

FALL 2009

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER

PROFILE:

Compassionate Command

*Sharon Richie-Melvan '71
continues making history*



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A LEADER? • UNDERCOVER IN EAST BERLIN



On the Move

The Seahawks ran onto the field to wallop Sacred Heart 49–28 at the Homecoming game on October 24, improving their record to 3 wins and 1 loss in the Northeast Conference.

PHOTOGRAPH: VINNIE AMESSE

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Compassionate Command

Since making history at Wagner 40 years ago, Sharon Richie-Melvan has lived up to her life's promise.

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From the President

Leadership: A Wagner Tradition



“Learning to be leaders is what we’re doing and what we have always done.”

sustainability. And we find excellent leadership among our Board of Trustees, National Alumni Association, Parent Association, and, of course, our faculty and administrators.

This should not be unexpected, since our College’s mission emphasizes educating students for achievement, leadership, and service.

These values resonate with our history. Since our founding in Rochester in 1883 and our re-founding on Staten Island in 1918, the College has always underscored its critical commitment to courage, integrity, and service to others. That leadership made today’s Wagner College possible.

Would we even exist without the vision and fortitude of the Reverend Frederic Sutter, who committed himself to Wagner for over 60 years? He led us through thick and thin to secure the campus property and, against all odds, raise the funds to build South Hall (now Parker Hall) and then Main Hall during the Great Depression.

Where would we be without Dr. Clarence Stoughton, Wagner’s first lay president, who helped create a vision and a practice for a national liberal arts college dedicated to a broad, deep, and liberating education? And there are so many more examples of productive leadership throughout our 126-year history.

Leadership is the theme of this issue of *Wagner Magazine*. This is a campus packed with leaders — people dedicated to bringing diverse individuals together in order to accomplish common goals. We have outstanding student leaders in our civic engagement programs, our co-curricular initiatives, our academic departments, our international programs, and our efforts in environmental



Today, our undergraduate education is shaped by the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts and a matching co-curricular program built around civic engagement, diversity education, and campus leadership. The results of these efforts are evident in Wagner’s remarkable student leaders, who are involved in public service both in New York City and around the world. For instance, numerous Wagner students have worked with chemistry professor Mohammad Alauddin in Bangladesh to eradicate arsenic from the local water supply. These efforts have resulted in much good progress toward reducing arsenic exposure, as well as a number of scholarly presentations and scientific publications.

Other Wagner students have worked diligently to assist AIDS orphans in Kenya. Yet other students founded a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity and have built houses in New Jersey, Miami, New Orleans, and El Salvador. And hundreds of Wagner students participate annually in Up ‘til Dawn to help St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital fight childhood cancer. They have raised more than \$100,000 in the last few years.

A complete list of student leadership and public service programs would fill the remainder of this magazine. We also see leadership in our student government and athletic programs; in our student performances on and off campus in theater, dance, and choir; and in our residential programs, working hard to help a highly diverse group of student residents engage respectfully with one another to resolve social, ethnic, gender, and personal differences.

Achievement, leadership, and service is a mission lived out on campus every day. Learning to be leaders is what we’re doing and what we have always done.

RICHARD GUARASCI
PRESIDENT

From the Editor

Falling Giants

One rainy, blustery Friday in early September, I was working in my office in Reynolds House, when a heavy thud made the building shudder. It was the impact of a single tree branch that had fallen to the ground in front of Kairos House, about 50 feet away from where I was sitting.

The giant tree from which it had detached seemed invincible, with its masses of green leaves turning scarlet every autumn. Yet we knew that its days were numbered. During the wet early summer, a ring of bright orange, dinner-plate-sized fungi had appeared around its base. The tree was rotting deep in its heart. On Monday, September 14, three men from Bartlett's tree service arrived to take the tree down.

As I watched them dismantling it piece by piece,

my respect for the tree grew, and a picture of its significance to the campus emerged.

According to Pat Logan, the man who wielded the chain saw, it was a scarlet oak (*quercus coccinea*). It reached 75 feet at its very highest point, and its branches spread almost that wide again. Its trunk measured 70 inches in diameter at breast height. Even before the Bartlett's crew had felled what Logan called "the stalk" — the portion of trunk left after they had removed all of the branches — they had already gathered 25 cubic yards of wood debris. The tree was approximately 150 years old.

Think about it: 150 years. That would mean that every person who ever set foot on Wagner's Grymes Hill campus walked beneath that tree's branches. It was here long before Wagner College arrived in 1918. It was here



before the College was founded in Rochester in 1883. It was probably here when the Civil War's first shots were fired at Fort Sumter in 1861. Perhaps it was planted by the Cunard family, who settled on Grymes Hill in the 1850s.

Where the scarlet oak once stood, only a circle of dirt remains — a reminder to appreciate such living links to the past before they fade away.

Laura Barlament
EDITOR,
WAGNER MAGAZINE

WAGNER

MAGAZINE

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We'd Love to Hear from You

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

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On the Cover

Sharon Richie-Melvan '71 retired as a colonel from the Army Nurse Corps in 1996. Today she serves on the national board of the Military Officers Association of America.

PHOTO: JENSEN LARSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Upon the Hill

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

What I Did With My Summer Vacation

Staging Broadway musicals, delivering babies, and more

Many Wagner students had extraordinary stories to tell when they returned to campus this fall.

Take **Jorel Joseph '10**, an accounting major, for example. He needed a security clearance from the FBI before starting his internship with Lockheed Martin at the Pentagon.

Arts administration major **Alex Kazanecki '12**, on the other hand, reveled in drummers' heaven at Latin Percussion, the world's leading manufacturer of

percussion instruments. He ended his summer richer not in dollars, but in a pair of bongos, a djembe (a hand drum from Africa), multiple cowbells, and unforgettable experiences.

Speaking of hits, theater major **Kendra Stockton '11** helped put the musical *Memphis* on Broadway as an assistant to stage manager Arturo Porozzi — good preparation for stage managing *Brigadoon* this fall on Wagner's Main Stage.

While interning at KPMG, **Nicole Valinhas '10** not only learned about auditing, but also led a prize-winning team in KPMG's Summer Intern Community Service Challenge.

Her team's work in promoting literacy in Bushwick tied for first place. The prize: a week-long trip to New Orleans to work on homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. "It was not only an internship, but it allowed me to personally develop," Valinhas says.

Ayn Pivonka '11, a government and politics major, was involved in community service as well. As an intern with Washington Parks and People, she helped transform a vacant lot in D.C.'s North Columbia Heights into a community garden space.

Back on Staten Island, **Alexa Hojnacki '12** helped victims of domestic abuse find services and

housing through her work with Legal Services of New York. "I never ever want to not have a job or be low on money, because I don't know how they handle the stress of not knowing where you're going to live," she says.

Thanks to funds from Donald '49 H'88 and Evelyn '49 H'92 Spiro, **Yolana Fuks '10** and **Katie Chepiga '10** were part of summer research teams at Johns Hopkins University's medical school. Fuks pursued a line of research that could lead to a cure for retinitis pigmentosa, an eye disease that causes blindness. Chepiga worked on a project to develop drugs that block the growth of brain tumors.



SUMMER ADVENTURES Left: Professor Gordon McEwan's students Alexander McEwan '10, Emily Visnovsky '10, Christin Vivona '11, and Jessica Pucek '10 assisted him at his archaeological dig in Cuzco, Peru; here, they are pictured at the famed site of Machu Picchu. Center: A snake captured in Walter Pierce Park in Washington, D.C., during a community cleanup led by Ayn Pivonka '11. Right: Nicole Valinhas '10 led a team of KPMG interns in a community service project in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

Lisa Duncan '12 and Melanie Valencia '12 were learning what it takes to become a doctor. Each was selected for an all-expenses-paid program designed to bring under-represented groups into the medical professions. Duncan attended the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at Duke University, and Valencia was part of the Northeast Regional Alliance Medprep Program at Columbia.

Wagnerians were also spread around the globe. Katy Chaffee '11 continued her spring semester study abroad experience in France by spending the summer in Paris, soaking in the culture and taking dance classes. Jessica Pucek '10, Christin Vivona '11, Alexander McEwan '10, and Emily Visnovsky '10 analyzed prehistoric artifacts in Peru with Gordon McEwan, Wagner professor of anthropology.

As an intern with the European Court of Auditors' translation department in Luxembourg, Johanna Josefsson '10 learned that speaking three languages (English, Swedish, and Spanish) isn't enough — the regular employees of this European Union organization each spoke at least four.

Meanwhile, in Ghana, physician assistant student Robert Sullivan M'10 was confronting

situations that sometimes were beyond words. For his clinical rotation in infectious diseases, he spent five weeks in the West African nation.

Mostly, he was treating cases of malaria, typhoid fever, and cholera. In the villages of Ghana, however, childbirth is another common occurrence calling for medical help. During Sullivan's time at a village clinic, he experienced a night he'll never forget: Beginning at 1 a.m., one after the other, four babies in a row. He delivered them by candlelight in mud huts, assisted only by the local nurses.

"Around 7 a.m., we walked back to the clinic," Sullivan recalls. "I was exhausted, hungry, and my clothes were covered in God-only-knows-what substances.

"Then the other villagers started to come out of their homes and praise me and the nurses for all the work we had done. Within minutes, we were walking amongst a crowd of a hundred villagers, singing, dancing, and clapping. It was one of the happiest and definitely the most rewarding experience in my entire clinical career."

That moment may be hard to beat, but let's hope that for Sullivan and all the other students, their life experiences continue to live up to last summer's.



ONE DOWN P.A. student Robert Sullivan M'10 holds the first of four babies he delivered in one night in the village of Manso, Ghana. The two women are the child's aunt and grandmother.

THE CLASS OF 2013

Fun facts about Wagner's newest students

Total Freshman Enrollment: 520

States of Origin: 34 (including Alaska and Hawaii)

Foreign Countries of Origin: 5
(Bahamas, Canada, China, South Africa, and the U.K.)

Average SAT: 1780

Most Popular Male Name: Michael

Most Popular Female Name: Alyssa

Twins: 2 sets

Most Popular Birth Month: April 1991 (60 students)

Total Miles Traveled to the Wagner Campus: 168,150

Longest Distance Traveled: 7,374 miles (from Guangzhou, China)

Shortest Distance Traveled: 1,056 yards

Most Popular Anticipated Major: Undecided (164)

Next Most Popular: Business (75)

Most Popular Interests: Community service, student government, dance/theater, newspaper, Habitat for Humanity

Student-Athletes: 135

Honors Program Participants: 78

**President of a National Organization
with More Than 100,000 Members:** 1

(Nicolette Faison, of the Lutheran
Youth Organization)

PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BYRON



Historic Vote

Louise Kaufman first woman elected Wagner board chair

The Wagner College Board of Trustees held a historic vote on May 21, electing Louise Kaufman '75 M'78 as its chair. She is the first woman to be elected presiding officer of the College's governing board in its 126-year history.

A native Staten Islander raised near the Wagner College

campus, Kaufman welcomed her new role on the board, on which she has served since 2000.

"It's going to be a very exciting year for us," says Kaufman. "I believe in the College. I believe in what we're doing. I believe in Dr. Guarasci and also in the team he has put together." She notes that reaccreditation and strategic planning will be top agenda items for the board.

Kaufman earned a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in microbiology from Wagner, as well as an MBA from St. John's University, and then began a career in the pharmaceutical industry. She served in executive positions in Fortune 200 companies including Merck & Co., Warner-Lambert Co., Pfizer Inc., and Schering-Plough Corp.

Her work in compliance and governance, government affairs, and regulatory affairs took her around the world and gave her broad experience in bringing together people with diverse viewpoints to work toward a common goal. "It was very fascinating and very rewarding work, because it was about making people's lives better," she says. She continues consulting in these areas for investment capital firms and other organizations.

She praises President

Guarasci's leadership abilities, citing Wagner's recent recognition in *U.S. News & World Report* (see "Top Notch," page 7). "It shows that President Guarasci has such good leadership skills in bringing the campus together, in moving it forward on all levels," she says.

"We have grown to where we're an admired college," she continues. "We have grown our endowment with The Campaign for Wagner. We are doing things at Wagner that are very innovative. It's wonderful to be a part of making these good things happen."

Read more about Louise Kaufman's views on leadership on page 22.

COMING SOON

Foundation Hall, Wagner's first new residence hall in more than 40 years, is nearing completion, as seen in this photo from September 30.



PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL O'MARA



Looking for Work? *Wagner offers resources to help alumni*

You're well-educated, experienced, and highly motivated; but you may nevertheless be jobless at the moment. With a national unemployment rate hovering around 10 percent, what can Wagner do to help you now?

The Center for Academic and Career Development suggests the following resources:

- ◆ Contact the CACD at 718-390-3181 or cacd@wagner.edu. They have information on area career fairs and on-campus events like employer-sponsored information sessions and alumni speakers. The CACD also offers individual appointments, resume reviews, and interview preparation.
- ◆ Use the Wagner network, in person and online. Attend Wagner events to connect with fellow alumni. Sign up for The Link, Wagner's new online community, which offers networking features. Go to www.wagner.edu/alumni to start. Look for "Wagner College Alumni" on LinkedIn.com.
- ◆ Upon request, the CACD will issue you an account on WICS, the Wagner Internship and Career Search online system. N.B.: It is oriented toward entry-level jobs.
- ◆ Since it's by giving that you will receive, consider sharing your career experience with current students through the Career Connections program. This program is designed to link current students with alumni in a wide range of professions. When you offer yourself as a mentor, you will be given an account with Experience.com, where you can access numerous career resources, search and apply for jobs, and upload resumes.

Top Notch

Wagner is only NYC school to receive #1 rankings in *U.S. News* college guide

In the annual fall college rankings, Wagner maintained the top billing it has received over the past few years, and also added new kudos to its list of accolades.

In the 2010 edition of *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Colleges" magazine, Wagner

was named one of the "Top Up-and-Coming Schools" for the second year in a row; this year, it was ranked number one among northern master's degree granting schools.

And, in a new category spotlighting 80 colleges with "a strong commitment to teaching," Wagner was again ranked number one among northern master's schools.

The College also was cited as having top programs for the

first-year experience, learning communities, and service learning. In the magazine's overall listing of northern master's schools, Wagner was ranked number 25.

In *The Best 371 Colleges* guidebook, the Princeton Review again ranked Wagner College Theatre among the top college stage programs in the nation and the campus as one of the most beautiful.

WAGNER WORLDWIDE

New programs and resources boost study abroad participation



Within the past year, the College has launched four new partnerships that allow Wagner students to study abroad while keeping their financial aid and scholarships.

In addition, the first Pinette Scholarships for study abroad have been awarded. This scholarship is named in memory of Gaspard Pinette, who founded and for many years ran Wagner's beloved study abroad program in Bregenz, Austria.

Through this fall, 45 students had already taken advantage of the new opportunities, which allow students to spend a semester or a year at St. John's University in Rome, Italy; Universidad de Almería in Almería, Spain; Université Lumière in Lyon, France; or the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

In the spring, the Center for Intercultural Advancement sponsored the first study abroad photo contest. One of the submissions is featured on the back cover of this magazine; to see the winners and learn more about study abroad at Wagner, go to www.wagner.edu/departments/study_abroad.

**WINDOW
ON WAGNER:**
Tower Myths

Many stories have circulated over the years about the supposed symbolism of Main Hall's mismatched towers. Is there any truth behind the myths?

A note found in the College archives addresses just this question. "Ask almost any Wagner old-timer the meaning behind the two majestic towers of the Administration Building [former name for Main Hall] and you may get as many answers as the number of people asked. One person will tell you that whereas one tower is complete and the other incomplete, the towers contrast the Freshmen entering Wagner, and the erudite Seniors at graduation. Another person will say that the two towers indicate the coeducational phase of the College." (The latter is particularly unlikely, considering that Main was finished in 1930, while women were not admitted until 1933.)

"Probably the true explanation is that given by the Rev. Theodore E. Palleske," the note continues. "Pastor Palleske, an 1898 graduate of Wagner, says that the higher tower, carrying a replica of a Cardinal's hat and the cross, represents the loyalty of Wagner College to Christian ideals. The other tower, carrying the flagpole, represents loyalty to the United States Government. Thus the towers of Wagner represent the age-old significant and symbolic association of church, state, and education."

Modern readers will notice, first, that today the towers exhibit neither cross nor flagpole. The cross was knocked off the south tower by a direct lightning strike some years ago. The fate of the flagpole is unknown.

Readers familiar with Lutheranism, a movement characterized by its opposition to Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authority, might question why a Lutheran college would symbolize fealty to the church with a "Cardinal's hat" (though the south tower looks more like a papal tiara).

