

SUMMER 2015

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER



*Celebrating the greenest,
bluest day of the year*

The Colors of Commencement

Page 12

Contents

Wagner Magazine | Summer 2015

VOL. 13, NO. 1

FEATURES

12

The Colors of Commencement

See the stories of Wagner's happy graduates written in the colors of their gowns on the College's biggest day of the year.

18

Buried Stories

Seventy years have passed since Nazi concentration camps were liberated, and we are still learning amazing tales of rescue and bravery.

22

The Tigress

After a devastating cancer diagnosis, Cynthia DiBartolo '84 has clawed her way back into business, with a fierce commitment to the social good.





DEPARTMENTS

- 2 **From the President**
- 3 **From the Editor**
- 4 **From Our Readers**
- 6 **Upon the Hill**
- 28 **Alumni Link**
- 32 **Class Notes**
- 43 **In Memoriam**
- 44 **Reflections**

Bachelor of Arts

One graduate celebrated the occasion with a bejeweled mortarboard. See more commencement color on pages 12–17.



From the President

The Class of 2015 Inspires Hope



THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR has just begun, allowing us to welcome 423 new first-year students from 28 states and 15 countries to Grymes Hill. It's an exciting time in the life of the College.

But even as we anticipate the accomplishments of the class of 2019, let's take one

more look back at the remarkable students who crossed the stage to receive their well-earned diplomas in May. (Please turn to page 12 to see a photo feature celebrating "The Colors of Commencement.") Wes Moore, acclaimed author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Other Wes Moore*, gave a moving address, telling the new graduates that it was now up to them to make their mark. I am pleased to say that they are off to a good start.

The class of 2015 exemplifies strong academic achievement, solid leadership, and sustained commitment to public service and civic engagement. We recognized many of its members for their scholarly research, academic presentations, performances, civic leadership, and athletic achievements.

The class hailed from 31 states and eight countries. Most came from the traditional route of high school to college, seeking a welcoming place, an engaged campus, a caring faculty, and New York City. But some arrived from different roads — such as Thomas Goodheart of Staten Island. Before coming to Wagner, Thomas served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan. A member of Marine Helicopter Squadron 262 (known as the Flying Tigers), he contributed to relief efforts after the 2011 tsunami that hit the main island of Japan. Thomas graduated with a double major in economics and business administration / finance.

Another example is Sandra Minchala, a first-generation American whose family emigrated from Ecuador. While at Wagner, Sandra maintained a four-year GPA of 3.95 in chemistry, while completing scientific field work at the Mayo Clinic and publishing abstracts as a primary author at professional conferences such as the American Geological Society. (Read more about her on page 6.)

Abeer Mishal, another first-generation American whose parents are Palestinian, truly became a global leader while

at Wagner. As an IMPACT scholar, president of the Muslim Student Association, a high school

democracy coach with Generation Citizen, a volunteer tutor at El Centro del Inmigrante in Staten Island, she used her intelligence and grit across the various cultures that populate Wagner and New York City. She received many special scholarships, not the least of which was from the Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women.

Each graduate's story is unique and very special, and I wish I could tell you every one. Departing Wagner, our graduates were prepared to embark on many new adventures. For the second consecutive year, a Wagner student has earned a Fulbright award (see page 7 for more about that). In addition, our students were headed for graduate study at places like the Cornell Veterinary School, Ohio State, New York University, University of California, Washington and Lee, Clemson, Columbia, and American, among others.

Others were headed to impressive positions at a variety of prestigious organizations that include PriceWaterhouse Coopers, JPMorgan Chase, British Petroleum, the Peace Corps, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Disney Cruise Line, among others.

Sharing all of the accomplishments of this senior class makes it clear that its members leave an indelible mark on this campus, boding well for their future and ours. Their commitment to excellence and to ethical leadership is paving the way to solving the seemingly intractable challenges of poverty, ethnic and racial injustice, and environmental crises.

Today's young leaders seek solutions rather than becoming mired in simple critiques or skepticism. Working with them leaves me feeling very, very hopeful — a hope we can all share and celebrate as we work together toward a better Wagner College in this new year.

Richard Guarasci
President

"Today's young leaders seek solutions rather than becoming mired in simple critiques or skepticism."

From the Editor

You See Me ... Every Time

Almost as soon as the performance began, I found myself choking back tears — an unexpected surge of emotion provoked by the powerful images, sounds, faces, and words I was experiencing in a stuffy room at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

It was the annual show put on by the Sound of Port Richmond, a community theater program started in 2013 by Wagner College, Imagining America, and local residents. Only 12 days earlier, this troupe of 15 non-professional actors had started meeting to develop this performance. They did not (yet) have a script, but they did have a mission. “It’s about bringing forward those difficult things that we don’t talk about much,” said Diana G. Daniels, one of the performers and Sound of Port Richmond organizers. “But mostly we want it to be entertaining.”

From its inception, the Sound of Port Richmond has been dedicated to promoting conversation about challenging issues via artistic self-expression. In a year fraught with racial tension, set off by incidents such as the death of Eric Garner only half a mile from the ferry terminal, race and class were the obvious topics of conversation for the Sound of Port Richmond. So, on July 17, 2015, a year to the day after Garner’s death, this volunteer crew of white and black and Hispanic, young and old and middle-aged, offered their reflections upon racial dynamics and their hopes for a better day.

The show’s title, *Every Time You See Me*, borrowed the first words Garner said on the famous video capturing his final moments. “Every time you see me, you want to mess with me,”

Garner complained to the police officers who confronted him. The show did not take a point of view on that specific incident, but reflected on the larger resonance of those simple words: the universal human desire to be seen — that is, to be understood, not stereotyped and dismissed.

After many stories and skits — in turns funny and heartbreaking, and always authentic — the show concluded with a powerful ensemble piece. Facing each other in pairs, they first repeated the phrases, “See me,” and “Every time.” Then suddenly, one person grabbed the other in a chokehold-like grasp. After a few long and painful seconds, however, they transformed this violent gesture into a gentle embrace. Together, the cast declared, “I can breathe.”

All of our commencement speakers this year also emphasized that all lives matter, and that appreciating each other allows people to “breathe” — to flourish and thrive. Wagner’s new Citizen Alum video series (wagner.edu/citizen-alum) showcases the work of alumni who live this ideal — people like Nadia Lopez ’99, a school principal in Brownsville, Brooklyn (see page 35), and many more. I hope you will read and watch these stories, and feel pride in how the Wagner family is helping our human family realize their full potential.

Laura Barlament
EDITOR, WAGNER MAGAZINE



On the Cover

President Guarasci awards a BA in Spanish to Emily Shaner. She wears sashes representing her membership in the sorority Tau Kappa Sigma and her study abroad semester in Argentina. Active in the Wagner choir and the Port Richmond Partnership, she has started her first job teaching Spanish and ESL at Douglas High School in Massachusetts.

PHOTOGRAPH: VINNIE AMESSÉ

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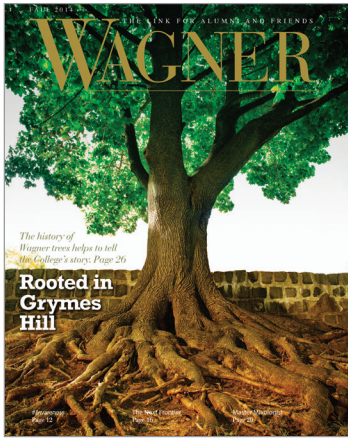
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From Our Readers



Arboreal Memories

I just read the article “Rooted in Grymes Hill” in the fall 2014 edition. Fascinating! I recall spending many a pleasant afternoon under the trees on the Oval, and writing my best paper under the trees behind Cunard Hall. Lee Manchester did a wonderful job of bringing the past to life. Not only was I able to see the planting of the first maple trees, but I was able to visualize my own time at Wagner. I truly enjoyed the trip back in time. Thanks!

Rich Curtin '85
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

I enjoyed the article by Lee Manchester, but was looking forward to reading about the circle of Japanese flowering cherry trees which graced the oval behind Cunard Hall in the early

“ I recall spending many a pleasant afternoon under the trees on the Oval. ”

1960s. I think they were planted in '62 or '63, and they continued to be the backdrop for photos of clubs, sororities, and couples in love throughout my stay on campus. I believe they were a gift, but I no longer recall from whom or for what reason.

Kathy Block Rock '65
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



Editor's Note:
We have not located any information yet about the planting of those cherry trees, eight of which still grace the Cunard oval with magnificent spring blossoms. On pages 224–225 of the 1962 yearbook, you can see old photos of them in full bloom. Presumably they were planted some years earlier.

Since publication of “Rooted in Grymes Hill,” Wagner Archivist Lisa Holland located an additional tidbit of Seahawk arboreal lore. The minutes of the April 1952 meeting of the Wagner Guild, for which Guild Hall was named, record that President Walter C. Langsam’s wife, Julia Stubblefield Langsam, announced that she was buying a honey locust tree to be planted in front of Guild Hall. In a charming detail, the minutes add, “She asked but one thing: that the tree be named ‘Walter.’” Today, four honey locust trees stand on the patio of Guild Hall, all of an age consistent with planting in the mid-Fifties.



Morning Routines

I am responding to the article in the fall issue of *Wagner* magazine, written by Ethel Lee-Miller, entitled “The Heel.” I loved it because it was well written and I loved it for its quirky interpersonal details between a husband, wife, and food. Ethel’s love affair with breakfast mirrors mine. I too have a husband who enjoys capitalizing on this particular facet of my personality (Jeff Safford '56). Our friends are somewhat dumbfounded to learn that every evening after clearing the table of dinner dishes, he or I set the table for breakfast, complete with attractive place mats, cloth napkins, and proper place settings. Hence, each morning we arrive at a dining room table that invites us to

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.

Laura Barlament, Editor
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start our day fueled in a satisfying way. We sit down and partake.

But Ethel Lee-Miller's article also caught my fancy because it was centered on breakfast in bed, an experience I enjoy and am gifted a few times each month. Not many of my women friends feel as comfortable as I, sitting up and eating in bed. Maybe one has to be a writer or avid reader, two activities carried out nicely while nibbling on food and sipping coffee, propped up by pillows. I have appreciated the routine so much, that one morning I wrote a poem entitled, "Breakfast in Bed." I am sending it along as my response to the article I so enjoyed in your last issue.

June Billings Safford '59
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

Editor's Note: To read June Billings Safford's poem "Breakfast in Bed," please visit wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.

Larger-Than-Life Couple

Margery Mayer Steen and her husband, Dr. Sigvart Steen, were immensely important in my life at Wagner, and helped shape me as a professional classical musician. I remember both of them vividly — impossible not to! — and will be thankful to both of them for as long as I live. Reading of her passing in the recent *Wagner* magazine, I thought: Wow, all across America, and probably beyond, her voice students, and Dr. Steen's choir members, are remembering this larger-than-life couple, with great affection, respect, and thankfulness. We were lucky to know them.

Vicki Heins-Shaw '71
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

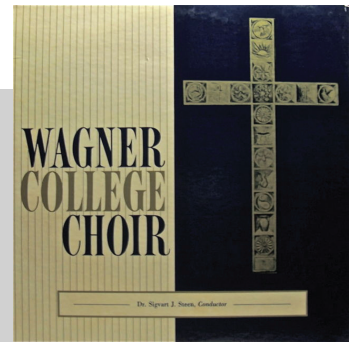
Editor's Note: We heard from several other alumni, paying tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Steen's positive influence on their lives through voice lessons and choir experiences, and contributing to the Sigvart J. Steen Scholarship Fund at Wagner.

Alternative History

Motivated by a photograph of Wagner students holding old copies of *The Wagnerian* student newspaper (fall 2014, "The *Wagnerian*' at 80," page 11), I went rummaging around and found some interesting *Wagnerian* history that I doubt anyone is aware of. From December 1964 to May 1965, an alternate paper, *The Observer*, existed on campus, and not under the auspices of the College.

Richard "Dick" Mollette '67
CUSTER, WASHINGTON

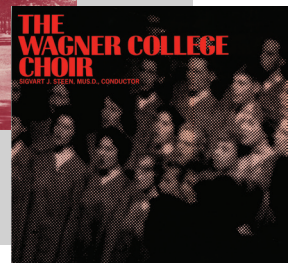
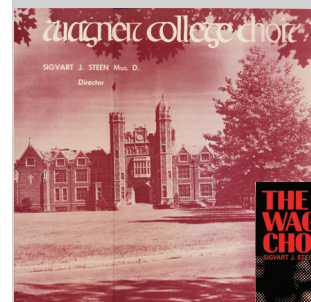
Editor's Note: Thanks to Mr. Mollette for donating his copies of the five issues of The Observer to the College archives. The Observer began publication in December 1964 in response to student discontent with conditions at the College, and the lack of coverage of such issues in The Wagnerian. It also filled the gap when The Wagnerian was briefly suspended from publication. The Observer was funded by donations and advertising.



SOUNDS FOUND, STORIES SOUGHT

We have recently unearthed three vinyl LP recordings of the Wagner College Choir under the direction of Sigvart Steen — from 1956, 1964 and 1968 — which we will post online for free downloads during the College's annual Founders Week celebrations this October. To accompany the digital release of these historic recordings, we would like to share the remembrances of Wagner College Choir members. When did you first hear the choir? Whose faces — and voices — do you still remember from the choir? What was your most memorable choir-tour experience? Tell us all about it!

Send your remembrances to lee.manchester@wagner.edu.





Upon the Hill

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



Chemistry for Humanity

Wagner contributes to international child health study

WHILE PROFESSOR ALAUDDIN was away in Bangladesh this summer for his Fulbright assignment (see “On the Move”), he left his lab in the capable hands of Sandra Minchala ’15, a recent chemistry graduate. (They are shown above on a study trip in Bangladesh.)

Alauddin is a partner in a research initiative, WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) Benefits, centered at the University of California, Berkeley, and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Its purpose is to improve the health and development of children in poor, rural areas of the world.

Environmental enteropathy — i.e., intestinal disease — is a widespread problem in the developing world. Its victims cannot absorb nutrients properly, causing a vicious cycle of deteriorating health. Seventeen thousand children under the age of 5 die every day, and in one-third of those cases,

undernutrition is the cause of death.

The Alauddin lab is testing thousands of urine samples from children in rural Kenya and Bangladesh to measure the extent of the problem. So far, Minchala says, all of the samples reveal the presence of the disease.

The next step in the WASH Benefits project will be to test variables like access to clean water, handwashing practices, and nutrition, and find out which interventions provide the biggest health benefits.

“I’m very humbled to be working on these projects,” says Minchala, whose goal is to follow in Alauddin’s footsteps of using chemistry to solve public health problems. “I can’t wait to start on my own projects, like Dr. Alauddin. I will do whatever I can to help from the chemical aspect. It gives me more drive to finish my Ph.D. and do what I have to do.”

