

FALL 2010

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER

PROFILE:

Humble Honcho

*Clinton's chief of staff,
Laura Graham '95*

Dream Job on the River ★ **The Man Who Saved New York** ★ **Magical Reality**

Wagner
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Magazine
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Fall 2010
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Contents

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 **From the President**
- 3 **From the Editor**
- 4 **From Our Readers**
- 5 **Upon the Hill**
- 30 **Sports Roundup**
- 33 **Alumni Link**
- 36 **Class Notes**
- 44 **In Memoriam**
- 45 **Reflections**

10

Behind the Scenes

Bill Clinton's chief of staff, Laura Graham '95, leads with quiet effectiveness.

14

Magical Reality

Wagner students explore the world of Gabriel García Márquez's fiction.

FEATURES

VOL. 8, NO. 2

18

Dream Job

Walter Kristiansen '63 runs a tugboat company at the nexus of global commerce.

24

The Man Who Saved New York

A new book shows there's much to learn from an unsung hero of the 1970s.

PHOTOGRAPH: JACKSON HILL



Global Highway

Under the leadership of
Walter Kristiansen '63,
E. N. Bisso & Sons' tugboats
keep commodities like grain
and oil moving through the
Lower Mississippi, the Gulf
of Mexico, and beyond.

From the President

Meeting Today's Challenges



Kiplinger's
named us one of the 100
best values in private
higher education.

some time on our campus, you would realize that these young people are tomorrow's responsible leaders in medicine, science, business, the arts, education and public service.

We make every effort to ensure that our students receive the very best, but that is a challenge in today's environment. Let me take a moment, then, to update you on the state of the college.

Finances undergird all that we do at Wagner, and I'm pleased that since June 2002, when our audited financial statements listed our endowment at \$4 million, the total today has grown to more than \$60 million. This helps to secure the College's future. Unlike many institutions during this Great Recession, Wagner has not had to respond to the crisis by chasing enrollments and lowering standards. We

have maintained our quality and balanced our budget. *Kiplinger's*, in fact, just named us one of the 100 best values in private higher education.

It is also worth mentioning that, as previously announced, we successfully met our capital campaign goal of \$50 million through an effort that included 20 gifts of \$1 million or

more, including \$10 million from Michael and Margaret Nicolais, both of the class of '49, and \$5 million from the Richmond County Savings Foundation, shepherded by Trustee Michael Manzulli.

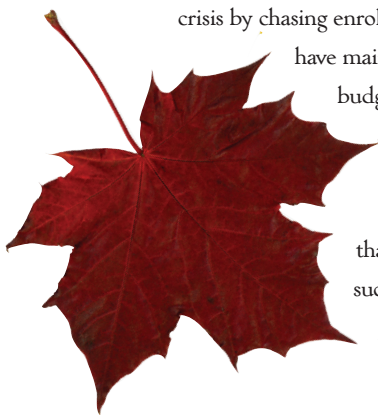
Among other accomplishments, the successful campaign enabled the construction of Foundation Hall, which houses 200 seniors. Other capital improvements to campus include the installation of sprinklers in all residence halls, renovation of two laboratories, installation of a new modern scoreboard on the football field, and plans to revitalize Main Hall through a \$6 million renovation.

As our finances grow stronger, so has our reputation. We have become recognized as a leader, nationally, for providing an education that emphasizes student involvement in community and public service.

I'm particularly proud of our Civic Innovations program that links specific academic departments to community partners in our region. The Port Richmond Partnership connects 18 community organizations with our students to focus on issues of economic development, community health, education, literacy, and teacher education. Our study abroad programs continue to grow in number and enrollment as we prepare to launch new programs in India and China in coming months.

Together the Wagner family has accomplished a great deal in recent years, and we have an even more promising future — one that will realize the vision of Wagner's first lay president, Clarence Stoughton, who challenged us to become a truly national leader in higher education.

RICHARD GUARASCI
PRESIDENT



From the Editor

Reading Room

In September 1961, Wagner moved its library out of the Main Hall attic and into the new Horrmann Library building. Next year, *Wagner Magazine* will mark the library's 50th anniversary with articles, photos, and reminiscences. In that connection, we'd like to hear what the library has meant to the people who have used it through the years. What role has it played in campus life? To get the ball rolling, I contacted Carol Gaise Crews '62.

The sociology and anthropology major from Kingston, New York, was a senior at Wagner when the library first opened its doors. As she put it, "we watched it being built" on the hillside known to students as Chapel Knoll.

Crews painted a vivid

picture of Wagner student life before and after Horrmann. "Facilities in the '50s were marginal," she said, especially in light of the postwar student boom that had swelled enrollment fourfold. The campus lacked public space for student life, especially for quiet study. There was no Union.

The Hawk's Nest, in the basement of Main Hall, was always crowded.

The lounges in the dorms were for socializing and watching television. The library in Main Hall was a cramped and shabby space that was always hot, both in the winter and the summer.

When the Horrmann Library opened, Crews said, it was like the difference between "an old clunker and

a beautiful luxury car." It was bright, it was spacious, it had a brand-new climate control system, and it was pleasant, with its large windows looking out to the harbor (the view now taken over by the Union).

"It was a tremendous boon to campus," she said. "A lot of students went there to study. It was a really busy place."

What do you remember about

Horrmann Library's role at Wagner College? Please share your stories, and look for next year's 50th anniversary celebrations of the Horrmann Library.

Laura Barlament

EDITOR,

WAGNER MAGAZINE



Horrmann Library, 2009



On the Cover

Former President Bill Clinton's chief of staff, *Laura Graham '95*, accompanied her boss back to her home turf on September 3, when Clinton spoke at a campaign rally for U.S. Rep. *Mike McMahon*, held at Wagner's Spiro Sports Center. It was Wagner's first visit by a current or former U.S. president.

PHOTOGRAPH: NICK ROMANENKO

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From Our Readers



Port Richmond Connections

I have been reading the very interesting article that lets all of us “far-flung grads” know about the work of Cass Freedland, director of the Center for Leadership and Service at Wagner (“Conversations That Count,” summer 2010). I do not always read the alumni magazine. I am so very glad that I did read it this time. I am excited about these activities at Wagner. I lived in Port Richmond (on Castleton Avenue) when I attended Wagner. My father had an antique shop, and we lived in a house from the late 1700s (next to his shop). My mother (Anita Kershaw Jacobsen '63 M'68) was a Wagner grad. My aunt, Edythe Kershaw Larson '44, was a grad, and she

“ I am excited about these activities at Wagner. ”

later headed the bacteriology department. My brother (Jacques Jacobsen Jr. '54 M'63) and my nephew (Jacques Jacobsen III '83) are Wagner grads, too.

JILL JACOBSEN SMITH '55
DALLAS, TEXAS

In Memoriam Jonathan Acierno '02

Editor's Note: Friends of Jonathan Acierno '02, who passed away on January 18, sent us remembrances of him, excerpts of which are printed here. For the full versions, go to www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.

Jonathan Acierno and I met on one of my first few days at Wagner as I was walking along Trautmann Square. I, a lonely, nervous, visually impaired freshman from Pennsylvania. He, a friendly, knowledgeable senior from Staten Island. Our close friendship began instantaneously, and we spent every possible minute together, both on and off campus.

It quickly became clear to me that Jonathan was a unique individual. Each day I would

learn about another activity that he was involved in. It appeared as if Jonathan spent every waking hour on campus from early morning until late at night, and it is no wonder he seemed to know everyone there.

Even after leaving Wagner, Jonathan remained a part of its community as he regularly attended alumni and other campus events. His passing is not only a loss to his friends and family, but also to the Wagner community and beyond. Wagner meant so much to him. It inspired him to grow and in turn inspire others. I am privileged to have known Jonathan, and I am honored that he called me his friend.

MELISSA TRAVOSTINO '05
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

A brother is someone that many people have but often take for granted. Jonathan stuck by me through thick and thin and always made me put my best foot forward.

Jon was extremely happy that he got to attend Wagner. He did



Jonathan Acierno '02

so much, and often stayed on campus until 2 or 3 a.m. He felt like Wagner was his home away from home.

Jonathan was the reason my brother Michael and I went to Wagner, because he felt it would help shape us into wonderful people. Jonathan was part of so many organizations and clubs on campus, and when I came to Wagner, I joined most of the same things he did. He encouraged me to get involved so I would not be so afraid of Wagner. He told me what to join and why. One of his favorite clubs was Club Diversity. This club did not exist when I came to Wagner, but it did encourage me to take part in Diversity Day. My brother was a mentor to students outside the Wagner community, which inspired me to not only become a teacher but to tutor young students with special needs.

I remember him at my 2008 graduation ceremony, so proud and happy for me. When I finally made it into ODK, he was so excited and thrilled for me. He helped me aspire to go to graduate school and to further inspire others. My brother was a mentor to me. He lives on, and will never be forgotten.

ERICA ACIERNO '08 M'10
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

We'd Love to Hear from You

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

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

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Upon the Hill

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

A Signature Renovation

Main Hall facelift begins thanks to \$2.8 million estate gift

Among the first class of students to benefit from Wagner College's sparkling new Administration Building (known today as Main Hall) for all four years of their education was Herbert Vaughan '34.

Thanks in large part to a \$2.8 million gift received from Vaughan's estate this fall, the building will receive a much-needed overhaul. This project will include a new roof, repointed brickwork, new windows, and restoration of exterior ornamental features.

