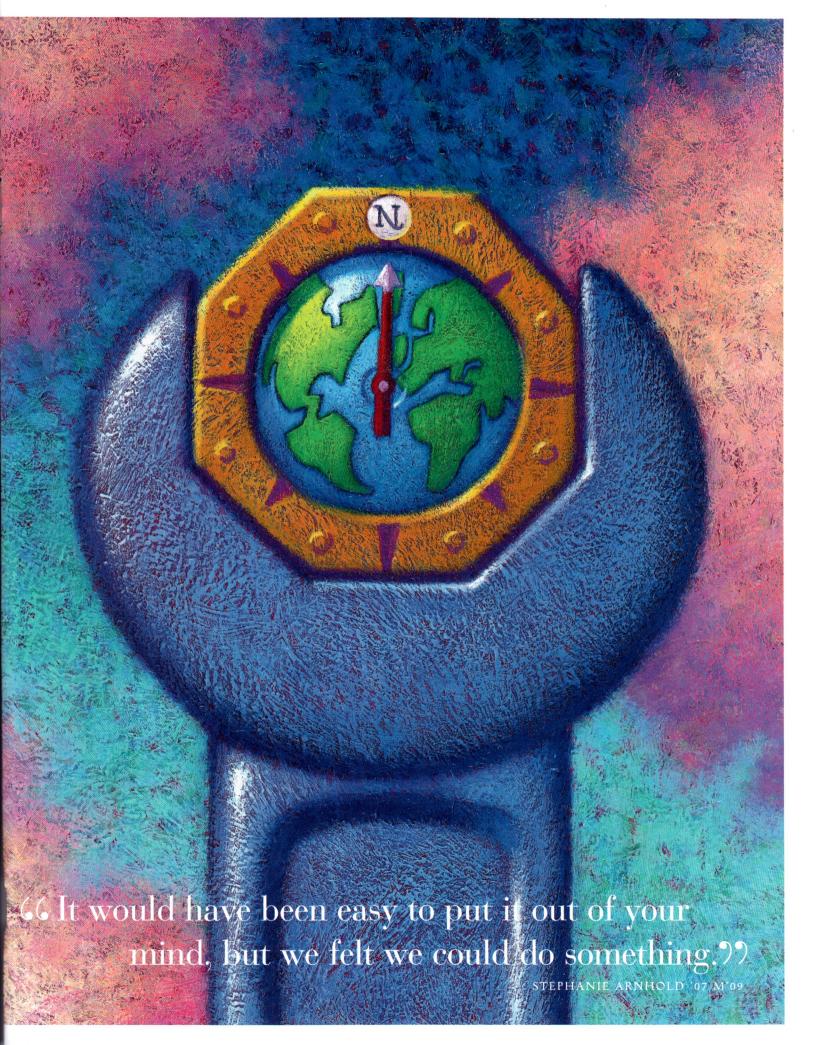
When Nick Mustakas '08 went to Kenya with Wagner's Expanding Your Horizons program in 2007, he expected to learn about life in the slums near Nairobi and work with children whose parents had contracted HIV/AIDS.

What happened over two weeks that January changed his life. He saw the crushing poverty. He was inspired by the work of Christian Women's Works of Charity. And he found in himself the desire to help those children. Upon his return to the US, Mustakas started a nonprofit organization, Knowledge Is the Cure. Since then, he has raised nearly \$35,000 to support the kids he met on his trip. • "In Kenya, I found that I had a real heart for mission," says Mustakas, now seeking a master's degree in church planting and evangelism at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia. "I can see myself doing this kind of work for the rest of my life." Mustakas, who received Wagner's 2007 Civic Engagement Recognition Award, is among several students who have returned from the Expanding Your Horizons program and committed themselves to furthering the work they began overseas. Students who've accompanied chemistry professor Mohammad Alauddin to Bangladesh on trips since 2006 have raised money to purchase water filters for communities dealing with arsenic contamination of their water supply. And education majors who traveled to an impoverished neighborhood on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, this January to study that nation's education system returned determined to lend a hand to a school desperate for basic supplies. • Established three years ago, EYH sends students abroad with a faculty member and staff member. Upon their return, students take a class and write a research paper related to the trip. The trips focus on topics ranging from the study of Classical civilization in Greece to immersion in world religions in Israel to issues of health, environment, and politics in countries like Kenya, Bangladesh, Peru, and Argentina. • Working with community-based

"I can see myself doing this kind of work for the rest of my life."

> NICK MUSTAKAS '08

( CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)



#### ( CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

organizations in poor neighborhoods brings students face-to-face with the people's daily struggles.

"There is no way to explain the poverty of the Third World, you have to see it," says Steve Snow, associate professor of government and politics, who led the Kenya

trip. "The students see how little the people have, they can be the poorest beyond poor, and at the same time are hustling to run a vegetable stand. They work so hard, and our students see them working so hard, and it makes them want to help."

Heading up the program is Professor Alauddin, a native of Bangladesh, who since the mid-1990s has been doing research and providing assistance to communities in his homeland. He first took students there in 2001 to test wells for contamination that may have resulted from arsenic in rock formations leaching into the groundwater.

In a country where an estimated 10 million wells serve about 135 million people, it's common for his tests to find 300–1,200 parts per billion of arsenic in the water. Safe water standards in Bangladesh set a 50-parts-per-billion limit; in the US, the limit is 10.

Arsenic poisoning causes pulmonary and skin cancers as well as cardiovascular and renal disease. Filters that remove the arsenic, which Alauddin has helped develop, cost about \$40. His students have raised money to buy filters for these communities.

"Bangladesh is like a window into what's going on the Third World," says Alauddin. "Students can learn on-site and see what poverty really means."

Christina Lamb '08, who traveled to Bangladesh in January, says investigating arsenic contamination in groundwater and air pollution in village cooking huts inspired her to consider a career in toxicology. This fall, she began a doctoral program in biological and biomedical sciences at the University of North Carolina.

"That trip gave me more of a direction," she says. "It was crucial to my development as a scientist, and as I look for an area of research, it showed me that my work must be more than important to me. It needs

to be important to the rest of the world."

Stephanie Arnhold '07 M'09 (photo, right) and Samantha Siegel '11 traveled in January with Mapy Chavez-Brown,



"It showed me that my work must be more than important to me. It needs to be important to the world."

CHRISTINA LAMB '08

assistant professor of education, to study the social stratification in Peru's education system. On several afternoons, they visited Markham College, a private international school in Lima that serves students from 24 nations from pre-kindergarten through high

school. There, high school students were conversant in English, French, and Spanish, and kindergarteners learned keyboarding skills in the computer lab.

They'd stop at Markham after spending the morning in a poor neighborhood in Lima's Chorillos district, where Peruvians live in tiny ramshackle houses in crowded conditions. There, the students volunteered at La Cuna Jardin Armatambo, a pre-school center where the roof leaked and there were few books or materials for children.

"It was a life-altering experience," says Siegel, who is majoring in elementary education and psychology. "When I got back to the US, I realized how much we have, and how much they don't have. It made me grateful for what we have, and it made me want to help them. We have so much here we don't need, and you still hear people complain that we don't have enough."

Arnhold says she couldn't turn her back on the people she met. To meet the course requirement, Arnhold and Siegel drew up a proposal to provide aid to the preschool. On their own, they decided to implement it.

"It would have been easy to put it out of your mind, but we felt we could do something, and we were going to do it," says Arnhold, who is earning her master's in literacy.

Siegel and Arnhold returned to Peru in May to talk with officials at the school about what kind of support they could use. They also brought along \$700 they'd raised from friends and family, which they used to buy blankets, pillows, and baby supplies. In addition, they had 150 pounds of school supplies from children at Siegel's alma mater, the Reddington Middle School in White House Station, New Jersey, where she spent a day teaching about life on the outskirts of Lima.

"We became passionate about what we saw in the preschool in Peru," says Siegel. "It seemed like there were some simple things we could do to make a huge difference for them."

David McKay Wilson is a writer from Mahopac, New York.

"It made me grateful for what we have, and it made me want to help.

SAMANTHA SIEGEL '11 (BELOW LEFT)



#### In This Issue:

#### FOUNDATION HALL

A New Residence

#### **CAMPAIGN FOCUS**

The Heritage Society

#### CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Lisa De Respino Bennett '85

#### **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

Gordon McEwan



# Residence hall gift highlights community-college partnership

he Richmond County
Savings Foundation
— namesake of
Wagner's new residential facility, Foundation Hall — has a

history on Staten Island even more venerable than that of Wagner College.

The bank has been serving Staten Islanders since

October 30, 1886 — just three years after Wagner College was founded in Rochester, New York — and its charitable work dates back to its earliest days.

The foundation was created in 1998 with the mission of supporting charitable causes that contribute to the quality of life in communities where the Richmond County Savings Bank operates.

Cesar Claro, executive director of the foundation, sees Wagner College as a strong partner for the foundation's mission.

"We don't have many nationally recognized institutions on Staten Island, and Wagner College tops the list," says Claro. "It's an educational institution that draws young adults from all over the world. In this way, it essentially markets Staten Island for us."

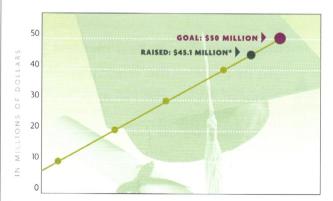
The foundation had previously made significant gifts to Wagner College, including a \$500,000 grant to create multimedia classrooms.

Michael Manzulli, chairman of the Richmond County Savings Bank and lifetime member of the Wagner College Board of Trustees, also emphasizes the intimate connection between the College and its island home.

"As a trustee, I know how Wagner enhances the quality of life on Staten

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

#### Campaign Update: Enthusiastic Response



\*INCLUDES gifts, pledges, and oral commitments made between January 1, 2004, and September 23, 2008.





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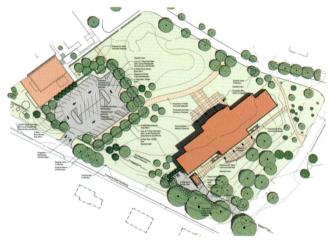
Donna Mollica New ALUMNA '68, TRUSTEE

Warren R. Procci

#### Community-College Partnership: New Residence Hall

Island," says Manzulli.
"Quality of life is enhanced by a college that excels in all areas. For the school to excel on the academic side, it competes with other schools. The facilities need continual upgrading to support the people who want to be there."