And those familiar with architecture will tell you that mismatched towers are typical elements of the Collegiate Gothic style, of which Main Hall is an example. (The next time you visit the campus of Columbia University, look at the towers of Teachers College.) The mismatched towers in Collegiate Gothic architecture have no special symbolic significance at all.

— Lee Manchester, adapted from his book *Founding Faces & Places*, available at <http://stores.lulu.com/wagnercollege>.

Pictured below: Main Hall towers, circa 1959.



IN MEMORIAM

On September 26, the portion of Howard Avenue that runs through campus was dedicated by the City of New York to the memory of Rev. Lyle R. Guttu, Wagner College chaplain from 1972 until his passing in 2007. This sign on the corner of Howard Avenue and Campus Road marks the new name.



Coursework **A BRIEF LOOK AT INTERESTING WAGNER CLASSES**



HI291 and GOV291: Darwin, Marx and Freud

For three hours on Monday nights, about 15 students gather in the board room on the third floor of the Union for a class on three of the weightiest and most influential thinkers of the past two centuries: Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud.

They are reading primary texts, scholarly essays, and contemporary news articles; they are keeping an “intellectual diary” of their thoughts and reactions to the texts; they are writing papers on each thinker and writing literary analysis using Darwinian, Marxian, and Freudian theoretical frameworks.

Are these serious scholars on the graduate level, or senior undergraduates in a capstone seminar? No; they are a select group of Wagner honors students, most of whom are in their very first semester of college.

Taught by two senior scholars — Richard Guarasci, Wagner College president and professor of political science, and George Rappaport, professor emeritus of history — this class allows students not only to gain a deep understanding of these three great thinkers and their influence on society, but also to analyze and question these powerful systems of thought.

The students are rising to the challenge. “The course is most

definitely a good experience,” says Stephanie Baez ’13. “It is challenging in the sense that one cannot simply read the works we engage with in the class, but rather we must peruse and dissect them. True understanding of the work is required at least, while deep engagement with the ideals of these intellectuals is the goal.”

Guarasci and Rappaport lead the students with a mixture of serious intellectual engagement and humor. “President Guarasci and Professor Rappaport make for an excellent teaching team and make the three hours as bearable as they can,” says Jamie Macchia ’13. “After all, a Monday class from 6 to 9 isn’t easy!”

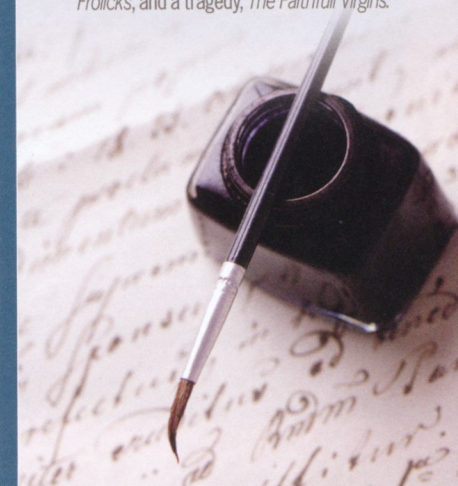
Mapping hidden treasure in early modern literature

If you think the true identity of Shakespeare is uncertain, try that of a fellow English playwright of the next generation, Elizabeth Polwhele. At least that’s how she’s known today, although the only certain traces of her existence come from two 17th-century manuscripts, signed alternately “Mrs. E.P.” and “E. Polewheele.”

How is today’s scholar to edit, provide commentary, analyze, and publish on a writer like that? Those are among the questions that Ann Hollinshead Hurley, Wagner College professor of English, addresses in a new volume, *Women Editing/Editing Women: Early Modern Women Writers and the New Textualism* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009), co-edited with Chanita Goodblatt.

Hurley and her fellow contributors enable fresh explorations of women writers and editors, whose identities seem so inscrutable, by carefully considering everything that sociological context, performance history, and even physical manuscripts and books reveal about the women and their work. This method is known as “new textualism.”

Hurley’s next project is an edition of Polwhele’s two plays: a comedy, *The Frolicks*, and a tragedy, *The Faithfull Virgins*.



integrity



CREATIVITY

VISION



JUDGMENT

communication



knowledge



honesty



Passion

charisma



J.S. DAVIS

What Does It Take to Be a Leader?

Two education professors find surprising lessons in the **social justice movement**

By *Laura Barlament*

One of my favorite professors in graduate school was Maximilian Aue, a native of Austria who taught German language and literature at Emory University. His literature seminars always produced gem after gem of insights that made me look forward to every class meeting.

How did he do this? Not through brilliant lectures or snazzy new technology. He simply sat with his students around a table and focused on our questions. He began every class by asking, "Where were you confused?" Starting there, he insisted, would always lead us to the heart of the matter, and he was right. Plus, his method created a unique dynamic: When you begin a class by admitting to something you did not understand, it gives the conversation a remarkable openness. Each class felt like a voyage of discovery for everyone, including Professor Aue. I don't think I've ever learned more in a classroom.

It's that kind of leadership that Stephen Preskill, chair of the Wagner College Department of Education, and Stephen D. Brookfield of the University of St. Thomas praise in their new volume, *Learning as a Way of Leading: Lessons from the Struggle for Social Justice*: Leadership that is self-effacing, focused on others, collective, self-critical, and open.

It's not surprising that these two professors of education should see the classroom as a model for leadership. "It seems to me that teaching is a lot like leadership," says Preskill. "Particularly, teaching in more democratic type classrooms, where we're inviting a lot of student participation, where the learning is not so much centered in the teacher but in everyone's conversation together."

What may be surprising is how popular these ideas of leadership have become in today's business world as well. In an era when a former community organizer has been elected president, perhaps this is a leadership model whose time has come.

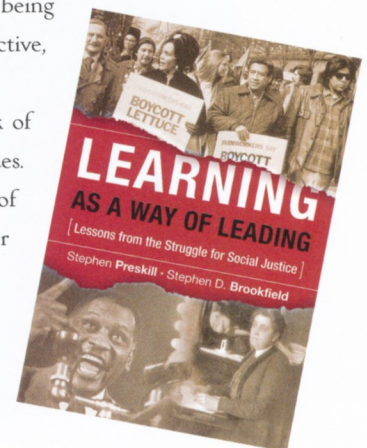
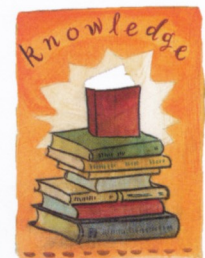
Preskill and Brookfield built their book out of a shared admiration for leaders of social justice movements: People who opposed the status quo and worked toward systemic changes like increasing democracy, protecting the environment, and achieving equal rights for all.

Their book therefore focuses on an aspect of the human experience that, at first glance, may not seem to have much to do with leadership: learning.

"When people ask me, 'Why is learning the first word in the book's title?', I usually say, 'Well, we're interested in leadership that places learning about the practice of leadership right at its center,'" says Brookfield. "So, being a leader is being open, rethinking things, being critically reflective, open to the contributions of others, and so on.

"The other dimension is that the chief task of the leader is to help others learn," he continues. "That's the main way that you conceive of leadership, and the way that you judge whether or not you've done worthwhile work."

If this definition seems a bit touchy-feely, think again.



“We wanted to draw on the social justice context because we felt that so many leadership books are about the successful CEO or military leader talking about the strength of their personal leadership, and the fact that leadership exists in these other, very important social movements hadn’t for us been represented very well in the leadership literature,” says Brookfield. “But for me, what we’re talking about is good leadership, irrespective of the context.”

Recent literature on business leadership confirms that this model has many adherents. This past summer, one of the business bestsellers was *Strengths Based Leadership* by Tom Rath and Barry Conchie. Based on Gallup research, it emphasizes that successful organizational leaders focus on their own and employees’ strengths, work as part of a complementary leadership team, and provide followers in the

organization with trust, compassion, stability, and hope.

And that’s just one recent example. Popular titles like *The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations* (2006), *Wikinomics: How*



Mass Collaboration Changes Everything (2008), and *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing Without Organizations* (2009) confirm that the leader as Big Man is out and power to the people is in.

‘We’re interested in leadership that places learning right at its center.’

Or, is it? Preskill and Brookfield present a more nuanced view, acknowledging “the perils and pitfalls” in each section of their analysis.

If a leader listens to all voices, for instance, what does he or she do with people who represent ignorant viewpoints or who are

undermining the group’s goals? How can a leader be authoritative without becoming authoritarian? How can a leader move projects forward while also being devoted to facilitating others’ learning? In other words, what about the bottom line: Is the organization reaching its goals?

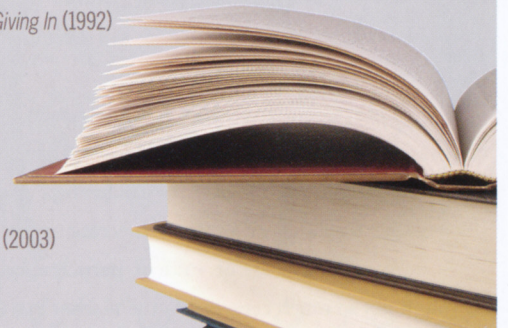
Although Preskill and Brookfield do not claim to have any definitive answers, both are comfortable with these questions — and have engaged with them in their personal experience.

Brookfield, who started his career in community development, says that it is possible to be authoritative, but not authoritarian — in other words, to offer expertise, knowledge,

Recommended Reading

Stephen Preskill and Stephen D. Brookfield, authors of *Learning as a Way of Leading: Lessons from the Struggle for Social Justice*, provided this list of good business books related to their ideas about leadership.

- Jim Collins: *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...And Others Don't* (2001)
- Max Depree: *Leadership Jazz* (1992), *Leading Without Power: Finding Hope in Serving Community* (1997), and *Leadership Is an Art* (2004)
- Stephen Denning: *The Secret Language of Leadership: How Leaders Inspire Action Through Narrative* (2007)
- Roger Fisher, William Ury, and Bruce Patton: *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In* (1992)
- Mary Parker Follett: *Creative Experience* (1924)
- Howard Gardner: *Leading Minds: An Anatomy of Leadership* (1995)
- Daniel Goleman, Richard Boyatzis, and Annie McKee: *Primal Leadership: Learning to Lead with Emotional Intelligence* (2004); Boyatzis and McKee: *Resonant Leadership: Renewing Yourself and Connecting with Others Through Mindfulness, Hope, and Compassion* (2005)
- Joseph A. Raelin: *Creating Leaderful Organizations: How to Bring Out Leadership in Everyone* (2003)



and guidance that steers but does not squelch other voices. “To me as a leader, if one of the groups that I was working with proposed something that they wished to do, and I felt they had missed an important learning opportunity or should consider a different kind of project or the agenda that they set out in my view wasn’t going to be very helpful to them, then I think it’s my responsibility to say that and to argue my case,” he says.

Preskill, on the other hand, leans toward extreme caution about inserting himself as an authority figure. “I’m painfully, personally aware of organizational leaders who try to lead so strongly that they don’t hear the voices of people in their organization who have wonderful, creative, terrific ideas,” he says. “I don’t want to be that leader, and I don’t want to be part of an organization where someone is trying so hard to get things done that they don’t hear [those ideas].”

Preskill concedes that taking a stronger stance may be a valid final resort. But, he warns, “Authoritarian leading is not a very effective way to go.”

Interestingly, as our society becomes less accepting of authority figures and leans toward the ideal of learning leadership, it has also become something that these two educators don’t like: an opinionated free-for-all.

“This is a challenge of the Internet now — uninformed opinions get as much air time as others,” says Preskill.

And to this problem, Preskill and Brookfield see no quick solution. Of course, their solution lies in learning — students need to be educated at a young age to be critically reflective and analytical when they are presented with new ideas and viewpoints.

“Any national core curriculum would have to include digital literacy,” says Brookfield. “You need to integrate into the curriculum regular experiences of children being required to take alternative viewpoints from the ones they hold, to give them that sort of mental flexibility, to introduce them to protocols of understanding different views, and being able to hear them without immediately trying to shut them down.”

Citing Myles Horton, a civil rights leader discussed in *Learning as a Way of Leading*, Brookfield says, “Those are all long-term projects. ... [Myles Horton’s] autobiography was called *The Long Haul*. This work is a long haul.” ●



CASE STUDY



President Obama reveals the pros and cons of the learning-centered leader

We asked Stephen Preskill and Stephen Brookfield to analyze President Obama’s leadership style.

“I think Obama exemplifies a lot of things we’re talking about,” says Preskill. He projects an air of authority, yet he also acknowledges and welcomes multiple viewpoints, and practices self-analysis and self-critique.

At the same time, Obama’s leadership displays the potential pitfalls of this style, says Preskill. For example, Obama is an expert on staking out middle-ground positions in hot debates, such as abortion or race relations. Yet this quest to bring opposites together has its limitations.

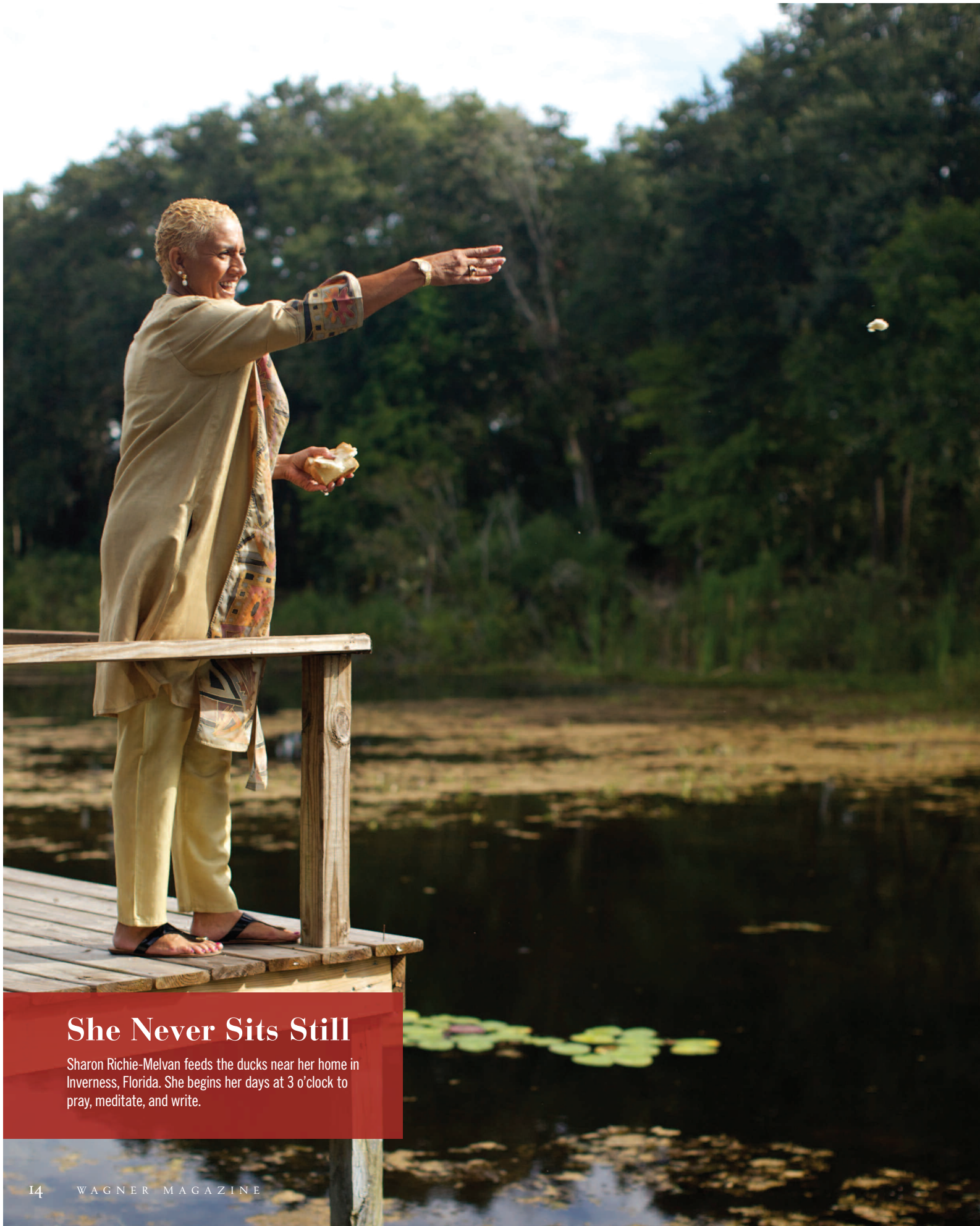
“It becomes a problem when change doesn’t occur,” says Preskill. “Sometimes you can be too moderate, too compromising. When you shouldn’t be so compromising and when you should is enormously difficult to figure out.”