A Staten Island native, Vaughan enrolled at Wagner College a few months after Main Hall opened on February 28, 1930. At that time, the building was a whole campus under one roof, with classrooms, laboratories, offices, the library, the president's office, and a combined gymnasium and auditorium.

Eighty years later, Wagner's signature building is still a real workhorse, with classrooms, faculty offices, art and dance studios, and the main stage of Wagner's celebrated theater program.

President of the student body, football team manager, *Kallista* staff member, and Alpha Kappa Pi fraternity brother, Vaughan was known as "Boss" by his senior year of college. After Wagner, he earned a law degree from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the



New York bar in 1937. Vaughan served as an attorney for the engineering division of Procter & Gamble in Staten Island for 30 years, retiring in 1969.

He and his wife, Josephine Taylor Vaughan, moved from Staten Island to Lincroft, New Jersey, in 1959, and to Lakewood, New Jersey, in 1972.

Children of the Depression, the couple lived frugally,

invested wisely, and gave generously. Vaughan was a loyal supporter of Wagner College throughout his life, becoming a member of the Inner Circle giving society and securing matching gifts from his employer as well. While Herb passed away in 1998, Jo outlived him until this year. Their entire estate was left to charities.

"He was a really cool guy," says Vaughan's lawyer and friend, Jeri Sayer. "He was physically handicapped — he had polio and used crutches — but was full of life and excited about everything"



TO BE PRESERVED
Main Hall and its benefactor (pictured above, in the 1934 *Kallista*), Herbert Vaughan '34.



BIG PLANS Wagner's new academic hall will foster international education.

Global Vision

Concept for new academic building expands

President Guarasci has announced that Wagner's planned new academic building — which he often refers to as “the Main Hall of the 21st century” — will be called the Center for Global Learning.

To be constructed on the site of the former Augustinian Academy, the building will house Wagner's business, education, and nursing departments, plus other disciplines with a strong international element.

The global focus, Guarasci says, reflects “where Wagner is going, where education is going, and where the world is going.” He envisions the

building facilitating a learning style that is based on research and problem-solving, with flexible spaces that foster collaborative work. Technology connecting Grymes Hill to other parts of the world will be pervasive throughout the building, which will feature environmentally friendly construction practices.

The project received a lead commitment of \$10 million from Michael '49 and Margaret Christie '49 Nicolais in 2007. The \$25 million extension of the Putting Wagner First campaign, which has already achieved its original \$50 million goal, will provide the remainder of the funds needed to construct the Center for Global Learning. Contact Myra Garcia, vice

president for institutional advancement, at 718-390-3225, if you would like to find out more.

Leading the Pack

Wagner retains No. 1 spot in *U.S. News*, adds kudos for civic engagement

For the second year in a row, Wagner College made the No. 1 spot in *U.S. News & World Reports* ranking of “Up-and-Comers” among Northern regional universities — schools that have “recently made the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus or facilities.”

The magazine's 2011 “Best Colleges” issue also ranked Wagner among the overall top 25 Northern regional universities, and recognized the College in four national lists of “Programs to Look For”: first-year experience, internships, learning communities, and service learning. All of these programs, integral to the Wagner Plan for the Practical

Liberal Arts, are strongly linked to student success.

Another influential annual college guide, *The Best 373 Colleges* by the Princeton Review, again ranked Wagner among the best Northeastern colleges and Wagner's theater program among the top in the nation. Wagner is No. 5 on this year's “Best College Theaters” list.

A new feather in Wagner's cap is the 2010 Higher Education Civic Engagement Award, given by the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. This award recognizes colleges that serve as models of how to foster learning and involvement in the community.

“Wagner College is a true role model for civic engagement in the academic community,” said Mike Smith, president of the Washington Center. “The College is teaching students a quality that can't be learned in the classroom alone: the importance of getting involved, giving back, and making a difference.”



FIRST ON GRYMES HILL

On September 3, former President Bill Clinton spoke at a campaign rally for U.S. Rep. Mike McMahon, held at the Spiro Sports Center. The first U.S. president ever to visit the Wagner campus, Clinton began his speech with a shout-out to Wagner, which he recognized for its Port Richmond Partnership at the 2009 Clinton Global Initiative University, and to his chief of staff, Wagner alumna Laura Graham '95 (profiled in this issue, starting on page 10).

The Class of 2014

Fun facts about Wagner's newest students

490
First-Year Students Enrolled

33
States of Origin

11
Foreign Countries of Origin

(Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, South Africa, Turkey, Vietnam)

4
Sets of Twins

6
Students Born on January 23, 1992

148
Students in a
National Honor Society

160,519
Total Miles the Class Traveled
to Come to Wagner

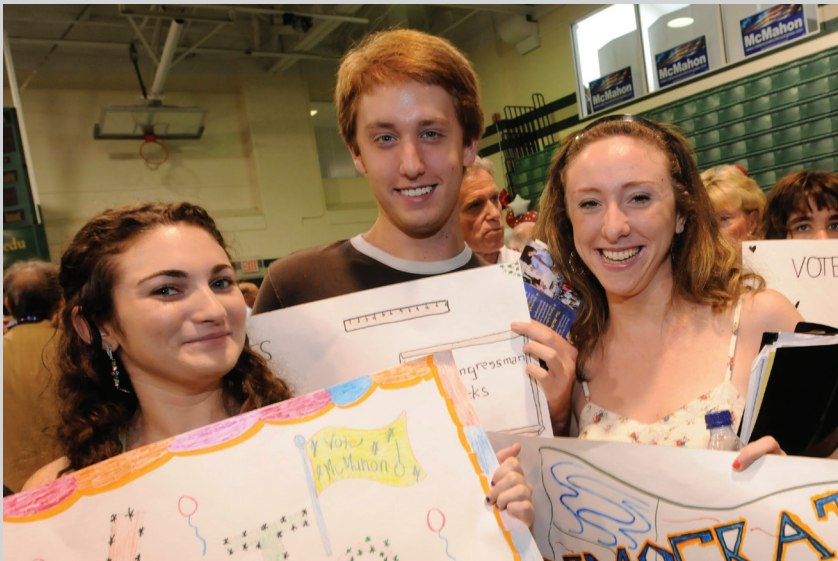
9,439
Longest Distance Traveled, in Miles
(from Kurrajong, Australia)

0.8
Shortest Distance Traveled, in Miles

173
Students Undecided About Their Major

1
Student Who Starred in a Major Motion
Picture Filmed at Wagner College

(Brian Falduto '14 played Billy, a.k.a.
"Fancy Pants," in the 2003 Jack Black
comedy *School of Rock*)



EXCITING START

Born the year Bill Clinton was elected president, three of Wagner's newest students – Sarah Rosen '14, Doug Hanson '14, and Brittany Berke '14 – were thrilled to see him in the Spiro Sports Center during their first week of college.

Keeping It Personal

Wagner eliminates SAT/ACT requirement for admission

Beginning this fall, students applying for admission to Wagner College will no longer be required to provide SAT or ACT scores as part of their application package.

According to Angelo Araimo, vice president for enrollment and planning at Wagner, more than 800 colleges and universities across the country have dropped the requirement for standardized testing.

"We believe that the best predictor of a student's potential to succeed at Wagner is his or her high school transcript," Araimo says. "Our process is very personal. I want our counselors to get to know the applicants. Doing that gives us a great deal of confidence in the admissions decisions we make." The application essay and campus interviews will therefore continue to be integral to the admissions process. Students may still submit their standardized test scores if they so choose.

The new policy will apply to applicants for the class of 2015 and beyond. Learn more about the Wagner admissions process at www.wagner.edu/admissions.

WINDOW ON WAGNER:
Kairos House,
Wagner's
'First Home'

Wagner College was little more than a combination high school and junior college when it moved from Rochester, New York, to rural Staten Island in 1918.

The Grymes Hill property included six buildings that would serve the small school well. All that was lacking was a home for Wagner's new president, Adolf Holthusen, his wife, Clara, and their three young children, Ave, John, and Peggy.

That home, completed in time for Wagner's Staten Island re-launch in September 1918, is known today as Kairos House.

Times were tough those first few years. World War I had not yet ended, and commodities like coal and fuel oil were hard to get. To keep the furnaces going that first winter, Wagner students and faculty members formed work gangs to cut down trees on the school grounds.

Gelt was also short in the young college's coffers. Just 42 students had enrolled for the 1918-19 school year, many of them on scholarships, and little cash had come along with the college from Rochester.

To survive its hardships, the college community banded together. The women of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stapleton, Staten Island, donated much of the students' food, and the campus's unofficial cook and chief comforter was Clara Holthusen. According to her granddaughter, Cynthia Holthusen Sanford '65, Clara prepared many a Wagner

College meal with her own hands, on her own stove, in her own kitchen at Kairos House.

That tiny kitchen sometimes got a little crowded. "We must find more room," President Holthusen wrote in an early bulletin to the school's supporters. "We are taking care of 72 persons without a pantry and with an ice box built for a family of five."

Today, the Holthusen home is still among us – holding Wagner's chapel and offices – and so are some of Clara Holthusen's cookie recipes, keeping alive in the 21st century the aromas and tastes that fed and comforted the hearty young collegians who helped establish our alma mater on Staten Island.