In honor of Manzulli's leadership, Foundation Hall's Board Room will be named for him. See page 5 for more about the foundation's gift and the new residence hall.



SITE PLAN Foundation Hall sits on the former baseball field, its front entrance facing the back of Main Hall. It will house 192 seniors in apartment-style suites.

#### The Wagner Heritage Society recognizes a long tradition of ensuring the future

any who put
Wagner first on their
list of philanthropic
priorities maximize their gifts by
including the College in their
estate plans. These future gifts
come from different sources, including trusts, annuities, IRAs,
insurance policies, and bequests.

The tradition of providing for Wagner in this way is almost as long as our history on Grymes Hill. A recently discovered chronology in the college archives cites 1919 as the year Wagner received her first planned gift — the Trackman bequest of \$3,000.

In 2001, the Wagner College Board of Trustees established the Heritage Society to thank and recognize those who have included Wagner in their estate plans. President Norman Smith wrote to alumni and friends asking them to let him know if they had made provision for Wagner or to consider making provision. Ninety individuals responded, forming the charter class of the Wagner College Heritage Society.

Membership in the society has grown to 193, including 27 individuals who answered President Guarasci's recent invitation to join. Some chose to share projected gift

Wagner received its first planned gift in 1919 — the Trackman bequest. Today, the Heritage Society has 193 members.

**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.



amounts that range from \$1,000 to several million dollars.\* A few let us know that a bequest is the one way that they will be able to support Wagner. Many give to supplement an outright gift to the endowment or for some other

purpose. Almost all support the annual fund every year.

Generosity is the heart of Wagner College. Her lifeblood is the 1886 gift of \$12,000 from John G. Wagner in memory of his late son. Since then, millions of dollars in gifts small and large have kept
Wagner not just alive but
thriving. Many of those gifts
have come from estates —
from individuals who know
that those who planned in the
past enabled the present, and
those who plan now ensure

the future. — Frank Young

\*Part or all of each deferred gift with an amount documented during the campaign may accrue to the campaign total. All deferred gifts documented during the campaign will be recognized.



CAMPAIGN PROFILE:

### Lisa De Respino Bennett '85

Respino Bennett has taken on every role there is to play at Wagner College. Literally. She grew up on Staten Island, only a block away from the Wagner campus; but her Wagner career really started with her undergraduate years as a — what else — theatre major. On the Main Hall stage, she acted in shows ranging from the rock musical

Hair to Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest.

After graduation, she played a couple more roles in New York's entertainment world — actor and commercial talent agent — before returning to Wagner as the assistant director of admissions. It was one of her theatre professors, the late Randy Alderson, who ushered her into this new phase of her

career and relationship with Wagner. "He thought I'd be great for it, because it's a people-focused, relationship-building type of job," she recalls. She thrived as a student recruiter — to this day, her Facebook account is filled with friends whom she helped bring to Wagner.

Next, as director of alumni relations, she dealt with people on the other side of their Wagner experience. And she made connections that led to her next big role: her current position as head of corporate technology communications for JPMorgan Chase. Andy Cortese '72, who now serves on Wagner's Board of Trustees, recruited her to start up a communications, training, and recruitment program for the technology and operations areas of the corporation.

As a volunteer, she has continued to play new roles at Wagner: She's president of the National Alumni Association board; she's chair of the Friends of the Theatre and head of the group's fundraising project, the Name-A-Seat campaign; she's on the board of this magazine.

"The bottom line is, I'm an alumna," she says. "Though my knowledge of the College has changed, my love for the institution hasn't changed. I loved my time as a student. It was a great growth time for me."

This love, and the drive to pass it along to today's students (including her stepdaughters Danielle '08 and Tara '10), inspires her to give back. She is a faithful supporter of the Wagner Annual Fund and has made a multi-year commitment to the Putting Wagner First campaign. "Wagner has 125 years of history. It deserves to have at least 125 more years," she says. "The students and alumni deserve to have the school continue into the future."



Litzenberger Fund advances groundbreaking work

or the past 30 years, Professor of Anthropology Gordon McEwan has been excavating the heartland of the Inca civilization, the Valley of Cuzco, Peru, and reflecting on one of the most puzzling questions about that culture: How did the Incas build such an enormous empire in only 80 years? Last year, McEwan focused on a major book project that will provide an answer. A fellowship to Harvard's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library in Washington, D.C., and a grant from Wagner's Litzenberger Faculty Travel Fund, an endowment established by Robert Litzenberger '64. allowed him to significantly advance this groundbreaking work. "I taught for a long time at Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania, so I realize the importance of research and travel funding for faculty," says Litzenberger, himself a renowned economist, former partner at Goldman Sachs, and collector of Pre-Columbian art. "It's central to the intellectual life

of the College."

A Future of Distinction.

A Legacy of Excellence.



# The Water Political Politi

to excellence By John Beisser

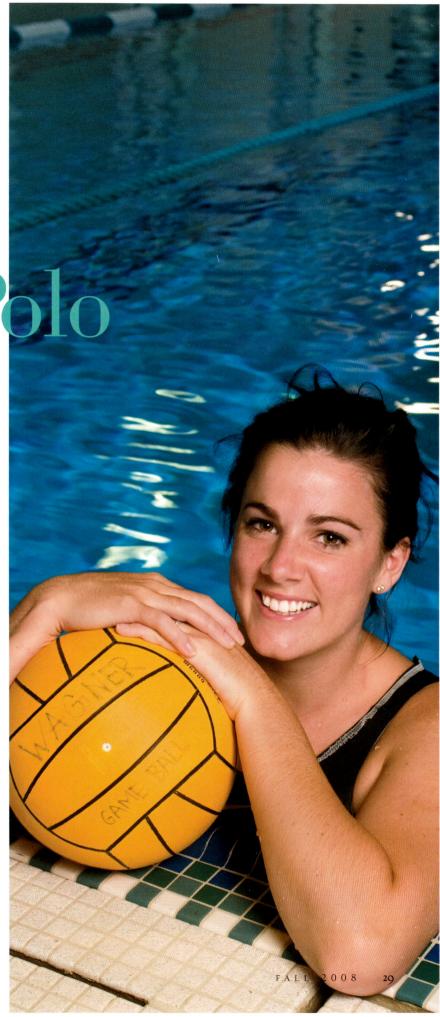
n 2004, when Billy Hoelck '08 came to Wagner from Southern California to play water polo, the program was only one year old and the sport almost unknown in the East.

During the next four years, the fledgling team went to the NCAA Championships twice, and Hoelck become one of the most prolific scorers in the history of the sport.

Yet in her hometown of San Diego, she was no star.

Hoelck (pronounced like the last two syllables of workaholic) came to the East Coast from the heart of water polo country. One of her teammates at the University of San Diego High School, Moriah Van Norman, was a member of the silver medal-winning US team at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, following a stellar career at the University of Southern California (she was named Water Polo Player of the Year in 2004). Another ex-teammate, Kelly Rulon, was an All-American at UCLA and a member of the US team that took home the bronze in the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

"I was more of a role player," says Hoelck of her high school water polo experience. "I would set up my teammates for goals, so I had a lot of assists. I wasn't the main (CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)



## Sports Roundup

( CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

offensive player that I became at Wagner."

But Hoelck had a dream and a drive to excel. And she isn't the timid type. Growing up as the middle child in a family of five, she had spent most of her time outdoors playing sports with her two older brothers, Daniel and Andrew — not inside playing dolls with her sisters, Kathleen and Rebeca.

It is to Rebeca, though, that she owes her tomboyish nickname. "My real name is Elisabeth, but the story goes that Rebeca couldn't pronounce it properly and it came out like 'Billibits,' so people started calling me Billy. And it kind of stuck."

One day during her junior year of high school, she decided to broaden her knowledge of colleges that fielded Division I water polo teams.

"I just did a Google search and I came across Wagner," she recalls. "I was intrigued by its proximity to New York
City, and the pictures of the

campus looked beautiful."

She joined the fledgling East Coast program, despite the many bad jokes she would be subjected to.

"The one I got the most is,

You play water polo? Where do you keep the horse?""

Hoelck took all this in stride and flourished in her new environment. The Seahawk program took off, earning Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championships and accompanying NCAA berths in 2005 and 2007. As a senior in 2008, the tri-captain ranked second in the nation in total goals (107) and fourth in goals per game (3.3). She was named to the All-MAAC First Team and ended her career as Wagner's all-time leader in goals (373), assists (113), and goals in a season (107).

On the academic side, Hoelck majored in anthropology and minored in journalism. In addition to the many hours devoted to water polo, she served as sports editor of the *Wagnerian* and president of the Student

Athletic Advisory Committee, while also spending a year as an intern in the sports information department. A highlight of her college career was delivering the keynote address at the athletic department's annual Senior/MVP Dinner in May.

Now that she has become the face of a successful water polo program, she has a ready explanation for anyone who's seriously interested in knowing what water polo is all about.

"It's similar to basketball, in that there is offensive and defensive transition to both ends of the pool," she says. "It's also a bit like soccer, in that there is a goalie defending the goal; it has some elements of wrestling, except you're in 10 feet of water; and there's throwing involved, so in that sense it's like softball."

Today, Hoelck has returned to the West Coast to pursue a master's degree in sports administration. "I wouldn't trade those four years for anything," says Hoelck of her East Coast sojourn. "I absolutely loved my experience at Wagner. I'm a Seahawk for life."

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

#### Billy Hoelck's Top 10 Reasons to Love Women's Water Polo

1.

My legs are cellulite-free when in season.

2

When you win a championship, you get to throw the coach in the pool.

2

You get to travel all across the country.

4.

Spectators at outdoor games can work on their tans and keep cool when they get splashed.

5.

Elements of basketball, soccer, softball, and wrestling are all combined in one sport.

6.

The practice swimsuits come in funky patterns.

7.

No running involved.

8.

You can tune out an annoying coach or teammates by dunking your head under water.

9.

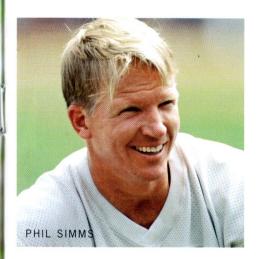
No stoppages of play like football – the game is constant go, go, go.

10.

The boys' teams are always cute.