Preskill predicts that eventually Obama will draw certain lines in the sand, like Abraham Lincoln did.

“[Lincoln] wanted to stop the extension of slavery; he was not in favor of abolishing slavery, which was roughly the middle ground position,” says Preskill. “But he moved gradually toward a more radical view, that slavery had to be abolished.”

“I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if Obama follows a similar trajectory in his own presidency, as he tries to find the middle ground on a lot of issues, but also strikes out in a new direction on some issues because it’s so critical to the nation.”





She Never Sits Still

Sharon Richie-Melvan feeds the ducks near her home in Inverness, Florida. She begins her days at 3 o'clock to pray, meditate, and write.

COMPASSIONATE COMMAND



Since making history at Wagner 40 years ago, Sharon Richie-Melvan '71 has lived up to her life's promise.

By Lee Manchester

Wagnerians first came to know a hard-working Philadelphia girl named Sharon Richie in 1967, when she matriculated as a nursing student. Two years later — 40 years ago this fall — she made College history as Wagner's first African-American homecoming queen. 🌸 “I learned early on that I was never going to get the assignment I asked for,” she says. “I always got something better.” 🌸 This is the story of the remarkable life — the “something better” — that Sharon Richie-Melvan has found since leaving Grymes Hill in 1971.



GROWING UP RICHIE

William Richie Sr. and Helen Lucille Richie raised their seven children — four girls, three boys — in the projects of South Philly. Bill worked in a sporting goods store; Helen stayed home with the kids.

“My dad instilled in us the belief that no one was better than you,” Sharon Richie-Melvan says.

“Our family had a drive to excel, to rise above our circumstances,” adds her younger sister, Marsha Richie Williams. “Even when we were living in the projects, we had a plaque on the wall. A man was sitting in a boat, fishing, and the caption read, ‘If you’re so smart, why ain’t you rich?’ We changed it to read, ‘If you’re so smart, why ain’t you a Richie?’”



“She always had that drive; there’s always been a moving force about her,” Williams says. “Sharon was always ‘The General,’ was always encouraging us, and when I looked at her, I knew I could achieve anything.”

Sharon and her brother, Bill Jr., were chosen to attend Philadelphia’s highly selective public magnet schools, which at the time had a mostly Caucasian student body.

“It was a revelation for me to learn that most people didn’t live in the projects,” Richie-Melvan says.

When the time came for Sharon to find a college, her school’s first-ever African-American guidance counselor steered her in the right direction, with help from the NAACP.

“They sent out a list of colleges who needed black students,” Richie-Melvan recalls. “I wanted a liberal arts college with a nursing program located close to Philadelphia, and Wagner offered a very tight financial package of scholarships and work-study — just enough to make it possible for me to enroll.”

QUEEN SHARON THE FIRST

“In the fall of 1967, when I first enrolled, the College had eight or nine black students,” Richie-Melvan says. “By the time I was a junior, in 1969, there were 83.”

Though most of her energies went into her studies, Richie-Melvan was also an active member of Black Concern, an African-American student group. In the fall of 1969, as homecoming approached, Black Concern decided to take an unprecedented step: It would put forward a candidate for homecoming queen in the contest previously reserved for Greek organizations.

As one of the few female upperclassmen in Black Concern, Richie-Melvan was drafted for the role.

Lonnie Brandon ’78, the group’s president, recalls the astute electioneering that probably won Sharon her crown.

“There were 83 black students out of a student body of 2,400,” Brandon says. “We couldn’t win with just the black students’ votes. We enlisted a group of white students who otherwise wouldn’t have voted for anyone. You’d probably call them ‘hippies.’”

On the night of October 30, 1969, when the votes were counted, Sharon Richie had won.

“I was shocked!” she says. “I couldn’t believe it!”

But one of Richie-Melvan’s roommates, Mary Ann Murphy Pekaar ’71, wasn’t surprised at all.

“There was a lot of excitement generated around that,” Pekaar says, “but I don’t think it was any surprise that Sharon won. She was vivacious — just a real person.”

FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE ARMY

While she was still in college, Richie-Melvan had signed up for a three-year tour of duty in the Army, more out of financial desperation than anything else. It proved to be a fateful decision on more than one count.



Historic Moment

“I don’t think it was any surprise that Sharon won” the 1969 homecoming queen contest, says her college roommate, Mary Ann Murphy Pekaar ’71. “She was vivacious — just a real person.”

First of all, the Army's scholarship and stipend allowed her to quit her part-time jobs and focus on her studies. "For the first time, I made the Dean's List," she says. "Before, I had been a B or C student."

The summer after her graduation from Wagner College, Second Lieutenant Sharon Richie reported to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, for basic training in the Army Nurse Corps.

"After just one week in basic, I told them, 'I want to sign up for that 20-year program.' There was something about the camaraderie of the Army that grabbed me right away," Richie-Melvan says. "We'd go to class from 7:30 to 4 and the instructors, all lieutenant colonels, were so tough on us — but at 5 o'clock, we'd all go over to the officers' club, and you'd be dancing with your instructors. Then we'd go back to the barracks, study, sleep, get up and do it all over again. I loved it!"

And the Army loved her back.

For 11 years, Richie-Melvan cultivated her career as a military nurse, starting in an orthopedic ward with Vietnam amputees at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. After taking a year off active duty, with pay, to finish her M.S. in psychiatric nursing at the University of Texas at San Antonio, she helped break ground for the Army's first residential drug and alcohol treatment program in Stuttgart, Germany, before returning to the States for a tour in the Pentagon's Office for Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

A bulletin-board flyer, however, sent Major Richie on a detour — to the White House.

LEADERSHIP AT A HIGHER LEVEL

It was her husband, Richie-Melvan says, who saw a flyer on a bulletin board advertising the White House Fellows program while the couple was living in Germany. He thought the prestigious leadership program, which allows young men and women to work for a year at the highest levels of the federal government, sounded like something Richie-Melvan would enjoy.

In 1981, the Army personnel office rejected her application, claiming that she was too young for the fellowship. When she shared that information with the head of her office at the Pentagon, Brigadier General William Louisell, he said, "I want that application."

The following year, Richie-Melvan was one of the 14 young professionals selected from among 1,200 applicants nationwide to become a White House Fellow. She spent her fellowship year working with Richard Williamson, President Reagan's assistant for intergovernmental affairs.



For some Army White House Fellows — like a young lieutenant colonel named Colin Powell, who had made his first foray into the wider world of government service as a White House Fellow 10 years earlier — the experience changed their careers.

"As White House Fellows, we were taught that government is here to serve everyone," Richie-Melvan says. "An ordinary person ought to be able to write a letter to the president and get an answer. That's the kind of government we were reaching for."

A SERVICE ETHIC

That service ethic guided Richie-Melvan through the next stage of her military career.

In 1983, Lieutenant Colonel Richie returned to active duty in the Army Nurse Corps, serving in various positions at several duty stations. At San Francisco's Letterman Army Medical Center, Richie-Melvan was chief of staff for more than 500 Army nurses. As Charles P. Garcia writes in a recent book, *Leadership Lessons of the White House Fellows: Learn How To Inspire Others, Achieve Greatness and Find Success in Any Organization*, she was known for her personal touch: meeting every nurse, helping them achieve their personal and professional goals, and sending congratulatory notes to individuals celebrating their promotions, birthdays, anniversaries, and births.

"The bottom line was they knew they could always call me to help them if they needed it," Richie-Melvan told Garcia. "At their exit briefings, when they were changing duty stations, many staff members shared that they knew I cared about them and that I made a difference in their lives."

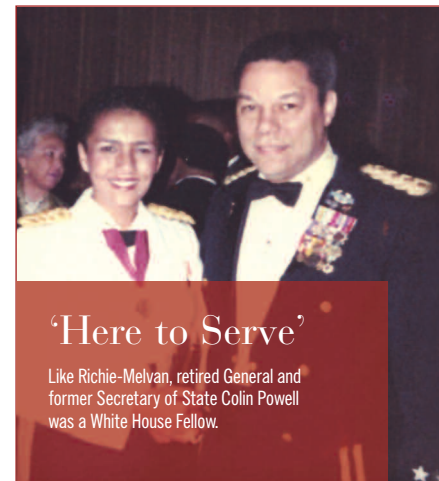
Later, as chief nurse for the Army Recruiting Command, she visited nursing schools around America, offering students the same opportunity that had started her on a military career at Wagner College.

"I felt like I had birthed these hundreds of nurses," Richie-Melvan says. Fifteen of those Army nurses, now stationed across the globe, made her the godmother of their children.

In 1986, at the age of 36, Richie-Melvan was promoted to full colonel — at that time, the youngest officer of that rank in the entire Army.

"She had the 'colonel stance,' the command attitude, and she knew what she was doing," says sister Marsha Williams, "but there was always that compassion in the middle of it."

"As long as she has something to give, she'll find a way to give it."



REACHING OUT

Since Richie-Melvan's retirement from the Army in 1996, her giving has in no way slowed down.

During her first year of retirement, she completed a Ph.D. in organizational behavior and development at George Washington University and began working as a consultant. For several years, she lived in the United Arab Emirates while working on a project to upgrade military health services for Emirate soldiers and dependents.

She has also stayed intimately connected to what she calls her "forever family" in the Army Nurse Corps. Several years ago, Richie-Melvan was attending the annual convention of the Army Nurse Corps Association when the group's president announced that she wanted ANCA members to reach out to nurses coming back from combat hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan.


"I had already written about the experiences of combat nurses returning from Vietnam," Richie-Melvan says. "That was the subject of my big paper for the Army War College. At the convention, I decided to do phone interviews with Iraq and Afghanistan nurses around the country."

In August 2006, the ANCA newsletter started publishing Richie-Melvan's interviews in a column entitled "Lean On Me." Later this year, Arnica Creative Services will publish her book, *Angel Walk: Nurses at War*, based on these columns and her previous research.



For Richie-Melvan, combat nurses are, indeed, angels. "I want you to know that you could meet one of these angels of the battlefield today in your church, at a school board meeting, or while shopping for groceries," she writes in the book's introduction.

For many, Richie-Melvan herself embodies this spirit of strength and service, whether she is providing for the needs of nervous employees whose company is being reorganized, checking in on her fellow church members as their prayer chaplain, or contributing to the local or national boards of the 370,000-member Military Officers Association of America.

"When she retired," Marsha Williams says, "we gave her a rocking chair about two inches high, because we knew she'd never sit still." 

'Angel Walk' reveals untold stories of combat nurses

With White House Fellows classmate Diane Vines, Sharon Richie-Melvan is co-authoring *Angel Walk: Nurses at War in Iraq*. The project shares the oftentimes untold stories of combat nurses, which she gleaned from those who served in Vietnam, 40 years ago; and from those who have served since 9/11 in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has been publishing those recent stories in a column, "Lean On Me," in the Army Nurse Corps Association's newsletter. The following is an excerpt from one of those columns:



He'd lost 29 pounds by the time he returned home from Iraq. ... Perhaps more important, he hadn't slept well while stationed in Iraq, given his nightmares about incoming mortar rounds, worry about his critically wounded patients, and concern over numerous stateside family problems. "When you work night shift, you're not sleeping well and this goes on for days; I was falling asleep over my patients." He kept his fears at bay and hid his sleep deprivation until about one week prior to his departure, when he confided in a psychiatrist. The doctor prescribed Ativan and valium. The day he left, he described himself as "an emotional wreck. I had such good friends over there, I felt like I was deserting them because they had to stay. It crushed me and I would be crying, just crying for no reason." For privacy and confidentiality, I call him CPT Bob. ... CPT Bob is the second ANC [Army Nurse Corps] officer I have met who was diagnosed with and received treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



DON YOUR
HARD HAT
and dive in

Real-life leadership lessons from Wagner alumni



Rev. Burton Vincent '57

Home: Whippany, New Jersey.

Profession: Clergy; currently a chaplain for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, New Jersey.

Latest Accomplishment: Two awards for my lifetime work: 2008 Chaplain of the Year, from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and the 2009 Rev. Lyle Guttu Award, from the Wagner College National Alumni Association.

Hobbies: Sports, fitness, and reading.

Latest Books Read: *Swimsuit* by James Patterson, *Common Sense* by Glenn Beck, and the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer.

Favorite Books on Leadership: Books by Mark Sanborn, Donald Trump, and Rudy Giuliani.

Role Model: My father. As a clerical supervisor, he did not hold a high position; but he felt that you are a leader if you make your work position better, solve problems, search for new opportunities, take control of your own life, care about the welfare of others, and be a positive influence.

My Advice About Being a Leader: Lead whenever and wherever you can. Respond to people who wish to make a positive difference in their own lives and in the world. Leadership is working with people, not working over people.

What I Learned About Leadership at Wagner: Sometimes you must work as a team to inspire others and to make a positive change. Involvement in a fraternity and class activities enabled me to achieve recognition and help others feel appreciated and important.

Leaders: Born or Made? I believe leaders are made. Leadership is a life-long process of learning why and how to make a difference in our own lives and to better the lives of others.

White Wine or Red? Red. Is it time for my wine now?



Rita King '62

Home: Scottsdale, Arizona.

Profession: Social work and human resources; retired as manager of human resources for a multi-state natural gas distribution company.

Hobbies: Gardening; volunteering at the Arizona Ballet; serving on the national alumni boards of Wagner College (elected president in June 2009) and the Columbia University School of Social Work; learning piano.

Latest Book Read: *Maigret Voyage* by Georges Simenon.

Latest Accomplishment: Reading *Maigret Voyage* in French.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Worst Boss Ever: My worst boss was a good guy but a terrible manager. From him I learned to “manage upward” – in other words, to find ways to create a better work environment when the boss failed to show leadership or made poor decisions. I believe that later I created for my subordinates the climate that encouraged them to “manage up” when I missed the boat.

My Advice on Dealing With Mistakes: I learned that everyone makes mistakes and thus not to sweat the small stuff. Experienced leaders also always deal with performance issues and never fall back on the “If I ignore it, it will go away” school of management.

My Advice About Being a Leader: Get out of your comfort zone and do what it takes to gain a broad understanding of the business. When I worked for a natural gas distribution company, I put on a hard hat and steel-toed boots and went on many field rides with the operations people. One time, I gritted my teeth and climbed down a vertical ladder into an underground vault nearly two stories beneath the busiest street in Phoenix. I gained valuable relationships with wonderful and wise employees, who got to know me as a person, not merely as “the HR manager.”

White Wine or Red? Red or sometimes bubbly; I prefer prosecco to champagne unless, of course, it is Dom Pérignon.



Sally Maertens '60 M'75

Home: Woodland Park, Colorado.

Profession: Education. Former elementary school teacher, curriculum coordinator, and school principal; currently teaching the Young Environmental Stewards after-school program and serving as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service.

Latest Accomplishment: Receiving the 2008 George B. Hartzog Jr. Award from the National Park Service as the Individual Volunteer of the Year.

Hobbies: Hiking, skiing, reading, and volunteering.

Latest Books Read: *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Thomas L. Friedman, *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, and *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv.

Favorite Books on Leadership: Writings by conservation leaders like John Muir and Olaus and Mardy Murie, because their legacy about conservation and nature will guide future generations in responsible decision making.

Best Leadership Advice I Ever Received: First, have the grace to know when it's time to move on. It's good for everyone when a new person with new thoughts comes in, and you bring your ideas someplace else. Second, don't ever forget to thank the people you work with; don't take anyone for granted.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Best Boss Ever: When I became a principal, the superintendent of the school district said to me, “You're going to find it very hard to be a leader and also a friend.” And it was a struggle, because in the school, I had to treat my friends of 25 years just like everyone else.

Leaders: Born or Made? We evolve over time and with experience, but there has to be something inside of a person that drives them and makes them want to be the best they can be. That's intrinsic, and not everybody is born with intrinsic motivation.



Nancy Behling Dillon '68

Home: Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

Profession: Nursing, with a master's in psychiatric nursing and a doctorate in education; currently the nurse executive for the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Latest Accomplishment: Having our organization be recognized with the 2007 American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Best Practices Award for Inpatient Treatment; then, in 2008, facilitating the attendance of 70 of our nursing staff at the annual APNA conference and being honored as the recipient of the APNA 2008 Excellence in Leadership Award.

Hobbies: Singing in church choir, reading, gardening, admiring my new grandson.

Latest Book Read: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult.

Favorite Books on Leadership: *Influencer: The Power to Change Anything* by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, et al; *Creating Magic: 10 Common Sense Leadership Strategies from a Life at Disney* by Lee Cockerell; and *Management Lessons from Mayo Clinic* by Leonard L. Berry and Kent D. Seltman.

Role Model: It sounds kind of hokey, but it actually is Florence Nightingale. She was a very courageous woman who was ahead of her time. We are revisiting her statements in Notes on Nursing about putting the patient in the best conditions to heal; we now call that an "Optimal Healing Environment."