A Smart Investment

New guidebook touts Wagner’s “Return-on-Education” value

WAGNER COLLEGE was ranked among the 209 best-value colleges in America by the Princeton Review in a new

guidebook, *Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Best Value Colleges and What It Takes to Get In*, released in February.

Wagner College has been listed in the Princeton Review’s primary college guidebook, *Best Colleges*, since it was first published in 2004. The new *Colleges That Pay You Back* guide is designed to address two particular concerns of college applicants and their parents:

paying for college, and graduating with a good job and paycheck.

To address these questions, the Princeton Review developed a “Return-on-Education” rating that measures 40 weighted data points — everything from academics, cost, financial aid, and student debt to statistics on graduation rates, alumni salaries, and job satisfaction.

Quote Unquote

Wagner students see each other for more than what we do, but for who we are. ... We all have a piece of that same Wagner heart.



Heather Wolf '15
SPIRO SCHOLAR,
COMMENCEMENT
2015

On the Move

Student and professor receive Fulbright grants to teach abroad



THIS YEAR, for the second year in a row, a Wagner student was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant as an English Teaching Assistant.

Alexandria “Allie” Sethares ’15, a business administration major, is spending 2015–16 in South Korea teaching English at a middle school. In addition, Mohammad Alauddin, professor of chemistry, received his second Fulbright grant, a specialist grant in chemistry education for Bangladesh.

Alauddin is developing curricula and faculty training at the Independent University’s Life Sciences Division in Dhaka, Bangladesh. A native of Bangladesh, Alauddin has long been engaged in applying science to the public health challenges of Bangladesh — in particular, water pollution and indoor air pollution. He taught at the University of

Dhaka for a semester in 2004 on his first Fulbright grant.

Sethares began her year abroad in June, with a six-week intensive language and teacher training course. She will spend the academic year as a teaching assistant at Yeongheung middle school in Mokpo, about 200 miles south of Seoul.

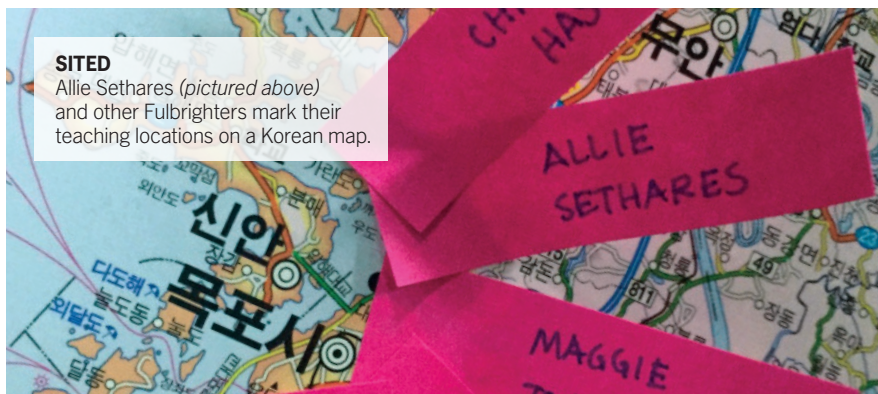
Sethares became interested in Korean culture through an exchange student she met at her high school in East Falmouth, Massachusetts. “[She] brought me a CD copy of all the ‘K-pop’ music she owned,” Sethares recalls. “I fell down the rabbit hole of experiencing another culture through indulging in its media.”

Hearing about her teaching assignment, Sethares says, was thrilling and brings her back full circle. “This is a city surrounded by beautiful islands but still has hiking mountains, is known for its seafood, and reminds me so much of my childhood on the Cape,” she wrote on her blog.

 You can follow Sethares’s adventures in South Korea at littlebluepassport.wordpress.com.



THE SEAHAWKS women’s water polo team won the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship and qualified for the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row; and, for the first time in program history, they ended the season in the Collegiate Water Polo Association National Top 20 Poll (they tied for #18). They achieved much in the classroom as well, ending the season with the highest team GPA in the nation for the fourth year in a row. *Shown above: Goalie Emily Riddle '16.*



SITED

Allie Sethares (pictured above) and other Fulbrighters mark their teaching locations on a Korean map.

First the Facts . . .

1

DAY OF GIVING, DECEMBER 2, 2014, WITH AN ONLINE CAMPAIGN TO MATCH TWO \$25,000 CHALLENGE GRANTS.

314

GIVERS TO THE WAGNER FUND ON THAT DAY.


From Wagner Plan to Wagner Purpose

Video series captures stories of inspiring alumni, in their own words

WAGNER COLLEGE has joined a group of 30 colleges and universities devoted to showing off stories illustrating the ideal of an alumni network for good. The project is called Citizen Alum, and its goal is to promote

alumni as “allies in education — crucial partners in building multigenerational communities of active citizenship and active learning.”

At Wagner, Heather Wolf '15 has been focused on the project since the beginning of this year, capturing on video the stories of exceptional alumni who are civically engaged in their communities, whether personally or professionally.

 [Watch these inspiring stories at wagner.edu/citizen-alum](http://wagner.edu/citizen-alum), and [nominate more candidates whose stories deserve to be told.](#)



RICH NEGRIN '88, Philadelphia deputy mayor, is among those featured by Citizen Alum.

Major Excitement

New program in film and media studies has students abuzz

THERE'S A LOT OF BUZZ on campus about the new major in film and media studies, says Laura Morowitz, chair of the Department of Art and Art History, in which the program is housed.

Created by the Wagner faculty last year, the major was launched in January with the hiring of a new faculty member, Sarah Friedland, assistant professor and director of the film and media major.

The excitement is audible in the voices of students like Shane Ertter '16, who took Friedland's Introduction to Video Production during the spring semester.

“I'm taking this course and am interested in this major because I see the value of media and communications in everything we do,” he says. “I think the film and media studies major is going to help a lot of students convey their stories and open them up to a whole new world.”

It's not just the students who are excited; Friedland is equally enthused. “Building a new program is a thrilling and exciting project anywhere; it's a creative endeavor,” she says. And there are several factors that

make it especially exciting at Wagner, she adds, such as the involvement of departments across the College, the nexus of civic engagement and documentary filmmaking, and the prospects for international exchanges.

A documentary filmmaker as well as an educator, Friedland taught video production part-time at Wagner previously and loved the experience. “The students were so excited and invested in their projects,” she says. “You don't always have that experience as an educator, so it was really refreshing.”

Wagner's program in film and media studies is distinctive for a few reasons, says Morowitz. First is the focus on documentary filmmaking. The major was designed to promote that type of filmmaking not only because it fits well with the College's existing facilities, but also because it meshes so well with its mission of civic engagement. Documentary filmmakers often come to the medium from a background in journalism, social justice, and history, Morowitz notes.

Friedland strongly agrees. “As a filmmaker and a documentarian, most of my films

are focused on communities, and I'm focused on doing that in a responsible and meaningful way. And there's a lot of space to bring that into the program here,” she says.

Film's interdisciplinary nature is also a good fit for the interdisciplinary core of the Wagner Plan curriculum, and the widespread interest of Wagner faculty in film.

The film and media studies major offers three concentrations: filmmaking/digital arts, focused on production and creation; film studies and criticism, focused on film theory; and media studies, which incorporates the context of civic engagement, non-profit, and community-based careers.

IN FOCUS Professor Sarah Friedland gives Shane Ertter '16 a lesson on operating a video camera.



129,479

DOLLARS RAISED TO
HELP WAGNER GROW.

... Then
the Quiz!



What was the most successful
short fundraiser in Wagner history?

ANSWER ON PAGE 11



2 The Wagner groups took more than 2,000 pairs of gloves and many sharps containers (as in this red box) for needle disposal.

3 Debra Thorne '14 M'15 prepares individual kits.

4 Meagan Maniscalco '14 M'15 sorts urinalysis supplies.



1

2

3

4

5

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cunard Hall, Clinical Skills Room

WAGNER'S physician assistant program has started an initiative called Project PAC (Providing Access to Care). Here, they are packing their supplies for trips to rural areas of Belize and Guatemala. It takes about a month to organize and pack 2,000 pounds of donated medical supplies.

1 Mark Beyer '14 M'15 holds a sack of syringes used to test for diabetes.

5 Elizabeth Felter '14 M'15 labels supplies.

If you're interested in learning more or donating supplies, visit wagner.edu/physician-assistant.

Quote Unquote

It is now our task to ... celebrate and appreciate our differences, taking into consideration that each of us is one of a kind and our voice is essential.



Kerri Lee Alexander '15
CLASS OF 2015
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER



PLAYING HIS PART

Charles Taylor often attends Wagner College Theatre shows and contributes to the Wagner community.

Life's Learning Opportunities

Heritage Society member
Charles Taylor '64 is expanding them to others

"PART OF LIFE is learning how other people live, and the difference between your culture and their culture," says Charles Taylor '64.

Taylor traveled the world during his 37-year career with Schering-Plough, a pharmaceutical company now part of Merck. A chemistry major, Taylor started off as a laboratory chemist, but decided to switch to the business side. He earned an MBA at St. John's University and went into purchasing, finding ways to save the company millions of dollars.

While working in supplier quality, he visited plants in Italy, Germany, and China. He was especially fascinated by Chinese business practices and

"fearsome" risk-taking. He ended up helping a new Chinese factory to write the "drug master file" required by the US government. "I was able to use my chemistry knowledge, business knowledge, and learn about business contracts law," he notes.

Taylor retired in 2003 as manager of technical documentation. He has continued to be involved in business as a volunteer consultant for SCORE, a nonprofit that helps small business owners. Often, he works with people who are looking to operate internationally, such as a would-be exporter of cars and computers to Pakistan, and an Ecuadorian chocolatier who would like to expand to China.

Taylor has also grown closer to his own Polish heritage in his retirement. His mother's parents were Polish immigrants. During his childhood, he spent a lot of time with his grandmother and spoke Polish and English, but he knew nothing of his relatives in Poland until a few years ago. Since 2009, he

has traveled to Poland several times, enjoying the hospitality and the home-brewed vodka.

During his student days, he recalls one time when the Varsity Players recruited him for a role on stage. It was in 1963, the romantic comedy *Sabrina Fair*. He was only supposed to be in a crowd scene, but ended up getting about 10 lines. "I was scared," he remembers. "I stopped at the bar, now known as the Roadhouse, on my way and had a few drinks. I managed to do it and survived it.

"Life throws a curveball," he quips. "The trick is to hit it."

Taylor has made a planned gift to Wagner College, making him a member of the Heritage Society. Through his gift, Wagner's learning opportunities will continue to expand — and more students will learn how to hit those curveballs in life.

Interested in the Heritage Society?
Contact David Martin at 718-420-4341
or dmartin@wagner.edu.

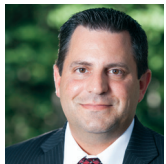
The Answer

QUIZ QUESTION
ON PAGE 9

The Grow Wagner campaign on the 2014 National Day of Giving was the most successful one-day fundraiser in Wagner history! Help us grow even more this year: Watch your email, the Wagner College Facebook page and Twitter account on December 1, 2015.

Serving Alma Mater

Two alumni take on top College leadership positions this year



Carrescia

THIS YEAR, two Wagner alumni have taken on top leadership positions at their alma mater: John Carrescia '99 M'06 and Christian Miller '84 M'88.



Miller

In January, Carrescia was appointed chief financial officer and vice president for finance and business. He succeeded Bill Mea, who left last August. Carrescia began his career in accounting at KPMG. He has worked at Wagner since 2003, beginning as assistant controller. Since 2005, he has also taught graduate and undergraduate courses as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Business Administration — and he has earned the title of Outstanding Graduate Teacher.

Miller joined Wagner this summer as director of campus operations, succeeding the longtime previous director, Dominick Fontano, who retired after 50 years of working at Wagner College.

Miller had served as vice president of

maintenance for the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation for the previous year, but most of his career was with the YMCA of New York City. As the director of property management, he managed 25 facilities. He also served as executive director of the McBurney YMCA and oversaw its move from its 100-year-old building on 23rd Street (famous for the Village People's "YMCA" music video) into a new, 70,000-square-foot facility on 14th Street.

Miller is not entirely new to working with facilities and operations at Wagner — during his student years, he worked on the grounds one summer. "I cut an awful lot of grass," he recalls. "If you look out over those lovely Tiers parking lots that are so nicely manicured, they weren't so much then. I actually spent two weeks with a hand sickle chopping down lots and lots of weeds and grass."

A business administration major with a minor in theater tech, he even interned for the director of campus operations at that time, Stan Shilling. What he calls "my love of the mechanical, using my hands" became the basis of his career.

"I'm thrilled to death," Miller says of his return to Wagner. "There are a lot of challenges, but it's a very positive environment. There are lots of opportunities to do some really cool stuff and make things better for everyone."

Arts & Letters

Rappers' Revolution

We don't know this for a fact, but we'll venture to guess that before Ousmane Traoré, no Wagner faculty member had appeared on MTV.

In a recent episode of the MTV documentary series *Rebel Music*, the Wagner professor of global and



African history sets the context to help viewers understand the modern history of his native Senegal. The episode of this stylish and educative series, titled "Senegal: Ready for Change," focuses on Y'en a Marre (in English, "I'm Fed Up"), a popular political movement spearheaded by socially engaged hip-hop artists.

Y'en a Marre fulfills the classic function of protest movements — speaking truth to power — in the highly charged political environment of Senegal. During Senegal's 2012 presidential elections, Y'en a Marre helped defeat the Liberal Party, which had held power since 2000. Now, "Enough is Enough" is nurturing a movement across Africa by inspiring youth political movements, activists, and artists to promote democracy and social justice and fight poverty and hunger.

Traoré, who has taught at Wagner since 2012, holds a B.A. in history and Egyptology from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal, an M.A. in history and archaeology from University Lille 3-Charles De Gaulle, and a Ph.D. in history from Sorbonne University.

Prime Numbers

15

ELITE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICAN COLLEGES PROFILED IN THE PRINCETON REVIEW'S BEST COLLEGES, WHICH INCLUDES WAGNER COLLEGE

#16

STATE RANKING OF WAGNER COLLEGE ALUMNI SALARIES BY Payscale IN 2015

#5

NATIONAL RANKING OF WAGNER COLLEGE FOR INTERNSHIPS BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT



Find a link to "Senegal: Ready for Change" at wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.



ALYSSA CONNORS '13 M'15, master's in early childhood and special education, shows off her master's hood (lined in blue for education) as well as her Kappa Delta Pi education honors purple and green cord.



The Colors of Commencement

What day is greener than the day of Wagner commencement? Sitting on the green grassy Oval, Dr. Guarasci and honored guests swathed in green robes, hundreds of green diploma covers held high, all awash in Wagner pride: There is no greener day. What day is bluer than the day of Wagner commencement? Marching under a cerulean sky, tears flow and hearts twist as graduates and parents and inseparable friends realize four wonderful years have come to an end: There is no bluer day.