#### AND HOW ABOUT THAT VIEW?

Wagner College baseball opened a new era this past season, when the Seahawks began playing all home games at Richmond County Bank Ballpark, home of the Staten Island Yankees. (Read about what's happening with the old baseball field on page 5.) Wagner compiled a 17–7 home record in its new environs. "This arrangement provides exceptional athletic opportunities for our baseball program – and the view is simply unmatched by any other park in the country," says President Guarasci. "Our good and enduring relationship with the New York Yankees is a source of pride for the College."



#### 'As Genuine as They Come'

Former New York Giants great tutors youngsters, wins hearts

More than 100 boys with dreams of football glory got three days of hands-on instruction at Wagner College this summer from one of the game's greatest quarter-backs, Phil Simms.

Simms held his first ever Elite Quarterback Camp at Wagner in June for youngsters entering grades 5-12.

A first-round draft pick of the New York Giants in 1979, Simms played his

#### **Don't Miss Another Game**

Seahawks sport new look and live webcasting

With a sleek new Seahawk logo and redesigned Web site, Wagner Athletics is offering even more to its loyal fan base. Besides a new look, the Web site (www.wagnerathletics.com) has an exciting new feature: live video streaming of Wagner home football and basketball games. Go to the Web site and click on the "All-Access" icon to get started. Single games or a season

pass are available for purchase. When the Seahawks (football, men's basketball, and selected women's basketball) are on the road, you can go to the Web for a free audio stream. Click on the "Listen Live" icon.

RUNNING BACK Shane Smith '10 won the James Robb Memorial Trophy in the Seahawks' Homecoming victory over Iona.



entire 15-year career with the Giants. He holds 19 team records and was the MVP of Super Bowl XXI. He is now lead NFL analyst for CBS Sports.

The contact with such a legendary

player was a thrill, not only for the kids but also for the adults involved.

"Phil is as genuine as they come," said Wagner Athletic Director Walt Hameline. "He stayed out here on the Island,

> swapped stories with all of the coaches each evening.

> "I know these kids got a lot out of the camp and will return to their schools as better quarterbacks and players," Hameline continued. "I'm hoping that Phil will make this an annual event here at Wagner, and that the camp just grows and grows."



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

#### **Upcoming Events**

New York City

- Young Alumni Happy Hour at Down the Hatch, Nov. 7, 6-8 p.m.
- New York Philharmonic Concert, Dec. 5, 8 p.m.
- Young Alumni Wine Tasting, Ristorante 110, Dec. 12, 7–9 p.m.

- Winter on the Hill, Feb. 21, 2009
- Young Alumni Happy Hour, March 13, 2009
- Songfest Young Alumni Party, April 4, 2009
- Reunion Weekend, June 5-7, 2009

125th Celebrations

• Rochester, N.Y., Nov. 8-9

- Chicago Metropolitan Club, Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m.
- San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Marbella Country Club, Dec. 7, 1-3 p.m.
- Phoenix, Ariz., Heard Museum, Dec. 9, 12-2 p.m.
- Savannah, Ga., Jan. 24, 2009

Other Events

Alumni Gathering,

Sarasota, Fla., Feb. 26, 2009

 Young Alumni/ Senior Cruise, Mar. 15-21, 2009

For more information: alumni@wagner.edu 718-390-3224



#### Dear Alumni,

Earlier this fall, I traveled with 12 Wagnerians and friends to revisit their old haunts in Bregenz — an opportunity to once again climb the Martin's Tower, ride the funicular railway up

the Pfänder, and walk along the Bodensee. The first night in the fabled town was spent with a welcome

> dinner at Gösserbräu, which many Bregenzers will recall as the site of their Fasching costume balls. Keep an eye out for shots of our favorite Austrian city in James Bond: Quantum of Solace.

The group then headed to King Ludwig's glorious Neuschwanstein Castle and on to Munich for Oktoberfest. Cavorting in large

beer halls, singing along to oompah music (playing the tunes of Elvis and John Denver, no less), and ending the night with a ride on the Ferris wheel was an exciting and memorable way to spend time in Bavaria.

The final destination was the city of one hundred spires: Prague. Prague never fell victim to the bombings of war, and its medieval streets, castles, and cathedrals have been preserved. The group took an exhaustive — and exhausting — sevenhour tour with a local Czech guide to sites such as Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, and the Astronomical Clock. As Cristina Vacante Bonuso '71, a Bregenz alumna, stated, "I love Wagner for fostering my love of travel. I'll always be grateful."

For more stories (and photos) from our trip, visit www.wagneralumnitravel.blogspot.com. Please help us plan future travel opportunities by completing a short survey at www.wagner.edu/alumni/travel.

Back on the Hill,

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS 718-420-4164

JBROWNE @ WAGNER. EDU

#### Inducted

Athletic Hall of Fame's new members include many record holders

#### Fred Blackwell 161 ..... Basketball

- co-captained the 1959-60 team, which achieved a perfect 10-0 record in the Middle Atlantic Conference
- ranked sixth in career rebounding average in school history
- graduated from Howard University School of Medicine and became an esteemed orthopedic surgeon

#### Christine Anderson

#### Franzreb '92.....Softball, basketball

- one of the top all-around female studentathletes in school history
- helped women's basketball to the 1989
   Northeast Conference Championship
- hit a whopping .451 during the 1991 softball season, ranking fourth in NCAA

#### Dominick Iorio '82......Track and field, cross country

- school record holder in the 800-meter run, and part of the school's record-setting 4x800 relay team
- graduated with the school record in the 600-meter run and as part of the schoolrecord 3,200-meter relay team
- was named a Top-10 Manager by Met Life, where he has worked for 23 years

#### Donald Edwards '84 Football

- proficient at defending the run and the pass
- led the Seahawks in sacks in 1980 and 1981
- helped the team to a combined 17-3 record during his junior and senior seasons

#### Joe Murphy '85 Baseball

- played for the Green & White 1983–85, before being selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 1985 Major League Baseball draft
- concluded his career with a .380 average, still the top mark in school history
- set the Wagner single-season home run record: 12 long balls in 26 games

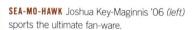
#### **Homecoming 2008**

**ALUMNI AND FRIENDS** celebrated a beautiful day on Grymes Hill for the 125th Anniversary Homecoming, September 13. The Seahawks achieved a 45–28 win over Iona. The day before, history buffs enjoyed a panel of speakers who covered various aspects of Wagner's past.



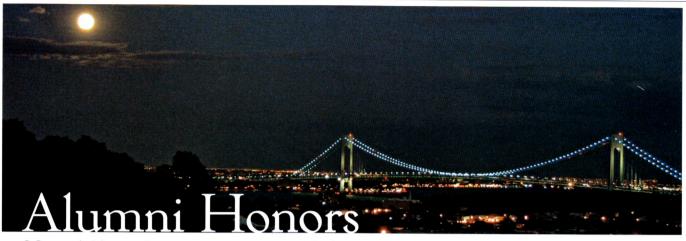






#### DYNAMIC BACKFIELD

Freshman Prince Young (above left) and junior Shane Smith ran for 128 and 174 yards respectively, leading the successful charge against Iona.



National Alumni Association recognizes 13 who have made Wagner proud



Wagner Alumni Fellow in Law Dan Stormer '68

A 1974 graduate of the New York University School of Law, Dan Stormer has practiced civil rights, international human rights, and constitutional law for more than three decades. He is recognized as one of the top attorneys in the United States.



Wagner Alumni Fellow in Art John Deane '53

John Deane spent most of his career in the motion picture industry, serving as assistant treasurer and tax manager of Pathe News Industries, controller for Cinerama, and vice president and treasurer for RKO. For more than 50 years, he has been an avid sculptor.



Wagner Alumni Fellow in Nursing Caryle Wolahan '64

Professor and director of graduate programs for the College of Nursing at Seton Hall University, Caryle Wolahan has taught at many universities and is a highly regarded lecturer at nursing conferences.



Wagner Alumni Fellow in Business and Economics Richard P. Emery Jr. '65

Richard Emery served for 39 years as a civil servant with the federal government. He retired as head of the budget review division for the Office of Management and Budget, which provides budget estimates and strategic advice and analysis to the OMB director.



Wagner Alumni Fellow in Political Science Veronica Cahill Brown '93

A political science major, Veronica Cahill Brown has traveled the nation and the world promoting America's Cup sailing teams, including Bill Koch's 1995 all-women America's Cup team and Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* teams in 1999–2000 and 2001–03.



Distinguished Graduate of Wagner Robert Litzenberger '64

A leading authority on capital market theory and the application of econometric methods in finance, Bob Litzenberger has had a distinguished career in business and academia. He has served as partner and

firm-wide risk manager for Goldman Sachs, held professorships at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and served as director of research and chief economist at AIG Financial Products.



#### Wagner Alumni Certificate of Appreciation Daymon Yizar '82

Educator and retired police officer Daymon Yizar is spearheading the creation of an African American alumni committee, which aims to raise scholarship funds, assist in student recruitment, and create a strong network among students and alumni.



#### Wagner Alumni Key George and Gabriella Gaspar '88

Restaurateurs George and Gabriella Gaspar, both 1988 Wagner graduates, have enthusiastically hosted Wagner events and supported Wagner athletics.



#### Kevin Sheehy Alumni Leadership Medal Elizabeth Ann Ebers Press '58

Linguist and health educator Betsy Press has served on the National Alumni Association board for six years and has been active on numerous NAA committees.



The John "Bunny" Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Wagner Alumni Laureates Bob '50 and Muriel Peirano

Bob and Muriel Peirano are outstanding Wagner supporters. A Wagner Athletic Hall of Fame member, Bob is the founder of the Sal Alberti Wagner College Golf Classic, which has raised more than \$650,000 for the Student Athlete Endowment Fund.

#### The Rev. Lyle R. Guttu Award



**Alan William Kamens '58** is the first recipient of this new award, named in memory of Wagner's longtime chaplain, who died last year. While serving as pastor for 40 years, Kamens has also been involved in many social justice efforts, including the creation of an

apartment complex where physically challenged individuals can live independently.

#### REUNION 2008

President Guarasci (right) greets alumni at the welcome reception at the Pape House (center). Jay Hartig '67, Wagner's board chairman, and Wagner trustee Howard Meyers '63 talk at the Nicolais House during the Heritage Society luncheon (below).