"They are not for the beginner or faint-hearted, but are very delicious and old-fashioned – great with coffee or milk," writes Clara's granddaughter. "These are the baked goods I remember the most, and I helped my grandmother (Oma) cut them out when I was a small child. Part of the challenge is that the cookies are rolled quite thin, and the rolling and the cutting seem to go on forever."

– Lee Manchester

TRY IT YOURSELF Find the recipes for *Oma's ginger cookies* and *Oma's oatmeal cookies* at www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.



NOTES FROM THE PAST

Clara Holthusen's recipes in her handwriting (left and above); Clara Holthusen in 1916 (left); and the Kairos House ca. 1920.

Oma's Ginger cookies

1 cup sugar (white or brown)
1 " butter

Oma's Oatmeal
1/2 cups sugar
1 " lard
1/2 " oatmeal
1/2 " flour
1 egg
1 teasp. cinnamon
" soda
" salt
1 tablesp. milk
do not put all the
thing out. Roll
wheels about

41
2

A Dynamic History

New views come to light on Staten Island's 350th anniversary

Dynamic. Diverse. History-making International.

People often use words like those to describe New York City—but usually not Staten Island.

During a yearlong celebration of Staten Island's 350th anniversary, Wagner Professor Lori Weintrob and the rest of the festivities' organizers are aiming to upend inaccurate Staten Island stereotypes.

"History shows that Staten Island was a very dynamic place that changed again and again," Weintrob says. "Every 25 years, it was a different place. Whatever important historical event you pick, you'll find a Staten Island connection."

Examples Weintrob cites include Staten Island's important role in the abolitionist and women's rights movements; nationally influential Staten Islanders such as Cornelius Vanderbilt, the nineteenth-century shipping and rail-

road tycoon; and visits to the island by the likes of Benjamin Franklin, Susan B. Anthony, Langston Hughes, and the Dalai Lama.

Associate professor of history at Wagner, Weintrob is co-chair of the SI350 committee, a wide-ranging group of volunteers who are organizing the festivities, which began on August 22, 2010. On August 22, 1661, the government of New Netherland authorized Staten Island land grants for a group of Dutch, French, and Belgian immigrants.

One focus of the anniversary year is the identification of 350 important historical sites on Staten Island. History trails organized around 12 different themes, from military history to food and drink to the environment, will showcase these sites, which represent turning points in Staten Island's history with local, national, and global significance. Plans are underway to publish an encyclopedia and



HISTORY MAKER
Staten Islander Cornelius Vanderbilt built a world-famous shipping empire.

guidebook based on the history trails.

Another major event will be an academic conference, co-sponsored by Wagner and entitled "Staten Island in American History and 21st-Century Education." It will be held March 19–20, 2011, at the

College of Staten Island. Contests for schoolchildren and teachers to incorporate local history into the classroom are occurring throughout the year as well.

"It's about getting people interested in their local history, wherever they're from," says Weintrob. "Places in your community have significance."

Visit www.si350.org for complete information, interactive timelines, photo sharing, and fun activities like a Staten Island history quiz. Do you have memories of Staten Island's 300th anniversary celebrations in 1961? SI350 would like to hear about them. E-mail info@si350.org.

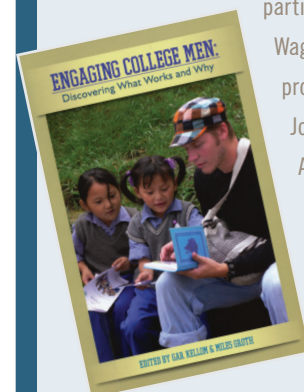
Helping men find their roles in college and in life

It's a well-known fact that fewer men than women are enrolling in college these days – especially at liberal arts colleges like Wagner, where men currently make up 37 percent of the student body.

Additional research has also shown that college men tend to be less involved in campus life (except for athletics) than the women are.

Miles Groth, professor of psychology at Wagner and director of the new Wagner Men's Center, has been working to address this imbalance. Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Wagner and 13 other colleges conducted programs to engage men in discerning their sense of vocation and purpose in life. In a new book co-edited by Groth and Gar Kellom, former executive director of the Center for Men's Leadership and Service at St. John's University in Minnesota, all of the participating colleges report on their programs and findings. *Engaging College Men: Discovering What Works and Why* (Men's Studies Press, 2010) includes a chapter by Groth and students who

participated in Wagner's men's project, William Jock '08, Andrew Hager '10, and Kyle Glover '11.



{ RECOMMENDED READING }

DIG IN TO STATEN ISLAND HISTORY

Professor Weintrob recommends these sources on Staten Island history:

- "Staten Island" in *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, edited by Kenneth Jackson
- *That Ever Loyal Island: Staten Island and the American Revolution*, by Phillip Papas



Behind the Scenes

with Laura Graham '95

CLINTON'S CHIEF OF STAFF KEEPS HIS WHEELS ROLLING

By Laura Barlament

Laura Graham '95 remembers well the first time she conducted a briefing for the president of the United States in the Oval Office. ● It was in 2000, Bill Clinton's final year in office. Graham was serving as deputy director of White House scheduling. At age 27, she was one of the youngest people ever to hold a deputy assistant position in the White House, reporting directly to one of the president's senior staff members. ● Usually these 10-minute, rapid-fire briefings would be given by Graham's boss, Stephanie Streett, a veteran White House staffer who had taken Graham under her wing. "Sometimes these were tense meetings, because the president was always very busy and always running behind," Graham recalls. Graham had often attended, and had even briefed him as Streett's deputy — but Streett was always in charge. ● But now Graham's mentor was out for two weeks for her wedding. Graham was on her own. She was nervous.

On the agenda was an upcoming meeting with the prime minister of Israel, Ehud Barak, who was often on the president's schedule as he tried to broker peace in the Middle East before leaving office. Somehow Graham managed to mispronounce the prime minister's name. Clinton — whom Graham describes as “always smarter than anyone in the room” — immediately corrected her. Inside, she wilted. “I thought, ‘Oh my God, I’m going to get fired.’”

“And of course I wasn’t.”

These days, Graham is on a first-name basis not only with Bill Clinton, but with many world leaders. When the prime minister of Haiti comes into her office at the Clinton Foundation, he greets her with kisses on both cheeks. During her years as a White House staffer, she traveled to well over 50 countries and witnessed world-shaping events in person. Clinton's chief of staff since 2005, she's a figure you may have seen hovering at his elbow in television footage of his visits to disaster sites such as New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, or Haiti after the January earthquake. She manages his schedule and his staff, keeps him focused and informed as he travels from event to event, and is chief of operations of his foundation, an organization of 1,400 employees in more than 40 countries around the world. Besides helping to build that organization from the ground up, she was intimately involved in the international aid effort following the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami, served as co-chair of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, and now is a key figure in the rebuilding of Haiti.

In the words of Jeff Kraus, a Wagner political science professor who was one of Graham's first mentors, “She's the one in the background, making things happen while others are taking pictures.”

The Road to Politics

Laura Graham is not an effusive person. Unlike her famously charismatic boss, she does not have to shake hands with everyone in the room, and her smiles are rare and brief.

It's a contrast Graham readily acknowledges. “I work for one of the most eloquent speakers of his generation, so it's a hard act to live up to,” she said in a talk at Wagner last November. “Whenever I tell him I am going to make a speech, his one request is that I not embarrass him.” It's a great line, but she barely stops for the laugh, keeping

her chin tucked down and reading her speech at the speed of an auctioneer.

Graham was born and raised on Staten Island, to parents she describes as hard-working, blue-collar folks. Her father, Claude Graham, who passed away in 2007, often held down several jobs to make ends meet. Her family never owned their own home, never traveled. “Shopping trips to New Jersey were considered journeys that required weeks of planning,” recalls the woman who made a career of presidential travel scheduling.

It was an inauspicious beginning for someone on her career track, she admits. But she was a hard worker and a high achiever. After graduating from Susan E. Wagner High School, Graham attended Wagner College, commuting from home, her tuition paid for by academic and athletic scholarships. (She played softball, first and third base.)

Politics was a new interest for Graham in college. As Graham tells it, her family was politically disengaged until Bill Clinton entered the national political scene during the 1992 presidential campaign. His focus on working-class concerns caught Claude Graham's eye; and his daughter, who wanted to go to law school and become a prosecutor, took notice as well, even attending a Clinton rally at the Meadowlands just before the November 1992 election.

Graham became increasingly interested and involved in politics, declaring a major in political science, joining the political science club, and helping to start a chapter of the College Democrats on campus in the fall of 1993.

She was looking for an internship with the state government in Albany when fate intervened to send her to D.C. instead. In March 1994, the Wagner College Democrats

were invited to help with a presidential visit to New York City, and Graham ended up driving the NBC news crew in the presidential motorcade. They suggested that she pursue a White House internship, and even



introduced her to the White House press assistant. “I smiled politely, took his business card, never intending to follow up,” she recalls. “I remember my father telling me that I had little chance because it was probably only for kids who knew someone important in Washington.”

“I never got intimidated or became a shrinking violet if I got yelled at, criticized, or cut off”

She gives Professor Kraus much of the credit for what happened next. He was not going to let this self-effacing yet brilliant student miss this opportunity. “She was very bright but also very quiet,” he says. “If you knew her, you knew she had great potential. That’s why I encouraged her to apply for the internship.” At his urging, she applied, and when her first application was rejected, he kept on her to apply again. From August to December 1994, she interned in the White House’s scheduling office.