My Advice About Being a Leader: Don't be afraid to take on new challenges. Listen. Don't be afraid to admit what you don't know and find out who knows how to do it, but be sure to give credit where credit is due. Be unfailingly polite and respectful. Maintain your integrity. And have a sense of humor. I have a plaque in my office that says, "Blessed are we who can laugh at ourselves, for we shall never cease to be amused." Take your work, but not yourself, seriously.

White Wine or Red? Blush. I never can give a straight answer.

TEST YOUR METTLE

The Wagner alumni leaders we interviewed submitted the following favorite quotes on leadership. Can you match the quote to its source? *Answers on page 49.*

1. "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
 - A. Dale Carnegie
 - B. Tony Blair
 - C. John Quincy Adams
 - D. Mahatma Gandhi
 - E. William H. Danforth
 - F. Thomas Jefferson
 - G. Norman Schwarzkopf
 - H. *Tao Te Ching*
2. "You can't help someone get up a hill without getting closer to the top yourself."
3. "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock."
4. "One enkindled spirit can set hundreds on fire."
5. "When fate hands you a lemon, make lemonade."
6. "The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes. It is very easy to say yes."
7. "The wise teach without telling, allow without commanding, have without possessing, care without claiming."
8. "Be the change you want to see in the world."





Kurt Landgraf '68 H'08

Home: Princeton, New Jersey.

Profession: President and CEO, Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Latest Accomplishment: Saving ETS from bankruptcy in the year 2000, and growing the organization fourfold in nine years.

Hobby: Long-distance running (now jogging).

Latest Book Read: *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* by Jon Meacham H'07.

Favorite Book on Leadership: *My American Journey* by Gen. Colin Powell.

Role Model: President Abraham Lincoln. He stuck to his values and aligned the people around him toward a common end.

Best Leadership Advice I Ever Received: Watch what people do, not what they say.

My Advice About Being a Leader: No arrogance. Everyone is important. Respect all of your co-workers. Take full responsibility and accountability as the boss.

What I Learned about Leadership at Wagner: I learned from Professor William Maher to respect the dignity of everyone, regardless of background, education, income, or position. He also taught me that you get the most out of people with praise, and the least with fear and criticism.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Worst Boss Ever: Arrogance is demeaning, and dishonesty ruins all relationships.

And from My Best Boss Ever: Expect the best, and you will get it.

Leaders: Born or Made? Leaders are made, with time, help, and experience.

White Wine or Red? White.



Louise Kaufman '75 M'78

Home: Savannah, Georgia.

Profession: Pharmaceutical industry; retired as vice president of compliance and government affairs for Pfizer Inc.

Latest Accomplishment: Being elected chair of the Wagner College Board of Trustees this year.

Hobbies: Exercising and needlework.

Latest Books Read: *Liberty and Tyranny* by Mark Levin, and the *Stephanie Plum* series by Janet Evanovich.

Favorite Books on Leadership: Peter Drucker's books and *Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done* by Larry Bossidy, Ram Charan, and Charles Burck.

Role Model: I look up to Lee Iacocca. He was the chairman of Chrysler during their original dog days, and he was the champion who really turned that car around. And then he spearheaded the Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty project, leading to a huge success which continues today.

My Advice About Being a Leader: Surround yourself with the best people you can. They will inspire you and help you develop stretch goals to improve your organization or project.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Best Boss Ever: How to develop ideas and strategies and how to implement them; how to maintain the timeline that you set; and how to listen to what people are saying – what they really mean, in addition to what they're saying.

Leaders: Born or Made? I think that everyone is born with a leadership characteristic, and like so many other gifts that we have, it depends on circumstances whether it's developed. There are people who are trained as leaders and run big organizations. But there's also the average person who does extraordinary things. Just the other day, it was in the news that a car was on fire on the highway, and a passerby stopped and pulled two children from the burning wreckage and saved their lives. If that isn't a leader, I don't know what is.

White Wine or Red: A really good, full-bodied red would be my preference.



Donna A. Lupardo '76

Home: Endwell, New York.

Profession: Member, New York State Assembly, 126th District.

Latest Accomplishment: Being re-elected to my third term in 2008 (I'm the only Wagner alum currently serving in the New York State Legislature) and passing legislation to protect the environment and promote energy conservation in New York State.

Hobbies: Flower gardening and dancing.

Last Book Read: *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv.

Favorite Book on Leadership: *The Tao of Leadership* by John Heider.

Role Model: Mahatma Gandhi, because he exemplifies a selfless leader.

Best Leadership Advice I Ever Received: "It's not about me"; it's about the collective effort of the team. And if the team is successful, it will be a positive reflection on the leader.

My Advice About Being a Leader: Don't second guess yourself; never stop learning or growing; treat others with compassion; keep a very good sense of humor; make time for rest and relaxation.

What I Learned About Leadership at Wagner: The best decisions come from listening to a diversity of opinions.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Worst Boss Ever: A dishonest leader corrupts the work environment, resulting in low employee morale.

And from My Best Boss Ever: Sometimes you have to get out of the way in order to bring out the best in people.

White Wine or Red? Neither. I prefer a cocktail.



Keith LaMont Stith '87

Home: Jackson, New Jersey.

Profession: Police officer (lieutenant).

Latest Accomplishment: Creating the Gang Task Force for the prosecutor's office of Hudson County, New Jersey.

Hobby: Reading.

Latest Book Read: *Quiet Strength* by Tony Dungy.

Favorite Book on Leadership: *Good to Great* by Jim Collins.

Role Model: My father, Lewis Stith Jr. He's an unassuming, simple man who never raises his voice, but he always had the ability to influence people and change their behavior.

Best Leadership Advice I Ever Received: Undisciplined leadership is the beginning of the end.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Best Boss Ever: It is okay to make tough decisions that will have a direct impact on people.

Leaders: Born or Made? In my opinion, leaders are made. Leadership is an attitude that an individual must accept.

White Wine or Red? Neither.



James Hickey '94 M'96

Home: Staten Island, New York.

Profession: Principal, Old Bridge High School, Matawan, New Jersey.

Latest Accomplishment: Being named the 2009 Visionary Principal of the Year by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association.

Hobby: As the father of four children age 5 and under, I don't have time for a hobby!

Latest Book Read: *Manhunt: The Twelve-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson.

Favorite Book on Leadership: *Leadership* by Rudolph Giuliani.

Best Leadership Advice I Ever Received: Make sure you're consistent in your decision making and have a rationale to your choices. People may not agree with your decisions, but they will know where you're coming from and that you'll treat everyone the same.

My Advice About Being a Leader: Do a lot of listening, not a lot of talking.

What I Learned About Leadership at Wagner: Because I was president of student government and of my fraternity, my leadership experience prepared me in many ways for what I encountered later in life – such as managing time and budgets, and making decisions that didn't make everyone happy.

What I Learned About Leadership from My Worst Boss Ever: People will forget what you say, but they will never forget how you make them feel. Probably the most important thing about your style of leadership is that you make people feel valued, appreciated, and welcomed.

Leaders: Born or Made? I think you're born with it. You can teach people a lot about leadership, but they have to have certain inherent qualities to adapt and evolve.

White Wine or Red? Red wine. It's the secret to a long life.



Kristie Scherrer 2010

Home: St. Louis, Missouri.

Profession: Student, arts administration major.

Post-Graduate Goals: Traveling to Africa to do service work, teaching English abroad, working on a cruise ship as an entertainment manager, and moving to LA to pursue a career in the film industry as a casting director.

Hobby: Traveling.

Last Book Read: The *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer.

Favorite Book on Leadership: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. It shows that it's never too late to do good and that one person can make a difference.

Latest Accomplishment: Driving cross country from Staten Island to San Diego.

Role Model: Gandhi. He lived a life that promoted peace and inspired civil rights movements and freedom around the world.

Best Leadership Advice I Ever Received: Since high school, I've been involved with the American Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to youth development, character education, and leadership. AYF has taught me that being a leader is simple – simply living with others in mind and acting and living in a way that you enhance the society you are part of.

What I Have Learned About Leadership at Wagner: On a small campus such as Wagner's, most students set out to become very involved, and that's a challenge. It takes courage to truly carry out your ideas and ambitions. As a resident assistant, president of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and participant in various other student organizations, I've learned a lot about communication and dealing and relating with people, which I think is one of the most valuable lessons for the "real" world.

Leaders: Born or Made? I believe there is a leader in everyone. There are different types of leaders, and situations throughout life bring out the best leader that person can be.

White Wine or Red? White. ■

UNDERCOVER IN EAST BERLIN

OR

HOW I SMUGGLED MYSELF AND SIXTEEN STUDENTS
BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE

By Trygve R. Skarsten '49



On the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, one Wagner alumnus remembers a day in East Berlin at the height of the Cold War...

As the wheels of our Swiss Air jumbo jet touched down on the Zurich runway, we were all excited for what lay ahead.

It was the summer of 1971, the middle of the Cold War. We were a group of about 16 students and myself, heading to the Wagner College summer school at Bregenz, Austria. A Wagner alumnus, I had been brought from the faculty of Yale Divinity School to teach a course on contemporary European Christianity.

Our course would include local field trips, but I knew that seeing Western Europe alone wouldn't give us a complete view. Understanding European Christianity in 1971 included learning about how Christians lived behind the Iron Curtain, under the atheist Communist system of government. That would turn out to be a very memorable adventure.

HISTORY'S LONG ARM

I started discovering the relevance of religious history in contemporary European life as soon as I arrived in Bregenz. In accordance with Wagner policy, all students and faculty lived with non-English-speaking

host families. Everyone except for me reported that their hosts were super. I got a very chilly reception.

Some days later, I found out why. My hosts took me to a restaurant overlooking beautiful Lake Constance. I asked about the rust stains running down the sides of the cliff below the restaurant. The rust, they sharply explained, came from cannonballs that had been fired by the Swedish army of Gustav Adolf during the Thirty Years' War, and that were still embedded in the cliff. Then they asked quizzically, "You are Swedish, aren't you?" I said, "Oh, no. I'm Norwegian." After that, they couldn't be nicer to me. They had thought I was a Swede, and they still held a strong prejudice against anyone who was Swedish. I thought to myself, "Wow! That was in 1632. No wonder the Israelis and Palestinians are having such a hard time making peace with each other."

MYSTERIOUS WAYS

After a few weeks of classes and local outings, we were ready for our big adventure: a taste of how Christians lived behind the Iron Curtain. We rented a bus

and drove up into Germany through Munich and Nuremberg. All went smoothly until we reached the East German border. The East German border guards took our passports and began to search our bus from top to bottom, inside and out, using mirrors to check underneath. Every guard rechecked what the previous one had already checked. We wondered if we would ever get our passports back. Seven hours later, they finally let us through, and we proceeded north up Europa 6 to Wittenberg, made famous by Martin Luther.

Our first task was to register with the East German police and be assigned a government tour guide. Our guide was congenial enough, but fed us a typical Communist line, throwing in a lot of disparaging remarks about Martin Luther. The next day, we decided to break up into small groups to continue our explorations. That way, our "friend" wouldn't be able to trail all of us.

On one of the side streets, my group met



two women garbage collectors. They were the happiest garbage collectors I have ever met, and we soon found out that they were Christians. They told us that, as Christians, they could not get any other kind of work. Yet, they said, God moves in mysterious ways. "The government requires that we go inside, through the back door of every house in Wittenberg, to pick up the garbage," they explained. "That gives us access to every home, where we can talk to the people and witness to the Lord Jesus Christ. And the Communists pay us for this!" They each let out a hearty laugh.

We continued our tour with a visit

to the famous Castle Church where Luther had posted his Ninety-Five Theses, triggering the Reformation. A quote from St. Paul was posted outside on a bulletin board: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes." These powerful words epitomized to me the courageous essence of German Christianity in its struggle with atheistic Communism.

The pastor told us that while worship attendance was down, the church was packed with people every time there was a Bach concert. "It's amazing," he said,

"how Bach is preaching the Gospel these days. Every time they sing his hymns and join in his cantatas and oratorios, the people hear the good news of salvation."

UNDERCOVER IN EAST BERLIN

From Wittenberg, we continued on to West Berlin, our launching pad for a trip into East Berlin. There we met with officials of the Lutheran World Federation, who had arranged for us to meet with the bishop of the Lutheran Church of Brandenburg in East Berlin, as well as with the head of the

Evangelical Academy and an underground group of Christians. After our experience in Wittenberg, we asked if we had to have a government tour guide accompany us. Could we go over to East Berlin without one?

"Yes, you could," the LWF officials said, "but it would be dangerous." Guides were required for large groups like ours.

When we got back to our hotel, we discussed the pros and cons of having a Communist tour guide trail along with us in East Berlin. Then we had a vote. It turned out to be unanimous! While some of the students were a little leery, the consensus was that it would be worthless to go to East Berlin if a government guide was sitting in on all our sessions. We would never get the true scoop.

That meant, however, that we could not make the trip in one large group. The

border guards would immediately ask us where our guide was and turn us back (or worse). We decided to split up into groups of two, and to enter East Berlin through the checkpoint in the underground train station. That way, we could spread out in the subway cars while we were still in West Berlin, and it would be easier to do than if we crossed through the famous Checkpoint Charlie.

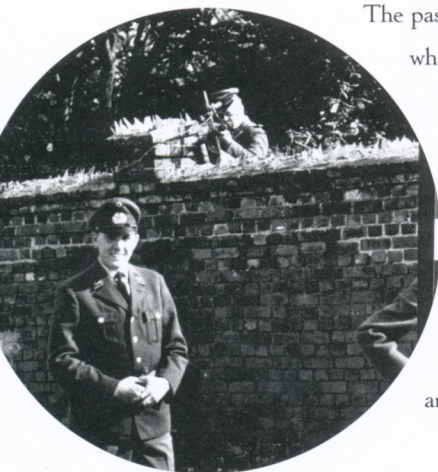
The LWF officials advised us not to take any maps of East Berlin with us nor any names and addresses of where we were going, because we could get our guests into trouble if we should be stopped by the East

German police. Three of us committed our route to memory: the LWF office secretary, a Swedish woman who had agreed to accompany us; Pastor David Gaise '35 from Kingston, New York, who had joined the class as part of his continuing education; and me. No one else had a clue about where we were going.

TWO BY TWO

It was with some trepidation that we approached the underground checkpoint. The secretary and I were in the lead, jabbering away in Swedish and Norwegian as though we had known each other all our lives. The students behind us looked like they were typical young couples out on a day's lark. As we lined up, we made sure to space ourselves out so that people who weren't with our group would come between

“ Three of us committed our route to memory. No one else had a clue about where we were going. ”





WEST GERMANY

EAST GERMANY

West Berlin • East Berlin

Wittenberg •

Nuremberg •

Munich •

Bregenz, Austria •

us. But, I wondered, would the East German police get suspicious when they started counting all the American passports that were coming through?

Fortunately, everything went well. As the LWF secretary and I came up out of the subway, we entered an East Berlin park, where we were greeted by a huge red and

black poster of Angela Davis. The famed UCLA professor and Communist Party USA member had been on the FBI's most wanted list and was soon to go on trial for her alleged involvement in a hostage-taking incident. We strolled around in the park for about an hour, keeping a watchful eye as each of the Wagner couples came up the subway steps and sauntered about by themselves. When we

saw Pastor and Mrs. Gaise emerge, we breathed our first sigh of relief. We knew everyone had made it through, because they were bringing up the rear.



As we walked through the streets of East Berlin, each

It was summer, the day was long and hot, and some of us bought ice cream from street vendors. No matter how small the purchase was, you had to make sure that

A GYPSY WELCOME

On our way back to Bregenz, we stopped at the famous university town of Jena in East Germany, where we ate supper in what was

“ Would the East German police get suspicious when they counted all the American passports? ”

couple kept one or two blocks' distance from the others. Turning corners was tricky — each couple needed to make sure the one behind them saw the turn, without making obvious signals. When we arrived at the Brandenburg bishop's office, we again waited with baited breath. The Gaises finally arrived 45 minutes later. We hadn't lost anyone. Amazing!

A TENSE HOUR

After a couple fascinating hours of discussion with the bishop, we left for our next destination, two by two, with about five minutes separating each couple. All day long we followed the same routine with no mishap, and were able to talk openly with all of our contacts about the difficulties of living as Christians under the Communist regime. The bishop, for example, told us that any young person who chose to go through the church's confirmation instruction would be excluded from any possibility of attending university. The laywoman who directed the Evangelical Academy, which was not able to operate openly, talked about the informers who spied on their adult Christian education sessions.

you obtained a receipt. Otherwise, you could be jailed for a black market currency violation. As the sun started to go down in the west, we decided we had better head back that direction, too. All of us made it through the checkpoint except for one of the Wagner co-eds. She had forgotten to get a receipt for an ice cream cone and could not account for 50 *Pfennig* (7 cents). She faced not only further interrogation, but also the possibility of a night in an East German jail.