### **A Fifties Festival**

Reunion Weekend 2009

Mark your calendars for June 5–7, 2009, and start looking for your poodle skirts and saddle shoes, because Reunion Weekend 2009 is going to be a celebration of the 1950s.

The class of 1959 will achieve Golden Seahawk status, and they have been preparing for this big event for a couple of years already — with a little help from their friends who graduated in the late '50s and early '60s.

"The class is looking forward to explaining life at Wagner in the '50s to younger folks," says Carl Westerdahl '59, one of the prime movers among a group that calls itself the Class of '59 and Friends.

Another feature of the 2009 Reunion Weekend will be a special reception in Reynolds House for the women who once called it home — when its name was North Hall and it served as a women's dormitory.

Don't miss the transformation of the dining hall into a drive-in movie theater! Watch your mailbox early next year for complete weekend information.

### Vintage Fashion and Culture Tips Courtesy of the Class of 1959 and Friends

What to Wears For men: white buck shoes (soiled), Oxford blue shirt with button-down collar, pants with a buckle in the back; for women: Jantzen sweater set, Peter Pan collar, three-inch heels, white gloves, hat, and a string of pearls; for freshmen: beanies.

What's for Dinner At the Hawk's Nest, burgers and milk shakes, ice cream, BLTs, tuna and bologna sandwiches. Regular meals were served family-style in Cunard Hall.

Music: Tunes by the Count Basie Band and the Four Freshmen, who played on campus; "Little Brown Jug" played by the Wagner College Bottle Band, which won one episode of the television show *The Ted Mack Original* 

Amateur Hour; a serenade of "Who says 'sweetheart' to you," sung by fraternity brothers to newly pinned girls.

**Hang-Outs:** The original Hawk's Nest in Main Hall; Beisler Lounge for TV night; for special occasions, Chapel Knoll.



1939

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

1940

The Rev. Dr. Paul Brndjar '67 (bottom right) made a special presentation to the Rev. John S. KIc (bottom center) at the Salem Lutheran Home in Oakland, Calif. Paul, the former bishop of the Slovak Zion Synod of the ELCA, is the interim executive director of development of the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. He presented John with a letter announcing his inclusion on the Slovak Wall of Remembrance and Honor in the seminary's new Brossman Learning Center. This wall commemorates the many Slovak



pastors who were trained at the seminary and who faithfully served their communities. Also pictured are (seated) David Pockell '66 and (standing) Naomi Pockell '66 and Pamela Brndjar '67.

1942

Class Fund Agent: **Theodore W. Gibson** 2017 Pine Knoll Road #2, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

1949

Evelyn Lindfors Spiro '49 H'92 is one of the namesakes of a new professorship at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, a renowned pediatric neurosurgeon and best-selling author whose personal story of success against overwhelming odds has inspired thousands, is the inaugural recipient of the Benjamin S. Carson Sr., M.D., and Dr. Evelyn Spiro, R.N., Professorship in Pediatric Neurosurgery. The dedication took place on May 29 in the Intercontinental Harbor Court Baltimore. Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Children's Center and professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is perhaps best known for his participation in the surgical separation of five sets of craniopagus conjoined twins and for

the historic separation of adult conjoined twins Laleh and Ladan Bijani in 2003. Evelyn and **Donald** '49 H'88 Spiro's many philanthropic initiatives began with the Johns Hopkins Hospital Spiro Nursing Scholars Program, a summer course for nursing students from the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing at Wagner College.

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 Notes Liaison: Fred Brockmann 3949 Wilshire Court, Sarasota, FL 34238, 941-922-1879, fredleebrock@comcast.net

Dr. Joseph Amari was recognized by the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation during the National Doctors Day ceremony held at Bellevue Hospital Center in

Manhattan. The recognition is for physicians who exemplify expertise, compassion, and a collaborative spirit. Joseph is a physician with Staten Island's Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home with 45 years of service. His speciality is cardiology. He is noted as a true professional, dedicated to providing high-quality care. Joseph received his medical degree from the University of Padua and maintained a private practice in Oakwood, Staten Island, from 1962 to 2005. Class Notes Liaison Fred Brockmann had sold his house in Connecticut was in the throes of moving permanently to Florida when this issue was being put together. He still hopes to hear from classmates and generate more news for the next issue of Wagner Magazine.

1953

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

1954

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

### 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 notes liaison, please contact Laura Barlament, editor of Wagner, at laura.barlament@wagner.edu or 718-390-3147.

#### **Publication policies:**

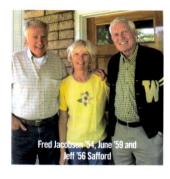
**Deadlines:** This issue reflects news received by September 4. The submission deadline for the summer 2009 issue is April 1. **Content:** *Wagner* welcomes your news and updates, and we will happily share them with the Wagner family. We ask that you send us announcements of weddings, births, and graduations 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.

Fred Jacobsen and his wife, Ellie, visited Jeff '56 and June '59 Safford in Bozeman, Mont., in conjunction with a trip to Yellowstone National Park in June. Jeff and Fred had not seen each other since 1963 and had a wonderful mini-reunion. Fred reports that leff served as baseball and soccer coach in 1956-57 and later spearheaded the initial Delta Nu Robert T. Ling Scholarship. June and Ellie shared their interests in music, art, and grandparenting.



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

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

Class Fund Agent: Ewald Forsbrey 1096 Augusta Falls Way, Naples, FL 34119, 239-353-6240

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

Patricia Swanson Costie sent us news about her brother-in-law, the Rev. Burton H. Vincent: "On July 21, 2008, I attended a very impressive ceremony honoring Bud as Chaplain of the Year by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. The Honorable James B. Peake, secretary of veterans affairs, made the presentation at the 17th Annual Awards for Excellence in Chaplaincy in the Veterans Conference Center on Vermont Avenue, Washington, D.C. In presenting the Meritorious

### Class of '58 Turns Golden

Carol Grele DeRuiter '58 wrote the following report on the 50th reunion of the class of 1958, June 6-8: "The last shall be first" proclaimed the Class of 1958, 50 years after their graduation. Their diplomas were the last to bear the seal of Wagner Lutheran College before the name was officially changed to Wagner College the following year.

• To mark this golden anniversary, the class gave \$100,000 to endow a scholarship in its name, the first alumni group to establish such a memorial. The scholarship will be awarded annually to an academically qualified student determined by the College. • At the alumni luncheon, '58 classmates applauded two of their own who received National Alumni Association Awards. The Reverend Alan W. Kamens received the Lyle R. Guttu Award, which honored his leadership in seeking social and racial justice and in advocating for the urban poor in Detroit and Lansing. Mich. He and his wife, Sue, inspired Lutheran Social Services of Michigan to create Alison House, an apartment complex where physically challenged individuals can live independently. The residence is named for their daughter

Alison, who suffered from muscular dystrophy and died in 1997. 

Betsy Ebers **Press** was honored with the Kevin Sheehy Alumni Leadership Medal for her consistent leadership and service to the NAA. Active for six years on the alumni board. she has maintained supportive networks of alumni in Southern California and in the New York Hudson Valley region.

(Story continued below.)



Service Award, the following statements were given by Chaplain Keith Ethridge, acting director, National Chaplain Center: 'Chaplain Burton H. Vincent has provided the East Orange Campus of the VA New Jersey Healthcare System with over four decades of innovative leadership. He is a take-charge individual who is unafraid to envision and develop new areas of growth and outreach. Chaplain Vincent co-leads the Stress Management: Change, Challenge and Choice workshops, which have been an effective resource that addresses the complex needs of the veterans. Chaplain Vincent implemented a bereavement group for family members of veterans who died while residing in the VA facility. Recently, the Methadone Clinic added Chaplain Vincent to its list of regular consultants and speakers, where he provides seminar support

in spirituality, stress management, and bereavement. The VA New Jersey Healthcare System's Chief of Staff selected Chaplain Vincent to participate in Improving the Performance of Health Care Agents, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's program Choice in Dying. This initiative assesses the needs, designs interventions, and publicizes improved outcomes for those tasked to assist in the end-of-life decisions of others. Chaplain Vincent's pastoral and personable leadership is lauded by veterans and those who care for them at all levels of the VA New Jersey Healthcare System."

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

(Continued from box above.) The 50th Reunion Committee, chaired by Milton Keen, hosted a Saturday afternoon reception in President Guarasci's office, where classmates met among displays of photographs and memorabilia from their life on the campus in the Fifties. Nametags bearing photographs reproduced from the 1958 Kallista made it easy to recognize old friends, even if they were meeting for the first time in 50 years. Each member of the class received a copy of Kallista . . . continued, a collection of personal stories and photographs submitted by classmates telling about their lives since they left Wagner.

 The newest Golden Seahawks joined other alumni celebrating at the dinner-dance on Saturday night. For those whose memory of socializing on campus meant meeting in the crowded Hawk's

### A Year in the Bayous

Beverly J. Clayton Lund '70 was consecrated into the Lutheran Deaconess Association on June 15, 2008, at her home congregation in Cleveland, Ohio, after completing her final requirement of an internship in Louisiana. The internship was a year-long assignment with the Bayou Grace Community Services non-profit organization operating out of Chauvin, La. Accompanied by her husband, Paul Lund '70, she served as its community development coordinator, increasing its outreach programs into the local communities. She and her colleagues also initiated a GED program and worked to promote a spirit of building and community in the hurricane-ravaged bayous of southern Louisiana. Since returning from

Louisiana, she has taken a position with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries of greater Cleveland in human resources and benefits. Pictured here at her consecration are Bev, Paul, and children Chris and Kirsten.



Nest in the basement of the Administration Building, the beautiful dining hall in the Union Building, elaborately decorated for a 1920s dance party, prompted many to comment, "I could never have imagined this night when I was a student on this campus." • For more 50th-anniversary updates, visit: http://wagnerclassof58.blogspot.com/

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

Richard Brower and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21. They live in Dongan Hills, Staten Island. The Staten Island Advance reported that Richard is retired from a 33-year career with NYNEX, Manhattan, and Dorothy is retired from an equally long career with the College of Staten Island. Richard has a number of hobbies and interests, including photography, gardening, and space-related collecting. He is a past president of the Space Topic Study Group, an organization associated with the American Philatelic Society. Together, they enjoy music and traveling.

1962

Class Correspondent: **Robert Straniere** 1 Whitehall Street, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10004

Beverly Whipple, who is an internationally known expert on women's health and sexuality, was quoted in the article "Sexy Secrets" in the August 2008 issue of *Self* magazine.