But green and blue don't just represent Wagner pride and emotion, grass and sky: The ceremony itself swims in literal color. In fact, the colors and costumes that lend commencement day its dignity have as rich a story to tell as do the speakers who step up to the podium.

The use of the academic costume dates back to Medieval Europe, and to this day colorful ensembles of diverse styles are commonly used abroad, where academic attire is distinctive to each university.

At American colleges and universities, by contrast, styles and colors for the academic costume were established by an intercollegiate agreement in 1895, so that the mortarboard

cap and the gowns for bachelor's and master's candidates, and the master's hoods, are prescribed in style.

But, here is where the color begins: Wagner master's hoods indicate the field of study by color, and all students may wear stoles, sashes, and cords that indicate where they studied abroad, what honor societies or fraternal organizations they belong to, or other aspects of their membership in this community.

So, in this feature, let's unpack some of the stories our graduates have to tell about their Wagner experiences, all shown in the colors they wore on this year's biggest day on the Wagner calendar — Friday, May 22.

PORTIA EMORY (red-and-yellow stole for study abroad in Barcelona, green and white student athlete cord), **GRACE ZHANG** (red stole for Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority; red, green, and white stole for study abroad in Kenya; cords for Omicron Delta Kappa national honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society, and Order of Omega Greek leadership honor society), **ANGELA D'AMICO** (green, white, and red stole for study abroad in Italy, gold cord for Honors Program), **KELLY YAMAHIRO** (lei for her home state of Hawaii, stoles for Alpha Sigma Alpha and study abroad in Grenada, Spain), and **ANTHONY CARRINGTON** (cords for being a student athlete and member of the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement).



Bottom Left: **ABEER MISHAL**, whose parents are Palestinian immigrants, painted on her mortarboard the Palestinian flag and the Greek initials of her honor society memberships: Omicron Delta Kappa (leadership), Phi Alpha Theta (history), and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish). Her cords also represent those three honor societies, plus civic engagement, the Muslim Student Association, and the Honors Program. Her stole represents Argentina, where she studied abroad, and Palestine, where she made paintings on a Gaffney grant.

Middle Right: **STEVE DIVUOLO**, BS in business administration, wears the Wagner green gratitude stole. After commencement, graduates give their gratitude stole to someone who has made a difference in their academic career. He is surrounded by his biological family, who just happen to also be one big Wagner family as well: His parents, **ROBERTA FARRELL '85 M'89 DIVUOLO & TOM M'90 DIVUOLO**, stand to his left; his brothers, **MATTHEW '16** and **BRIAN '18**, also business administration majors, stand on either side. On the far left are his aunt and uncle, **MARION FARRELL ANDERSON '86 M'89** and Robert Anderson; on the far right, his cousin Catherine.

Bottom Right: Seahawk football players show off their championship rings as well as their green and white student athlete cords. **RALPH GREENE**, left, is going to get his MBA in media management at Wagner, while **JARRID WILLIAMS**, who adds the gold and green cord of the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement, is going for a Wagner MBA in marketing.





"I finished my undergrad experience 13 years ago, and the truth is, no one ever asks me anymore, 'So, Wes, what did you major in in college?'... The question that will never fade for you is, 'Who did you choose to fight for? Who did you choose to stand up for when it wasn't easy? Who did you choose to advocate for when it wasn't convenient? Who did you choose to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with when it might have been just you two standing there, but you did it because it was the right thing to do?' What you study will fade. Who you fight for will not."



— Commencement Speaker Dr. Wes Moore H'15,
New York Times Bestselling Author

DANIEL CIMILLUCA '14 M'15, master's in microbiology, wears a hood lined in gold indicating his science degree.

Top Right: Physician assistant master's graduates wear a gold-lined green and white hood: **RICK LEUNG** (also wearing a Pi Alpha green and blue cord for P.A. honors), headed for a job in spinal surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital; **NICOLE D'ANGELO**, whose first job is in the neonatal ICU at Richmond University Medical Center; **BRENNA DEAN**, specializing in orthopedic spine surgery at the Kirshner Spine Institute; and **KARA CLARK**.

Middle Right: Greeting President Guarasci, **LEO SCHUCHERT**, BS in psychology, was a member of psychology honors society Psi Chi (silver stole and cord) and of the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (green and yellow cord).

Bottom Right: **COLBY CAROLIN**, BS in international affairs and business, sports a stole representing his study abroad in Spain, as well as the maroon and gold cord of fraternity Delta Nu; **LAUREN DE BLASI**, BS in nursing, wears a purple and white cord to signify Sigma Theta Tau nursing honors and a green cord for community health nursing; **CARMINE COPPOLA**, BS in business administration (finance concentration), has a Delta Nu cord, Delta Mu Delta business administration honors purple and gold cord, ODK cords, and a lei for his Expanding Your Horizons study trip to Hawaii.



*"Wagner took
a chance on me.*

*Wagner nurtured me
and helped me find my
niche. Wagner made me
believe in me! I truly
believe that my early
struggles helped me succeed
in my teaching career"*

— Dr. Aletta Kipp Diamond '65 H'15,
Wagner Trustee





*"You are Wagner!
You are among
the few and select
college graduates who
already know how to
serve others, how to teach
and touch the soul of
a young child, how to
hold a hand and heal
the sick, how to bring
harmony and creativity
to our community, how to
manage business, how to
apply the sciences without
ever forgetting that the
arts touch our hearts."*

– Dr. Timothy M. Gannon H'15,
Principal of Port Richmond High School



Buried Stories

Why Wagner College is strengthening its commitment to Holocaust education

Seventy years ago, Allied troops rolled into Nazi concentration camps and started uncovering the extent of the Holocaust's horrors.

Seventy years later, amazing stories of courage and survival against all odds are still being told, heard, and appreciated — in some cases, for the first time ever. And new generations are still struggling with the questions this historical episode leaves in its wake: How and why did this happen? And, most importantly, how can we prevent it from happening again?

In this context, Wagner College has launched an effort to establish a Holocaust Education and Programming Center.

Staten Island is the only borough of New York City that does not already have a Holocaust center, notes Lori Weintrob, professor of history and director of this new initiative.

"This is something the community really needs at this particular moment, when Holocaust studies are slowly disappearing from curriculum of public schools, and we're losing survivors," says Weintrob. "Yet there still are survivors who can inspire students with their stories of courage and determination and resilience."

The Chai Society, a group that has supported Jewish life at Wagner College for the past 12 years, is in full agreement. They have sponsored a rabbi in residence and scholarships for Jewish students, and now they are focused on raising funds to establish the new center. Dr. Ron Avis, a Staten Island dentist who is a co-founder and former chair of the Chai Society, made a lead gift of \$100,000 toward Wagner's Holocaust center.

"This center is a dream, a place where the history and the memory of the Holocaust will not be forgotten," says Dr. Avis's son, current Chai Society co-chair Dr. Victor Avis.

Rescue and Bravery

Weintrob is particularly interested in connecting students with Holocaust

survivors who live in Staten Island — she knows there are at least 40, and probably as many as 75.

"This is something that Wagner College students and younger students can really get excited about, because amid the tragic stories and the loss of family and the conditions in the ghettos and the camps, there are also stories of helping each other, of rescue, of bravery," Weintrob says.

During last academic year, Wagner student interns began documenting these stories, teaching in four local schools, and bringing Holocaust survivors to the schools to speak directly to the children and youth of Staten Island.

One of the Wagner student interns and teachers was Julia Teichman '15. A psychology major and president of Hillel at Wagner, she connected Holocaust history to a contemporary issue that the kids could relate to: bullying. "They really get the importance of standing up to bullying and not letting bullying happen."

Teichman also participated in the first Wagner trip to Germany and Poland, as part of Professor Weintrob's course, *Confronting the Nazi Past*. In March, the group of 18 students and community members traveled to Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow, and Auschwitz (*below*), to view Holocaust sites, memorials, and museums, and meet with people to talk about past and present Jewish life.



Studying the Holocaust, Teichman says, has helped her connect with her own history: "I have family that perished during the Holocaust and family that survived the Holocaust, so it's part of my history. So essentially I was confronting my own Nazi past."

A Moral Compass

For other students, the course and trip made Holocaust history become alive and relevant in a way they had never experienced before. "This is my first time getting away from the books and getting to see the topics and experience them first hand," says Leslie Lopez '17. "It's not in the past, it's still here today. I think it's really important to apply it to today. Because if we see what happened before, we can try to correct it so it doesn't happen again."

For Weintrob, this is the essence of the value of studying the Holocaust: "The Holocaust story can become central to a 21st-century education, a moral compass in times that are fast changing and when young people might not know how to define ethical leadership."

Documenting Tragedy and Survival

"The Holocaust Education and Programming Center is important because it documents the tragedy, the horror, and the epic survival of those who came through the Holocaust," says President Guarasci. "It is also important to give witness to the fact that these kinds of things still occur in different populations throughout our world today, and that we need to educate young people to be prepared to encounter that and be prepared to defeat that kind of thinking and behavior."

Professor Weintrob's students researched the materials for a fascinating exhibit at Wagner in the spring of 2015, "Tragedy and Resilience: Holocaust Survivors of Staten Island." Curated by Weintrob and Lauren Citarella '17, the exhibit documented the stories of 16 Holocaust survivors. These pages present a selection of the stories and artifacts exhibited, part of what will become the permanent collection of Wagner's Holocaust Education and Programming Center.

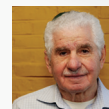
STORYTELLER OF SURVIVAL



RACHEL ROTH was born in 1926 and grew up in Warsaw, Poland. After the Nazi occupation of Poland in the fall of 1939, her father – a respected journalist – was quickly targeted and fled to Palestine. The remaining family members were removed into the Warsaw ghetto, where Roth suffered hunger and endured forced labor. In the summer of 1942, the Nazis deported and killed all of her close family members. Still working, Roth managed to smuggle in a few weapons used in the heroic Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April 1943. The Nazis deported the survivors of that struggle, and Roth faced hard labor, illness, and deprivation in Majdanek, Auschwitz, and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps. A born storyteller, she sustained her fellow inmates' hope by telling them about the Shabbat dinners in her home before the war. One woman made Roth promise to write about her experiences if she survived – and she did. Her book is entitled *Here There Is No Why*. She was reunited with her father after the war, and she married and raised five children in Staten Island.

DEATH PARTED THEM

Among these celebrants of a wedding in the Warsaw ghetto, Rachel Roth was the only one who survived the war.



GABI HELD, b. 1932 in Enc, Hungary, boxed after the war as an act of defiance against the sufferings of the Holocaust. He survived two concentration camps.



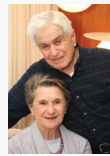
A TORAH SCROLL FRAGMENT saved after a synagogue burning in Josefow, Poland, 1942.



ROMI COHN, b. 1928 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, forged a Nazi secret police I.D. and joined the Slovakian partisans at age 16.



A YELLOW STAR OF DAVID inscribed with *Jude* ("Jew") was required on the clothing of German Jews beginning in 1941.



BRENDA PERELMAN (above, with her parents, in Bologna, Italy, ca. 1945), b. 1937 in Poland, spent the war in hiding, but her baby brother was shot and killed. **MORITZ PERELMAN** (right, with his grandfather), b. 1931 in Poland, hid in a secret room in the family grocery store for nearly two years.



ARTHUR SPIELMAN, b. 1930 in Poland, survived the Krakow ghetto until his family escaped to foot and hid in Slovakia and Hungary, and ended the war in a displaced persons camp (shown above, Arthur on far left).



EGON SALMON, b. 1924 in Rheydt, Germany, attempted to escape Nazi Germany with his mother (shown in passport above) on the M.S. *St. Louis* in 1939, but Cuba, the U.S., and Canada turned the ship away. The family finally reached Staten Island in 1940. Egon served in the U.S. Army.



EMIL JACOBY (1923–1998), a native of Czechoslovakia, was in Budapest studying art when World War II broke out. He lost all of his family and survived the brutal Mauthausen extermination camp. He came to Staten Island in 1982, and in retirement devoted himself to art commemorating the Holocaust, such as the drawing above.

LEARN MORE

- *Contact:* Professor Lori Weintrob at LRWeintr@wagner.edu or 718-390-3309.
- *Attend:* Kosher lunch and reunion for Hillel alumni on September 27, 1–4 p.m., as part of Wagner's Fall Festival weekend. Visit wagner.edu/homecoming to register.



THE TIGRESS

How Cynthia DiBartolo '84 clawed her way back into business —
on her own terms

By Joan Oleck

To enter the tigress's den, a visitor must first maneuver the tony shopping district of New York's Midtown, then pass beneath the archway of the landmark 500 Fifth Avenue building, with its shimmering gray marble and Art Deco-style sconces, before ascending to the 15th floor.

There, inside the doors of Tigress Financial Partners, awaits ... well, nothing particularly scary. Just a light-filled office decorated in orange and white, with flickering Bloomberg screens, a Plexiglas-encased basketball from former client Walt Frazier, and a photo from a long-ago relationship with Prince Albert of Monaco.

Nor is the tigress herself at all frightening, but rather an attractive blonde in her early 50s, with a heart-shaped face, a ready smile, and a petite physique attired in chunky gold jewelry and what the tigress herself describes as

her standard attire: a long-sleeved dress jacket.

To hide the scars on my arms.

Here at last lies the first clue why Cynthia DiBartolo '84 gave her financial services firm the name for a female tiger or an equally fierce, passionate woman.

Because she herself is one.

DiBartolo is a tigress not just because she started her own investment banking and brokerage firm — a rare feat in the male-dominated financial industry. Nor because she rose through the ranks of U.S. banking to direct the complex integration of Citicorp's and Smith Barney's investment divisions.

Nor is she a tigress just because she reached a high-enough perch in the financial world to chair the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce and be anointed a "leader" on the White House Business Council.

No, the biggest reason Cynthia DiBartolo is a tigress is that she has faced not one but two terrifying bouts of dangerous head and neck cancer. Diagnoses that twice forced her to endure a tracheotomy and the surgical dissection and rebuilding of large chunks of her tongue and neck, using veins, muscle, and arteries from her arms.

In turn, those treatments not once but twice required that she relearn how to speak and swallow. And as if that weren't enough, doctors at the second surgery opted to aggressively cut out the cancer by literally splitting her face in two, involving more postsurgical complications and pain than any one person deserves in a lifetime.

"I think it's about seizing my life back," DiBartolo says, looking back on her ordeal and subsequent choice of a name for her company, which she founded in 2011. "I'm a big believer that when you get cancer, you could be a

victim — and it's okay to be a victim. But it's not okay to be a 'volunteer.'

"I also realized that if I allowed my world to get small, my family's world would get small," DiBartolo continues. "So, I had to get a quality of life back that they were used to seeing me have — to be engaged in a way they were used to seeing me engaged. And to inspire other people along the way."