By this time, the rest of us were on the West Berlin side of the border, so I broke my cover and called out to her to go back to the ice cream vendor and get a receipt. She rocketed out of the checkpoint like she was running the 100-meter dash at a Wagner track meet. Would the vendor still be there? Would the vendor be willing to give her a receipt? After about an hour of anxious waiting, we saw her coming back, waving a piece of paper. When she came through the checkpoint, I rushed up to her and gave her a big hug — I was so happy to see her again that I forgot all about protocol. A faculty member should never hug one of his co-ed students! But we were all overjoyed that she made it.

reputed to be its finest restaurant. Nevertheless, everyone's dinnerware was chipped and cracked. A Hungarian Gypsy band was providing the entertainment that evening. Somehow they found out that there were Americans in the audience, and for the next hour they played one American song after another. They were fabulous. As we left, we walked out two at a time, as we had grown accustomed to doing, and thanked them for playing all the American songs. I was the last one out. They were surprised at how many of us had been there. They told me, in broken English, that it had been a pleasure to play for us; it was their way of showing their opposition to Communism and their love for America!

When we got back to Bregenz, our host families wanted to know all about our trip to East Germany. They could hardly believe what we had experienced — and neither could we.

Trygve R. Skarsten '49 lives in Pickerington, Ohio. He is president emeritus of Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, Washington.

Putting WAGNER first

Newsletter of The Campaign for Wagner College

In This Issue:

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New Academic Building

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Nicole Mahoney '10

REASON TO SMILE Diane Borst Manning '59 found her first job by applying for a position advertised for "males" in the New York Times.



PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BYRON

CAMPAIGN PROFILE:

Diane Borst Manning '59 *Taking Hold of Life's Opportunities*

Diane Borst came to Wagner College in the mid-1950s from her hometown of Rochester, New York, carrying (in her words) "one trunk and a waste paper basket." The day she enrolled was her first time on campus.

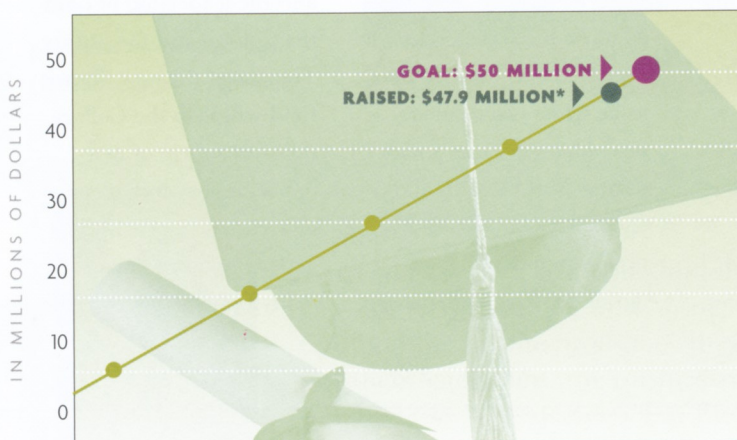
Stepping out into the unknown is nothing unusual in the life of Diane Borst Manning '59, and she has always approached such challenges with a kind of no-nonsense courage.

"When you have an opportunity, you take advantage of it," she says.

By taking advantage of opportunity throughout her lifetime, she has put herself in the position to create opportunity for others: The Diane Borst Manning '59 Library Fund, established through her estate plan in support of Wagner's Horrmann Library, will allow the academic heart of campus to enhance and expand its offerings, a significant goal of The Campaign for Wagner College.

(SEE 'CAMPAIGN PROFILE CONTINUED' ON NEXT PAGE)

Campaign Update: Nearing the Goal



*INCLUDES gifts, pledges, and oral commitments made between January 1, 2004, and September 30, 2009.



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(CAMPAIGN PROFILE CONTINUED)

When Manning was a Wagner student, the campus library was located in Main Hall's attic. She remembers climbing the three flights of stairs to study at dimly lit tables, noting that it was one of the few places students were permitted to go when they signed out of their dorms in the evenings.

She recalls more vividly the New York Public Library on 42nd Street in Manhattan, where she traveled regularly on the weekend to research papers for classes in her French major. She spent hours there, wreathed in cigarette smoke from the old men who seemed to live in the building, while she read under the green lampshades and took breaks to purchase food from the nickel automat.

After college, Manning started a career in management, particularly in tertiary health care institutions like New York University Medical Center. She found her first job through the help-wanted ads in the *New York Times*.

At that time, the ads were designated "female" or "male." "There wasn't anything that looked interesting to me under 'female,' so I looked under 'male,'" she says. There she found an opportunity at NYU Medical Center, for which she was hired, despite of the stated gender preference.

That job led her to earn an MBA from New York University and find her passion: "Working on large projects to get things done in complex organizations," as she puts it. She has also written management books and taught graduate management courses both in New York and abroad.

In more recent years, she has taken on new types of projects, such as serving as editor to her husband, retired Navy Captain Norman Berg, as he wrote two memoirs, one of his service as a pilot during World War II, and another about the disappearance of his son during the Vietnam War.

Berg gives much credit to Manning for inspiring him to write and



pushing him to improve his work. "I can hardly spell! I never thought I'd write a book," he says. These days, Manning is pursuing her own creative writing project: A children's book based on the life of her friendly green-eyed orange cat Tigger, whom she rescued from the woods at her upstate home and brought to the city to become an apartment cat.

Berg and Manning, who helped to establish the alumni group Class of '59 and Friends, are big believers in Wagner College's current direction and the leadership of both the College and the library. They hope the new library fund will help the College take advantage of new opportunities and adapt to new circumstances — just as Manning has done so many times in her own life.

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.*



Task Forces to Spearhead Fundraising and Design of New Academic Building

As Wagner's new campus residence, Foundation Hall, nears completion, President Guarasci has begun to focus on the construction of the College's first all-new academic building since September of 1968, when astronaut John Glenn dedicated the Megerle and Spiro buildings.

To help raise funds and refine the building's design, Wagner's advancement team will create three task forces, each dedicated to one of the three disciplines that will be housed in the new building: business, education, and nursing. Faculty, staff, and alumni will serve on the task forces, under the leadership of Myra Garcia, vice president for advancement (for nursing), Frank Young,

director of major gifts (for education), and Katherine Smith '08, director of the Inner Circle (for business).

Constructed on the former site of the Augustinian Academy, the new building will help transform the way these disciplines are taught on Grymes Hill. Nursing students will be able to deal with real-life crises in a simulation lab, while the Wall Street Room will give

business majors a chance to experience what it's like to work on the Street.

Education students will hone their craft in a model classroom that will allow their instructors to provide feedback and advice.

The building's design is still evolving, but the current vision is for a U-shaped structure surrounding a central courtyard with an arcade. Each of the three departments will occupy

distinct yet connected spaces, with three stories devoted to each division. Other building features include a large gathering space for special events, lectures, and campus-wide activities; and sustainable design elements such as locally produced materials, energy-efficient lighting and mechanical systems, daylight harvesting, high-performance thermal walls and roofs, and solar shading.



First Supporters: The Nicolais

Already the new academic building has drawn significant support. In 2007, Michael '49 and Margaret Christie '49 Nicolais committed \$10 million to the project — the College's largest gift ever. In honor of their leadership, the business wing of the new facility will be named the Nicolais School of Business.



More Than Just a College

Wagner Founder's Scholar

For Nicole Mahoney '10, Wagner is family. Literally.

“After my mother, her two brothers, her sister, and a handful of cousins, I will be the tenth in my family to graduate from Wagner College, and my younger sister the eleventh,” says Mahoney, a double major in French studies and history who aspires to earn a Ph.D. in American history.

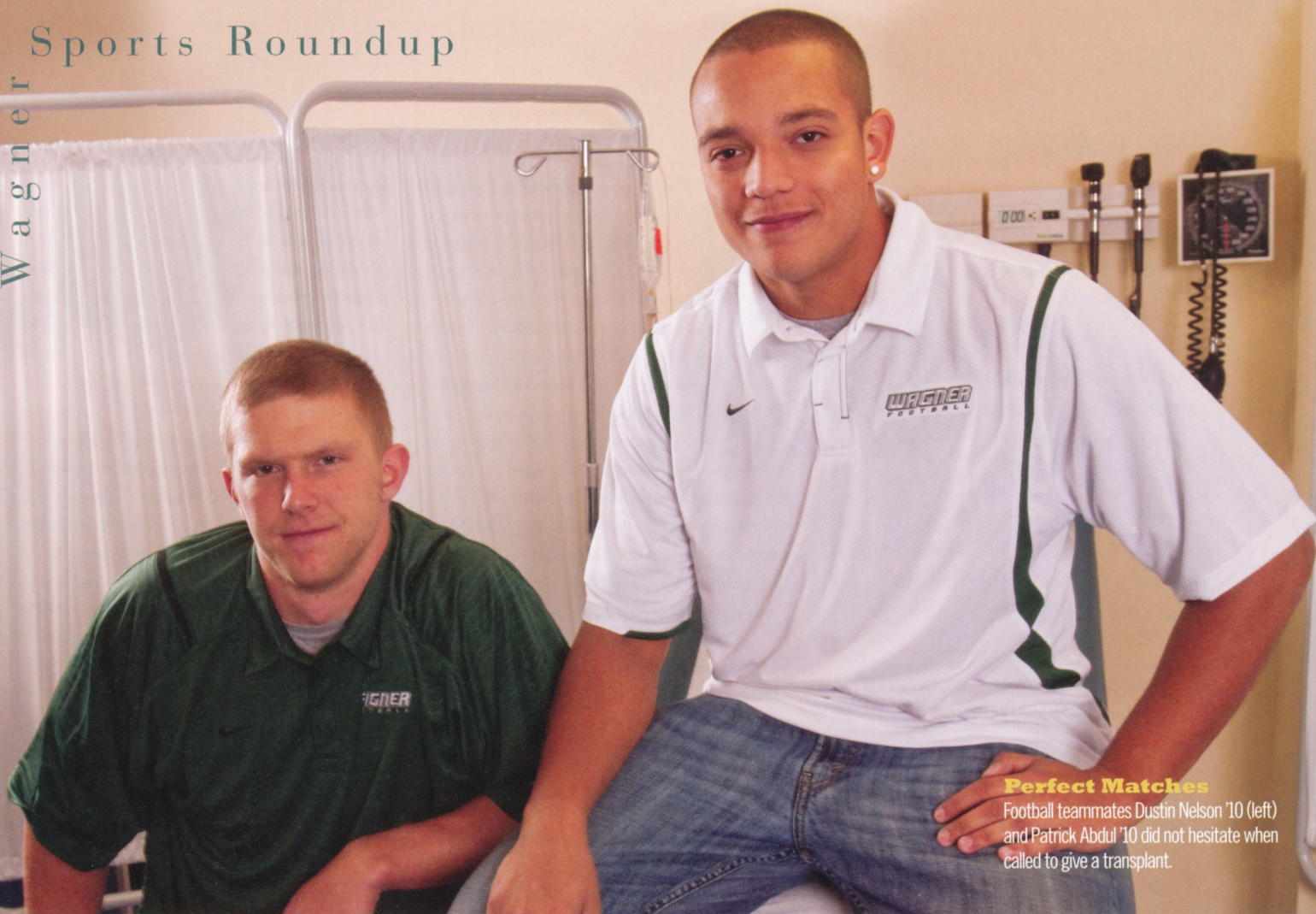
Mahoney's childhood memories include attending Main Stage productions and celebrating her grandmother's 85th birthday at a Seahawks game. As a Wagner student, many more enriching experiences have opened up: She has studied abroad in France, joined several academic honor societies, lived in the environmentally-themed residence on campus, held leadership roles in the Earth Club and Habitat for Humanity, worked as a research tutor and an orientation leader, and conducted scholarly research on Abraham Lincoln at the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City.

“My Wagner Founder's Scholarship has made all this possible,” says Mahoney. “Not only did Wagner work best for my family, it worked out best for me.”



PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BYRON





Perfect Matches
Football teammates Dustin Nelson '10 (left) and Patrick Abdul '10 did not hesitate when called to give a transplant.

The Greatest Gift

Football team's bone marrow drive bears life-saving fruit **By Laura Barlament**

One Saturday in April 2008, Seahawks defensive end Patrick Abdul '10 spent a few hours in the Spiro Sports Center gym, taking swabs of cheek cells from people who had come by to support the National Marrow Donor Program.

Those cheek cells would provide doctors with an initial clue about a person's genetic makeup, and whether that person could possibly be a perfect match for someone in need of a life-saving bone marrow transplant. Wagner's football team was holding their first drive to sign up people for the NMDP's Be The Match Registry.

Abdul registered about 200 people that day, including his teammate Dustin Nelson '10. He was getting ready to leave when he realized that he had not signed up himself. "I stopped and said, 'Wait a minute, I can do this to myself.'" He took the sample from his own cheek, filled out the paperwork, and turned it in.

Because of that simple act, one two-year-old boy is alive today.

Because of the Wagner football team's efforts in the gym for the past two years, who knows how many more lives might be saved in the future.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Facts About the National Marrow Donor Program

Every year, more than 10,000 men, women, and children get leukemia and other life-threatening diseases that can only be cured with a marrow transplant.

The donor must be a genetic match for the patient, yet only 30 percent of patients find a match within their family. The rest must find a match with an unrelated donor.

The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) operates the Be The Match Registry, which allows individuals to help patients who need a life-saving transplant. Since 1987, the NMDP has facilitated more than 35,000 transplants.

More than 12 million potential donors have signed up for the Be The Match Registry and other registries worldwide, but many patients still cannot find a match. Donors with diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds are especially needed.

Source: www.marrow.org and *Get in the Game. Save a Life.*

YOU CAN HELP The Wagner football team will hold another drive for the Be The Match Registry next spring. To find out more, contact Andrew Berggren, assistant football coach, at andrew.berggren@wagner.edu.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33)

In 2008, Wagner joined a growing number of college football programs that are supporting the Be The Match Registry after they heard about the need and the opportunity to make a difference from Andy Talley, head football coach at Villanova University.

For the past 17 years, Villanova's football team has added hundreds of people — especially the young, healthy, and ethnically diverse people that are most needed — to the registry through an annual drive. A couple of years ago, Talley and the NMDP started expanding this potential pool of donors by creating a national program called “Get in the Game. Save a Life,” aimed at college football teams.

Wagner's Walt Hameline was one of the first coaches Talley called in his efforts to expand the program. An easy connection was made through Andrew Berggren, a Wagner assistant coach who played football at Villanova and helped Talley run Villanova's bone marrow drives. Hameline and Berggren presented the program to the Seahawk student leadership council, who immediately agreed to it.

“I found it very interesting,” Pat Abdul recalls. “It actually saves someone from dying.” And, he adds, no needles are involved in signing up. It was quick and painless, and who knows if you'd ever get called to take it any further.

One year later, both Pat Abdul and Dustin Nelson got that call. Both of the young men had been discovered to be potential donors for children in desperate need of transplants — Abdul for a two-year-old boy with anemia, and Nelson for a eight-year-old boy with leukemia. Each student now faced the question of whether he would be willing to proceed with further tests to determine if he were an exact match.

“I had no hesitation,” Abdul says. “Who gets to say that they saved somebody's life?” Nelson responded similarly.

Now there was no more avoiding needles — of which, Nelson admits, he is terrified.

Each gave the required multiple vials of blood, and waited to hear the outcome.

Each one was an exact match.



In Abdul's case, things moved forward quickly. Over the summer, while he was on campus in football training, he got the call that he was needed immediately. Warned that the next steps would become more taxing, he went back home to Brooklyn to undergo the donation process.

His family supported him fully. “I told him, ‘If you can give someone a second chance at life, do it, because it will always come back to you,’” says Pat's mother, Diane Abdul.

As is true in most cases, doctors had determined that not a bone marrow transplant, but a donation of stem cells from the blood was needed. This procedure is known as a peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation, and it requires no surgery. It does, however, require a lot of injections of a drug called filgrastim — a total of 20 injections, says Abdul, given over five days.

Those made him feel like he'd been hit by the flu, Abdul says. But once he made the donation, in a four-hour outpatient procedure at New York Presbyterian Hospital, he immediately started feeling better. In a couple of weeks, he remembers, he was back to his normal level of activity. But the best part came about a month later, when he got his first report on the child. “You've saved his life,” he was told. In a year, if both he and the child's family are willing and the child is doing well, they will have the opportunity to meet. Abdul and his family are looking forward to that day.