1963

Class Fund Agent: John Donovan 141-A Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY 10707, 914-337-9300 ext. 2214, jvd@concordia-ny.edu

Charles Gravenstine, professor of pastoral studies at the Catholic University of America, was a visiting lecturer at the Indian Institute of Spirituality in Bangalore, India, during the spring semester of 2008.

1964

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

1965

Class Fund Agent: Jack Felver 25244 Pelican Creek Circle, Unit 201, Bonita Springs, FL 34134, 239-495-8861, jrfelver@aol.com

1966

Class Correspondent: Gerry Magliocca 36 Cleveland Ave., East Brunswick, NJ 08816, gerrymaglio@aol.com, 732-723-1657

1967

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

Stan Jay M'67 and Ernie Jackson '87 were in the news back in July, when the New York Observer ran a feature on Stan's famed Staten Island guitar shop, Mandolin Brothers. After reviewing its history of celebrity, starting with Joni Mitchell's "Song

for Sharon" ("I went to Staten Island, Sharon, to buy myself a mandolin"), reporter Lysandra Ohrstrom noted, "The regular customers who come to Mandolin Brothers 'to schmooze' and ogle Mr. Jay's new finds are not famous people. They are guitar enthusiasts like Ernie Jackson, a professor [of music] at Wagner College ... on Staten Island and at Queensborough Community College, who introduced himself as 'the man with a problem' because he visits Mandolin Brothers at least two or three times a month. 'Really, I don't want to tell you that,' Mr. Jackson said of how often he visits. 'The admission is just too painful.'"

1968

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

1969

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

Luke DeMattia M'69 and his wife, Frances, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in August. They have four children and two grandchildren, and both are retired from careers in education. They enjoy traveling, having camped throughout the United States, and reading. Both serve as lectors at Immaculate Conception R.C. Church, Stapleton, Staten Island.

1970

Class Fund Agent: **Gregory Gulbrandsen** 2184 NE Meadow Lane, Bend, OR 97701, 541-280-3035

Jeff Buechner's Gödel, Putnam, and Functionalism: A New Reading of Representation and Reality was published by the MIT Press in November 2007. On the basis of this book, which deals with the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, Jeff was invited to appear as part of the gala opening of the Saul Kripke Center of the CUNY Graduate Center in May. The three-day conference included a number of renowned philosophers, including Hilary Putnam, the Harvard phil-

osopher whose work Jeff critiqued in his book. leff is director of the Bioethics Institute and lecturer in philosophy at Rutgers University-Newark. Beverly J. Clayton Lund was consecrated into the Lutheran Deaconess Association on June 15. 2008, at her home congregation in Cleveland. Charles Scranton stepped down as the 29th headmaster of Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester, Vt. During his 15-year tenure, he oversaw many positive transformations, such as the conversion of the school's gym into a theater, the Riley Center for the Arts; the construction of the Smith Center for Science and Communications; two major capital campaigns that raised more than \$40 million; increased enrollment; and implementation of block class scheduling. John Wright, the dean of faculty and a 38-year veteran of teaching at BBA, was quoted in the Manchester Journal about Charles: "In 1993, Burr and Burton was a good school. During the Scranton years, BBA became a great school. In those 15 years, the bar has been raised in so many areas." Charles is continuing to work with one of the major donor couples to BBA during his tenure, Barry and Wendy Rowland. He is serving as executive director of the Rowland Foundation, which offers a professional development program for Vermont secondary school teachers.

1971

Class Fund Agent: Kathy O'Donnell 3322 Woodland Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, 570-894-4731, katcod0221@yahoo.com

Marsha Weber '71 M'74 retired after 30 years of service to the New York City Department of Education, as an assistant principal at PS 169 in Brooklyn. She had previously worked at St. John Villa Academy on Staten Island for three years. "Although I enjoyed my work," she writes, "it was time to move on and grow."

1973

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

Joe Di Palo '73, M'77 moved from his position as CEO of Margaretville (N.Y.) Memorial Hospital to a new position as CEO of Ocean Beach Hospital in western Washington State. In an article in the *Chinock Observer*, Joe said that he and his wife, Carol, had "always wanted to be a part of the great Northwest." Originally from La Grange, N.Y., Joe said he had "a passion for small communities and the role and importance of the hospital in them." Joe and Carol, an art teacher, have two daughters in college.

1974

Class Fund Agent: Diane R. Recio 11 Holly Place, Larchmont, NY 10538, 914-833-0202, nrc917@aol.com 1975

Class Fund Agent: Richard G. DePaul 8 McKay Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, 908-218-1418 Patricia Martin 1341 NE Market Dr., Apt. 355, Fairview, OR 97024, 503-491-7374

Peter Garra was named to the one-year position of chairman of the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC), the premier real estate organization for the industrial corporate real estate profession. A founding member of IAMC, Peter is Linde North America's director of real estate. Linde North America is a member of the Linde Group, a leading global gases and engineering company. Diane Pane was named academic coordinator of the Physician Assistant Program at Wagner College.

1976

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

Randy Graff performed the role of Meg in Damn Yankees at New York City Center this summer. "Ms. Graff's skills were apparent 30 years ago when she was an undergraduate theater major at Wagner College," said the Staten Island Advance. "The former New Springville resident got professional work immediatley after graduation and has since starred in Sarava, Les Miserables, City of Angels (for which she won a Tony) and Fiddler on the Roof." John W. Stewart Jr. sent in a

photo of his grandchildren; see Crib Notes, page 43.

1977

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

Capt. Edward J. Kane retired in April after 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy. Since 2003, he had been assigned to the staff of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon, and for his performance there he was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster) by Secretary Robert Gates. In May, Edward completed a Fellowship in International Politics and the National Interest with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies. In August, he entered the graduate program in national security strategy at the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. Kevin Kay has been president of the male-targeted network Spike TV since October 2007. He has been with Spike TV since its creation in 2003, which he helped to implement. Previously, he was with Nickelodeon for 10 years, becoming executive vice president for production and original series development for Nickelodeon, Nick at Nite, and TV Land.

1978

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

### For Wagner Will Forever Be ...

Generations of Wagnerians gathered for Reunion Weekend, June 6-8







Jodi Pulice is the president and founder of JRT Realty Group, the largest certified woman-owned commercial real estate services company in the country. Among her many distinctions, she was named one of the Top 50 Women in Real Estate by the Association of Real Estate Women.

1979

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

1980

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

1981

Class Correspondent: Lauretta Zitano 2129 Locust Road, Sea Girt, NJ 08750, 732-449-4883

1982

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

Al Stewart married Nancy Westfall in September 2007 in Monrovia, Calif. A native New Yorker, Al moved to California in 2000 and works as an editor and Web director for the publishing house BNPMedia.



1983

Co-Class Fund Agents: Donald T.
Browne 31 Tannery Hill Drive,
Hamburg, NJ 07419,
dbrowne 100@aol.com Linda Romani
40008 N. Integrity Trail, Anthem,
AZ 85086, 623-551-9136,
momofdm@qwest.net

1984

Spyros Gianniotis M'84 was named CFO of Aegean Marine Petroleum Network, a marine fuel logistics company, in September 2007. For the previous seven years, Spyros served as assistant general manager and head of shipping for Piraeus Bank.

1985

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Annmarie Lambiasi** 1551 Arden Ave., Staten Island, NY 10312, 718-420-4163, alambias@wagner.edu Andrew G. Williams 5192 Round Lake Road, Apopka, FL 32712, 407-889-3524, Andy799062@aol.com

Mary Ann Anderson M'85 was named vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Nyack Hospital in Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

1986

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

1987

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

Vincent Spero joined Peapack-Gladstone (N.J.) Bank as senior vice president and senior commercial lender. He has more than 20 years of experience, having previously worked at Lakeland Bank and Commerce Bank.

1988

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

Co-Class Fund Agents: Melissa

William Gouldman M'88 of Putnam Valley, N.Y., ran as a Republican for a seat representing the 90th district in the New York Assembly. He is the Republican Committee chairman for Putnam Valley and is the owner of Vintage Bar/Restaurant in Manhattan.

1989

Class Correspondent: Jennifer Solaas Nilsen 807 Castlepoint Terrace, Hoboken, NJ 07030, 201-222-0182

Eliseo "Fred" Sampayo had a daughter. Please see Crib Notes, page 43, for more information and a photo.

Pasquino Vitiello M'89 is the chef and proprietor of Queen Marie Italian Restaurant, more commonly called "The Queen," in Brooklyn Heights, which his father opened 50 years ago in September.

1990

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

1991

Stacy Mancino was elected president of the Alliance With the Richmond County Medical Society. A registered nurse, she lives in Holmdel, N.J., with her husband, Dr. Lawrence Mancino, and their three children. The alliance assists the Richmond County Medical

### ... Deep in Our Memory

Reunion Weekend, June 6-8, brought Wagnerians together again on Grymes Hill







Society in its charitable, health, and eduation programs in the schools and community.

1993

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

Dr. Christina Klein and Dr. Diane Klein '99, the only two sisters in dental practice on Staten Island, have launched a new Web site: www.dynamicdentaldocs.com.

1994

Class Fund Agent: **James J. Hickey** 81 Ramblewood Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308, jhickey@ss.rr.com

Christine Intervallo and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of Joseph Donovan on August 21, 2007. He joined older brother Dominic.

1995

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

Timothy Quinlan has been brought into the Chicago cast of *Jersey Boys*. Jennifer Esposito Ruocchio and her husband, James, announce the birth of James Gennaro on July 29. Charlie Siedenburg was named director of public relations for New York's Metropolitan Opera. He was previously working at the Milburn, New Jersey's renowned Papermill Playhouse.

1996

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

Melissa Fabrizio and Leigh-Ann DePascale Nowicki '96 M'07 both have new baby boys. Please see Crib Notes, page 43, for more information and photos. Lauren Montalbano married Brian Connelly '97 on April 4 in Hoboken, N.J.

1997

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

Brian Connelly married Lauren Montalbano '96 on April 4 in Hoboken, N.J. Julie Firestone '97 M'00 married Brad Levine on July 13 at Temple Beth Ahm, Springfield, N.J. Julie is a social-studies teacher at PS 39, Arrochar. Brad is a science teacher at Tottenville High School. They live in New Springville, Staten Island. Gail Kelley and her partner, Nicole Anzuoni, have launched Dunn & Overwith, a personal assistant and concierge services company. Find out about their services at www.dunnandoverwith.com. Christopher Luna has a new position

as business development manager for Diversified Information
Technologies. He previously worked with a sales and service corporation.