To hear her tell it, DiBartolo herself got a huge dose of inspiration, growing up, from her now-retired orthodontist-father, Anthony, who owned practices in Brooklyn and Staten Island. She remembers asking him, at age 10 or 11, "Daddy, what does it mean to be a 'success?'" And she remembers his answer: "I'll be a success when *you're* a success." (Years later, when she founded Tigress, he would tell her, beaming, "Now, I'm a 'success.'")

Another favorite quote from her dad is one she elicited after one of her surgeries, during a depressed moment. "Daddy, what will I do with myself?" she cried to him. Growled Anthony DiBartolo in response: "Those doctors operated on your tongue, not your brain. Figure it out!"

As a little girl, Cynthia remembers, life was happy and not particularly dramatic, with her big Italian family in Dongan Hills, Staten Island. Her mom was Dolores; her older and younger sisters, who also attended Wagner, Lorraine '83 and Tracy '86.

Middle daughter Cynthia, who'd first turned down a prestigious congressional

nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, began her own four years at Wagner torn between theater and political science. That's why she started out with a double major. And she did well, graduating cum laude and getting elected president of student government her senior year.

The latter role entailed a rocky relationship with the then-president of Wagner, whom we'll call Dr. F. "We had some issues going on in the dormitories that weren't being properly addressed," DiBartolo remembers. "And I was very outspoken about the issues and the safety of the students."

Dr. F, she remembers, wasn't at all responsive and seemed to watch her every move. Before commencement, when DiBartolo was scheduled to give the customary student-body president's speech, he outright demanded a copy in advance. "Knowing how Dr. F worked, I gave him a speech, but it wasn't the speech I gave at graduation!" DiBartolo says with a sly smile. "I didn't give it to him, so he could sit there and wonder what was going to come out of my mouth. ... My message was really, 'Listen to the students. Listen. And you could learn a lot.'"

"Today's president [Richard Guarasci] is much better," she's happy to add about Wagner. "As a result, you see a campus that is breathtaking; you see students that are fully engaged."

DiBartolo herself was certainly fully engaged. She remembers the intellectual excitement she felt around faculty like the late political science professor Phyllis Andors ("I'm grateful for every minute I was able to share in her class") and theater professor Randy Alderson ("a visionary in terms of how he saw productions"). She especially remembers the pure joy of her turns onstage.

Mostly, she recalls the friends she made in theater, like Cheryl Gucwa '81. Gucwa herself remembers DiBartolo's role as one of the Hot Box girls in the

musical *Guys and Dolls*, and a specific scene where DiBartolo's character had to look for an earring.

"Every night she would find the earring in a different place!" Gucwa says, chuckling. "She was finding her own moment on stage ... a moment when the audience was looking at her."

Another close Wagner friend, Georgette Fleming Reed '84 M'86, met DiBartolo outside of theater, during a study-abroad semester in Bregenz, Austria. "She's quite a woman and besides that quite a friend at the same time," Reed says. But back in their Bregenz days, the friendship was new and tinged with friction. DiBartolo, explains Reed, "was a fashionista before 'fashionista' was in vogue."

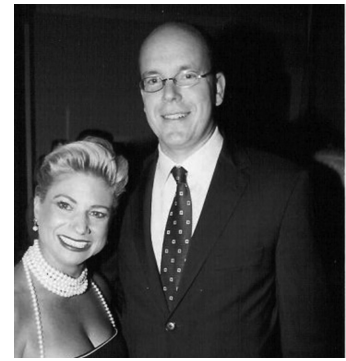
"She had a suitcase full of shoes she brought over [to Austria] with her and continued to add to her collection along the way, in Italy and Switzerland; and it was too big and heavy, and we were always late for trains. So I was always lugging the suitcase around," Reed says. "But, if you look at all the pictures, she never had any of those shoes on! I don't know what I was lugging around!"

"And when we got back, I had back surgery. I called and blamed her!"

The grudge didn't last. "She's extraordinarily smart, intellectual, a great people person," says Reed of DiBartolo. "She makes people feel comfortable, no matter who they are and what level they come from."

Those qualities served DiBartolo well following graduation, when it was time to get serious about her career. She'd replaced theater with political science as her focus and had her eyes on the law. Admitted to law school at Villanova University, she showed the first hint of the tigress to come by choosing the decidedly non-mainstream specialty of federal securities regulation. "I thought, 'I can do something innovative, in a space that doesn't have a lot of lawyers and be one of the few female lawyers in it,'" DiBartolo says.

// I'm a big believer that when you get cancer, you could be a victim — and it's okay to be a victim. But it's not okay to be a 'volunteer.' //



LIVING LARGE Top row: DiBartolo delivers her 1984 commencement address at Wagner College; with longtime Wagner friends Georgette Fleming Reed '84 M'86 and Linda Crane '84 in Las Vegas, 1999; with former flame, His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco, in Monte Carlo, 2003. Bottom row: At a 2009 Wagner Theatre reunion with Jodi Krakauer Birns '84; the cast of *Hair*, Wagner College Theatre, 1981, with DiBartolo standing on the right. Below: Cynthia and her sister Lorraine '83 were touted as star students in a 1981 ad that ran in the *Staten Island Advance*.

Already, she'd proven her chops in finance, working at now-defunct Bear Stearns right out of college and quickly rising from administrative assistant to junior analyst. She also got her first taste of the industry's misogyny: Asking her boss — a partner, no less — why he'd hired her, she remembers his saying, "*If I have to work with somebody eight hours a day, they'd better be easy on the eyes.*"

DiBartolo ignored him, and doubled down on work. "I had always wanted to work on Wall Street," she says. "I didn't know what 'Wall Street' was — a place? An actual street? A culture? I got there and [discovered], 'Oh! It's a cult!'"

A law position at Merrill Lynch followed law school. And that led to a bank manager job at Citibank, where DiBartolo committed to learning every job. Tigress-style, she attacked even the

ground-level teller job: handing money to customers, stamping receipts, smiling nonstop ("Thank you for banking at Citibank!") until the operations manager leaned in with a helpful hint: "Cynthia, next time, *count the money.*"

She learned. And, later, after creating a hybrid banking-investment product called Citigold, she was promoted to direct the complex integration of Citigroup's two broker-dealers, Smith Barney and Citicorp Investment Services.

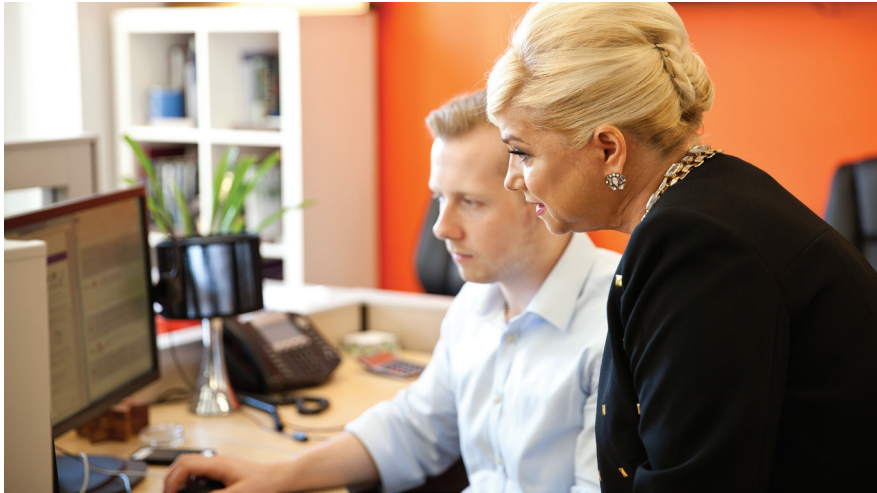
Those years, the late '80s and 1990s, were a time of big money and big living, as well as two marriages: the first to a dentist, a childhood sweetheart; the second to a Monaco film producer she'd met in New York. There was a luxurious excursion to Bali, a journey across the Sahara with Bedouin guides, a stint meditating with monks in Taiwan's

Hsinchu mountains.

Her friend Georgette Reed remembers DiBartolo's lavish three-day wedding to the filmmaker, in Monte Carlo — with parties in France and Italy — and, a year later, the big party the couple threw on the Caribbean island of Mustique to celebrate their first anniversary.

Then, there was Prince Albert of Monaco, whom DiBartolo's second ex had introduced her to in Monaco and whom she initially greeted with,





EYE OF THE TIGRESS At Tigress Financial Partners, CEO DiBartolo works in a cubicle just like her employees. Their investment results regularly best those of bigger-name investment banks.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you, Your Serene Highness — did I screw that up?”

No screw-up at all. Rather, her humor and smarts and adorable good looks captured the Prince’s heart. After her divorce, the two dated for over a year — Albert used to love when she picked him up at his New York hotels in her Prowler Mulholland sports car and the two sped off, trying to outrun his security detail.

At Citigroup, DiBartolo was at the peak of her career, as the global bank’s risk manager. It was 2007, and the markets were roiling, starting their slide toward the Great Recession that would start that December.

All that stress took a toll: a flare-up of her old nemesis, psoriasis. So, she followed her doctor’s advice to take the injectable

// I need to be a voice for the voiceless. ... I’m blessed to have access to platforms. I just want to use them for advancing social good on different levels. //

drug Humira. But, after 10 months of treatment, in 2009, things went horribly wrong: facial pain, hearing loss, oral bleeding. The diagnosis: squamous cell carcinoma.

“When the doctor told me, ‘You have advanced carcinoma,’ I was like, ‘Let’s fix it because I’ve got to get back to work!’” DiBartolo says of her initial naïveté. “And he said, ‘Do you know what a glossectomy [removal of the tongue] is?’ And I’m sitting there kind of glazed over.”

The doctor was saying there was no time for radiation or chemo. That, without surgery, she’d have six months, a year maybe, to live. That *with* surgery, she’d be permanently disfigured.

The tigress roared, her friend Cheryl Gucwa remembers. “I use the word ‘grit’ to describe what I saw in Cynthia — that determination and persistence she had to dig deep to find, to live through this adverse diagnosis,” Gucwa says. As a speech pathologist herself, Gucwa knew exactly what DiBartolo faced.

Indeed, DiBartolo confronted her diagnosis head-on, with help from her family — especially her sisters, both Wagner-trained RNs — and Mark Greenberg, the man who would become her fiancé a year later. “She was nothing short of inspiring,” Greenberg says. “When she went in for the first surgery

— I’m getting choked up, saying this — she squared her shoulders off the way a fighter would. And went in like she was returning defective merchandise.

“I’ve never seen a person accept a challenge more readily.”

DiBartolo softens, talking about Greenberg, an investment banker, but also — an odd pairing — a TV actor and accomplished drummer who has played with the likes of Dave Matthews and the Allman Brothers’ Dickey Betts. “It was June 27, 2005,” Greenberg says of their first meeting. An art gallery owner had put together a rock event, and Greenberg spotted her across the room. “I saw Cynthia and walked right up to her, kissed her without a word, and said, ‘I have two questions for you: One, are you married?’ She said, ‘No.’ ‘And, two, are you engaged?’”

Replied DiBartolo, “Not anymore.”

In fact, she broke off her then-engagement to commit to her handsome, long-haired beau, who proved his love, sticking by her after her surgery, when she was having seizures, pneumonia, pulmonary edema. “She literally was drowning,” Greenberg says. She herself describes “pain, grueling, indescribable.”

But she also recalls loving support, as she struggled to relearn to speak with a heavy, rebuilt tongue: from her mother, Dolores, who withheld a glass of water until Cynthia could pronounce “water.” And from Greenberg, who promised an engagement ring if she could speak two particularly tough words, “ring” and “bling.” (She got the diamond.)

In 2011, realizing that her limited speech made returning to banking impossible, she registered Tigress Financial Partners as a broker-dealer, with a feminist twist. “I wanted to form a company that’s sensitive to women with disabilities, and woman-owned and controlled.

“Right now, what I’m focused on is hiring female wounded warriors.”

What she's also focused on in her post-surgery career phase, author Kim Ann Curtin writes in a new book *Transforming Wall Street*, is "balancing consciousness and capitalism."

As DiBartolo explains it, "I had an awakening about the culture of banking. It had become everything I thought it shouldn't be. It was about financial 'products' rather than financial 'services.'" By embarking on a small business of her own, she decided, "I could interject the culture and philosophy I felt was right, as a 'conscious capitalist,' transforming what Wall Street had become ... to get that trust and integrity that needed to be re-established."

And so she founded Tigress, which two years after opening to customers attained the coveted Zacks rating for superior portfolio performance. The firm, where CEO DiBartolo owns an 80 percent stake, now has 34 employees, three branches worldwide, and an international clientele. "Nobody ever heard of us, yet we outperformed these major houses," DiBartolo brags (deservedly). "Institutions were calling us, saying, 'Who are you?'"

Now, they know. They know, too, of DiBartolo's cancer recurrence in 2012, when, to finally knock out the disease, her surgeons advised that facial dissection. This time, she drew on the lessons from her first surgery, so that only eight weeks later, she was speaking on a panel about finance. Greenberg was there. "I remember realizing, 'I never would have recognized the fact that she'd had surgery eight weeks before, after having a major portion of her tongue removed and reconstructed,'" he says.

Today, DiBartolo's speech — though limited to just a few hours a day — evinces only a slight lisp, hardly reflective of her ordeal. She wears heavy makeup and long sleeves to disguise the scars. And she is relentlessly upbeat and busy. She chairs the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, with 22,000 small business members. "I've seen her work with the governor and lieutenant governor to make sure there's a level playing field for women

and all those [Chamber] entrepreneurs," says Chamber CEO Mark Jaffe. "Those are pretty solid accomplishments."

She's sued the makers of Humira for millions as part of a massive legal case. She's testified on Capitol Hill about issues like paid family medical-insurance leave and pregnancy discrimination. She's founded Tigress Cares Foundation to advocate for head and neck cancer patients. She's worked on economic issues for the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, led by Rev. Jesse Jackson, who calls her "a titan, a fighter, a champion and a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion." She's even found time to connect Wagner women students to mentors in the business world.

And, according to her fiancé, she may finally be planning that long-delayed wedding.

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH DiBartolo and her fiancé, Mark Greenberg, who stuck by her during her horrifying ordeal with cancer and recovery from radical head and neck surgeries

Beneath it all is the image of that tigress pacing, trying to make things better for women in the workplace, and overall for America's smallest entrepreneurs, rather than its biggest banks.

"When you can speak only for the limited time that I can speak, for eight hours a day," DiBartolo says, "I need to be a voice for the voiceless. ... I'm blessed to have access to platforms. I just want to use them for advancing social good on different levels.

"I hope that I am able to impact people's lives in a positive way. My goal is always to leave people in places better than I found them. So, if I can figure that out, and I do that every day, I feel good about it."