The White House Years

The White House Office of Scheduling and Advance is not exactly one of those areas that are in the media limelight. But those are the people who keep the wheels of the presidency running — literally and figuratively. “Without them, nothing would happen,” Graham says.

After her internship, Graham returned to Wagner and completed college. Then she went right back to D.C. Sleeping on friends’ couches and living off credit cards, she worked as a volunteer in the White House scheduling office until she was offered a job a couple months later. She promptly dropped the graduate program she had begun at Catholic University and began more-than-full-time work as a staff assistant.

Graham’s job was to type the president’s daily schedule and distribute it to everyone who needed it — and it wasn’t uncommon for his schedule to be finalized very late in the day. “I spent many a night sleeping on an old, beat-up couch by the copier,” she recalls. “To this day, I have an aversion to copiers. But I was happy to do it. It was an honor to me.” And she was back at work the next morning for her 10 o’clock daily briefing meeting with the White House military team and the Secret Service.

“It was a great job,” she adds. “I interacted with all the agencies and

departments and pieces of the executive branch, and so it gave me a great seat to see how [the president’s] day came together, how they put together a schedule strategy, a political strategy, a message strategy, a policy strategy. I had access and got to see at a very young age how a lot of things worked, in addition to the planes, trains, and automobiles aspect of it, by working with the military offices and the Secret Service. So that was a really fascinating job.”

In 1997, she was promoted to the scheduling desk, at the level of special assistant to the president. (In the White House staff hierarchy, that’s the third level away from the president.) Now she wasn’t just coordinating information, but actually coordinating the president’s travel, both domestically and abroad. On any given day, she might be managing on-site teams in up to eight different locations preparing for the president’s arrival; or she might be flying out to Asia, or Russia, or wherever the president planned to go in coming months, to meet with government officials there; or she might be flying with the president to oversee the execution of every detail of the trip — “all the way down to what steps the president was going to take, and which way he would enter, and what the photo would look like.”

“So I’ve been on Air Force One a lot,” she says, and to so many countries that sometimes she forgets where she’s been. “It was amazing, because I was a kid who had never flown before my experience at the White House, and my family had never flown,” she says.

In 2000, she received yet another promotion, to serve as deputy director of the White House scheduling office. “It was a pretty significant jump from special assistant to deputy assistant,” Graham notes — it even required an interview with Chief of Staff John Podesta. “I look back at that as a really important moment. ... He made me sweat it out and gave me a really difficult interview, but then he gave me the job and offered me some advice.”

Graham gives much credit to Stephanie Streett, director of scheduling for most of Clinton’s White House tenure (and current executive director of the Clinton Foundation), with giving her even greater opportunities than might have normally been associated with her job. Streett took Graham to the daily 7:45 a.m. senior staff meetings attended by cabinet members and the other most senior White House officials. “I was always the youngest and most junior person in the room,”

Graham says. “So she gave me an incredible opportunity.”

But it wasn't just that opportunities were given to her; Graham made the most of them with her hard work and mental toughness.

“You'd have to prove yourself in meetings,” she explains. “Like in meetings with the national security adviser, Sandy Berger, who now is a very close friend of mine, but also would not necessarily take the word of a young staff member. ... He would put me through the wringer, too.”

But, she says, she put her mind to learning from these situations. “I never got intimidated or became a shrinking violet if I got yelled at, criticized, or cut off. I sort of said, ‘He's the national security adviser, and I'm the deputy director of scheduling, so I'm going to learn from this, and I'm going to learn from him, because he has a helluva lot more experience than I do, and I'm going to turn this into a positive.’”

The Post-Presidency

It's not just when she's giving speeches that listening to Laura Graham talk feels like drinking from a fire hose.

“I always fit the stereotype of a New Yorker — loud — and I've never been accused of talking slow at any time in my life,” she says, “but I have definitely mastered the art of the quick briefing — the art of getting to things as quickly as possible, so that you can move on to the next thing.

“I don't know if you'd call it a skill I'm proud of,” she adds ruefully, “but it's definitely a skill.”

And it's a useful one. In her current dual role as Clinton's chief of staff and as chief of operations for the Clinton Foundation, she doesn't have any time to waste. As she explains it, “I'm just managing everything.” Clinton's office and the Clinton Foundation are two legally different entities, tied together by one larger-than-life man who likes to take on as much as several normal guys.

“If [Clinton] thinks he can make a difference, he's going to do it, no matter the time commitment,” she says. And when he gets involved, she does, too.

Back in 2001, when Graham returned to New York at Clinton's request to serve as his director of scheduling, the organization had



ON THE HAITIAN CRISIS Leaving a March 23 meeting with Haitian camp leaders in Port-au-Prince, Laura Graham walks with Bill Clinton and Edmond Mulet (far left), head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

only 12 staffers. Since then, it has been on a phenomenal growth curve — it's now up to 1,400 staff members who work around the globe. The foundation's 2009 annual report boasts achievements such as drastically reducing the price of antiretroviral drugs, thus giving 2.6 million HIV/AIDS patients access to these life-saving medicines; starting health and fitness programs in 9,000 American schools; and, through the Clinton Global Initiative, producing more than \$57 billion of commitments that have improved the lives of 220 million people in 170 countries.

As Peter Baker wrote in a *New York Times* story about Clinton and his foundation, “The claimed successes at times sound grandiose. ... [Yet,] whatever the details, the foundation's work clearly has yielded tangible results.”

And much credit for these results goes to Graham.

“I can't say enough good things about her,” says Doug Band, Clinton's chief counsel and longtime aide, who began his career as a White House intern at the same time Graham did. “She's the glue that holds it all together. She does a tremendous job as President Clinton's chief of staff. She is very principled, ethical, loyal, and hard-working, and she has given her life to this endeavor. The president's success in the post-presidency is due to her and her gifts. And she gives herself in an incredibly unfettered and unselfish way.”

Since January, most of that unselfish giving has gone toward Haiti. In fact, at her last speaking engagement at Wagner, on November 12, 2009, she named it as one of her favorite areas of involvement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

“Cartagena de Indias is a city so beautiful that it seems to be a lie.”

— Gabriel García Márquez



Magical Reality

Exploring the World of Gabriel García Márquez

In the preface to Gabriel García Márquez's 1994 novel *Of Love and Other Demons*, the author writes that he was working as a newspaper reporter back in 1949, when his editor sent him to investigate the emptying of the burial crypts in the old Convent of Santa Clara.

The human remains were being moved because a new five-star hotel was to be built on the site of the neglected historic building. Most of the crypts yielded dusty piles of bones, along with some gold and jewels; but when one tomb was opened, he reports, out poured "a stream of living hair the intense color of copper. ... [T]he more of it they brought out, the longer and more abundant it seemed, until at last the final strands appeared still attached to the skull of a young girl." The hair measured 70 feet long.

With scenes like these, blending the real and the fantastical, the Nobel-Prize-winning Colombian writer fondly known as "Gabo" has fascinated and mystified readers around the world.

During the 2010 spring semester, one

group of Wagner students not only studied García Márquez's writings in a Grymes Hill classroom, but also visited his real-life world on Colombia's Caribbean coast, in one of the short-term study-abroad trips offered by Wagner's Expanding Your Horizons program.

Their travels took them to sites such as the Sofitel Santa Clara in Cartagena, the five-star hotel built from the ruins of the Santa Clara Convent; the crypt is still accessible from the middle of the hotel's luxurious lounge.

"Before the trip, we had the problem of trying to comprehend what was real in his stories and what was — um — magic," says KariAnna Eide-Lindsay '13. "After the trip, we had a greater understanding of how real the works were, and how many things are actually inspired by reality in his novels."

The students' guide into this magically real world was Margarita Sánchez, associate professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Modern Languages at Wagner. Not only is she a scholar of

contemporary Latin American literature, but she also grew up in Cartagena, Colombia, the coastal city García Márquez used as a setting for some of his best-known fiction. Because of her depth of knowledge and connection to this region, the students were able to stay with local families, spend time with experts and friends of García Márquez, and visit the new García Márquez museum house in his hometown, Aracataca, before it opened to the public.

For all those who have read and loved — or been puzzled by — *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Of Love and Other Demons*, or other works, we here offer a snapshot into Gabo's magically real world, courtesy of the photos and impressions students and faculty gathered on the trip.

And if you haven't yet read the works of a writer Sánchez calls "the Shakespeare of Latin America," we hope you'll be inspired to give them a try.

— Laura Barlament



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4

“Four days before coming back to New York, and thanks to Jaime Abello Bonfi, we went inside the restaurant where Gabriel García Márquez was having dinner with his friends. Since he is always besieged by people, we saw him from a close distance. It was a magic moment for all of us.”

Gabriel Casa MUSEO García Márquez

“Más que un hogar, la casa era un pueblo.”

Vivir para contarla

5



6



7

“After we went to Gabo’s house, after speaking with his brother, and, finally, after seeing the reality of his stories, I understood the fusion between reality and fiction. It is to believe in the incredible.”

1 A house in Cartagena, the model for the home of Fermina in *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

2 The replica of García Márquez’s childhood home in Aracataca, model for the Buendía home in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. “The spirit of Gabo still lives in this little cottage, in the dirt roads of Aracataca, and especially in the hearts of his people,” wrote one of the student travelers.

3 The old burial crypt of the Santa Clara Convent in Cartagena, featured in *Of Love and Other Demons*.

4 In Cartagena, the “Arcade of the Scribes” from *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

5 “More than a house, our home was a village” (from García Márquez’s autobiography, *Living To Tell the Tale*), on the museum home in Aracataca.