Bryce Meyers finished a transitional internship and started a fellowship in preventive and occupational medicine, with a master's in public health, at Johns Hopkins University.

Valerie Brown Runge and Mark Runge '98 announce the birth of Chloe
Violet on June 8.

1998

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

Natalya Kusheleva '98 M'05 has been named clinical coordinator of the Wagner College Physician Assistant Program. She is teaching classes; coordinating and evaluating the students' clinical rotations; and counseling and guiding students through the program and helping them grow as PA professionals. Previously, she worked for 10 years as a physician assistant in the neonatal intensive care unit of Staten Island University Hospital. Karen Palaszynski completed a Ph.D. in neuroscience at UCLA and is continuing to work on her M.D. in psychiatry. She was in residency at Emory University over the summer. And, she got married! Mark Runge and Valerie Brown Runge '97 announce the birth of Chloe Violet on June 8.

### Programs for All Ages

Wagner's Office of External
Programs offers continuing
education and enrichment programs
for adults and children throughout
the year. This fall, their offerings
include:

### **Adult Certificate Programs**

Certified Financial Planner,
Paralegal, Healthcare, Fitness,
Human Resources Management,
Wedding Planning, Event
Planning, Marketing for Small
Business, Notary Public, Fire
Safety, and more.

### Adult Personal Enrichment Classes

Acting, Digital Photography,
Pottery, and Italian Through Song.

### Children's Friday After-School Programs

Lego Robotics, Chess, Computer Game Design, Creative Writing Club, Explorations in Clay Club, and Artistic Explosion Club.

### **Children's Saturday Programs**

Theatre, Voice/Holiday Chorus, Music Theory, Private Instruments, Art Explorers, Mad Science, and Etiquette.

For more information, call 718-390-3221 or visit www.wagner.edu/external. Use the promo code ALUM for an online registration discount.



1999

Class Fund Agent: Vinnie S. Potestivo 2600 Palisade Ave., Apt. 3, Weehawken, NJ 07087, vinnie.p@wagner.edu

Dr. Diane Klein and Dr. Christina Klein '93, the only two sisters in dental practice on Staten Island, have launched a new Web site: www.dynamicdental.docs.com.

Sarah Osgood Mawhinney and her husband, Rob, announce the birth of Matthew Charles on May 20, 2007. He joined older brother Brandon Thomas.

2000

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

Christina Candio Roberts and her husband, Marcus, announce the birth of Ava Mary on February 27, 2008. News about Suzanne Stewart Rossi (who attended Wagner 1996-98) and Christopher Rossi (who attended Wagner in 1998) came in via Suzanne's father, John W. Stewart Jr. '76. Suzanne and Christopher both finished their college degrees at SUNY Cortland, Suzanne in education and Christopher in business. They live in Hazlet, N.J., and have two boys, Gavin and Carter. See Crib Notes, page 43, for a photo. Suzanne is teaching part time on Staten Island. Dr. Philip Squatrito married Jacqueline Murray on May 3 at St. Teresa's R.C. Church, Castleton Corners, Staten Island. Philip earned his doctor of dental surgery degree from the School of Dental Medicine at SUNY Stony Brook, and is completing his general practice residency. Jacqueline is a registered nurse at Staten Island University Hospital. They are living in Great Kills, Staten Island.

2001

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

Adelola Sheralynn Fields Obalanege is a court attorney to Justice Visitacion-Lewis in New York County. She passed the bars of New York and New Jersey, and practiced matrimonial law in New Jersey until May 2008. She is engaged to be married to Michael Elijah Dow Jr. The ceremony will take place on October 10, 2009, at Sandals Negril, Jamaica. Dawn Del Russo opened her own boutique, Bella Dawn, in North Jersey. Her work has been featured in US Weekly, Real Simple, and other national magazines. Learn more at www.belladawn.com.

2002

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Peter J. Herbst** 24 Bethke Road, Killingworth, CT 06419, Herbstpe@bc.edu

Cindy M. Sforza Maley 54 Webster Ave., Ronkonkoma, NY 11779, 631-676-4757, smallwonder124@hotmail.com Renee M. Sudol 634 Monmouth Ave., Port Monmouth, NJ 07758, nay537@yahoo.com

Laura Haber married Christopher John Pino at St. Jude's Maronite R.C. Church in Orlando, Fla., followed by a reception in Walt Disney World's Epcot. Laura works as a physician assistant, while Christopher works as an implementation manager with Starcite, Inc. The couple lives in Philadelphia. Anthony Sisko recently married Christine DeCicco '03. Sean Sliger M'02 married Nicole Danielle Naddeo on June 7 at Holy Spirit Church in Asbury Park, N.J. Sean works for St. Jude's Medical as a medical device sales representative. Nicole is a CPA and forensic accountant for Seidman LLP in New York. They live in Hoboken, N.J. Jennifer Wilkes '02 M'06 and Christopher Ardizzone '02 M'04 were married on June 14 at Holy Child R.C. Church, Eltingville, Staten Island, Jennifer is a fourth-grade teacher at PS 163 in Brooklyn, and Christopher is an overthe-counter trader with Hudson Securities, Jersey City, N.J. They are making their home in Great Kills, Staten Island.

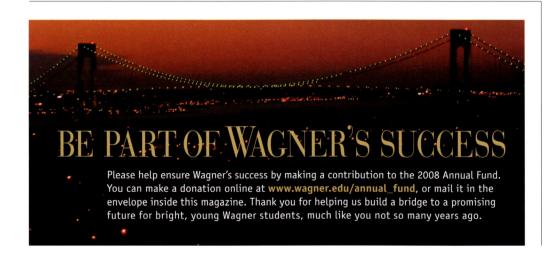
Co-Class Fund Agents: Cari A. Christopher 173 Van Cortlandt Ave., Apt. 1, Staten Island, NY 10301, 917-873-7808, cchristo@wagner.edu Robert J. Hamm 14 College Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314, 718-981-0515, bobby7770@yahoo.com Nicole Lopes Steed 2218 2nd Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753, 732-270-3660, nlopes55@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Mininni Abate announces the birth of her daughter; for more information and a photo, see Crib Notes, page 43. Kristen Abbatantuono married Gerard Specce Jr. on July 11 in Holy Child R.C. Church, Eltingville, Staten Island. Kristen is a first-grade teacher at PS 69, New Springville, Gerard is an eighthgrade teacher at Dreyfus Intermediate School, Stapleton. Robert Bolash recently graduated from the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. He will work in generalized medicine, followed by a specialized residency at Columbia University in New York City, where he will concentrate in anesthesiology and critical care. Christine DeCicco performed the role of Eponine in Les Miserables at the Walnut St. Theater in Philadelphia from May 21 through August 3. She and Anthony Sisko '02 were recently married. William Diodato married Amanda Pine in Holy Child R.C. Church in Staten Island. William is a financial advisor and registered representative for MetLife in Brooklyn. Amanda is a criminal enforcement officer with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Newark Liberty International Airport. Cheryl Lynn Muller of Little Ferry, N.J., is engaged to marry Lorenzo Migale. The wedding is set for August 8, 2009. Jean Remini M'03 married Chris Vlahopouliotis on June 14 at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Brooklyn. Jean is a universal prekindergarten teacher at Gateway City Academy, Brooklyn. Chris is the owner of NYC Ticket Brokers, Brooklyn. They are making their home in Travis, Staten Island.

2004

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

Dr. Joseph Augello married Jessica Guardabasso on May 16 in Holy Family R.C. Church in Staten Island. Joseph works as a veterinarian with Northside Animal Hospital, and



Jessica is a registered nurse with Staten Island University Hospital. The couple lives in New Springville, Staten Island, Lauren Babcock married Jerry Rymar on May 31 in Zion Lutheran Church in Staten Island. Lauren works as a pharmaceutical sales representative with GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals. Jerry is a specialty pharmaceutical sales representative with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. They live in Meiers Corners, Staten Island. Daniel Burns is an investment counselor for David Lerner Associates in Syosset. Long Island. David Lerner is one of the largest regional investment firms in the country and specializes in conservative investments, away from the volatility of the stock market. Mary Gill married Dr. Michael Lombino on May 31 in St. Joseph R.C. Church in Babylon, Long Island. Mary is a critical care registered nurse in the post-anesthesia care unit of Bon Secours Health System-St. Mary's Hospital, in Richmond, Va. Michael is a resident in diagnostic radiology at Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College, also in Richmond. They live in Richmond. Lisa Lionti '04 M'06 married Keith Ratcliffe on June 27 in St. Patrick's R.C. Church in Richmond, Staten Island. Lisa is an associate medical program coordinator in the clinical pharmacology department of Merck & Co. in Rahway, N.J. Keith is a private wealth solutions specialist with UBS Global Asset Management. They are living in Livingston, Staten Island. Kimberly Litto married Anthony Rex on August 3 at Holy Child R.C. Church, Eltingville, Staten Island. She is pursuing a master's degree at the College of Staten Island, while also teaching and coaching at St. Joseph Hill Academy. Anthony is an officer with the city police department on Staten Island. They live in Great Kills, Staten Island. Michele McErlean married Christopher Baione on May 3 in St. Joseph-St. Thomas R.C. Church in Staten Island. Michele is studying for her master's in nursing and a license in family nurse practitioner studies at Wagner, while Christopher works with Verizon on Staten Island.

2005 Co-Class Fund Agents: Jacob Browne

### **Crib Notes**

## Classes of 2028 and 2029 Some of the newest faces to join the Wagner family

1. Melissa Fabrizio '96 and her husband, James Platt, announce the birth of Dylan James on June 14. 2. Elizabeth Mininni Abate '03, and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of Gabriella on June 24.
3. Leigh-Ann DePascale Nowicki '96 M'07, dean of admissions at Wagner College, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of Merritt Thompson on December 11, 2007.











**4.** Eliseo "Fred" Sampayo '89 and his wife, Debby, announce the birth of Lea Grace on December 16, 2007. **5.** John W. Stewart '76 has two grandsons, Gavin Christopher Rossi (born January 7, 2006) and Carter John Rossi (born September 24, 2007), children of Suzanne Stewart Rossi '00 and Christopher Rossi.