AlumniLink

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

Improving Wagner's Drive

New alumni relations director wants to engage alumni on the things they most care about

AS A STUDENT, COACH, COUNSELOR, and more, Christopher Fourman '09 M'11 found his niche in the Wagner College community. As Wagner's new director of alumni relations, he wants to assist his fellow alumni in connecting with the College, too, so that they can help make Wagner an even better place.

Fourman began leading the Office of Alumni Relations in February. "I am really enjoying working with Heather and Rebecca [see page 29] to build our alumni programming," he says. "Since February, we have executed several wonderful events like Reunion and the Eataly cooking class, and we have many more great events planned for the rest of this summer, this fall, and next year."

Fourman has been a member of the Wagner community for 10 years. He grew up in Greenville, Ohio, and had intended to stay in Ohio for college until he was recruited by then-assistant

Wagner golf coach Dan Waeger M'06.

Fourman calls himself a "numbers guy," and he grew up helping to run his family's appliance and furniture business. He pursued a major in business administration focused on finance. A Wall Street internship revealed to him that finance was not what he wanted for his career.

Also during Fourman's senior year, the golf program experienced a devastating loss: Coach Waeger died of lung cancer at the age of 26, the culmination of a four-year battle with the disease.

Upon graduation, Fourman stepped into Waeger's shoes and became the graduate assistant for golf while also earning his MBA in finance. He was named head coach in 2011, and Fourman remains head golf coach while also serving as alumni director. His passion for the program is obvious; it earned him the recognition of NEC Golf Coach of the Year in 2011 and this year.

Fourman has always held multiple jobs at Wagner — while coaching, he was also co-resident director of Harborview Hall, then an admissions counselor, and then assistant athletic director for academics and compliance. All of these positions helped him discover his niche in higher education and his gifts for working with people.

Fourman says that his work with the golf team, in particular, motivates his efforts in alumni relations.

"I've put so much effort into reinvigorating what I found important in my Wagner experience," he says. "I loved my coaches, but we needed more resources, and we needed to play on better courses. We just needed to do a little bit more. So I put a lot of effort into improving my program.

"This place is constantly growing and evolving," he adds. "But it doesn't grow and evolve without people who drive and propel that evolution. I'm interested in tapping into alumni who have their golf team, or their choir, or their residence life experience that they really care about as I do my experiences at Wagner and they want to help the College evolve in those areas."



CONNECTING Chris Fourman (*right*), director of alumni relations, presided over a successful Reunion Weekend in June. Here, with President Guarasci and John Trentacosta '70, he congratulates Pat Pappalardo '70 upon receiving the Alumni Leadership Medal.

Alumni Association Honors

The 2015 annual awards recognize leaders in serving the College and the community and in professional achievement.



Alfred '61 and Christine Zullo '64 Palladino were named the John "Bunny" Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Wagner Alumni Laureates. A longtime Wall Street executive, Alfred has generously contributed his financial advice to Wagner College for many years. An educator and commodity broker, Christine has mentored many students and helped with Wagner fundraising.



Pat Pappalardo '70 received the Dr. Kevin Sheehy '67 M'70 M'92 H'99 Alumni Leadership Medal. He has helped to run his family business, the

famous Joe and Pat's Pizzeria, and owns a successful real estate firm, Papp Realty. He served on the Alumni Association Board for six years, has supported the Wagner Fund for many years, and attends many campus events.



Pastor Carl F. Wilfrid '65 received the Reverend Lyle Guttu Award. Recently retired, he served as a Lutheran pastor for 50 years and contributed

much to communities in North Dakota, Arizona, California, and Nevada.



Scott Fink '83 was named a Wagner Alumni Fellow in Accounting. He is president and CEO of six car dealerships in Florida, including the nation's largest volume Hyundai dealership.



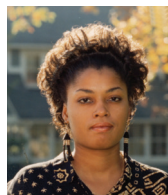
Christina DeCicco Sisko '02 was named a Wagner Alumni Fellow in Theater. She has become a star of Broadway, with roles including Eva Perón in the 2012 revival of *Evita*.



Jeannine Morris-Lombardi '05 was honored with the Wagner Alumni Key for her professional achievements as a young alumna. She has built an

entrepreneurial media career based on her blog, originally known as BeautySweetSpot.

Posthumous Honors



Patricia A. Amis '90 was named the Distinguished Graduate of Wagner. Up until her death last year, she was a dedicated advocate for the elderly and for victims of domestic abuse.



Wendell C. Martin '69 received the Certificate of Appreciation for his professional development workshops for student-

athletes. A talented basketball player and businessman, he died last year.

ALUMNI RELATIONS TEAM MEMBERS



REBECCA COLUCCI KELLY '06 Since 2008, this arts administration major has helped organize alumni events and answer alumni queries. A member of the local co-ed fraternity Kappa Sigma Alpha, she works to keep alumni engaged as well as make them feel "at home again" at Wagner College.



HEATHER WOLF '15 This year's Spiro Award winner joined the alumni relations team during the summer. A business administration major, member of the cross country and track and field teams, and founder of "Humans of Wagner" on Instagram, she is meeting with alumni around the country.

Find out more about all of these highly gifted and giving people at wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.

History Makers: How Stan Jay M'67 built a world-famous music business on Staten Island

In 1971, Stan Jay M'67 co-founded Mandolin Brothers in Staten Island, a company that became one of the world's top sellers, buyers, and restorers of fine new and vintage American guitars, banjos, and mandolins. All kinds of aficionados and collectors, as well as great musicians including Joni Mitchell, George Harrison, Bruce Springsteen, and Bob Dylan – to name just a few – have visited Mandolin Brothers' unassuming storefront. Up until his death on October 22, 2014, Jay made sure his customers' dreams were fulfilled with the right musical instrument.

There are many fine guitar stores in New York City – in Manhattan. How did Jay come to place his world-famous shop in Staten Island? Wagner plays a large role in that story.

In 1965, the New Jersey native finished his undergraduate degree in English and education at Penn State and came to Wagner for a master's in education.

He knew a lot about Wagner because a close high school friend, Bob Zentmaier '66, was a Wagner economics major. The two bonded over their love for music; they met in Hillside (N.J.) High School's mixed chorus. Zentmaier's brother owned Rondo Music in Union, New Jersey, where Jay worked during his summer breaks and bought his first guitar.

So it's no wonder that, according to a 1989 letter Jay wrote to the Wagner director of alumni affairs, education wasn't all he was up to during his graduate studies.

"He played and taught guitar privately while at Wagner," Jay wrote (in a third-person narrative about himself), "hung out around and in the Hawk's Nest, a snack bar in the basement of the Administration Building, met his first wife there and formed a musical group with her (Linda Gerhold), and Jack Smith, called The Smith Brothers. They played at coffee houses and clubs on and outside of campus, and attempted to obtain a recording contract with a major label, but failed."

Jay went on to pursue an Ed.D. at Columbia's Teachers College, while also developing his knowledge of vintage fretted instruments and their value during this time of the folk music craze.

"[He] taught music and arts courses for six years in the Performing and Creative Arts Department at Staten Island Community College," the 1989 letter continues. "He met his second wife (Bea Berntsen) in an adult ed class he taught there, and founded, in 1971, a company [Mandolin Brothers]. ...

"In many ways, in fact, in nearly every way, coming to Staten Island to matriculate at Wagner College changed his life and led him inexorably to his present level of achievement," Jay concluded of himself. "He hopes that, at or near the turn of the century, his children will attend Wagner College and become worldly, articulate and sagacious from having done so."

His children, Alison and Eric, didn't follow in his footsteps to Wagner; but they are carrying on the business and upholding their father's standards.

By the way, it was yet another Wagner alumnus who influenced Zentmaier to choose Wagner: Edward Monkman '58, economics teacher at Hillside High School. Mr. Monkman died in 2010, and Zentmaier reports that he and Jay lamented never having thanked him. "He got both of us to Staten Island and changed our lives," says Zentmaier.



STAN JAY M'67 holds a limited-edition guitar he designed with the Martin Custom Shop in 1997. "This guitar's radiant physiognomy can cause the conversation to cease at any gathering into which you bring it; yea, its sound can make other players stagger back in awe, wide-eyed and slack-jawed," he wrote in his customarily effusive sales copy when offering one for sale at Mandolin Brothers.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Homecoming

Wagner Oval and Stadium, September 26
Don't miss the biggest, best Oval day in Wagner history, with food trucks, beer garden, live music, and kids' activities from 2 to 5 p.m., followed by the Homecoming Parade and the NEC Champion Seahawks taking on the Lafayette Leopards. For families of current students, the whole weekend of Sept. 25–27 is Fall Festival, a chance to reconnect with your student and experience a bit of College life. See full details at wagner.edu/homecoming.

Wagner College Theatre: *Damn Yankees*

September 30–October 11, Main Stage
Just in time for the World Series comes the musical comedy based on Douglass Wallop's novel *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant*.

OCTOBER

Wagner College Theatre: *Dutchman* & *21 Chump Street*

October 6–11, Stage One
A double bill: *Dutchman*, the explosive 1964 play by Amiri Baraka, stands as an incisive critique of race relations; Lin-Manuel Miranda's short musical *21 Chump Street* shows how love can blossom in the most unintended of ways.

Founders Day Convocation and Kaufman Repege Lecture

October 7, 7 p.m., Spiro Hall, Room 2
Historian Bruce Chadwick, author of *George Washington's War* and *The General and Mrs. Washington*, presents "George Washington in New York: War, Peace, and a Good Bottle of Wine."

Columbus Day Parade

October 12, Fifth Avenue (44th to 72nd St.)
The Seahawk Marching Band struts its stuff for the second year in a row since its revival in 2013.

Staten Island Jazz Festival

October 17, 2 p.m., Music Hall, Snug Harbor
Wagner's elite a cappella vocal ensemble Stretto performs.

Viva Italia! Finale Concert

October 25, 4 p.m., Music Performance Center
Winners of the Italian Idol singing contest and others demonstrate the power of Italian music.

NOVEMBER

Wagner Choirs Fall Concerts

November 8, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Staten Island

November 14, 7 p.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingston, New York

November 15, 3 p.m., St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Syracuse, New York

Wagner College Theatre: *The Most Happy Fella*

Main Stage, November 18–22 and December 2–6
Frank Loesser's most romantic musical tells the heart-warming story of a love triangle set on a Napa Valley ranch.

DECEMBER

Wagner College Theatre: *The Tempest*

Stage One, December 1–6
Shakespeare's most autobiographical play is a meditation on family, love, power, and the theater itself.

Fall Concerts

Guitar Ensemble: December 2, 8 p.m., Music Performance Center

Jazz Ensemble: December 3, 7:30 p.m., Music Performance Center

Concert Band: December 12, 3 p.m., Main Hall Auditorium

Wagner Choirs Holiday Concert

December 6, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Staten Island

Vocal Jazz Set by Stretto / Espresso

December 8, 4 p.m., Music Performance Center

MORE INFORMATION

wagner.edu/calendar

Reunion Weekend, June 7–9



MEMORY LANE Strolling the campus and traversing "Abbey Road" at the British Invasion Dinner Dance.



TWISTING AND SHOUTING Carin Guarasci (center) and alumni at the British Invasion Dinner Dance.



DEDICATED Richard and Carin Guarasci celebrate the naming of the Moles Athletic Offices in honor of Thomas G. '65 H'00 and Polly Peck '68 Moles.



ANCHORED ON GRYMES HILL Lorraine McNeill-Popper '78 and Dr. Kathleen O'Brien Ellis '81 (who just finished her Ph.D. in leadership studies from Alvernia University) revisit a cherished tradition.



ClassNotes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1943

Dorothy A. Deal Morten writes, “At 92 years old there is not much to ‘update.’ However, I still get about with my trusty walker. All these years have passed, and I’m still waiting to hear the promised chapel would be built ‘looking out to the sea,’ on Chapel Knoll. But then, that was the time of Wagner Memorial Lutheran College.” (*Editor’s Note: Wagner College’s Knobel Chapel is located in the Kairos House, originally built in 1918 as the president’s house.*)

1949

William Wagner ’49 M’56 wrote to us to pay tribute to **Joseph Romano** ’50, who died on January 2, 2015. “He was a good friend for many years,” William writes.

“We will miss him. He was a very successful New York Life Insurance sales representative and a man of high integrity.”

1950

John ’50 and Margot Selman ’52 Eagleton write that they are “happily retired and are enjoying life to the fullest.” They live in Longboat Key, Fla.

1951

Katherine “Kay” Patterson Hulle, a freelance writer and teacher who lives in Denton, Md., has been in touch with the Office of Alumni Relations to share her memories and writings, including essays and poetry. She writes, “I was the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily switchboard operator in the office of Marguerite Hess at Wagner

through the 1940s until I graduated in 1951. I was an evening school student who felt that Wagner College was my ‘home away from home,’ and I miss both places.”

1953

Dorothy Schmidt Boesch honored her best friend and nursing classmate, the late **Norma Zawadzki Banta-Maute**, who died on March 14, 2014, with a gift to Wagner College in her memory. Dorothy worked as an RN until she had children in 1962. She lives in Huntington Beach, Calif. **Walter Scott Blomeley**, who lives in Bradenton, Fla., was presented with his second Purple Heart last November, 63 years after serving in the Korean War. U.S. Rep. Vernon Buchanan, R-Sarasota, presented the

award at a ceremony in the Old Federal Building in Sarasota, honoring him for wounds received on June 10, 1951, during the battle known as the “Punchbowl.” His first Purple Heart was for shrapnel wounds received while patrolling near Hon Son in May 1951. “It’s a thrill that I can never get over,” he told the *Bradenton Herald*. “The fact that I was able to have my Purple Heart given to me in front of my wife and my family and my friends. Over there, we had the Purple Hearts given to us in formations Not many of us had the opportunity that I’m having today to have it given to me personally. I take it as great honor and I’m very, very appreciative to everyone who did this for me.” Walter enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in

Keep in Touch!

Email: alumni@wagner.edu

Web: wagner.edu/alumni

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

Deadlines: This issue reflects news received by June 1. The submission deadline for the Fall 2015 issue is October 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.

December 1944. He earned the rank of corporal by 1946 and later the rank of sergeant. He trained with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, and fought in some of the key battles of the Korean War, including the amphibious landing during the Battle of Inchon and the brutal five-day Battle of Chosin Reservoir, the deadliest of the war.

1954

Jacques Noel Jacobsen Jr. '54 M'63 announces that his book, *They Answered the Alarm: A History of Firefighting on Staten Island 1805–2005*, is now in its third printing. This is his second book; the first was *The Red Blue Coats: The Indian Scouts*. In addition, he has published more than 20 monographs and many scholarly papers in various journals. **Manfred W. Lichtmann**, member of the 1950–54 Wagner football team, writes, "Following the [Seahawks'] impressive 23-20 win over the Bryant University football team [in 2014], our son and granddaughter, Madison, went over to meet Coach Walt Hameline. They were cordially greeted and enjoyed talking with him and some of the team members. Madison is a senior at Bryant and captain of the cheerleading squad. I am most proud of my alma mater."