6 The Aracataca train station; the yellow butterflies are a prominent motif in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. “Before we started our tour around the town, our guide inspired us to look around and find inspiration for Gabo’s novels, and if we happened to see an older man sitting on his front porch, taking his siesta in the midday sun, perhaps we might stop and think, ‘Ah sí, es el Coronel Buendía.’”

7 Jaime García Márquez, brother of Gabriel, spent a morning with Professor Sánchez and students in Cartagena. “[He] demonstrated with his stories that magical realism is part of daily life in the Colombian Caribbean.”

PHOTOGRAPHS: 1, 3, 6, 7. Laurence Nolan; 2, 4, 5. Angela Willis '12

MY FAVORITE THINGS

Walter Kristiansen '63 oversaw the unique design of the tugboat *Vera Bisso*. E. N. Bisso & Sons tugs help dry bulk cargo ships (like those pictured below at a Cargill grain facility) navigate the Lower Mississippi River.





Dream Job

on the Mississippi River

Walter Kristiansen '63
runs a tugboat company
at the nexus of
global commerce

*Story by Laura Barlament
Photographs by Jackson Hill*

At 8 a.m. on a sunny, warm Thursday in September, Walter Kristiansen '63 leaves his home in Covington, Louisiana, to make the 40-mile drive into New Orleans. For 24 miles, he is on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway — the world's longest bridge over water. The vast flat expanse of lake sparkles, spreading from horizon to horizon.

The headquarters of E. N. Bisso & Sons, the century-old tugboat company over which Kristiansen presides, sits at the causeway's end in Metairie, just north of New Orleans itself. This has been Kristiansen's daily commute for the past 15 years. Although he's pushing 70, he doesn't have plans to give it up any time soon.

"I just love what I do," he says in his deep smoker's growl. "People ask me when I'm going to retire, and I say, 'When it's not fun anymore.'"

Kristiansen was an English major at Wagner College, and he exercised his passion for the stage through his participation in the Varsity Players student theater group. He jokes constantly, flashing a manic grin reminiscent of actor Jack Nicholson: sly and sideways, with eyebrows pointing upward. His first job after graduating from college was with a summer stock theater company.

But life on the sea was in his blood. His father was a tugboat captain on the New York Harbor, and Walter made his first trip on a tug at age 2. He took his first job as a tugboat deckhand in 1958, when he was a student at Tottenville High

School on Staten Island. After graduating from Wagner, he served as an officer aboard a U.S. Navy ocean tug. He worked for one of the nation's biggest tugboat companies, McAllister, and for many years was a vice president for Amoco, in charge of domestic marine transportation.

But being president and CEO of E. N. Bisso & Sons Inc., he says, is "in many ways a dream job."



E. N. Bisso & Sons is one of the three major tugboat companies operating on the Lower Mississippi — the world's busiest port complex, according to the Port of New Orleans, with more than 6,000 ocean vessels moving through the area annually. About 15 years ago, the Bisso family decided to hire "professional management" (Kristiansen puts the phrase into self-deprecating quotation marks) instead of running the company themselves. That's when Kristiansen

came on board. He and his wife, Gail Jantz Kristiansen '67, recently retired from an award-winning teaching career, moved to southern Louisiana and became, in his words, "born-again New Orleanians."

The company headquarters is located in a four-story gray office building shared with a dentist, an insurance broker, and other run-of-the-mill businesses. When you cross E. N. Bisso's threshold, however, there's no doubt about where you are: Every room is neat as a pin, and ornamented with boat models, boat photographs, boat paintings, and nautical paraphernalia. Large windows look out on Lake Pontchartrain, flat and glistening as far as the eye can see.

Five years ago at this time, this tidy world was turned upside down. The offices were heavily damaged during Hurricane Katrina; they finally returned to them about six months later,



CONTROL CENTER

E. N. Bisso's dispatching room features high-tech tools that display ship locations and other real-time data along the Lower Mississippi and beyond. *Below*, the controls of the *Vera Bisso*.



when they were still stripped down to the studs (a tornado had hit their temporary office space).

Nevertheless, the company never stopped operations throughout the chaos. Proudly, Kristiansen remarks that every tugboat crew stayed with the ships they were assisting and successfully kept them afloat. Almost every company employee showed up for work, whether they were scheduled for duty or not, so that the boats actually had extra crew on hand. Even Bisso's general counsel, Mike Vitt, who had given up a tugboat captain's career to go into law, piloted one of the tugs throughout the storm so that more boats could be on hand to help. During the storm and its aftermath, each tug operated independently, doing whatever they saw that needed to be done. They distributed food, water, and fuel; they put out fires; they evacuated about 90 people. The Kristiansens were housing up to 10 flooded-out employees; others found temporary quarters on the tugboats themselves.

"The time leading up to the storm, during the storm, and in the weeks and months after the storm showed me the dedication of employees to each other, and therefore to the company," Kristiansen wrote in his company newsletter at the end of August. "I personally learned some lessons, the most important being to stay out of the way, let the highly qualified, professional and caring employees do what has to be done, and just make sure they get what they need."

At his desktop computer, Kristiansen tracks a wide variety of daily statistics that impact upon the business.

The factors he watches range from the numbers and types of ships entering the Mississippi River, to the price of fuel, to the river level. Why the river level? It affects the speed of the current, which affects the number of tugboats needed to perform a given job.

It's not enough, however, for Kristiansen to keep his eye on the local scene. Bisso sits at a critical point in the global trade nexus. The Lower Mississippi is the access point for the 14,500-mile Mid-America inland waterway system, leading to the enormous grain fields of the Midwest. That means Kristiansen is watching factors such as the wheat harvest in Australia, which affects U.S. wheat exports, and the amount of business he can expect to receive from dry bulk cargo ships. He watches rainfall levels in Central America. They determine

the water level in the Panama Canal, and thus its accessibility to ships moving in from the Pacific.

He watches weather patterns throughout the Gulf and the Atlantic. While most of Bisso's business is conducted along the 230 miles of the Mississippi that ocean-going ships can navigate, sometimes Bisso's crews range much farther afield. In early September, one Bisso tugboat is en route to Tampico, Mexico, where it will pick up a barge, to be loaded with parts for an oil refinery, and then take it all the way up the Atlantic Coast and through the St. Lawrence Seaway, to Detroit.

But all of that is just normal shipping business. What also makes the job fun are the calls that really come from out of the blue. For example, Kristiansen recently heard from a producer at the History Channel developing a new reality show in which comedian Daniel Lawrence Whitney, better known as Larry the Cable Guy, travels the country trying out various jobs. They were interested in an episode set on a tugboat. In January, the TV medical drama *House* will shoot an episode on a Bisso tugboat. The producers of *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* looked at shooting that movie's tugboat scene on a Bisso boat. They ended up choosing another company, but Bisso's executive vice president and chief salesman, Bill McDonald, had lunch with Hollywood power couple Brad Pitt (*Benjamin Button's* star) and Angelina Jolie in the process.

"You never know what kind of a call you'll get," Kristiansen comments.

Just about 8 miles south of the Metairie office, just upriver from New Orleans's Audubon Zoo, lies E. N. Bisso's waterfront property.

At this linchpin of international trade, a bright blue sky smiles down on a quiet, almost sleepy scene along the wide, brown Mississippi River. The old and the new, the homey and the high-tech have achieved a pleasant blend here: an



WORLD TRADE

A worker on a Panamanian cargo ship, loaded with U.S. grain, readies the vessel to begin its journey down the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico.





older building with a welcoming front porch and wood-paneled rooms hosts the crew lunchroom, named “Jimmy’s Place” for the recently retired cook who put in 50 years with Bisso. The new cook, a young woman named Dee, enthusiastically greets “Mr. Walter” and declares that she hopes to be working there for 50 years, too.

In another room, lined with books and maps and wooden cabinets, Vice President Bill Summers oversees maintenance and repair of the company’s 16 boats. These range from the *Captain Albert*, a meticulously maintained 1931 beauty with teak decks, to three brand-new “z-drive” tugboats — the latest in tugboat propulsion technology, each coming with an \$8.5 million price tag. Over the past 15 years, Kristiansen has led the company to invest \$30 million in new equipment — largely paid for in cash, he notes.

Across the driveway, in a plain, metal-sided building, high-tech meets tradition in the dispatching room. An array of monitors and computers gives the dispatcher real-time data about all of the traffic along the Mississippi.

Outside, an array of shiny red boats sits at the dock. Kristiansen proudly points out the *Vera Bisso*, which stands out because of its unusual wheelhouse shape, with huge windows angling up and down. The 1999 vintage boat is the company’s own unique design, with every care taken for crew comfort and safety,

including extra width for stability, a

square front end that prevents

damage to ships the tug

is assisting, extra

head space in the

mechanical

rooms, larger-

than-average

portholes,

six rudders

for extra maneuverability, and automatic winches controlled from the wheelhouse so that the deckhand doesn’t have to do dangerous rope handling.

Today, however, the *Vera Bisso* is out for repairs to its generator, and the *Susan W.* is on tap for a quick job assisting an outgoing ship at the Cargill grain facility just upriver.