We'd love to see your baby's face. Please see page 36 for publication guidelines.

935 Castleton Ave., Apt. 1, Staten Island, NY 10310, 347-934-3828, jbrowne@wagner.edu Melissa D. Power 313 Vesta Court, Ridgewood, NJ 07450, 201-394-2408, powers.mel@gmail.com Class Correspondent: Matthew L. Sheehan 114 Farmstead Ln., Glastonbury, CT 06033, msheehan05@gmail.com

Tina D'Onorio DeMeo '05 M'06 married Gianfranco Di Grigoli on August 9 in St. Thomas the Apostle R.C. Church, Pleasant Plains, Staten Island. Tina is a first-grade special education teacher at PS 22, Graniteville, and Gianfranco is the owner of Dolci Bake Shop, Queens. Danielle Giacino received her master's in speech language pathology from New York University. In September, she started working in a special education high school in Brooklyn, where most of the children are diagnosed with autism. She also announces her engagement to Lewis Papaleo, her college sweetheart, who is an information security analyst for Loehmann's department stores. They will be married February 15, 2009. Keith Kouroupos married Daniele Villamagna '06 in July at Holy Family R.C. Church, Westerleigh, Staten Island. Daniele is an ear, nose and throat physician assistant with Clove Lakes ENT, Sunnyside, and Keith is a physician assistant with Immediate Medical Care, Parsippany, N.J. They live in Charleston, Staten Island.

### 2006

Co-Class Fund Agents: Leandra
Aguirre 2436 41st Street, Apt. 4,
Astoria, NY 11103, 718-843-0042,
laguirre@wagner.edu Michael A. Armato
78 Holly Street, Staten Island, NY
10304, 718-980-2536,
MA986927@albany.edu Jennifer
Forziati 415 Monticello Lane,
Lakewood, NJ 08701,
jennifer.forziati@gmail.com Dana
Guariglia 1882 Ensign Court, Toms
River, NJ 08753, 732-929-1373

Julianne Baranello '06 M'08 married Jason Jurgens M'07, Wagner College assistant baseball coach, on August 16. The wedding was held at St. Charles Church, Staten Island, with a reception following at the South Shore Country Club. Tad Bender and Ashley Lapham are engaged to



### Goin' to the Chapel

**Becky Giannattasio** '08 married Keith McCoy on July 12 in Groton, Conn. They are living in Elizabeth, N.J., while Keith finishes his medical degree and Becky attends Columbia Teacher's College.

be married. They live in Rye, N.Y. Jennifer Forziati and Cesar Da Costa plan to marry in May 2009. She is the recruiting manager at Weichert Realtors Corporate Headquarters in New Jersey. Susan Schobel was hired as a piano teacher for the Burt Wood School of Performing Arts in Middleboro, Mass. Before this, she taught second grade at the Mary K. Goode School, also in Middleboro. Amy Tyler married Anthony Ruotolo on May 18 at the South Shore Country Club, Staten Island. The couple lives in Eltingville, Staten Island. Amy works as a teacher with the Jewish Community Center, and Anthony is a city police officer. Daniele Villamagna married Keith Kouroupos '05 in July at Holy Family R.C. Church, Westerleigh, Staten Island. Daniele is an ear, nose and throat physician assistant with Clove Lakes ENT, Sunnyside, and Keith is a physician assistant with Immediate Medical Care, Parsippany, N.J. They live in Charleston, Staten Island. Kristen Zinn married Eric Grunwald on July

12 at St. Albans Episcopal Church, Eltingville, Staten Island. Kristen is an English teacher at Staten Island Technical High School, and Eric is an accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Manhattan.

2007

Class Fund Agent: Alison J. Hay 228 South Ashburnham Road, Westminster, MA 01473, Alison.J.Hay@gmail.com

Tiffany Andrade, Miss New Jersey USA 2008, was named second runner-up in the Miss USA pageant held in Las Vegas on April 11. She works as a pediatric nurse.

Scott Chamberlin M'07 and Joel Richardson '02 M'07 hosted the inaugural Staten Island Comedy Festival in August. "Soul Joel" also hosted a night of comedy on the Wagner campus during the first week of the fall semester. Jason Jurgens M'07, Wagner College

assistant baseball coach, married Julianne Baranello '06 M'08 on August 16. The wedding was held at St. Charles Church, Staten Island, with a reception following at the South Shore Country Club. Colin Sheehan hosted a benefit in Manhattan for Musikids, CT Inc., a non-profit that helps musically talented students by providing musical instruments, lessons, camps, etc. Highlights of the evening included an opening song, "Heart and Music," led by Colin and featuring the Wagner College Alumni Ensemble. The evening also included talented performers such as Andrea McArdle, Julia Murney, Kate Pazakis, Natalie Weiss, the Broadway Boys, and musical director Brian Nash.

### 2008

Kimberly F. Botsko is engaged to be married to Rob Grasso '04. She lives in Staten Island and is working in Manhattan at Update, Inc. Evan Jagels traveled around Europe during the summer before pursuing graduate studies in music at SUNY Oneonta in the fall. In a letter printed in the Freeman's Journal of Cooperstown, N.Y., he reported on a jazz workshop he attended in the small northern Italian village of Castagnole Piemonte. "While English was the spoken language of the workshop, it was quite apparent that music is the true international language," he wrote. "Following the concerts were nightly jam sessions where one might find Czech, German, French and Italian musicians all playing jazz standards together one finger in the air signifying the key of B-flat and a few snaps to set the tempo. ... Being surrounded by so many jazz musicians in an Italian village smaller than Cooperstown, it was heart-warming to see that this piece of patchwork of American culture has been so firmly rooted and has prospered in other corners of the world." Lauren Vallone M'08 married John Urrico this summer at St. Patrick's R.C. Church, Richmond, Staten Island. Lauren works in international equity sales at ABN Amro in Manhattan, and John is a firefighter with the city fire department. They live in Great Kills, Staten Island

# In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family

### Anita Kershaw Jacobsen '63 M'68

Wrote the book on American artists

Anita Kershaw Jacobsen worked 19 years on compiling the information contained in Jacobsen's Biographical Index of American Artists, a standard reference work covering the years 1606 to 2002.

The publication of her four-volume magnum opus is just one example of the unflagging persistence and curiosity displayed during her long and productive life.

Born on June 8, 1913, in
Staten Island, she attended PS 30
and graduated from Curtis High
School in 1930. She began her
postsecondary studies at Barnard
College the following year; but
when she married Jacques Noel
Jacobsen in 1931, she discontinued
her formal education — for the
time being.

Anita Jacobsen raised her two children, Jacques Jr. and Jill, and saw them through college, while also running a popular Staten Island art appraisal and antiques business with her husband.

Then, it was her turn to return to higher education. She enrolled in Wagner College, where her sister, Edythe Kershaw Larson, taught bacteriology. In 1963 at age 50, Anita graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in history and economics. She also completed a master's in education from Wagner in 1968 and a master's in guidance and counseling from the College of the City of New York in 1975.

An accomplished guitarist, she taught music at PS 44 on Staten Island for more than 30 years. And, she started writing books — From Sail to Steam: The Story of Antonio Jacobsen, Marine Artist (1972), a biography; Frederic Cozzens: Marine Painter (1982), a comprehensive study; and 10 editions of Jacobsen's Painting and Bronze Price Guide (1973–1989). She was also active in the Staten Island Historical Society and wrote articles for magazines including Antiques, Hobbies, and The

Staten Island Historian.

When her husband died in 1982, she moved to Dallas. She continued her work on the *Biographical Index* till her death at age 95, completing a supplemental volume that will be published in December.

"She lived a good life," her son Jacques told the *Staten Island*  DEDICATED
At age 95

At age 95, Anita Jacobsen completed a new volume of Jacobsen's Biographical Index of American Artists. Below, her yearbook photo from 1963.

Advance.
"At 95, she
was still able to
write and think clearly. She always
said that's what kept her mind
sharp, to be able to get up and work
every day."

Her survivors include her two children, sister, brother, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

### ALUMNI

Mr. Arthur H. Pentz '44 Mr. Carl W. Nienstedt '46 Mr. Dirk Kolff Breymann '49 Mr. David W. Costa '49 Mr. Merrill C. Horine '49 Dr. Theodore Dowd '50 Mr. Gilbert "Jay" Quintana '50
Mr. Carl G. Cash '51
Mr. Frank J. Madonia '53
Mrs. Barbara Curry Van Etten '54
Capt. Clement Bosco Jr. '55
Mr. Vincent Joseph Cobb '55
Mrs. Virginia Pels Brown '57
Mr. Malcolm Joseph Lee '58
Dr. Herman Hemann '60

Mr. John G. Packer '62 Mr. Andre Verkruysse '62 Mrs. Margaret H. Fullenwider Ferguson '63 Mrs. Anita Kershaw Jacobsen '63, M'68 Ms. Margaret M. Timon M'67 Mr. Walter H. Persans '68 Mr. Richard S. D'Andrea M'81 Mrs. Donna Marie Carnegie Esposito '84 Mr. Andrew Craften Coxson Jr. '92

FRIENDS OF WAGNER COLLEGE Honorable Francis Powers

Deaths reported to Wagner College, May 1—August 26, 2008.

### Arthur H. Pentz Sr. '44

Received his Wagner degree while a Nazi POW

Arthur Pentz was just a few credits shy of his Wagner College graduation when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps, days after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

The Staten Island native had begun his college education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, after graduating with honors from Curtis High School. He transferred to Wagner, but interrupted his education to fly B-17 bomber missions over Germany. First Lt. Pentz was shot down on his 16th mission and parachuted into enemy territory.

The next 22 months of his education happened in a German POW camp. The Swiss Red Cross provided him with books. During Wagner's commencement ceremonies on May 31, 1944, his mother, Grace Hollick Pentz, accepted his Bachelor of Arts in history in his stead.

"The faculty of Wagner College knew that Art Pentz, who but a few short years ago was nearly ready for graduation when the call to service came, had grown to full maturity," said the *Staten Island Advance*.

Art Pentz was liberated at the end of the war, and he went on to earn an MBA from Rutgers University, fly more missions during the Korean War, work for 39 years for Masonite Corp., marry Darlene Caffrey, have three children and four grandchildren, travel around the world, and fly-fish as much as possible.