Nelson's case, in the meantime, has had its ups and downs. After it was determined that he was an exact match, he was asked to be on standby to give a bone marrow transplant. In June, he heard that the child

was too sick to receive the transplant. A few weeks later, he heard it could happen in August, but then he was told the child was near death. Some time later, however, Nelson was told that the child had responded so well to a new experimental treatment that his doctors were reconsidering his need for a transplant. At this stage, Nelson has been released from his standby status, as the child continues doing well on the new medication. "But he would still be first in line to call if he's needed," says Piper Wood, Nelson's contact at the NMMDP.

Nelson is ready, without a moment's hesitation. "I think anyone in my position would do it," he says. "My philosophy is that you have some job to do on this Earth. There's no way I can deny such a gift. I don't see it as a biological coincidence."

Meanwhile, Coach Talley of Villanova has made Patrick Abdul's story part of a promotional video for the "Get in the Game. Save a Life" program. "Patrick Abdul is a hero," he says. "He has saved somebody's life." Increasing the number of such life-saving procedures is Talley's crusade. Last year, about 1,800 people joined the registry through Talley's program; this year the goal is 5,000 new registrants. Next year, he wants to sign up 15,000 more people from 60 schools. And he's not content to stop there.

"Just think, if I could get every football team at every college and university in the country to do this," he says. With more than 600 football teams in the NCAA, that would really add up.

"We have these players who are so gifted athletically," Talley says. "I tell them that it's time for them to give back."

If Wagner's Patrick Abdul and Dustin Nelson are any indication of the potential among college football players to give of themselves and save lives, then the thousands of gravely ill people who need their help have much reason to hope for a better future. ●

Best in Class *Nurse, swimmer, and water polo standout earns national scholarship*

Alex Tomlinson '09 is not just a top achiever of Wagner College and the athletic conference. She is one of the top student-athletes in the nation.

In July, Tomlinson was awarded an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, placing her among an elite group of 58 student-athletes in spring sports. This scholarship for graduate study is given for exceptional achievements in athletics and academics, as well as campus involvement, community service, volunteer activities, and demonstrated leadership.

Tomlinson was not only a star performer on Wagner's water polo team, but she was also a top long-distance swimmer, all while completing Wagner's intensive nursing curriculum and graduating with highest honors.

In swimming, Tomlinson set a school record in the 500 freestyle with her third-



place finish at the NEC Championships during her senior year. During her four-year tenure on the water polo team, she helped the Seahawks to two MAAC Regular Season Championships, one MAAC Tournament Championship, and one trip to the NCAA Tournament.

"Alex played a huge role on our team, from her freshman year on," says water polo coach Pat Beemer. "She's a phenomenal athlete. She led us in scoring. She was the co-captain of the team her senior year. And that's all while going through one of the toughest academic programs on campus — nursing — and being part of two sports."

Tomlinson is now working as a nurse in the medical surgical unit at St. Joe's Hospital in Reading, Pennsylvania, getting experience before deciding how to continue her studies. She is considering a specialty in pediatric nursing.

Tomlinson is the second Wagner College recipient of the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Joy Gallagher '06, a member of the basketball and softball teams, received the award in 2006.

the A List

Former Seahawk pitcher **Andrew Bailey '06**, who has become the Oakland Athletics' top closer, was the only rookie named to the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in 2009. He was named American League Rookie of the Month in August, and many were speaking of him as a strong contender for Rookie of the Year. **Jessica Hart '10**, a swimmer who holds several school and NEC records for butterfly, took her game to a higher level this past summer. In July, the native of Montreal, Canada, competed against Canada's top swimmers, who were vying to represent their country in the FINA World Championships in Rome. In the Essais Mondiaux Rome 2009 World Championship Trials, Hart placed 18th in the 200-meter butterfly, 11th in the 100-meter butterfly, and seventh in the 50-meter butterfly. Her time in the 100-meter was a personal best, which she improved on only one month later in the US Open Championships in Washington. In that race, she finished 34th out of 100 competitors, clocking in at 1:01.75. The Wagner College **women's lacrosse team** posted the highest team grade point average among all Division I institutions that compete in the sport, earning them Division I Merit Status from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association. With a team GPA of 3.53, Wagner finished just ahead of Stanford (3.523) and Hofstra (3.50).



AlumniLink

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

Upcoming Events*

College Choirs

- Holiday Choral Concert
December 6, 2009, 4 p.m.,
*Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island*
- Vocal Jazz Set
December 8, 2009, 8 p.m.,
*Campus Hall Performance
Center*
- Tribute to Black Music
February 23, 2010, 9 p.m.,
*Campus Hall Performance
Center*
- Concert with Schola on Hudson
February 28, 2010, 4 p.m.,
*Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island*
- Tour to Philadelphia and
Washington, D.C.
March 4–5, 2010;
times and locations TBD
- Concerts with Schola on Hudson
March 6, 2010, 8 p.m.,
*St. Peter's Lutheran Church,
New York City*
March 7, 2010, 4 p.m.,
*St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Jersey City*
- Treble Concert Choir Tour to
Long Island and Connecticut
April 15–16, 2010;
times and locations TBD

- Treble Concert Choir Spring
Concert
April 17, 2010, 4 p.m., *Trinity
Lutheran Church, Staten Island*
- Final Concert
May 2, 2010, 4 p.m.,
*Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island*

National Alumni Association

- Alumni Trip to Las Vegas
December 20–23, 2009
- Winter on the Hill
February 20, 2010
- Alumni Trip to Peru
March 3–13, 2010
- Reunion Weekend
June 4–6, 2010

Theater

- *Dance Project*
February 17–27, 2010
- *Little Women*
February 24–March 7, 2010
- *Dead Man's Cell Phone*
by Sarah Ruhl
April 14–24, 2010
- *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*
April 21–May 2, 2010

For more information, registration, and tickets:

Alumni Relations 718-390-3224
Music Department 718-390-3313
Theater Box Office 718-390-3259

www.wagner.edu



{ FLASHBACK }



PLEDGE CLASS, 1951

Fred Jacobsen '54 sent us this photo of the 1951 Delta Nu pledge class on the steps of Cunard Hall. The "dogs" (as pledges were known) pictured are (front row) George Zinsmann '54, Herb Piehler '54, Bill Schliemann '53, Don Dausch '54, (middle row) John Schick '55, Jerry Jannone '56, Doug Butler '55, Jacobsen, (rear) Fred Frick '54, and Ben Bensen '53. **We're accepting alumni submissions for Flashback.** Send photos to Laura Barlament, Editor, Wagner Magazine, 1 Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301; laura.barlament@wagner.edu.

On Board

New staff member has a passion for bringing people together

In August, Stephanie Schweitzer '08 began her work as assistant director of alumni relations.

A native of Rochester, New York, Schweitzer majored in arts administration at Wagner, graduating in 2008. During her undergraduate years, she was very involved in Kappa Sigma Alpha fraternity — at least five other Wagner staff members are Kappa alumni, she notes — and she helped initiate the Society of Arts Administration Students during her senior year.

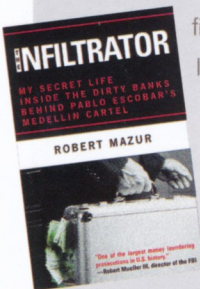
Schweitzer became interested in working in alumni relations for several reasons. She has a passion for event planning. “I love seeing the smiles on people’s faces when they’re at the event,” she says. “Also, I love bringing people together and giving them a chance to meet each other.

“I’m also excited to meet our network of Wagner alumni that I didn’t get a chance to meet as a student,” she adds.



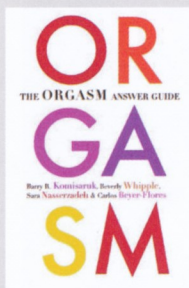
New & Noteworthy

Robert Mazur '72 *The Infiltrator: My Secret Life Inside the Dirty Banks Behind Pablo Escobar's Medellin Cartel* (Little, Brown and Co., 2009)



Federal Agent Robert Mazur spent five years undercover as a money launderer to the international underworld, including the businessmen and bankers who supported the Medellin drug cartel. His work resulted in the arrest, trial, and conviction of 40 high-ranking criminals. In this book, he tells his story for the first time.

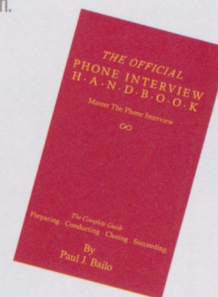
Beverly Hoehne Whipple '62 *The Orgasm Answer Guide* (Johns Hopkins University, 2009)



Four of the world’s leading sexuality experts — one of whom is Whipple, professor emerita at Rutgers University — co-authored this book, which addresses every aspect of orgasms in an accessible question-and-answer format. It has been covered in magazines such as *Esquire*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; and *Glamour*.

Paul Bailo '90 *The Official Phone Interview Handbook* (Mirasmart Publishing, 2009)

Bailo, president and CEO of Phone Interview Pro, teaches job seekers the art of the effective phone interview, based on research covering the career development industry. The book, which provides more than 50 guidelines, became the top seller on this topic on Amazon.com.

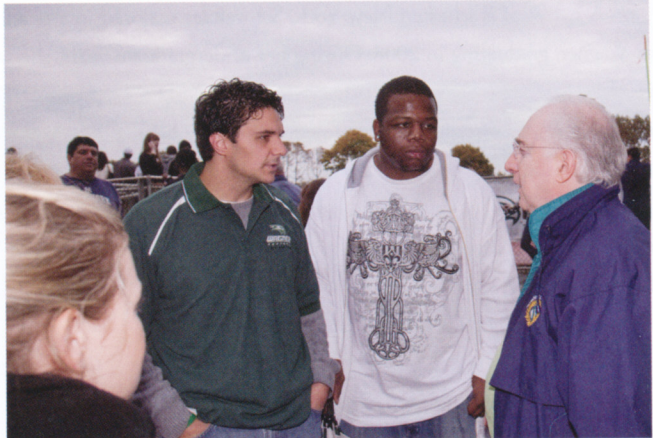


Homecoming 2009

A BIT OF RAIN did not stop the Seahawks from celebrating Homecoming on October 24. A crowd of 600 alumni, friends, and fans enjoyed barbecue lunch under the big tent and cheered the Green and White on to a decisive, 49–28 victory over Sacred Heart. Freshman quarterback Nick Doscher, winner of the James Robb Offensive MVP Award, ran for 123 yards and two touchdowns and passed for 157 yards and one touchdown; sophomore safety Chaz Legette had two interceptions, five tackles, and a pass breakup, and he was named the Nick Lia Memorial Defensive Player of the Game.



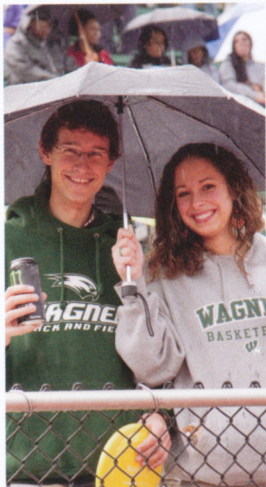
MAIN SQUEEZE Trustee Aletta Kipp Diamond '65 gets a hug from our favorite mascot.



HOME TURF President Guarasci welcomes football All-Americans Ryan Castellani '03 and Franklin Bright '04.



BABY HAWK It's never too early to start learning to spread your wings.



FUN FOR ALL AGES What's a little dampness to true Seahawk fans?



TUNEFUL Dorian Lake '02 was a featured soloist in the inaugural College and Alumni Choirs concert at Homecoming



THEY'VE GOT HER BACK Family and friends support Kristen Long '10 for Homecoming Queen.

Travel with Wagner

Peru: March 3–13, 2010

Explore the beautiful capital city of Lima, stay overnight at a boutique hotel in the cloud forest at Machu Picchu, immerse yourself in the culture and history of Cuzco, explore the Peruvian market of Chinchero, take a scenic train ride to Puno, and discover the fascinating reed islands of Lake Titicaca — all with Wagner alumni and friends. Link to more details at www.wagner.edu/alumni/travel.

Calling All Federal Employees

Career development needs you to mentor Wagner students

Are you a federal government employee or retiree? Wagner's Center for Academic and Career Development is seeking alumni, parents, and friends to share their experiences as federal employees with our students. As a member of the Partnership for Public Service, Wagner is committed to illuminating the variety of careers, internships, and research opportunities available through federal service. Please contact Natalie Johnson, director of career development, at njohnson@wagner.edu or 718-420-4269.

Who in the Wagner World Was ... Gerald Arpino?

About one year ago, you may have seen news obituaries for Gerald Arpino H'80, who co-founded the Joffrey Ballet. Tributes poured out upon his death at age 85 on October 28, 2008. "Arpino was one of the last remaining giants of the mid-20th-century movement that revolutionized dance and transformed it into an American art," said the *Chicago Tribune*.

Less well-known is his connection to Wagner College. Born and raised on Staten Island, Arpino attended Port Richmond High School. According to Wagner's records, Arpino enrolled as a non-matriculating student (in other words, not seeking a degree) in 1940. He took Chemistry I in the fall of 1940 and Chemistry II in the spring of 1941, earning an A in each class.

Arpino enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1942, and it was during his years in the service that he met Robert Joffrey, who was studying ballet in Seattle while Arpino was stationed there in 1945. By the early 1950s, Arpino had started his dance career in New York City, and he became lead dancer for the new Robert Joffrey Ballet in 1954. Later he became its chief choreographer, and its artistic director after Joffrey's death in 1988. Amid great financial difficulties, attendant controversies and power struggles, and a move to Chicago, he kept the company going. You can get a glimpse of his flamboyant personality in Robert Altman's 2003 film *The Company* about the Joffrey Ballet, in which the artistic director is modeled after Arpino.



Have an idea for "Who in the Wagner World Was ..."? Contact Editor Laura Barlament at laura.barlament@wagner.edu or 718-390-3147.

The Link Online Go to www.wagner.edu/alumni to register for The Link, a free and exclusive online community for Wagner alumni.





Class Notes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1939

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

1942

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

1943

Class Agent: **Erwin Nolte**
4120 Lorene Drive, Apt. 106,
Estero, FL 33928

1949

Class Agent: **Margaret Christie Nicolais**
40 East 78th Street, Apt. 16C,
New York, NY 10075, 212-570-1049

1950

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

1952

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

1953

Class Agent: **Albert Tosi**
70 Woodcliff Lake Road, Saddle
River, NJ 07458, 201-440-0494

1954

Class Agent: **Manfred W. Lichtmann**
3112 Lahinch Drive, Myrtle
Beach, SC 29579, 843-903-5715,
del1258@peoplepc.com

1955

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

1956

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

1957

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

1958

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

Betsy Ebers Press got together with several fellow alumni during her spring trip to her childhood home of Rhinebeck, N.Y. She enjoyed the performance of an operetta written by **Lillian Olsen '50** (see sidebar, page 41) at the Lutheran Care Center in Poughkeepsie; had lunch with **Suzanne Shea '74**, wife of **Howard Shea '69 M'72**; and had dinner at the Rhinecliff Inn with **Betty Smith '57**.

1960

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

In the last issue of *Wagner Magazine's* class notes, we reported

that the Rev. **Stephen "Chick" Biegner** was one of the first on the scene of the February 12 crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407 near Buffalo, N.Y., and worked extensively in the rescue and recovery efforts. That was a misidentification: It was Chick's son, also named Rev. Stephen Biegner, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Clarence Center, N.Y. Chick and his wife, Barbara, moved to Clarence Center about a year ago to be closer to their grandchildren. They had served a church in the inner city of Buffalo until their retirement. The plane crashed about 150 yards away from their house, but they were away, celebrating their wedding anniversary, when it happened.

1961

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

1963

Class Agent: **John Donovan**
141-A Main Street, Tuckahoe,
NY 10707, 914-337-9300

Keep in Touch!

Submit your news and photos:

E-mail: classnotes@wagner.edu

Web: www.wagner.edu/alumni/

Use the class notes update form or the new online alumni community, The Link.

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

Publication policies:

Deadlines: This issue reflects news received by October 1. The submission deadline for the summer 2010 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.

1964

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

1965

Class Agent: **Jack Felver** 84 North
Smith Street, Palatine, IL 60067;
25244 Pelican Creek Circle, Unit
201, Bonita Springs, FL 34134,
239-495-8861

1966

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

Jeffrey Forchelli, a member of the
Wagner College Board of Trustees,
was selected for *New York Super
Lawyers 2009*. He is the founder
and managing partner of Forchelli,
Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo,
Cohn & Terrana, LLP, with offices
in Uniondale and Melville, N.Y.