Kristiansen fought for Cargill’s business a few years ago and earned a contract with the multinational agricultural giant, giving E. N. Bisso about a quarter of the grain business on the river. Besides oil, grain transportation is the biggest part of the shipping business on the Lower Mississippi. Barges bring the grain down the river from the Midwest. Daily, Bisso tugboats assist the giant ocean-going cargo ships arriving at and departing from the Cargill dock and taking that grain around the world.

Business is pretty good for a small player in the midst of the global trading nexus, especially considering all of the forces arrayed against them over the past five years: the nation’s costliest natural disaster, the Great Recession, and the new man-made disaster affecting this area, the Deepwater Horizon explosion on April 20 and massive oil spill in the Gulf. This event — ruinous for industries like fishing and tourism — has not negatively affected shipping operations on the Mississippi, Kristiansen says, praising the Coast Guard’s decision to keep shipping up and running. “The fact that we kept shipping going helped to minimize the [economic] damage,” he says. In fact, his company gained some business cleaning the oil off ocean vessels before they entered the shipping channels.

But in general, Kristiansen says his biggest worries are neither weather nor other large-scale disasters. Currently, his main challenges are finding enough qualified personnel to operate the tugs, and dealing with what he sees as unreasonable government regulations — such as being required to submit to the EPA a regular report of “incidental discharges,” which even includes rainwater that hits a tugboat’s deck.

At E. N. Bisso, Kristiansen has found a place where he can put

TUG TECHNOLOGY

A tugboat with “z-drive” propulsion heads over to the Cargill facility. This boat is owned by E. N. Bisso’s cousin company, Bisso Towing; the two companies often work together. E. N. Bisso has acquired three tugs with z-drive propulsion, which offers increased maneuverability over a traditional propeller system.



a lifetime's worth of skills, experience, and talents into practice in a constantly changing, challenging environment.

"These crazy people," he says, referring to the owners, "put a company into my hands and let me run it, without any interference. I got to hire all of the staff. I get to set all of the salaries. ... They might say, 'Well, how are you going to pay for it?' If I can pay for it, I can do it. I'm pursuing what I consider noble goals. We don't have a 'safety officer.' We have a safety culture. Our record speaks for itself. Our liability insurance premiums have not been raised in 16 years, because we have such a clean record. I got to build a boat like the *Vera Bisso*. They said, 'Will it increase our business?' I said, 'No. But I'm looking to the future of this company.'"

That future, he hopes, will include him for a long time to come. ■



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

On board the *Susan W.*, Kristiansen emphasizes that all employees are responsible for the company's safety regulations.

Fighting the Oil

Wagner administrator and USCG reservist serves in the Gulf

It's not surprising that David Martin, Wagner's vice president for administration and a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, didn't notice that one of E. N. Bisso's tugboats was under his command as it cleaned oily vessels entering the shipping channel in Gulfport, Mississippi.

It was only one of 3,000 boats, 300 aircraft, and 15,000 workers he was overseeing while recalled to active duty in the Gulf of Mexico from July through September, in response to the BP oil spill.

Martin served as deputy commander of the Incident Command Post in Mobile, Alabama, which was responsible for cleanup operations in



SPILL STRATEGY

David Martin (left) speaks with Rear Admiral Tim Sullivan at the Coast Guard's Incident Command Post in Mobile, Alabama.

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF DAVID MARTIN

Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. As the oil flow was stopped shortly after his arrival, he was dealing entirely with the cleanup. He was pleased with the results, saying that he walked the beaches often and ate as much shrimp as possible. He was also amazed at the Gulf's resilience

and at the large quantity of marine life he saw while flying over the water and inspecting the cleanup efforts.

"It was a lot of hard work, but it was a great experience," Martin says. "I was lucky Dr. Guarasci gave me the opportunity to serve."

THE MAN WHO SAVED NEW YORK



A new book shows there's
much to learn about
effective government
from an unsung hero
of the **1970s**

In January, a new chief executive will move into the governor's mansion in Albany. Immediately, he will have to address New York State's deep fiscal crisis. If the new governor fails to find a solution, the Empire State may be forced to default on its debt — a frightening prospect in the home of the nation's financial capital, Wall Street.



35 years ago, another incoming New York governor faced eerily similar circumstances: former Brooklyn Congressman Hugh L. Carey. Governor Carey and his team of advisers managed to put together a package of remedies that saved the City of New York from bankruptcy, a catastrophe that would have had a devastating impact on the state and the national economy.

That particularly timely tale is the one that is told in a new book co-authored by Seymour Lachman, director of Wagner College's Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform, and Robert Polner, a public affairs officer at New York University. *The Man Who Saved New York: Hugh Carey and the Great Fiscal Crisis of 1975* was published this summer by Excelsior Editions, an imprint of the State University of New York Press.

Already in its second printing, *The Man Who Saved New York* has been highly praised in the New York media.

"At a time when New York's state government seems more dysfunctional than ever, this new book recalls an era when Albany actually worked," wrote conservative pundit E. J. McMahon in a full-page *New York Post* review.

"Hopefully, Andrew Cuomo already has a copy of *The Man Who Saved New York*," Tom Robbins wrote in a review for the *Village Voice* during the 2010 gubernatorial campaign. "The likely future governor will appreciate this dramatic saga of what it's like to be a brand-new occupant of the

executive mansion who opens the cabinets to find they've been stripped bare." Indeed, Cuomo took Robbins' advice, praising the book in a Labor Day op-ed published in the *New York Daily News*.

"Intellectually, academically, and politically, *The Man Who Saved New York* couldn't be more timely and vital for New York as the state slides toward its own rendezvous with insolvency," wrote Giuliani biographer Fred Siegel.

Author Seymour Lachman came to Wagner College in the fall of 1996, just when the *New Press* was publishing his earlier collaboration with Robert Polner, *Three Men in a Room: The Inside Story of Power and Betrayal in an American Statehouse*. That book, based on Lachman's 17 years in the New York State Senate, was an indictment of the way things work in Albany: Only if the governor and the majority leaders of the Senate and the Assembly agree can anything get done in the state government. Over the last four years, *Three Men in a Room* has become one of the most often cited books among good-government advocates in New York state.

The following excerpts from chapter 5 of *The Man Who Saved New York* begin with Hugh Carey recruiting an indispensable member of his fiscal team, financier Felix Rohatyn, and end with Carey's insistence, despite opposition from several key advisers, that a New York City bankruptcy was "unthinkable."

— Lee Manchester

FROM 'THE MAN WHO SAVED NEW YORK'

BUILDING THE TEAM

On an early spring afternoon in 1975, as New York City's problems with its lenders mounted, Hugh Carey traveled to Felix Rohatyn's vacation house, perched on dunes at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, in Long Island's East Hampton. Accompanying the governor was Peter Maas, the author of *Serpico*, a best-selling book about a whistle-blower cop who nearly brought down the New York Police Department in the Lindsay years. Maas was friendly with Rohatyn, a player in the world of securities and corporate reorganizations, and Carey was planning to ask for Rohatyn's help placating and winning the cooperation of the financial community.

With his puckish grin and flecks of gray hair, Rohatyn, forty-six, was no stranger to the ways of prominent politicians, though he had never met Carey before. ... [Rohatyn was then] a senior partner at the international investment firm Lazard Freres. Detractors tagged him "Felix the Fixer," but Carey was impressed by Rohatyn's excellent reputation in the financial world. He took Rohatyn aside and popped the question he'd come to ask: Would he be willing to turn his full attention away from his successful career and serve instead in the less lofty world of state government?

In return, Carey told Rohatyn, he'd receive all the credit he would be due for helping to save the city, and would become known by his fellow citizens, not to mention

his own sons, as "Felix the Savior" rather than "Felix the Fixer."

"It's up to you," Carey said. "Fixer or Savior."

Around the time Carey made his sales pitch, Rohatyn got a call from a bond broker he didn't know, offering to sell him New York City notes paying an unusually high 9.5 percent interest. Rohatyn declined, saying, "If you're paying 9.5 percent for a triple-tax-free notes of the city, they can't be a very good risk."

It was becoming evident that the city could easily default on short-term debt payments any time now.

He also heard from the Democratic National Chairman, Bob Strauss, who told him he'd recommended him to Carey.

"Well, it would have been nice if you had asked me before you went and did it," Rohatyn responded. "[I] had never heard of a bankruptcy of a city; but, certainly for a city like New York, I thought it would be a devastating thing, even global."

In Rohatyn's remembrance, the most pivotal encounter with Carey occurred later, in the governor's "kind of shabby" midtown Manhattan office. The governor and David Burke began that meeting by presenting Rohatyn with some grim facts and figures.

Carey pressed: Would he or wouldn't he help save the city from possible bankruptcy?

Burke had already worked on Rohatyn, reminding the Viennese-born finance man of his public declarations that he owed his life to the United States, as his family had escaped to America from the Nazi occupiers in France, and wanted to repay the debt to his adopted country. Now was that day, Burke urged.

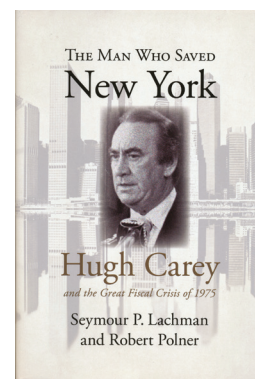
Rohatyn laid down conditions to Carey.

"I don't know enough and I can't do it alone," he said. "But if you would put together a responsible group of business types, both Republicans and Democrats, I'd be happy to be one of them."

Over the next ten minutes or so, Carey and Burke made a list.