"My dad will always be remembered for his quick, dry sense of humor, and also for the kindness with which he treated everyone, regardless of who they were," says his daughter Alison Bouwmeester.

He died on August 19 in Greensboro, N.C., the state to which he had taken a job transfer in the mid-1980s. His survivors include his wife of 60 years, Darlene; four sisters; three childdren; four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.



Old Ironsides, were based out of England and were shot down over Germany on their 16th mission, in the summer of 1943. Pentz received his Wagner degree in absentia while in a German prison camp for nearly two years. Pentz was the grandson of Staten Island historian Dr. Arthur Hollick, for whom he was named.

### WAGNER FRIEND

### Francis H. Powers

Co-Founder of the Wagner Parent Association contributed much to College and community

Wagner College trustee and longtime friend Francis H. "Frank" Powers, 67, died on June 22, at his Todt Hill, Staten Island, home.

Frank and his wife, Dianne, co-founders of the Wagner Parent Association, are well-known in the Wagner College community for their annual Family Weekend reception. Two of their sons, Douglass '00 and Brian '07 M'08, are Wagner graduates. Frank was elected in 2006 to a four-year term on the Wagner College Board of Trustees.

"Frank was a beloved trustee and parent at Wagner," said President Guarasci. "He will be deeply missed."

The son of Irish immigrants, Powers grew up in Brooklyn, taking on many odd jobs to supplement the family's income while also completing school. At age 17, he landed a an entry-level position as a messenger on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, launching his career as a financier.

He joined the Wall Street firm of Faulkner, Dawkins and

Sullivan in 1968, serving as its executive vice president until 1977, and was a partner and managing director with Weiss, Peck and Greer until his retirement five years ago.

He made many contributions to his community, including founding the Physically Challenged Irish and American Youth

Team and the USS The Sullivans Foundation, and serving as a board member and assistant treasurer of Richmond University Medical Center. He was also a founding member of the Chicago Board of Options and a board member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

His survivors include Dianne, his wife of 27 years; five sons; two daughters; and nine grandchildren.





**Muctarr's Story** (continued from page 21)

When I was discharged from the hospital, they took me to a refugee camp called Waterloo, about 20 miles away on the eastern outskirts of the city. There was a hospital in the camp run by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church development and relief agency, ADRA. They did a very good job.

t the Waterloo camp, I was elected president of the war victims association. It was mid-1998. There was a lot of work to do. I went to lots of meetings with government ministers. I advocated for our people when we had visitors from overseas. I gave speeches and explained our needs and what was going on. I was the liaison between the war victims and the government. During the Siege of Freetown, in January 1999, I made sure my people got food and a safe place to stay. I continued serving as president until I left the country in 2000.

That was when a Rotary International group picked 11 of us — two adults and nine children — to come to the United States to be fitted with artificial limbs. When we arrived, we wanted people to know what was happening in Sierra Leone, so we testified before Congress and at the United Nations. We explained how the illegal diamonds from the eastern part of the country — from places like Koidu Town — were financing the rebel campaign.

We arrived on Staten Island in December of 2000. When our group visited Wagner College, Dr. Guarasci met us, and he asked me what I wanted next.

I said, "I really want to come to school!"

Dr. Guarasci suggested that I sit in on a class to see what it felt like, so I did. When I got out, I sat down and cried. It was like awakening after a long nightmare to confront my old dream of an education, but not being able to believe that it could come true. I could only shake my head.

"Oh my God, can I become one of these students?" I said to myself. "Can I come to a school like this?" This was my goal, so long ago; this was what I was seeking when I left my hometown of Kabala. This was my dream.

"But I can't go to school — because my hand is gone."

I had been right-handed. Without that hand, I could not write; I could not do anything.

I went back to my room, and I tried to go to sleep, but I couldn't — I just cried the whole night, asking, "Why? Why? Oh, my God. Oh, my God."

We came back to Wagner several more times that month. On our last visit, Dr. Guarasci took me aside.

"You're going to start school next semester," he told me.

I couldn't believe it! But how was I going to do it? I wasn't sure, but I started anyway!

When I went in to my first class, I felt good. I had my books. Everybody seemed to be sociable, introducing themselves. The professor started her lecture. I picked up a pen with my left hand, fitting it into the hook on my prosthesis, trying to write. It was very hard; I could not do it. I tried writing with my left hand, but it was shaking too much. So I put the pen down, and I just listened for the rest of the lecture.

I went home that day with a headache, crying. I said, "I can't do this. I just cannot do this."

It was very, very hard, starting at Wagner — and not only because I didn't have a right hand. It was the new language, the new ways of doing things — it just felt like too much sometimes.

But I kept at it.

I got a tape recorder and recorded my classes. Whenever I had an hour between classes, I found an empty room and wrote out my notes — with my left hand. When I got home, I would work on them some more, sometimes until 1 or 2 a.m. The notes didn't always look beautiful — but they were mine.

I remember the last day of classes, when I took my last final exam. After I finished, I walked back to the room in Main Hall where I had started my first class, Room 205. I stood in the door, and I looked inside, and I had to sit down with tears in my eyes.

One of my classmates came by and asked, "What happened, Muctarr? Why are you crying? Not feeling good? Want me to call the ambulance?" I said, "Nothing's wrong; I'm fine." I just couldn't believe this was me, that this was my life, that I was going to graduate from college after all I had been through.

You know what? There's nothing I can say except God bless them, everyone who helped to make my dream come true. There is nothing I can do for these people except ask God every day to bless them.

Thank God for Richard Guarasci. Thank God for Wagner College.

Today, Muctarr Jalloh makes his home on Staten Island. He is a case worker at Coney Island Hospital. His sister Rugiatu came to the United States in the fall of 2005 to begin her studies at Wagner to become a nurse. Muctarr's mother is alive and well in Guinea. His uncle died last year. Muctarr's 12-year-old nephew lives in Guinea with Muctarr's mom. The boy studies hard, says Muctarr, hoping one day to become a Seahawk, too.

### Wielding Words

Writing that changes lives By Pia Wilson '93

66 I save people from

learned about the power of words early in life. At seven, I was a poet. Poems spoke my small world of stuffed animals and snow cones to adults. Sometimes, though, I would describe the grown-up world from my knee-high soapbox. That's what I did for my Aunt Charlene one day.

She was crying about being broke, having fed all her money to Atlantic City slot machines. I didn't want Aunt Charlene of the nice perfume and pretty, pink lipstick to cry. Crying caused wrinkles. My mother had told me so. I didn't know what wrinkles were, but they sounded so horrible, I never wanted anyone to catch any. To save Aunt Charlene from the dreaded wrinkles, I wrote her a poem called "One-Armed Bandit." The poem stopped the crying and earned me all kinds

of hugs and kisses. There was no turning back. I was hooked on changing lives.

These days, I've traded poetry for plays, but I still crave that same effect:

to touch people's consciences, to incite action. I want to save the world from wrinkles, and I weave threads of social justice into the fabric of my plays.

wrinkles—of the soul. 99

that there is room in the mid entertainment for talking about

I've focused on characters like a bathroom maid who is so much more than people's presumptions about her. A professor who is tortured and then becomes a conduit for violence. A Hurricane Katrina refugee who is looking for a new home.

The professor was modeled after a man I'd read about in the Washington Post. After torturing him, the government deemed him innocent and dumped him in a little apartment in Washington, D.C. He couldn't eat or sleep or concentrate. He could only cry. I took all of my feelings for this man — anger, compassion, hope for a better future — and wrought a play.

The man in the article became Hakim al Mashoor in my play, *The River Pure for Healing*. Hakim's words, feelings, and pain took to the stage as part of the Resilience of the Spirit festival in San Diego this July. I was so proud to be a part



of this festival, which raises awareness of human rights and supports artists creating human rightsrelated works. I believe

that there is room in the middle of great storytelling and entertainment for talking about global issues like racism, war, violence against women, and poverty.

I read recently that philosophers in ancient Greece wanted to drum the dramatists out of business. By tapping into the emotions instead of reason, playwrights were considered too powerful. We still have that power.

After each of my shows, I've been fortunate to hear how my words have affected people, helping them see an issue in a new light. I can't say my work has earned me hugs and kisses like my poem did those many years ago, but I do have the sense that I'm still saving people from wrinkles — of the soul.

Pia Wilson '93 (www.piawilson.com) is a member of the Emerging Writers Initiative of The Public Theatre of New York and is an editor and designer for WHY (www.whyhunger.org).



Highlighting a few coming attractions at Wagner

#### Admissions

Fall Campus Visit Days November 1 & 16

### Alumni

Winter on the Hill February 21

### Dance

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

#### Music

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

Fall Concert
Premiere of Lorca Cycle
by Barbara Wesby
Wagner College Jazz Ensemble
November 16, 3 p.m.
Main Hall

Fall Concert Wagner College Guitar Ensemble November 16, 7:30 p.m. Campus Hall Performance Center

An Evening of Vocal Jazz Stretto, Jazz Lab, Soloists December 4, 8 p.m. Campus Hall Performance Center 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

Tribute to Black Music College Choirs February 24, 9 p.m. Campus Hall Performance Center

Send-Off Concert Wagner College Choir March 1, 4 p.m. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

Home Concert Wagner College Choir March 29, 4 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church

Spring Concert Treble Concert Choir April 19, 4 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church

Spring Concert Wagner College Jazz Ensemble April 26, 3 p.m. Main Hall

Spring Concert Wagner Percussion Ensemble April 26, 7:30 p.m. Campus Hall Performance Center An Evening of Vocal Jazz Stretto, Jazz Lab, Soloists April 28, 8 p.m. Campus Hall Performance Center

Finale Concert Wagner College Choirs May 3, 4 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church

### Lectures

The Meaning of the 2008 Presidential Election November 17, 7 p.m., Spiro Hall 2

Becoming a Spiritual Synagogue in a Post-Ethnic Era Rabbi Dr. Lawrence Hoffman November 18, 8 p.m., Spiro Hall 5

#### Theater

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

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

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

### For More Information

http://calendar.wagner.edu



### Got a Light?

Shot

Hal Carstens '50 captured this scene on Main Hall's front steps in the late 1940s. The pipe smoker was one of his Sigma Delta Phi brothers, says Carstens. If you can identify anyone in this photo, or have any other 1940s memories to share, please write to us. See story, pages 10–13.

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