1967

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

1968

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

1969

Class Agent: **Philip Straniero**
3 St. Austins Place, Staten Island,
NY 10310, 718-447-4717,
judgephil96@aol.com

Frank Kelly '69 M'77, president and
CEO of Danbury Hospital, was
featured in a Q&A in the *News-
Times* of Danbury, Conn., in
August. "I love this job because it's

Younger Than Springtime

At the tender age of 80, **Lillian Olsen** '50 has become a first-time author. Inspired by a weekly sing-along at her residence, the Lutheran Care Center of Poughkeepsie, New York, she and fellow resident Terri Brandt created an operetta that tied the songs together into "a love story about a baseball player named Casey and a strawberry blonde named Daisy," says Olsen. ● Featuring songs such as "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby" and "What the World Needs Now," the musical was premiered in July by the center's residents, with narration by Olsen and Brandt. ● "The day of the performance, the audience said it was wonderful entertainment," says Olsen, who earned her bachelor's degree in biology at Wagner. Years ago, she worked as a microbiologist; the operetta was her first foray into creative writing. She is pictured here with former Wagner trustee **Ray Siegart** and **Betsy Ebers Press** '58, who attended the performance.



like an adventure," he said. "You just never know when something's going to happen. Some people are uncomfortable with stuff like that and they want more of a routine job, and this is anything but." After earning his MBA at Wagner, he began his career in the medical records and admitting offices of the Danbury Hospital and kept moving up through the ranks.

1970

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

1971

Class Agents: **Pamela Broderick**
P.O. Box 564, Winter Harbor,
ME 04693 **Kathy O'Donnell**
3322 Woodland Drive, Tobyhanna,
PA 18466, 570-961-6321,
kcodwagner@yahoo.com

1973

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

1974

Class Agent: **Diane "Nina" R. Recio**
11 Holly Place, Larchmont, NY
10538, nrc917@gmail.com

Janet Pietracatella Hillis was featured in the *Citizen of Laconia* (N.H.) on June 4 because of her impending retirement from the Shaker Regional School District, where she has taught for 31 years. For nearly all of those years, she has taught third grade at Belmont Elementary in Belmont, N.H. Along the way, she earned a master's degree from Plymouth State University. She writes poetry and has her students do a lot of writing. "What I want from the children is for them to play with language and become risk-takers," she told the *Citizen*. "The more engaged your students are, the more fun it is going to be to teach."

1975

Class Agents: **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,
pattym.phd@comcast.net

1976

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

Rebecca Harding Bowlby is director of admission at Immaculata University outside of Philadelphia, where her daughter, Marissa, is a junior. Her oldest daughter, Lauren, was married on October 25, 2008, and Rebecca walked her down the aisle.

1977

Class Agent: **Jeanne Delaney-Malikian**
6 Walden Street, Somers, NY
10589, 914-997-5733

Captain **Edward J. Kane** (U.S. Navy, Retired) graduated from the National War College of the National Defense University in Washington D.C., earning an M.S. in national security strategy. He is assigned to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Bethesda, Md., and lives with his family in Oak Hill, Va.

Revvng Up the Fight Against Hunger

The Rev. **Fred Soltow '70**, pastor of Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish in West Virginia, was part of a 100-day, 13,000-mile bike ride to fight world hunger this



Fred Soltow '70 takes the handlebars on the 13,000-mile Tour de Revs.

past summer. He and two other pastors from West Virginia, Rev. David A. Twedt and Rev. Ron Schlak, rode a custom-made three-seater bike, with a frame made of bamboo, all around the United States to raise awareness and funds for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger program, and to encourage personal health and wellness. Calling their mission the Tour de Revs, they reached 65 cities while riding from May 13 to August 20. You can read more about it at www.tourderevs.org.



Richie Byrne headlined the first comedy night at Killmeyer's Old Bavaria Inn in Staten Island. He has previously appeared on Comedy Central and VH1.

1986

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

Petty Officer First Class **Russell C. Tafuri** was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in August, while serving as deputy public affairs officer and leading petty officer assigned to Naval Hospital, Pensacola, Fla. His volunteer activities have included coaching little league and high school soccer and football, contributing to Habitat for Humanity, and mentoring and tutoring for the Take Stock in Students Program, according to the *Santa Rosa Press Gazette*.

1978

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

1979

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

Theodore Sellarole was living in Kill Devil Hills, N.C. In August, he reported to the Wagner communications office that he and his wife were selling all of their possessions in preparation to go sailing around the world.

1980

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

1981

Class Agents: **Joan Sutera**
23 Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway,

NY 07866, 908-901-8382, joan.sutera@pfizer.com **Lauretta Zitano** 2129 Locust Road, Sea Girt, NJ 08750, 732-449-4883

David Douglas was named Saddle Creek Corporation's director of business, based in Raleigh, N.C. Before working for Saddle Creek, he was sales director for Genco Supply Chain Solutions and had held director-level positions at Zomax Corporation, Ingram Micro Corporation, and IBM. Saddle Creek is a third-party logistics services company.

1982

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

Robert Alesi was appointed interim president of Xaverian High School in Brooklyn, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reported. He joined the Xaverian faculty as a math and business teacher in 1983 and has since also served as a coach, guidance counselor, department chair, dean, and principal.

1983

Class Agents: **Donald T. Browne**
31 Tannery Hill Drive, Hamburg,

NJ 07419, 973-827-4584, dbrowne100@aol.com **Linda Appignani Romani** 40008 N. Integrity Trail, Anthem, AZ 85086, 623-551-9136, momofdm@qwest.net

Wendy R. De Shong-Neuhalfen was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for her dedication and leadership in social entrepreneurship. Wendy is CEO and founder of New Direction Services Inc. She established this non-profit organization in 2000 to provide families and seniors who are on a fixed income with healthful food, nutrition education, cooking classes, wellness workshops, literacy services, and multicultural awareness programs. Wendy's previous career experiences have included teaching non-profit management at Long Island University, serving as an executive of the New York City Food Bank, and teaching at the American School of Paris, France, and at New York's Notre Dame Academy.

1985

Class Agents: **Annamarie Lambiasi** 1551 Arden Ave., Staten Island, NY 10312, 718-420-4163, alambias@wagner.edu **Andrew G. Williams** 30 Roberta Street, Apt. G, Key West, FL 33040, 412-471-3311, Andy799062@aol.com

1987

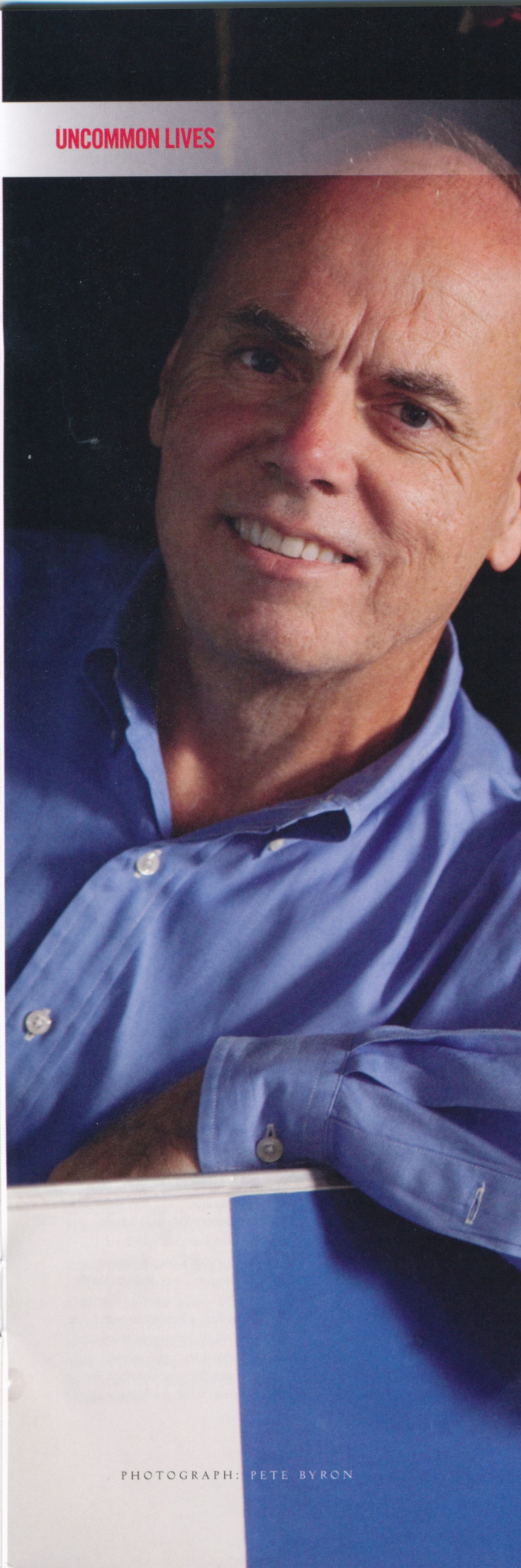
Class Agents: **Meredith Lynch Acacia** 5 Aspen Court, Jackson, NJ 08527, 732-928-8452 **Karen McNeice** 54 Schley Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308, 718-356-7631, kbm1017@aol.com

1988

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

1990

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



Jim Forbes '76

Breadwinner

CLAIM TO FAME: For 33 years, Jim Forbes '76 has helped bring America some of our most iconic indulgences: Wonder Bread and Twinkies. Forbes is senior vice president and general manager of the Northeast business unit of Interstate Brands Corporation, which owns Wonder Bread, Hostess, and Drake's Cakes, among other brands.

OUR DAILY BREAD: As a management trainee for the company in 1976, he began each day at 4 a.m., running delivery routes through some of the city's less savory corners. He remembers one day when someone from Wagner spotted him in Bushwick and said, "What are you doing here, delivering bread?" Today, his territory extends from Maine to northern Virginia and encompasses four bakeries, 55 distribution centers, and 1,200 routes.

WHERE'S THE DOUGH? Bread's stock has plunged since the Atkins diet's rise in the late 1990s, says Forbes. Compound that challenge for a company whose products are known as "the ideal goof on a snack," as Forbes says. Interstate went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2004, finally emerging earlier this year. The company is clawing its way back with new products like Nature's Pride whole-grain breads, and new packaging, like 100-calorie cakes. Even Wonder Bread has a whole-wheat version that maintains the brand's pillowy softness. But: "Wonder white bread is still the leading loaf," Forbes says. "Go figure."

A QUEENS TRADITION: Wonder Bread's Jamaica, Queens, location is the only remaining commercial bakery in the city, having perfumed the neighborhood with the scent of freshly baked breads for the past 80 years – although, Forbes says, after 33 years he doesn't smell it anymore. The Northeast business unit was Interstate's top performer of 2009.

A BORN CAPTAIN: Forbes said he always wanted to be in management; he was co-captain of the Seahawks baseball team and thrived on motivating people and working toward a common goal. After 33 years, he still loves his job: the people contact, the competition. "Unless you're innovative, got the next idea, you're destined to just peter away," he says. "New ideas like Nature's Pride and the 100-calorie cakes keep the company moving forward."

Class Notes

1991

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

1993

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

1994

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

1995

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

Adolph F. Moller '53 sent us a clipping from the July 24 *Richmond [Va.] Times-Dispatch* about actor **Scott Wichmann**, noting that he has seen many shows with Scott and enjoyed his talent. According to the article by Bill Lohmann, entitled "For local actor, life's script includes military service," Scott was scheduled to begin recruit training and technical school with the U.S. Navy Reserve on August 30, two days after wrapping up his one-man show, *Fully Committed*, which he was performing at Hanover Tavern in Richmond. The article described Scott as "a familiar and popular face to Richmond audiences, who have enjoyed his range of stage work, from Shakespeare to all-out comedy, and his genially manic nature." Joining the military has been a long-time ambition of Scott's, inspired by his many family members who have served. He planned to become a logistics specialist in the Navy supply corps.

1996

Class Agent: **Rebecca Ann Wallo Rose**
19350 Old State 180, Clayton,
NY 13624, 315-778-8419,
beckya.rose@gmail.com

1997

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

Erin Flanagan Lind was featured in the *Staten Island Advance* this past summer for performing the role of Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* and (with her husband, Corey) for building Audrey II, the carnivorous plant that is central to the musical. The musical was performed at Wagner's Stage One theater.

1998

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

Jennifer Lepine DiGaetano has been named coach of the women's cross-country team at Maritime College in Throgs Neck, N.Y. She lives in Valley Stream, N.Y., with her husband, Vincent, and daughters Madeleine and Olivia. **Susan Moffat** and her husband, Janne Kouri, were featured this past summer on *Good Morning America* for their amazing story. Susan moved to Los Angeles in 2004 with Janne. On August 6, 2006, he suffered a spinal cord injury after diving into the ocean. The accident left the former star defensive tackle from Georgetown University paralyzed. Working with Dr. Susie Harkema at the Frazier Institute in Louisville, Ky., Janne began to recover through a new therapy called locomotor training. He wanted to return to California and continue his training, only to discover it was not available there. So, he and Susan worked with Dr. Harkema and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to raise funds and open an affordable rehabilitation center in L.A. that offers locomotor training. Susan writes, "Our center, NextStep Fitness, is the first community-based program that offers the cutting-edge locomotor training in a non-hospital-based setting." Learn more about it and watch the *Good Morning America* story at www.nextstepfitness.org.

1999

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

Vinnie Potestivo started his own talent company, Vinnie Potestivo Entertainment. He previously had worked for MTV for about 10 years.

2000

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

2001

Class Agent: **Michael E. Poole**
405 Pinkster Lane, Slingerlands,
NY 12159, 716-764-2835

2002

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

2003

Class Agents: **Cari A. Christopher** 145
Tomb Street, Tiffin, OH 44883,
cchristo@wagner.edu **Robert J. Hamm**
14 College Ave., Staten Island, NY
10314, 718-981-0515,
bobby7770@yahoo.com **Nicole Lopes**
Steed 2218 2nd Ave., Toms River,
NJ 08753, 732-270-3660,
nlopes55@yahoo.com

Dedrick Dye has returned to Wagner to be the assistant coach of the men's basketball team. As a Wagner student, he helped lead the Seahawks to a 21-11 record, Wagner's only NEC championship, and an NCAA Tournament appearance. Dedrick has played professionally in Germany, Portugal, Costa Rica, and in the United States Basketball League.

2004

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

Christine Pagano '04 M'09 was the top female runner in the eighth annual 3.1-mile Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run, with a finishing time of 19:53. Christina is a clinical adjunct instructor in the Spiro School of Nursing at Wagner College.

2005

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

Steve Feigenbaum joined with several friends who are fellow fitness and philanthropy enthusiasts to form a nonprofit fundraising organization, In Motion for a Million. They launched the organization last fall and are training to begin a cross-country trek on rollerblades to raise money for the organizations Huntington's Disease Society of America; Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; We, The World; and United Global Shift. Visit www.inmotionforamillion.org to find out more. A group of 2005 alumni — **Kimberly Kaye**, **Brad Landers**, and **Meredith Packer** — have founded Effable Arts, a non-profit performing arts company comprised of actors, directors, choreographers, photographers, filmmakers, and visual artists. Kimberly writes that William H. Macy has been one of the company's major backers. They staged their first show, *Stop, Collaborate & Listen: 20Nothings*, in early September at the Producers' Club in New York City. **Susan Daly**, **Justin Meyer**, **Mara Gannon**, **Billy Potvin '06**, **Elizabeth Cronin '06**, **Tom McCormick '06**, **Ray Wetmore '06**, and **Kristen Whitmore '00** are also involved in Effable Arts. Learn more at www.effablearts.com. **Jeanine Morris** has received some good publicity for her work as a beauty expert. In an interview on thebeautyoflifeblog.com, she explained that she started working as a beauty assistant for *Cosmopolitan* after graduating from

Wagner. Now she is working in PR for the beauty industry, and she runs a blog, beautysweetspot.com. She was on NBC's *The 10! Show* in Philadelphia as a beauty expert for a segment on eco-friendly fashion and beauty products. In July, she was also on NBC in New York for a segment on "Back-to-School Beauty Buys." **Erin O'Brien** is serving as the fundraising chair for her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi. They are working to raise money for the Alpha Delta Pi Scholarship Fund at Wagner College, launching the project with the inaugural Alpha Delta Pi Breakfast at the Silver Lake Golf Course on Staten Island in September (participants shown below). It raised more than \$1,400 toward this scholarship, which when fully funded will annually recognize an ADPi member for her leadership, scholarship, and community service. ADPi plans to make the breakfast an annual event. To find out more, send an e-mail to adpischolarship@aol.com.



Alpha Delta Pi sisters had a scholarship fundraiser at Silver Lake Golf Course.