1955

Nancy Bechtel Harter writes, "I have three sons, four

grandsons, and finally got a great-grand-girl. She is named Riley. After graduation, I worked 40 years as a lab tech due to my good education. I'm now 81 and have been relaxing the last couple of years." She lives in Scottsdale, Ariz. **Doris Rockefeller Lehmann**, who lives in Mahwah, N.J., last fall traveled with her daughter, Joanne, to Seattle, the Olympic Peninsula, and Vancouver Island. Their trip included visiting a friend of 75 years at her ancestral home in the Malahat region of Vancouver Island, north of Victoria.

1957

Annemarie Jensen Godston published a book, *A Year in My New England Garden*, in March 2015. A certified master gardener in New Hampshire and Connecticut, she has had a blog for many years to answer gardening questions online, for gardeners around the globe. Her book provides a New England gardening calendar and shares her personal experiences in her own gardens. Annemarie has moved to Seattle, but as a former longtime resident of Haverhill, N.H., she was a member of the Grafton

County UNH Extension Services Advisory Board. She served as chair of the Haverhill Zoning Board and Conservation Commission. She also served as secretary for the Cohase Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She taught gardening classes for the Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth. The book is available on Amazon.com. **Salvatore Tuzzo**, M.D., writes, "At 79 I am still skiing the moguls and working as a psychiatrist part time in private practice. My grandchildren are all active skiers." He lives in Mountain View, Calif.

Crib Notes



1. Angelo Cordova M'12 and **Lisa Dalessandro Cordova** '93 announce the birth of their new bundle of joy, Adriana Lily, on December 5, 2014.

2. Janet Anne Wolter Rumble '00 M'02 and her husband, Morgan, announce the birth of their second daughter, Dylan Paige Rumble, on November 11, 2014.

3. Shane Morgan '01 and **Kathryn Cannizzaro-Morgan** '02 announce the birth of their third child, Matthew Peter, on March 26, 2015. His big sister, Annabel, and big brother, Andrew, are embracing their new little brother.

We'd love to see your baby's face.

Please see opposite page for publication guidelines.

UNCOMMON LIVES



Nadia Lopez '99

Principal of Possibilities

CLAIM TO FAME: In January of this year, a Brownsville, Brooklyn, middle school student named Vidal Chastanet was featured on the well-known blog Humans of New York. Asked who was the most influential person in his life, Chastanet answered, “My principal, Ms. Lopez,” explaining how she encouraged the kids of this impoverished neighborhood to value themselves and “told each one of us that we matter.”

THE VISION: Nadia Lopez '99 founded Chastanet's school, Mott Hall Bridges Academy, in 2010, because she wanted to create “a learning institution that shows our scholars why they matter and how they too can become successful.” The public middle school has just over 200 students (called “scholars”) in grades 6–8. The student body reflects the socioeconomic challenges of the neighborhood, with 28 percent having special learning needs, and 75 percent qualifying for free lunch. Yet MHBA receives the Board of Education's top rating for its culture of high expectations and support for high achievement.

THE CAMPAIGN: After interviewing Chastanet, Humans of New York blogger Brandon Stanton featured Lopez and her staff as well, and he started an online fundraising campaign for the school. Its goal: to fulfill Lopez's vision of taking her sixth graders on a trip to Harvard University. “If you talk about college and career readiness and you don't take them to college, if you don't expose them to what those careers look like, then we're just using buzzwords that have no true purpose,” Lopez reasons. And the public found her case compelling: The campaign not only met its goal of raising \$100,000; it raised \$1.4 million from more than 51,000 donors. Mott Hall Bridges Academy and Nadia Lopez became emblems of hope and promise despite difficult circumstances.

THE EXAMPLE: Lopez herself is well aware that she exemplifies this promise. “What I love is sharing the possibilities that tomorrow has to offer,” she says. “What I love is being the example of a Brooklyn girl whose parents are immigrants, whose parents separated when she was in middle school. I think I exemplify a lot of those things that may be considered a struggle in life but still I was able to succeed.”

FALSE START? Lopez came to Wagner College in 1995 to study not education, but nursing. But, it gradually became clear that nursing was not where she belonged, even though she loved the profession and loved the nurturing environment in Wagner's nursing program. One professor, Lauren O'Hare, pointed her in a new direction. “Professor O'Hare told me to consider education or psychology because she believed that my passion was for people, but not so much through a nursing career. Evidently, she was on to something, but I wouldn't trade my nursing degree and the experiences I gained through the program for anything else.”

NEW DIRECTION: After her daughter, Cenne, was born in 2002, Lopez felt drawn to teaching. Two Wagner alumnae, Jodie Clanton '97 and LaJuan White M'96, helped Lopez find her way – first into the classroom through the New York City Teaching Fellows program, then into school leadership through New Leaders, a national program for aspiring principals. Lopez also earned a master's in education from Long Island University and wrote the proposal for a small, nurturing middle school that became Mott Hall Bridges Academy.

'A SENSE OF VALUE' With the new funding, Lopez was able not only to take the entire school on a trip to Harvard University, but also to start a college scholarship fund and a summer program focused on the “STEAM” disciplines: science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. The campaign, Lopez said, “also gave [the MHBA scholars] a sense of value that they don't often get to experience, especially in Brownsville, where there's so much negative media attention that speaks to crime and low socioeconomic status, but doesn't speak to either the positive things that are happening or people coming together to create change, to implement programs, to support students.”

1958

Dorothy Sickler-Coy retired from teaching in New York City after 35 years of service. She is teaching folk and square dancing at Kingsborough Community College, and her husband, Don Coy, is a square dance caller.

1959

Rita Carin Reinhold Shiga writes that she is enjoying her “retirement” tremendously and has never been busier. She lives in Central Nyack, N.Y.

1960

The Reverend **Charles G. Biegner Jr.** celebrated his 75th birthday in June 2014 by walking 75 miles in five days, from Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center to the Resurrection Health Center in Buffalo (which he started in 2001). Along the way, he raised over \$20,000 for these two ministries. **Norman Black '60 M'73** has published two volumes of interviews with U.S. World War II combat veterans: *Combat Veterans' Stories of World War II*. Volume I covers North Africa and Europe, November 1942–May 1945; and Volume II focuses on the Pacific, China, and Burma, August 1942–September 1945. A reviewer describes the stories as “very moving accounts of ordinary men doing extraordinary things.” Norman is now at work on a book of interviews with Korean War veterans. He previously published a novel about the Korean War, *Ice, Fire, and Blood: A Story of the Korean War*. All of his books are available on Amazon.com. **Harold Crater** was

featured in his local paper, the *Advocate* of Victoria, Tex., last December in an article entitled, “Giving Is in His Blood.” Since his retirement as a testing coordinator for the Victoria Independent School District in 1999, Harold has made it his regular routine to donate not just blood but also platelets — a two-hour procedure that benefits cancer patients and premature babies. He has donated more than 30 gallons of platelets and plasma, the equivalent of the amount of blood in the bodies of 25 people. **Lou DeLuca** has retired, after 30 years as an adjunct education professor at Wagner. Before that, he also served as Wagner’s alumni director. **Vincent Gattullo M’60** was very honored to have been nominated for a 2015 Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO). He teaches biology at the College of Staten Island.

1962

Katherine Klimacek Beiter has completed a book, *Comfort in Dying: Reflections of a Hospice Nurse*. It responds to the questions often asked by loved ones, friends, and professional caregivers: “How can I help?” “How can I say ‘good-bye?’” “How can I let go?” Katherine earned her master’s degree from Syracuse University as a clinical nurse specialist specializing in palliative care and gerontology, and she helped develop

three hospice programs throughout New York State and taught Death and Dying, along with other advanced courses, at the University of Buffalo School of Nursing. In her book, she shares the lessons learned through her many hospice patients, as well as those learned from losing her twin sister, **Kathleen Klimacek**, and her 32-year-old husband, **Brian R. O’Connor ’60**, who perished in the Marshall University football plane crash in 1970. These lessons can provide comfort to others. The book is available on Amazon.com. She has retired and lives in Avon, N.Y. **Richard Bertuccio** retired in June 2014 from his own financial planning practice, which he built from scratch more than 30 years ago. He now lives in Lake Geneva, Wis. He does portrait and figure oil painting and is an artist member of the Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago, where his works have been displayed. **Rita King** has been busy developing her desert garden in Scottsdale, Ariz., which has been visited by the garden editor of *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine and by Scott Calhoun, noted horticulturalist, xeriscape garden designer, and author of many books on xeriscape gardening. Her husband, Tim, has added his own amazing sculptures to the garden, now that he is retired from architecture and taking welding classes. “The garden is now two

years old and quite mature, and I am so thrilled with what is my artistic expression,” Rita writes. “As Sydney Eddison has noted, ‘Gardens are a form of autobiography,’ and this is mine.” **Beverly Hoehne Whipple** received the People of Distinction Humanitarian Award in October 2014 in New York City. This award program was started by broadcaster Al Cole of CBS Radio to recognize “unsung heroes” and well-known figures who have contributed to humanity. A sexuality educator, counselor, and researcher, Beverly was recognized for her work in the area of human sexual health.

1963

Elizabeth Brun Fertig ’63 M’65 married Bernard Brooks in Las Vegas, Nev., on September 13, 2014. She now goes by Elizabeth Brooks, and she lives in Huntington Beach, Calif. The Rev. **Charles Gravenstine** spent the fall semester of 2014 teaching in Cape Town, South Africa, and in Arusha, Tanzania, at the Lumen Christi Pastoral Institute. Dr. **Zuzana Plesa** is working as a counselor for the military at Hurlburt Field U.S. Air Force base in Florida.

1965

John Brockway retired after 36 years of teaching in Carmel, N.Y. He served in the U.S. Navy for six years after his Wagner graduation. His wife, **Betsy Holderle Brockway ’68**, is retired as well, and they live in

Pawling, N.Y. They enjoy travel, biking, volunteering, and their five grandchildren. “Life is good indeed,” John writes. **Greta Davis** retired from teaching in Brooklyn more than 15 years ago. She continues to enjoy retirement in the foothills of the Adirondacks. **Stephen R. Deutsch** has lived in Port Charlotte, Fla., since 2004, and was reelected to the Charlotte County Commission in November 2014. He is a member of the YMCA Board of Directors, Homeless Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Council, and Metropolitan Planning Board. In 2014, *Florida Weekly* named him a Charlotte County Leader of Distinction. He serves as an usher and greeter at Murdock Baptist Church in Port Charlotte. In his former home in Rhode Island, he served as a town councilman, state representative, and state senator. He also campaigned unsuccessfully to become the lieutenant governor of Rhode Island. During all his service in public office, he has never missed an official session. **Pete Dirlam** retired from teaching in Hauppauge, Long Island, N.Y., in 1999 and moved to northern Idaho, where he built a log home. After 35 years of officiating for amateur wrestling, he is still very much involved in the sport as a volunteer assistant coach. He is also still involved in education within the local Elks Lodge, where he is scholarship chairman,

Knot Notes

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2.



3.



4.



5.



1. Nicole Mahoney '10 married Colin Johnson in Spring Lake Heights, N.J., on August 3, 2014. Her sisters **Laura Mahoney '12** and **Gail Mahoney '16** (not pictured) served in the bridal party. Nicole and Colin celebrated with three generations of Wagner alumni. Back row: **Lydia Haas Holsten '61**, **Joanna Williamson Monday '72**, **Janet Junge Merkel '57**, **Scott Williamson '93**, **Fred Williamson '64 H'11**, **Trevor Williamson '17**, **Ray Williamson '68**, **Bob Williamson '91**. Center: **Gerry Williamson Mahoney '79**, **Laura Mahoney '12**, **Sarah Faye Kauffman '10**, **Emma Acciani '10**, **Emily Visnovsky '10**. Front: **Nicole Mahoney '10**, **Kaite Belmont '10**.

2. Monica Lopez '05 married Humberto Castaneda on November 22, 2014. They celebrated with Wagner friends Erik Richardson, husband of **Jenny Brumm Richardson '05**, **Megan Adams '05**, and **Marc Schaeffer '05**.

3. Charles Nicolais '08 and **Taylor Wheaton '09** celebrated their wedding on October 26, 2013, in Syracuse, N.Y., with Wagner family **Michael '49** and **Margaret '49 Nicolais**, **Adam Nicolais '13**, **Jillian Maloney '13**, **Alex Vasilakos '09 M'11**, as well as professors Nick Richardson, Amy Eshleman, and Mohammad Alauddin.

4. Jenny Brumm Richardson '05 with **Monica Lopez '05**, her former Wagner roommate and bridesmaid, at Jenny's wedding to Erik Richardson on September 13, 2014, in Monte Rio, Calif.

5. Yvonne Rodriguez '08 married Octavio M. Casuso III on February 13, 2015, at Mountain View Manor in Glen Spey, N.Y. Pictured with Octavio and Yvonne: **Ashley Werneken '08**, **Naveena David '08**, Amber Santos, **Nicholas Palumbo '04**, Evora Cherry, Miggie Boylan, and Matthew Boylan.

national essay chairman, and organizer of dictionary distribution to third graders. Pastor **Carl Wilfrid** was the subject of a feature, “Good Bye, Good Shepherd,” in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on July 28, 2014, upon his retirement as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. He served that church for 14 years and spent a total of 45 years in parish ministry in locations from Benedict, N.Dak., to Chico, Calif. In the article, fellow clergy and church members praised him for his welcoming nature, intelligence, and ecumenical vision. He retired on June 29, 2014, the 45th anniversary of his ordination. He also received the Rev. Lyle Guttu Award at Wagner Alumni Reunion in June 2015.

1967

Joseph Glenn retired in November 2014 after 45 years with British Airways at New York City’s John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Arno Rafael Minkinen was named a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow in photography. A photographer, educator, curator, and writer with over 100 solo shows to his credit, Arno is a professor of art at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

1969

Hazel “Bruce” Jackson writes, “After study (M.A. from NYU), teaching, journalism, and politics in Central America and Asia, especially China, India,

Korea and Japan, I’m back in the U.S., now owning the most affordable B&B left on Nantucket Island.” He and his wife, Tomomi, invite you to visit. Check it out at www.carriagehousenantucket.com. **Aino Lautsio-Riccitello** wrote in February that her year began with an inspirational response to a training that she conducted, “Through the Therapist’s Multicultural Lens,” at the Mental Health Counselor’s Association in Palm Beach County, Fla. She has been providing counseling services to clients in Palm Beach County for 26 years. **Linda Barbes Stein** ’69 M’73 retired in November 2014. She is working hard on fundraising for the Wagner Guild, an organization of which her late mother, **Lila T. Barbes** ’40, was a leader for many years and which offers the Lila T. Barbes Guild Scholarship at Wagner.