DEFAULT LOOMS

... By the time [Carey] headed out to see Rohatyn on the dunes, it was becoming evident that the city could easily default on short-term debt payments any time now, with its monthly payments to bondholders totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. At the same time, some editorial writers and budget watchdog groups began faulting Carey for keeping his distance from the



city's problems, as he continued to make trips upstate and resolutely focused on many other things. But his attempt to be governor of the entire state, and not just one part of it, was growing more challenging by the day.

For he was also aware that if the city defaulted and filed for bankruptcy, there would be hell to pay — possible walkouts by police, firefighters, sanitation workers, and teachers, and perhaps even outbreaks of looting, arson, and violence. In an atmosphere of civic breakdown, a federal judge would be empowered to take the entire city government and its day-to-day affairs under receivership, superseding all elected officials, labor agreements, and existing rules and regulations. The judge would seek to create immediate mechanisms for continuing public services and running the city's many departments down to the most minute levels — deploying police, regulating schools, ordering supplies, dispatching child protective workers, all the while beginning the possibly decade-long process of sorting through the claims of perhaps tens of thousands of creditors-bondholders and their lawyers, city employees, welfare clients, and suppliers.

In the wake of such dislocations, some argued, fear and loathing would roil the municipal bond market. The borrowing costs of cities and states might spike, causing service cutbacks and job losses, if not additional governmental defaults. If large or small banks tottered or closed, the troubled national economy, if not the

entire international banking system, would be disrupted.

So Carey and his financial advisers worried at the time. But the implications of a city bankruptcy were less than agreed upon or clear to the public at large. Meanwhile, his staff debated how deeply he should involve himself and the state in the mounting series of New York City payment problems that were, after all, not of his making, and perhaps beyond his powers to contain or control.

MOMENT OF DECISION

In the spring of 1975, around the time Rohatyn was recruited, some aides to the governor, including [budget director] Peter Goldmark, warned that if the Big Apple failed to pay its obligations, the state government would follow, so interwoven and interdependent were their finances.

Staying out of it, therefore, could be suicidal for the state.

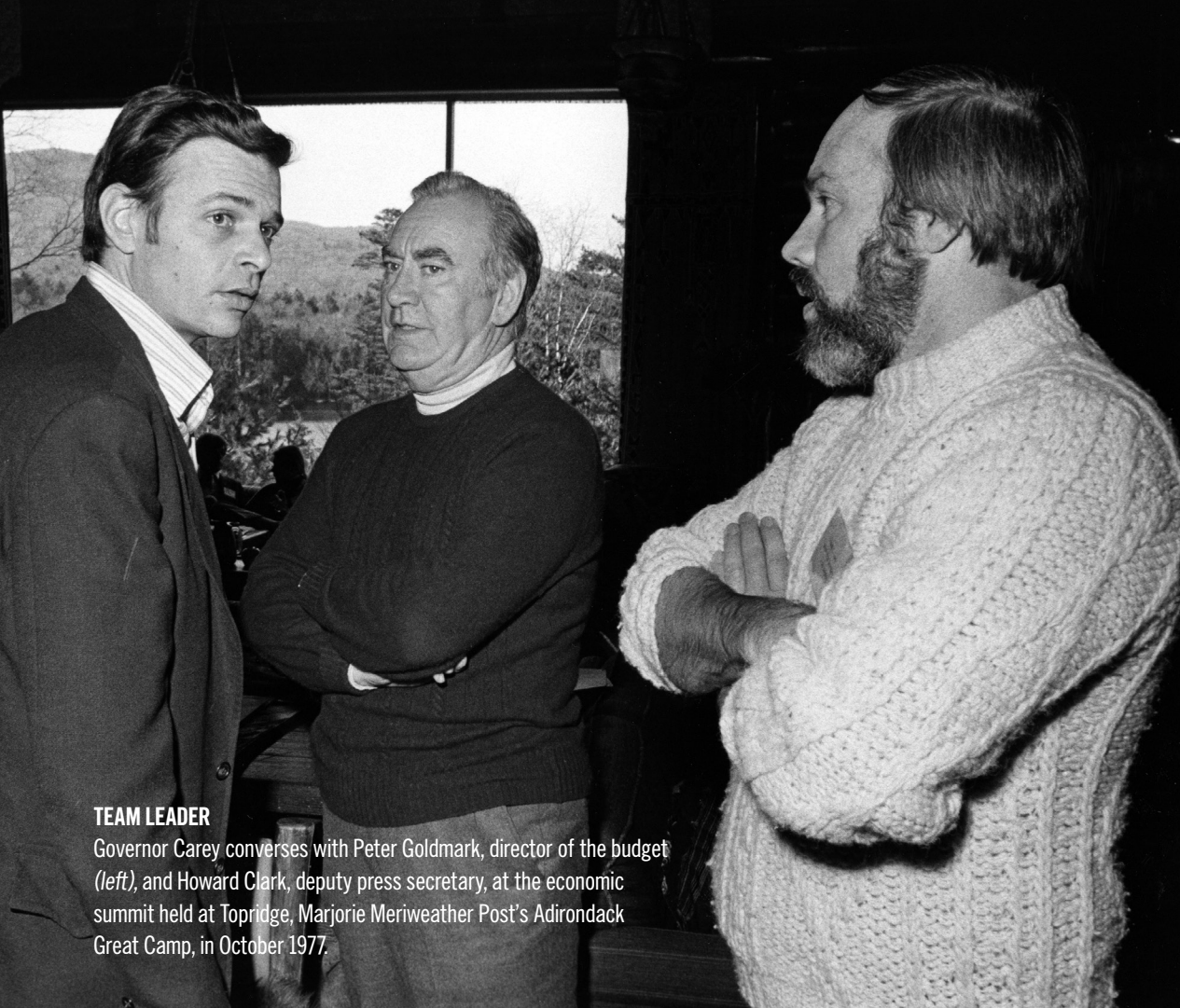
Other aides noted that in their upstate travels, they regularly met people who made no secret of their distaste for the big city — a drain on the rest of the state, in their eyes — and who felt just as adamantly that Carey should force its leaders to finally feel the consequences of years of financial profligacy. John Dyson, the state's agriculture commissioner, noted dutifully that Carey might alienate Republicans like Senate leader Warren Anderson if he intervened too forcefully on the city's behalf, especially since communities across the state were also experiencing hard times.

At one such staff discussion at the Executive Mansion, the issue reached a boiling point. Having listened to the back-and-forth for nearly an hour, Carey finally



TOUGH TIMES

Flanked by New York City Mayor Ed Koch, Governor Carey holds a press conference in Manhattan in 1980. Financier Felix Rohatyn, one of Carey's key advisers, is on the far left. Richard Ravitch, another businessman Carey recruited for his governing team, is on the right.



TEAM LEADER

Governor Carey converses with Peter Goldmark, director of the budget (left), and Howard Clark, deputy press secretary, at the economic summit held at Topridge, Marjorie Meriweather Post's Adirondack Great Camp, in October 1977.

SOLID COMMITMENT

Always influencing his judgment, Carey recalled years later, was his late father's view that bankruptcy was an irreversible stigma and what he had most sought to avoid for [his business,] the once-soaring Eagle Petroleum, during the years of the Depression. After Carey articulated his position to his staff, he never really looked back, or veered. Soon, in fact, he unilaterally advanced the city \$400 million in state aid, directly involving the state in the city's quest for survival

“[Carey's] force of will was the most important feature in keeping the city out of bankruptcy.” — *Paul Gioia*

stood and jammed his hands deep into his pants pockets — the telltale sign that his fuse might blow.

He would not, he said, even consider standing idly by as the city sank. He rendered the case for assistance in the most personal terms. “I have a big family. If one of my children came to me and said he's broke, I'm not going to put him out on

the street; I'm going to do what's best. I'm not going to leave him out in the cold. We're stopping this right now,” he said.

New York City, the governor added, was legally a child of the state — it existed only because the state granted it jurisdiction.

He sat down at his desk. No one spoke. The staff shot glances around the room. And then for good measure Carey added that if any or all of his aides strongly disagreed, he would be more than happy to accept their letters of resignation immediately.

and thereby putting the state's own credit in potential harm's way. This was money raised from the sale of state short-term notes and technically requiring voter approval for its use. The cash narrowly allowed the city to avoid default on notes that had to be repaid at the end of April 1975. And Carey would advance the city a total of \$400 million more in the months ahead.

“His force of will,” said Paul Gioia, who was an assistant counsel to the governor, “was the most important feature in keeping the city out of bankruptcy. When someone at the top makes a solid commitment like that, people working for him respond,

'We've got to figure out how to get it done'
— and that's what happened."

The word Carey would elect to describe a New York City bankruptcy was "unthinkable."

Unthinkable, yes. But whether the collapse of the city was avoidable was another question completely, as was the continuously delicate matter of how far the "parent" could safely stick its neck out, and get involved, to protect its troubled "child."