2006

Class Agents: **Leandra Aguirre** 20 23-49 31st Road, Astoria, NY 11102, 617-645-4859 **Michael A. Armato** 16 Tice Lane, Apartment D, Glenmont, NY 12077, 917-963-3062, michael.a.armato@gmail.com **Charles Bender** 18 Klondike Ave., Stamford, CT 06907, 603-759-7439, charles.bender@credit-suisse.com **Dana Guariglia** 312 Tysens Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306, 718-980-1848, daynez74@aol.com

Michelle Lynn Lerner M'06 married Andrew Stephen Scudera in August. She is pursuing a Master of Science in elementary education at Touro College, Manhattan. Andrew is the owner of Goodfellas Restaurant in Castleton Corners, Staten Island.

2007

Julie Gardner married Matthew Hemelstrand on July 25 in Lake Tahoe, Nev. **Ryan Lammer** was featured in the *Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail* in September. He's on his second tour with *Irving Berlin's I Love a Piano*, a musical revue of Berlin's most famous songs.

2008

Class Agent: **Stephanie Savoia-Pearl** 403 Elm Street, Cranford, NJ 07016, 908-499-3964, stephanie.savoiapearl@gmail.com

2009

Abby Albair is working as the editor of a weekly newspaper covering five towns in central Connecticut. **Haley Carlucci** was a member of the March 19 opening-night cast of *West Side Story* on Broadway, which in September received the Actors' Equity Association's Third Annual Advisory Committee on Chorus Affairs (ACCA) Award for Outstanding Broadway Chorus. **Meredith Leon** is part of Teach for America, an AmeriCorps program that places recent college graduates in schools in inner cities or in lower-income communities. She taught in Brooklyn over the summer, and in the fall she began teaching fourth grade at Elm City College Prep in New Haven, Conn. Because of the school's emphasis on preparing for college, she has named her classroom "Wagner College." "My students are addressed not as Ms. Leon's fourth-grade class, but as Wagner Scholars," she writes. "I am so proud to have the opportunity to share such a rich and important part of my life, my four years at Wagner, with my students." **Lia Papazoglou** is part of the NYC Civic Corps, "a Peace Corps-like program that has mobilized 193 people from across the country to work in the city for the next year," according to the *Daily News*.

Wagner at the Fringe

Three plays written by Wagner College alumni were accepted into the 2009 New York International Fringe Festival – and one took home a top prize. ● *Devil Boys from Beyond* by **Buddy Thomas** '91 was named an Outstanding Play of the festival, which bills itself as the largest multi-arts festival in North America. Writing for *TimeOut New York*, Adam Feldman called the campy sci-fi spoof "one of the most entertaining shows I have ever seen at the Fringe Festival" and praised the show's cast, including **Paul Pecorino** '92. You may remember reading about Thomas in "The Great Wagner Way" feature in the summer issue of *Wagner Magazine*. View clips and read more reviews here: www.wagner.edu/news/node/1254. ● Also appearing in the festival were *Sadie, Sadie* by **Ben Izzo** '08 and *Thirty Minutes or Less* by **Jonathan G. Galvez** '06. Many other Wagnerians were involved in those productions: *Sadie* featured **Lilly Tobin** '09, **E. J. Marotta** '08, **Tom McVey** '11, and Wagner theatre adjunct faculty member Amy Williams; **Jonathan Deutsch** '05 M'08 was the stage manager for *Thirty Minutes*, which featured **John Scamardella** '97.



Robert Berliner as Gregory Graham and **Paul Pecorino** '92 as Mattie Van Buren investigate an alien landing in the backward town of Lizard Lick, Florida, in the Fringe Festival production of *Devil Boys from Beyond* by Buddy Thomas '91.

In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family

ALUMNI

Rev. David C. Gaise '35
Rev. John S. Klc '40
Rev. John E. Rohrbaugh '46
Mrs. Ella Reiss Biangardi '47
Mrs. Doris R. Larsen Mims '47
Mr. Charles A. Kaldin '48
Mr. Frank Collura '49
Mr. Jean L. Imhof '49
Mrs. Mary O'Leary Mehl '49
Mr. George W. Burns '50
Mr. Harold "Hal" Carstens '50
Mr. Theodore Lovington '51 M'61
Mr. Harry A. Volz '51
Dr. Peter C. Zaneteas '51
Mr. John Deane '53
Mrs. Elaine Hendricksen Meluso '53
Mrs. Elleneva Kamp Weening '53
Mrs. Carol A. Hieronymus Chapman '54
Ms. Elizabeth Meyer Oberg '54
Mrs. Helen Haase Schult '54
Mrs. Sheila V. "Ann" Byrne Holman '56
Mr. Charles A. Nebauer '57
Mrs. Evelyn W. Vocke Suchting '63
Mrs. Judith Fritzsche Schwimmer '65
Dr. Gregory P. Knapp '66 H'00
Mrs. Dorothy R. Reinertsen Olsen M'67
Mr. Richard A. Johnsen '68
Mrs. Lynda J. Geiple Ferree '69
Mr. Adrian H. von Hassell '76
Ms. Cynthia Wood '78
Ms. Maureen T. Tarpey '85
Mr. Steven A. Miller '88

FACULTY AND FRIENDS

Professor Christopher L. Catt
Mrs. Shirley E. Codomo
Mr. George Cramer
Mrs. Carol Jaeger
Mr. Elmer Jorgensen
Professor Walter W. Kanzler
Mr. Richard Travis

*Deaths reported to Wagner College,
May 16–October 14, 2009.*

Gregory P. Knapp '66 H'00

*Contributed financial
expertise as a trustee*

Dr. Gregory P. Knapp '66 H'00, lifetime member of the Wagner College Board of Trustees, died on July 24.

Born in Teaneck, New Jersey, Greg Knapp played running back for St. Cecilia High School and for Wagner College. He was a member of Delta Nu fraternity. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in economics and business administration, he accepted a commission in the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1966 to 1969 as a captain and company commander in Vietnam.

An investment banker, Knapp spent much of his career working in municipal finance. He applied his knowledge of finance and business as a highly valued member of



Wagner College's Board of Trustees. The College awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2000; two years later, he was named a lifetime trustee.

"Greg was a leader who made a difference during Wagner's tough times," says President Guarasci. "His life gave witness to the values of leadership, generosity, achievement, patriotism, and deep friendship."

Survivors include his wife, Patricia; their children, Terrence, Gregory Jr., and Meeghan; and two grandchildren.

Harold "Hal" Carstens '50

*Former trustee was a
hobby industry leader*

Harold "Hal" Carstens '50, former member of the Wagner College Board of Trustees and 1976 Alumni Achievement Award recipient, died on June 23.

A New Jersey native, Carstens served in the Philippines during World War II before attending college at Wagner and Fairleigh Dickinson. He was the publisher and president of Carstens Publications Inc., which publishes three internationally distributed magazines — *Railroad Model Craftsman*, *Flying Models*, and

Railfan & Railroad — and books in the model hobby and railroad fields. Carstens' 1999 book, *150 Years of Train Models*, covers the history of the model railroad hobby and industry. He was a leader in the hobby industry and in model train collecting, serving in many professional organizations and receiving multiple awards for his work and expertise. His model train collection is part of the Abby Aldrich Folk Art Museum at Colonial Williamsburg. He was also an avid amateur photographer, and his photos from his days as a Wagner student were featured in the fall 2008 issue of *Wagner Magazine*.

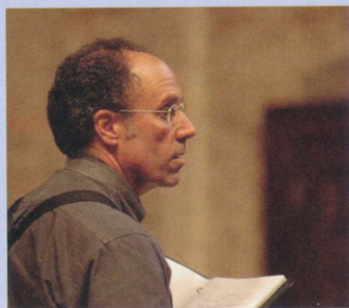
Survivors include his wife, Phyllis, four children, and 10 grandchildren.

Professor Christopher Catt

Teacher and director's creativity and humor inspired theater lovers throughout the city

Christopher Catt, 59, associate professor of theater, died on June 30.

For the past 14 years, Catt taught theater performance classes at Wagner and directed 23 Main Stage productions, including some of the program's most acclaimed shows, such as *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Jesus*



Christ Superstar, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Tommy*, which he was reviving for the fall 2009 season.

A graduate of UCLA's Master of Fine Arts program, Catt worked for 25 years in New York theater, directing more than 175 plays and musicals with notable off-Broadway credits. He served as producer and director for the St. Bart's

Players for eight years, and he became a prominent and popular presence in Staten Island theater while serving as artistic director of the performing arts program at Snug Harbor Cultural Center for five years.

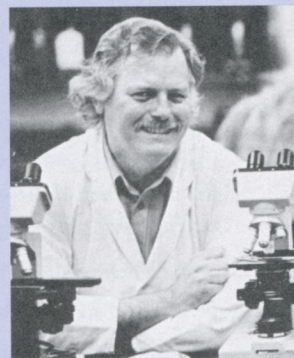
Students, alumni, colleagues, and audiences appreciated his enormous creativity, boundless energy, and tremendous humor — especially his brilliance in appreciating, performing, and teaching physical comedy. "He nurtured talent passionately, no matter what imperfect package it came in, and insisted you find the lighter side to just about everything," said former student Kimberly Kaye '05.

Survivors include his wife, Olivia, and son, Charles.

Professor Walter Kanzler

Specialist in animal behavior and bioethics shared his love of knowledge for 35 years

Walter Kanzler, 70, who served as a member of Wagner's biology faculty from 1967 until 2002, died on June 26.



A lifelong resident of Jersey City, Kanzler held a bachelor's degree in biology, master's degrees in counseling psychology and in zoology, and a Ph.D. in animal behavior. A highly skilled biologist, Kanzler was named a NASA Fellow, received funding from the National Science Foundation, and served as a senior research assistant at the National Center for Bioethics at Drew University. He taught courses in basic biology, animal behavior, mammalogy, and ornithology, and he pioneered the teaching of bioethics at Wagner.



For Kanzler, teaching was not work but a pleasure. Students and colleagues remember him as a tough teacher with stringent standards who had a passion for pursuing and sharing knowledge and who cared deeply about them. The students who loved his classes called themselves "Kanzler groupies" and earned "Kanzler University diplomas," signed by his cat.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Gerdi Kanzler, and cousins Ute and Ingo Hass.

David C. Gaise '35

Pastor and trustee

Rev. David C. Gaise '35, former member of the Wagner College Board of Trustees, died on September 13.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Gaise attended Hartwick Seminary

after graduating from Wagner College. He was ordained in 1938 and served in churches in Central Bridge and Albany, New York, before being called to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kingston. He served there from 1947 until his retirement in 1977, while also contributing much to the

community at large and to Wagner as a trustee from 1956 to 1970.

In 1971, as Trygve Skarsten '49 relates in this issue ("Undercover in East Berlin," pages 24–28), he played a memorable role in the Bregenz program. "He really cared about Wagner College," said Skarsten. "It was one of the reasons he and his

wife went with us to Bregenz and East Germany."

Survivors include his daughters, **Carol Crews** '62 and **Jean Swedberg** '64.

Tough Business

Learning by Doing in Alaska By Robert Fontaine '09

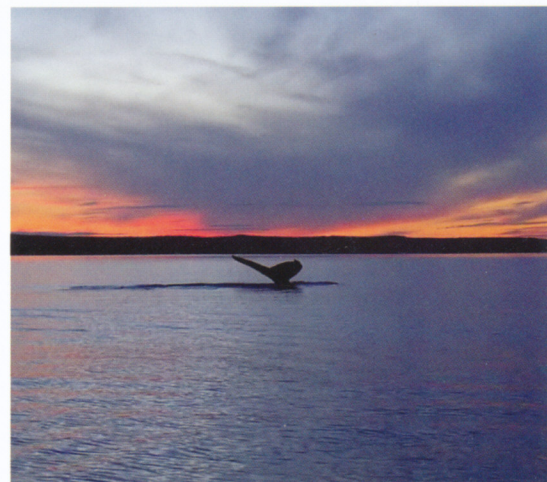
On May 6, I boarded a flight bound for Alaska for my second season working in the commercial fishing industry. I started with several goals in mind. First, I wanted to complete this internship and earn the credit I needed to finish my degree. Next, I wanted to see more of the beautiful state of Alaska. Lastly, I wanted to determine if commercial fishing could be a career path for me. When I arrived in Anchorage the following morning, I could hardly wait to get started.

My boss, Frank, and fellow senior deckhand, T.J., picked me up at the airport. After collecting the supplies we would need for our three-month fishing adventure, we drove five hours south to Homer, where Frank's boat was dry docked.

The following day, I learned a common lesson in this field of work: things do not always go as planned. While inspecting the *Amber Kiah*, Frank's meticulously maintained 32-foot aluminum haul boat, we discovered that it needed repairs. Instead of leaving right away, we spent a week working on the boat and finished just in time to launch before local tidal conditions would have delayed us for another week.

We began with a five-day transit south to our first fishing grounds, at Akutan Island in the Aleutians. This part of the trip was possibly the most scenic of the season. While rotating wheel watches, reading, prepping gear, and playing cribbage, we sighted humpback whales, sea lions, and packs of sea otters. Dall porpoises

accompanied us in the wake of our bow, darting in every direction. To our starboard side, the Alaskan Peninsula and the Aleutian chain slowly passed by, resembling snow-capped Rocky Mountains relocated into the ocean.



“Hard work is a humbling experience.”

In the fishing district surrounding Akutan Island, our goal was to catch 8,000 pounds of halibut. We had arrived

early, hoping to catch Frank's quota quickly and move on to Bristol Bay for salmon season. However, we quickly found out that our designs were not practical. For weeks, tidal and weather conditions were against us, keeping us docked or only allowing us to fish half days. Fortunately, after we had almost lost all hope, the fish arrived. By the middle of June, we were putting in full days and catching 1,000 to 1,500 pounds per day. One memorable day toward the end of this run, we landed a single halibut that weighed approximately 200 pounds. When we finished off-loading and departed from Akutan Island, we were all excited and relieved to move on to Bristol Bay for salmon season.

After a four-day scenic commute along the western coast of the Alaskan Peninsula, we arrived in the Nushagak district of Bristol Bay. Along the way, we stopped at False Pass and at Pilot Point to change our fishing equipment. We fished in the Nushagak district for a little over a week and quickly accumulated

45,000 pounds of sockeye salmon. The fish were running early, and the weather was phenomenal. We were off to a good start.

Frank then decided that we would transfer to the Ugashik district, near Pilot Point, because there were fewer boats fishing that district and the possibility of an early run of sockeye. His plan worked out great, and the fish were running steadily into the middle of July. On one extremely productive day, we caught 20,000 pounds. When the days of non-stop work with three to four hours of sleep a night were finally finished, we had caught approximately 155,000 pounds of salmon. We were all very happy and relieved that a good season had come to an end.

While flying back to the big city, I spent a lot of time reflecting on my experiences. I knew for sure that I had accomplished my goal of seeing a lot more of the state of Alaska. I got to see and do things that most people only get a small glimpse of while watching Discovery Channel on television.

I also found the answer as to whether life as a commercial fisherman is the career path that I'm supposed to follow. Although I'll never forget my experiences and feel humbled by the hard work I was exposed to, becoming a career commercial fisherman is no longer in consideration for me. Deckhands have to

work extremely hard for every dollar they earn, and it's difficult to arrange enough jobs annually to make sufficient money to live on.

Witnessing Frank

run his operation this year, I realized being a boat captain and a small business owner in this field is also a very difficult and stressful lifestyle. Even if you're able to afford a boat and obtain all the licenses and permits required, there is no guarantee you'll be able to catch enough fish to cover those expenses and all of the other overhead.

However, I would never write off returning to Alaska some day to put another commercial fishing season under my belt and experience again that amazingly beautiful state.



A native of Annandale, Virginia, Robert Fontaine '09 attended Wagner College with assistance from the G.I. Bill, after serving four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He graduated in 2009 with a B.S. in business administration and is still seeking his career path.



TEST YOUR METTLE Answers

Answers to the quiz on page 21, and names of the alumni whose favorite quotes these are.

1. C; Nancy Behling Dillon 2. G; Burton Vincent 3. F; Kurt Landgraf 4. E; Kristie Scherrer (Note: Danforth was co-founder of the American Youth Foundation) 5. A; Louise Kaufman 6. B; Keith Stith 7. H; Donna Lupardo 8. D; James Hickey

WAGNER COLLEGE

Unflappable

Emily Visnovsky '10 took this photo in Paris in the spring of this year, while participating in Wagner's new study abroad program with St. John's University in Rome. "I took the photo right outside of Notre Dame," she says. "I first noticed a huge swarm of birds on a patch of grass, and then my eyes caught sight of the man walking to sit down on the bench. The birds were following him and, as you can see in the photo, settling on his shoulders and hands." Visnovsky entered this image into the study abroad photo contest. **Read about Wagner's study abroad programs on page 8.**