1970

Nancy Langman writes that she was excited to read about the new Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Wagner. She earned a DNP at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2012. After graduating from Wagner as a nurse in 1970, she had clinical experiences at the Brooklyn V.A. for psychiatry and the Public Health Service hospital on Staten Island, which influenced her career path. She earned a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing at Boston University and a master’s in public health at the Tulane School of

Public Health and Tropical Medicine. “I continue to work in the field of public health and mental health, and am constantly aware that it all began at Wagner,” she writes.

1972

Anthony Ferreri ’72 M’81 was appointed the North Shore-LIJ Health System’s executive vice president in March 2015. The role includes new responsibilities as the chief affiliation officer and regional executive director for Westchester. Anthony has served as Staten Island University Hospital’s president and CEO since 2003 and as executive director of the North Shore Health System’s Western Region since 2013.

1974

Brian Manske is still a math teacher (as well as department chair) and

varsity tennis coach at Staten Island Academy, where he has worked for 38 years.

1975

Joan C. Arnold, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP and chair of the firm’s Tax Practice Group, has been elected president of the American College of Tax Counsel (ACTC), the preeminent professional association of tax lawyers in private practice. Joan is the first woman to hold the office in the 33-year history of the ACTC. Her one-year term began on March 1. She focuses her practice on federal and international income tax. She has more than 30 years of significant experience in domestic and cross border M&A, and corporate international tax counseling, including substantial tax experience in the private equity arena. **Donna D’Ermilio** was honored with a Minty Award by the Minty Organization for the



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Be a part of it! Make a gift today, and watch us grow tomorrow.

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Performing Arts in Staten Island in January 2015.

The Minty Awards salute the best and brightest of Staten Island's Catholic high school theater departments. Donna has been director of the St. Joseph Hill Drama Club in Staten Island since 1977. **Sharon Roth Eckhardt** has been a pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Rockaway, N.J., for 12 years. She has a two-year-old grandson who is the joy of her life. **Elizabeth**

Gargiulo Farishian is on the board of PLAN New Jersey and works as a nurse for ECLC in Chatham, which provides education, careers, and lifelong community to children and adults with special needs. **Gary Farishian** is the director of athletics and health/physical education supervisor for the Verona, N.J., Public Schools. The Farishians live in Westfield, N.J. **Marylou Findley '75 M'04** was named the 2015 Education Services Professional of the Year for the Franklin Township (N.J.) School District. As school nurse since 2005, she has provided CPR training, coordinated holiday giving trees and food donations, and led many other community support endeavors. **John T. Lettieri** writes, "Forty years goes by fast!! Best to 1975 fellow graduates."

1976

Dr. **Linda Ahlqvist Walsh** received the 2014 Humanitarian Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians. A family

physician at Jarrettsville Family Care in Jarrettsville, Md., Linda is also the medical director and chair of the Steering Committee for the Dominican Republic Medical Mission. She has been leading annual medical missions to the Dominican Republic since 2003, and she and her team also sponsor a school lunch program and fund the education for several university students, including two medical students.

1977

Steven Rocco received his Doctorate in Divinity from Emmanuel Baptist University in Wilmington, N.C., in July 2014, and was appointed dean of academics at Emmanuel Baptist University in October 2014.

1978

Augustin "Augie" Melendez was named president of Hillside Work Scholarship Connection in Rochester, N.Y., a nationally recognized, evidence-informed partnership model for youth at risk of dropping out of high school. It serves over 4,000 students in Rochester, Syracuse, and Buffalo, as well as in Prince George's County, Md. **Ed Nessel** has published a new book, *Keeping the Athlete Healthy* (Sage Words Services, 2014, available on Amazon). He describes it as "everything you wanted to know or didn't know you wanted to know about preventing injury and illness in those participating

in competitive sports or vigorous training. All ages, all sports." Ed lives in Viera, Fla., where he is an aquatic teaching professional.

His website is www.movingthroughwater.com.

Steve Russo received major civic honors this spring for his efforts to educate students and the public about the fields of space exploration and astronomy. Steve is director of the East Kentucky Science Center, and he teaches astronomy and runs the planetarium at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonburg, Ky. In April, on his 60th birthday, the mayor of Prestonburg presented Steve with the Key to the City, while the Governor of Kentucky commissioned Steve a Kentucky Colonel, the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This ranks Steve with Col. Sanders, although he has no plans to sell fried chicken! Steve notes that John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, is also a Kentucky Colonel. Steve got his start operating the planetarium at Wagner College during his student years.

1979

Patricia Barry is in her seventh year at the Women's Health Center of St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, N.Y. She is a breast radiologist specializing in MRI and ultrasound. **Victor Dolan**, a chiropractor in New York City, was part of the medical staff for the World Sport Games

in June 2015 in Lignano, Italy. "With doctors from Australia, Japan, Colombia, Albania, Italy, Russia, Germany, France, Canada, it is a learning experience as well as an honor to be among their company," he wrote. He has previously been part of the medical staff for the USA Olympic Team, the Guadalajara Pan American Games, and the Vera Cruz Caribbean American Games.

1980

Charles Balintitt '80 M'97 joined the editorial board of the monthly online news magazine *Magyar News Online* (magyarnews.org) in the summer of 2014 and has been writing articles (in English) on subjects related to Hungarian culture. Dr. **Louis F. DeSantis** received the Richmond County (Staten Island) Dental Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in January 2015, at an event celebrating the society's 100th anniversary. In addition, Dr. **Edward Jastremski** was elected president of the society.

1983

Dr. **Louise Marie Priolo Grecco**, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, is a member of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Brooklyn Gynecological Society. She offers BRCA and Lynch genetic testing.

1985

Elaine Mendez hosted SWAN Day Staten Island in March 2015, an event honoring local female artists and their contributions to the Staten Island community. SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day is an international celebration created by womenarts.org. As part of the celebration, Elaine created an exhibit at Wagner's Spotlight Gallery entitled, "Upclose: A Retrospective of Women Artists on Staten Island."

1986

Edward J. Nitkewicz was appointed an inaugural board member of the Long Island chapter of Autism Speaks and chaired the first annual Laugh Now for Autism Speaks Comedy Showcase in August 2015. In addition, he was honored for his work as an attorney in the fields of personal injury and education law when he was recognized for the third consecutive year by New York Super Lawyers, a rating service of attorneys in the New York metro area.

1988

Andrew Ostrowski is the director of the Real Live Relic Hunters, a New York-based team who search for ancient relics throughout the world. Inspired by an ancient Middle Eastern ring that retired Wagner Professor Joedy Smith once showed him, Andrew developed the nine-person team and is talking with TV

production companies about the program. Find out more at www.realliverelichunter.com.

1989

Eileen Braun is working on her Doctor of Psychology in organizational psychology, specializing in wellness, at the University of the Rockies. **Tony Carter** M'89, a member of the faculty at the University of New Haven's College of Business, was featured by Cormac Gordon in the *Staten Island Advance* in January 2015 for his programs to introduce Staten Island children to college athletes, including the Seahawks.

1993

Lisa Dalessandro Cordova and **Angelo Cordova** M'12 announce the birth of Adriana Lily on December 5, 2014. (See *Crib Notes*, page 33, for a photo.)

1994

Brian Whitman is a co-host of *The Morning Answer with Brian, Ben and Elisha* on AM 870 (KRLA) from Glendale, Calif., and Newsmax named this team one of its "50 Most Influential Local Talk Radio Shows in America" in 2015.

1996

Dan Mullen M'96 led the Mississippi State Bulldogs football team to its best year ever in 2014, reaching a #1 ranking, finishing the season 10–2, and appearing in the Orange Bowl. Dan's first professional coaching job was at Wagner in 1994–95.

1997

Kathy Brier was honored with a Minty Award by the Minty Organization for the Performing Arts in Staten Island in January 2015. The Minty Awards salute the best and brightest of Staten Island's Catholic high school theater departments. A graduate of Moore Catholic High School, Kathy received the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2002, she created the role of Marcie Walsh on ABC's *One Life to Live* and received an Emmy nomination in 2004. In 2003, she also took on the role of Tracy Turnblad in the Broadway smash hit *Hairspray*. Most recently she has played Sophie Tucker in HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. **Danielle Libretti Fornes** '97 M'00 is the "Mom Who Knows" on the Internet, blogging at www.momwhoknows.com. The Jersey City resident has gained attention for her good advice on products, recipes, parenting tips, fashion, trends, arts and crafts, and more. She has also written for *Vogue Bambini*, most recently in the July/August 2015 issue. **Carolyn Oglio** married Joseph Taverner on July 19, 2014, at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Staten Island. Carolyn, who holds a doctorate in developmental psychology from the CUNY Graduate Center, is an adjunct professor at Wagner College and at the College of Staten Island, as well as a grief counselor with Emma's Place in Staten Island. Joseph

is a locomotive engineer with the Staten Island Railway. **Kathleen Ramirez Wright** and her husband, Kirk, welcomed their first child, Amelia Faith, on October 25, 2014.

1998

Lana Flotteron '98 M'11 was appointed director of budget and reporting in the Business Office of Wagner College. She began working at Wagner in 2009 as a staff accountant. **Rosa Graziano**, who owns and operates an Italian food truck in Los Angeles, was chosen to compete in Food Network Star, Season 11, which ran this summer. She was eliminated from the show at the end of June, but she made an unforgettable impression with her high spirits and charisma.

2000

Janet Anne Wolter Rumble '00 M'02 and her husband, Morgan, announce the birth of their second daughter, Dylan Paige Rumble, on November 11, 2014. (See *Crib Notes*, page 33, for a photo.)

2001

Shane Morgan and **Kathryn Cannizzaro-Morgan** '02 announce the birth of their third child, Matthew Peter, on March 26, 2015. (See *Crib Notes*, page 33, for a photo.)

2002

Lucas Armeña was appointed by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory

to the state's Dispute Resolution Commission, part of the North Carolina court system. He is pursuing a master's degree in emergency management and business continuity at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. **Kathryn Cannizzaro-Morgan** and **Shane Morgan** '01 announce the birth of their third child, Matthew Peter, on March 26, 2015. (See *Crib Notes*, page 33, for a photo.) **Sean M. Connery** was promoted to partner at the law firm Perkins Cole, where he is a member of the business practice in the New York office. He represents corporate trust companies in a wide range of capital markets transactions, and also counsels corporate trust clients in their capacity as trustee or agent in connection with bond and loan default scenarios, Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, and commercial litigation.

2003

Carmen Attia is teaching in the universal pre-K program on Staten Island. **Kurt Ramler** M'03, who was wide receivers coach at Wagner and is now head football coach at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., was featured in the *New York Times* last November because of his unusual pick for an assistant coach: Sister Lisa Maurer, a Benedictine nun, who coaches punters and kickers. She had been a faithful booster of the team and had experience with coaching

before she entered religious life. "The forward-thinking Ramler — a free spirit who rarely wears socks, even on the coldest days — invited Maurer to join his coaching staff. Maurer spent so much time watching practice that Ramler figured he might as well put her to work," wrote Pat Borzi for the *Times*. St. Scholastica won the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference championship for the fourth year in a row in 2014.

2004

John Orecchia married **Theresa Barrilli** '10 on March 14, 2014. They met at Wagner Homecoming in 2007. **Jacqueline Wolter**, a realtor in New York City, returned to campus during the spring 2015 semester to conduct information sessions for seniors starting their apartment search in New York City.

2005

Jenny Brumm married Erik Richardson on September 13, 2014, in Monte Rio, Calif. Her Wagner roommate, **Monica Lopez**, served as her bridesmaid. Jenny is a client partners manager for Facebook in Menlo Park, and Erik is a senior analyst for business development at NRG Energy in San Francisco. A couple of months later, on November 22, 2014, **Monica Lopez** married Humberto Castaneda. They celebrated with Erik and **Jenny Brumm Richardson**, **Megan Adams**, and **Marc Schaeffer**. (See *Knot Notes*, page 37, for photos of Jenny's and Monica's

weddings.) **Bridget Herrmann** has joined the field staff at Crush Music, covering all radio formats across the U.S., with a focus on the Midwest. She was formerly a staff member with A&M/Octone in New York City.

2006

Michael Armato, who is now at the University at Albany-SUNY, came back to Wagner in March 2015 to present his research, "The Civically Oriented Activities of Big City Mayors: The View from Website Press Releases." In his talk, he analyzed the role of mayors in promoting civic engagement. **Dana Guariglia Baranello** '06 M'07 M'10 and John Baranello welcomed Gemma Joycee Baranello on June 18, 2014. Gemma Joycee is the granddaughter of Dr. **James Guariglia** '74 and **Joycee Rina Cini Guariglia** '75. **Rebecca Colucci Kelly** is serving as co-chair of the inaugural Staten Island Walk to End Alzheimer's on September 27, with a goal of raising \$100,000; 79 percent of funds raised will go toward programs and services for Staten Island families. Her grandmother died of dementia in March 2015, and she dedicates her work to her grandmother's memory.

2007

Chris Allen, who is the P.S. 57 arts education liaison and instructional tech specialist and mentor, received the Capt. John Jackson Pioneer Award at the third annual Island

Voice Golden Image award ceremony on February 28. The award ceremony was part of the annual "Know Your History" Youth Empowerment Summit, held at Wagner College and organized by Island Voice Inc., a Staten Island nonprofit organization engaged in community development among the African, African-American, Caribbean, and immigrant communities. **Jeffrey Logan** and **Jenna DiMatteo** were married on December 7, 2013. Jeff is director of business development and client services for Taylor Management Company in New Jersey, and Jenna is an analyst for Ross Stores in New York City. They live in Cedar Grove, N.J. **Mark Magro** '07 M'08 writes, "Since leaving school, I became a teacher by day and an aspiring young adult writer by night. After many years of hard work, I've obtained a publishing deal for one of my manuscripts! The book is a young adult sci-fi thriller called *Surfacing*. It will be published by Jolly Fish Press on October 20 of this year." The book is available for preorder on Amazon.com. **Mia Lynn Romano** defended her thesis on December 10, 2014, at Rutgers to earn her Ph.D. in Spanish literature. **Jenna Ward** '07 M'08 was promoted to the position of controller in the Business Office of Wagner College. She has worked at Wagner since 2009, beginning as a compliance accountant.

2008

Brooke Guinan became the third generation in her family to join the FDNY in 2008, but she is the first member of the FDNY to come out as transgender. Born George William Guinan, Brooke made the news when she appeared in the “So Gay So What” social media campaign of V.O.I.C.E., the Vocal Organization for International Courage and Equality. Her photo, in which she wears a T shirt emblazoned with “So Trans So What” and firefighting gear, became the campaign’s most popular post when it was released last September. She was featured in a *Village Voice* cover story, the *Daily News*, MSNBC, and other media outlets. **James Morro** joined Chuhak & Tecson, P.C., in Chicago, as an associate in the banking group, where he concentrates his practice in the banking industry, with an emphasis on real estate and litigation. **Charles Nicolais** married **Taylor Wheaton** ’09 on October 26, 2013, in Syracuse, N.Y. **Erin O’Neil** married **Matt Ban** ’09 on June 7, 2014. **Yvonne M. Rodriguez** married Octavio M. Casuso III on February 13, 2015, at Mountain View Manor in Glen Spey, N.Y. Yvonne is a major gift officer at CureSearch for Children’s Cancer, and Octavio is a nurse at New Vanderbilt Nursing Home and Staten Island Care Center. They live in Staten Island. (See *Knot Notes*,

page 37, for photos of the Nicolais-Wheaton and Rodriguez-Casuso weddings.)

2009

Matt Ban married **Erin O’Neil** ’08 on June 7, 2014. **Robert Geronimo** has a new wordless picture book in the works, *Little Maia and the Lunar Express*, a sequel to *Little Maia and the Coral City*. He successfully funded its completion through a Kickstarter campaign. **Harry Jackson**, former president of Wagner College’s Student Government Association and an associate at the commercial legal firm of Fox Rothschild LLP, was elected to the tribal council of his Native American tribe, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. This council is charged with the legislative governance of the tribe, and Harry will be responsible for coding tribal laws, creating a system for non-native attorneys to request permission to appear before tribal courts, and advising the principal justice in matters arising in the Tribal Supreme Court. The Nanticoke and Lenni-Lenape tribes’ homelands have been in southern New Jersey and the Delmarva Peninsula from ancient times. **Taylor Wheaton** married **Charles Nicolais** ’08 on October 26, 2013, in Syracuse, N.Y. (See *Knot Notes*, page 37, for a photo.)

2010

Nicole Mahoney married Colin Johnson in Spring Lake Heights, N.J., on

August 3, 2014. Her sisters **Laura Mahoney** ’12 and **Gail Mahoney** ’16 served in the bridal party. Nicole and Colin celebrated with three generations of Wagner alumni. (See *Knot Notes*, page 37, for a photo.) **Theresa Barrilli** married **John Orecchia** ’04 on March 14, 2014. They met at Wagner Homecoming in 2007. “Back in 2006,” Theresa writes, “I never would have dreamed I would meet my future husband at college, but I did and I have my time at Wagner to thank!” **Andrew Wells** and **Melissa Beck** were married at Holy Rosary Church in Staten Island on December 13, 2014. They are both New York City public school teachers: Melissa teaches special education in a kindergarten in Staten Island, and Andrew teaches special education in a middle school in Brooklyn.

2011

Sarah Nehm wrote for the *Missoulian*, an online publication, in June about her work with faith communities in Montana to combine their resources to combat climate change. She is the intern pastor for Valley of Christ Lutheran Church in Frenchtown, Mont. **Jonathan Pigno** published a collection of his writings, entitled *The Island Never Burned So Bright*, available on amazon.com. He has published poems, short stories, and articles in magazines such as *Vine Leaves Literary Journal*, *Five*

2 One Magazine, *Asbury Pulp*, and the *Staten Island Advance*. Read his work at <http://jonathanpigno.com>.

2012

Angelo Cordova M’12 and **Lisa Dalessandro Cordova** ’93 announce the birth of Adriana Lily on December 5, 2014. (See *Crib Notes*, page 33, for a photo.) **Rose Tobiassen** earned her master’s in sustainability, culture, and development anthropology at Durham University (UK) in January 2014. She did a study of mobile phone use among Kenyan women for her master’s thesis, drawing on contacts she made during her Wagner EYH trip to Kenya. She was an intern for the Clinton Global Initiative until the end of 2014, when the CGI hired her for a full-time, permanent staff position as program and operations coordinator. She prepares the meetings that CGI hosts all over the world and assists the CEO.

2013

Kevin Ferreira finished his second year of doctoral studies in applied psychology at Boston College. **Jamie Lynn Macchia** won the Miss New York competition on June 6 at the St. George Theatre in Staten Island. This year, she advanced to the competition as Miss Greater New York (she was Miss Staten Island in 2012 and 2013.) She competes for the Miss America title in Atlantic City on September 13.

In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family

Rev. Gunther Stippich '36	Mr. Sabin Mancini '51	Mr. Ralph J. Porch '60	Dr. Frederic P. Cande '69
Mrs. Mildred F. Messenbrink Hergenhan '40	Dr. Arthur V. Pinski '51	Dr. Thomas J. Kelly '61	Mr. Fred Carullo '69 M'74
Mrs. Esther Turnheim Kolbjornsen '40	Mr. Lindsay T. Andrews '52	Rev. Herman A. Soderberg '61	Mr. Eric D. Halberg '69
Dr. Robert P. Vomacka '41	Mr. Jerome Bradley '52	Rev. Richard B. Markham '62 M'73	Miss Victoria C. Mullin '69
Dr. William Levy Lloyd '42	Dr. William Harvey '52	Mr. John R. Scallan '62	Ms. Kimi Nakamura Fukuda '70
Mr. Edwin Saul '42	Mr. H. Theodore Johnson '52	Mrs. Nancy Barbour Werkheiser '62	Mr. Allan D. Barbes '71
Mrs. Louise Niclas Saul '43	Ms. Dorothy Ann Reynolds '52 M'64	Mrs. Mary Catherine Costello Farrell '64	Mr. John A. Cucco '73
Rev. Helmut T. Dietrich '45	Mr. William K. Roehrich '52	Mr. Edgar H. Jensen '64 M'67	Mr. Robert L. Smith Jr. '73
Mrs. Ruth Witthoft Wilkinson '45	Rev. Hugh C. Whitaker '52	Mr. Stephen V. Robinson '64	Mr. Stephen J. Vaccarella '73
Mrs. Penny Spina Curry '46	Mr. John J. Como '53	Miss Louise Valuck '64	Mr. Michael A. Cavallo '74
Mrs. Ann Jamieson Ariemma '48	Rev. George E. Kenyon Jr. '53	Mr. John N. Bowden '65	Ms. Marta E. Rodriguez M'74
Mr. Walter L. McColl '48	Mr. Richard A. Koss '53	Mr. Clifford L. Lish '65	Miss Maureen Kandrach '76
Mr. Sam J. Antico '49	Mr. Francis A. O'Leary '53	Mr. David W. Ostergren M'65	Mrs. Regina Deutsch Fried M'77
Mr. Wilson R. Gearhart '49	Dr. Joseph W. Christiana '54	Mr. John A. Di Carlo-Cottone '66	Ms. Debra C. Rotolo '77
Mrs. Muriel Elizabeth Anne Byrne Hassel '49	Mr. Lionel Rotelli '54 M'61	Mrs. Irene Farmer M'66	Mr. Michael Di Marco '78
Mr. Robert Molinari '49	Mrs. Ann Robinson Carmer '56	Mr. Joseph J. Ficarra '66 M'69	Ms. Joyce Rusinak '78
Mrs. Helen Sup Patterson '49	Mr. Irwin N. Jaeger M'56	Mr. Edward J. Mastellone '66	Ms. Anne Beveridge '81
Dr. Trygve R. Skarsten '49	Mrs. Doris Dittmer Pitou '56	Mrs. Evelyn Larsen Nilsen '66	Mrs. Carol A. Haynes-Loughran '81
Mr. Edward F. Bellew '50	Mrs. Germaine Bunosky Coleman '58	Mr. Robert Perry '66	Rev. John R. Pearson H'81
Mr. John Castle Jr. '50	Mr. Patrick R. Sbarra '58 M'75	Mr. Steven F. Zuntag '66	Mr. Salvatore Gerardi '86
Mr. Charles R. Chamberlain '50	Mr. Malcolm G. Stannard '58 M'59	Ms. Nancy L. Kiligas Clemens '67	Ms. Kimberly A. Foulks '87
Mr. Franklin J. Larson '50	Mr. David E. Wainwright '59 M'62	Mr. Stanley M. Jay M'67	Mr. Peter Pellegrito '07 M'08
Mr. Joseph Romano '50	Mrs. Maria F. Da Rocha '60	Mr. James Longley '67	Mr. Michael A. Diomedede '11
Mr. Bernard Baratta '51 M'55	Mr. Lawrence Dober '60	Mr. Ronald Pfeiffer '68	

Rev. James E. Gunther

The Reverend James E. Gunther, Wagner trustee from 1981 to 1986, died on May 7, 2015, in Philadelphia. Gunther served at Transfiguration Lutheran Church of New York for 38 years, retiring in 1998. Known as a “poor, humble parish priest,” he was active in church work on economic justice and human rights, and he was the founder of the Harlem College Assistance Project, which sent more than 5,000 black and Hispanic students to college.

Mr. Bob Mathews

Robert M. “Matty” Mathews, 84, died on December 7, 2014. He taught and coached for 30 years at Port Richmond High School, his alma mater, and also served for many years as alumni association president. After retiring in 1989, he came to work part time in the Admissions Office at Wagner College. He loved the College and was a fixture on campus, not only working but also attending plays and games. A scholarship in his name will fund Port Richmond High School graduates’ attendance at Staten Island colleges.

Dr. Miroslav Martinovic

Miroslav “Mike” Martinovic, 58, died on February 24, 2015, in Newtown, Penn. A native of Serbia who held a doctorate in computer science from Belgrade University, he taught in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Applications at Wagner from 1989 to 2000. Many former students and colleagues remember him fondly, including Frank Cafasso '00 M'02, Wagner’s chief information officer. “He taught me so much about thinking critically in this field, taught me skills I still use to this day, and taught me what role models should be like,” said Cafasso.

Mrs. Lorraine Mrozinski

Lorraine Mrozinski, 81, died on July 7, 2015. A lover of animals and longtime nursing home volunteer, she served as secretary to the president of Wagner College and acting director of personnel from 1969 to 1984.

Why Did I Run the 2014 Boston Marathon?

Thoughts on Overcoming Life's Biggest Challenges By Bob Haberle '71

The 118th running of the Boston Marathon, on April 21, 2014, was like no other. I know, because I was there the year before. At 2:49 p.m. on April 15, 2013, I had finished the race and was walking toward my wife when a loud noise erupted three blocks away, followed twelve seconds later by another immense bang. Chaos quickly ensued when word spread that two bombs had gone off. A woman came running toward us from the finish line, crying and yelling that there was blood everywhere on Boylston Street.

We looked up to the Prudential Center, located near the finish line, thinking the building may have been struck by terrorists. My wife and I then decided to leave Boston as quickly as possible, even though the physical effects of finishing a marathon would make a sudden departure challenging for my recovery. As we drove westbound on the Massachusetts Turnpike, state troopers were streaming into the city. My mind flashed back to memories of standing on Broadway in Lower Manhattan on September 11, 2001, when 1 World Trade Center tumbled down right in front of my eyes.

On that morning, I was at work in my company's office, located only a few short blocks from the WTC complex. Members of our staff started to receive panicked phone calls from family and friends who heard the

“ Putting one foot in front of the other was what mattered that day. ”

initial report that a small plane had flown into one of the towers. I was sitting in a conference room with some colleagues on the ninth floor, and we noticed large amounts of paper floating in the air, like a ticker tape parade — except that we could see the paper had charred edges.

After the second tower was hit, we received conflicting information about whether to leave or to stay. I decided to take a walk to Broadway and assess the situation. I was two blocks away when 1 WTC collapsed. As the building imploded, many of us frantically ran towards the East River. I'll never forget someone yelling that we were all going to die. Fortunately, I saw a post office loading dock nearby. I never ran so fast to get there and take refuge. Chaos and uncertainty reigned for the remainder of the day and for weeks and months ahead.

These two seminal events in my life have made me think back to my days at Wagner, from 1967 to 1971.

The Vietnam War was raging, and anti-war and anti-discrimination

protests surrounded us. Society was going through a major transition, and college campuses, including Wagner, were feeling the effects. I remember watching the military draft lottery on television with fellow students in Towers dorm. Your future and possible fate were being determined by the order in which your birthdate was drawn from a large cylindrical container. There were a lot of mixed emotions in the room that evening, and on many other days and nights, as we all wrestled with our beliefs and values. Sometimes we debated and argued, sometimes we partied and defied authority. I'll never forget the electric atmosphere on campus.

Fortunately, Wagner gave me the opportunity to attend the College's study abroad program in Bregenz, Austria, during the spring semester of 1970. That time away provided me with some space to reflect upon what was going on in our country. The Wagner experience helped us grow and develop in so many ways that we could rely upon in future years. It was challenging to go through the transition, but we learned important life skills in being adaptable and resilient.

One of the lessons I learned during those turbulent times was to keep one foot moving in front of the other, no matter what. As a college student, I had watched the World Trade Center towers dramatically arise from the

New York City skyline. As an adult, I watched them implode, changing the lives of everyone in America forever. Our company lost the friendship of former co-workers who died on that tragic day. Nevertheless, I knew it was important to get back to as normal a routine as possible and to keep moving forward. On Monday, September 17, 2001, we returned to work, as our building was one of few in Lower Manhattan that never lost power. Over the next several weeks and months, all New Yorkers rose to the occasion, demonstrating strength and resolve while attending memorial services for families and friends.

Similarly, after the 2013 Boston Marathon, many runners, including myself, made a commitment to return to the start line one year later in order to pay respect and demonstrate support to the families of lost and injured loved ones. Many of us went to Fenway the day before the race to cheer for the injured, who came onto the field using prosthetic devices or wheelchairs. The injured simply had done what so many Bostonians do every year on Patriots' Day: cheer and support the runners of Boston. They had paid a high price, but they were not giving up.

As we walked towards the start line that day, there was something electric in the air — captured in the slogan "Boston Strong" — that provided us runners an even greater sense of purpose to finish the race no matter what lay ahead. It really did not matter what your finish time was that day, as long as you got to the finish line. Putting one foot in front of the other was what mattered that day, and it is what matters through all of life's peaks and valleys.



Bob Haberle '71, a veteran marathoner, is the chief liquidation officer for Legion Insurance Company. Previously, he was president of Reliance Insurance Company. He lives in Pennington, New Jersey, with his wife, Pam; their son, Taylor, is a sophomore at Wake Forest University.

WAGNER COLLEGE



PHOTOGRAPHS: VINNIE AMESSÉ

Stroller Derby

Five Wagner girlfriends, all education majors and all teachers, brought their kids to Reunion this year adorned in matching green bows. An irresistible photo op! *Above*, Mom and Dad Seahawks: Jonathan '04 M'10 and Leanne Driscoll '06 M'10 Raymond, AnneMarie Vargas Olton '06 M'08, Kathryn Laudino Paolucci '06 M'07, Brittany Osti Bramley '06 M'08, and Kathryn Gannon Otero '06 M'07. *Below*, the little Seahawks: Emery Bramley, Anna Paolucci, Violet Raymond, Penelope Olton, and Mason Otero.