READ MORE *about the book and watch interviews with Lachman and Polner at www.wagner.edu/carey_center. The Man Who Saved New York: Hugh Carey and the Great Fiscal Crisis of 1975 is available through the Wagner College book store (718-390-3469).*

FINAL

DAILY NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

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Sunday, Oct. 27-28, Details p. 125

FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD

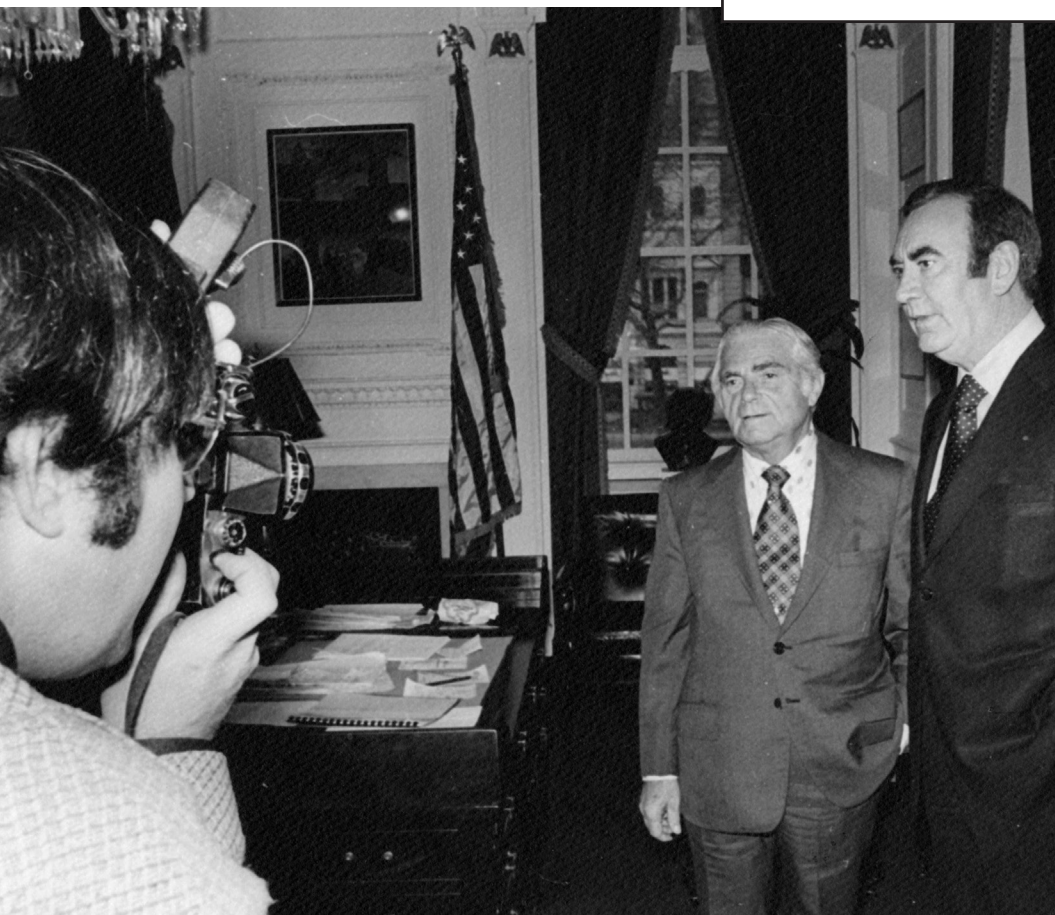
Vows He'll Veto Any Bail-Out



Abe, Carey Rip Stand

Stocks Skid, Dow Down 12

Three pages of stories
begin on page 3; full text
of Ford's speech on page 36



IN CRISIS

Governor Carey and Abraham Beame, New York City's mayor from 1974 to 1977 (shown here with the governor in 1975), joined forces to appeal to President Ford to help the city during its financial crisis. Ford never used the words "drop dead," as the *New York Daily News's* famous headline of October 30, 1975, had it, but he did vow to veto any bill intended to keep New York from defaulting on its obligations.

EXCERPT FROM *THE MAN WHO SAVED NEW YORK: HUGH CAREY AND THE GREAT FISCAL CRISIS OF 1975*, BY SEYMOUR P. LACHMAN AND ROBERT POLNER (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PRESS, 2010). REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF SUNY PRESS. NEWSPAPER IMAGE USED BY PERMISSION OF THE *NEW YORK DAILY NEWS*.

Second Chance

At Wagner, player has college football career after pro baseball

By *Dave Caldwell*

[Editor's Note: This article first appeared on Friday, September 17, 2010, in the *New York Times*.]

Nick Doscher has returned to Staten Island, his home, and he has settled in as the 23-year-old starting sophomore quarterback at Wagner College, whose leafy campus sits like a tiara atop Grymes Hill.

Until two years ago — June 8, 2008, to be precise — Doscher was a catcher in the Kansas City Royals' farm system. He remembers the date because the Royals cut him three years to the day after taking him in the eighth round of the amateur draft.

Doscher turned 18 about three weeks before he was drafted, in 2005. The day after the draft, he slugged a home run and pitched five no-hit innings to lead Moore Catholic to the Catholic city high school championship. The next day, he signed with the Royals. Life could not have been much better.

But he batted only .208 in 298 at-bats with three Royals farm teams. Doscher landed on the disabled list twice even though he was not hurt, and finally, Brian Rupp, his manager with the Burlington Bees in Iowa, called him into his office and told him the Royals were letting him go.

"It's kind of a shock when it happens," Doscher said.

PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BYRON

'Tough as Nails'

Seahawks quarterback Nick Doscher '13, who came to Wagner after playing pro baseball, passed for 1,330 yards and 8 touchdowns last season as a 22-year-old freshman and was named to the Northeast Conference first team.

He hoped to keep his baseball career alive. No such luck. His father, also named Nick, who describes himself as a baseball lifer, was his coach at Moore Catholic and had insisted that the Royals pay for his son's college education as part of his contract.

The younger Nick Doscher was also a quarterback when he was at Moore Catholic, tall and sturdy and with a strong right arm. He passed for 1,507 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior and was named the best high school football player on Staten Island.

After leaving baseball, he considered playing football at a few other colleges, but he ended up at Wagner, no more than a five-minute drive from where he grew up. He had not played football in a while when he got to Wagner, and Walt Hameline, Wagner's football coach for 30 years, thought Doscher might help the team — as a 220-pound fullback.

When Wagner wide receiver David Crawford, a junior, heard that a former professional baseball player was trying out for the team as a quarterback, he said he thought the whole idea was "kind of crazy." Throwing a football, after all, is nothing like throwing a baseball.

But Doscher won the starting quarterback job as a freshman.

"He shocked everyone here," Crawford said. "He came in and took the job right away."

The coaches at Wagner like him, too.

"He's tough as nails," Hameline said. "You know what a catcher is like."

Doscher has grown a thick beard, and

sometimes his teammates will tease him by calling him an old man. But he is thrilled to be on campus.

Baseball might have been his first choice, but he always thought he could play college football. After four years away from the sport, he is playing his position well. He may pursue a career in coaching, but he does not hide the fact that he might like to play pro football someday.

"The story's not over yet," said his father, who coached a team from Staten Island to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in 2006.

Like Doscher, another quarterback came out of the minor leagues; Chris Weinke spent six years as a first baseman in the Toronto Blue Jays' system before he enrolled at Florida State. He led the Seminoles to the 1999 national championship and won the Heisman Trophy a year later at the age of 28.

Weinke played seven years in the NFL. Doscher smiled when Weinke's name was brought up because he is a Florida fan, which, he said, means that he's no fan of Weinke. But Weinke's story can serve as an inspiration to Doscher — not that he needs much to get going.

"We're all football players — we're focusing on one sport at a time," said Cleveland Green, Wagner's 24-year-old center.

Doscher passed for 1,330 yards and 8 touchdowns last season as a 22-year-old freshman and was named to the Northeast Conference first team. As he directed an option-oriented offense, Doscher also rushed

for 13 touchdowns and 769 yards, with 144 in a game against St. Francis of Pennsylvania.

Hameline calls him a coach on the field. Crawford said being the centerpiece of the

team did not seem to affect Doscher at all, perhaps because he was used to performing under pressure as a minor league baseball player. His teammates are thrilled to have him around.

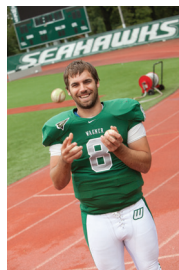
"Some kids, they can just understand it," Hameline said. "He has a knack. He knows what to do and when to do it."

Doscher is making the most of what has amounted to a second chance. His father said that when Doscher came home from Iowa two years ago, he tried as hard as he could to be stoic, joining sandlot baseball games on Staten Island, but that he felt sorry for himself for a little while.

But only a little while. Although he is not that far from home, Doscher moved into a dormitory on campus and jumped into college life. He wore a Cincinnati Reds cap to practice on Thursday, but he said with a smile that it was only because it matched his red T-shirt.

"I think I appreciate it more," he said of being at Wagner. "I had the experience of going away."

That experience ended too soon for him, but it did have its highlights. He caught Royals pitcher Zack Greinke on a rehabilitation assignment once. And how many college quarterbacks can say they caught a Cy Young Award winner? ■



Sports Roundup

A Gifted Program

New training facilities and scoreboard advance
Seahawk athletics

The love of sport, family, friends, and Wagner College have inspired several gifts over the past year, resulting in significant additions to College athletic facilities.

Late last year, a fully equipped, 3,000-square-foot strength room for Wagner athletic teams was added to the Spiro Sports Center. It was named in memory of Gregory P. Knapp '66 H'00, who died in July 2009, with a lead gift from his lifelong friend, Thomas G. Moles '65 H'00. The two men played football together in high school and college, served in the Marines in Vietnam, and became Wagner lifetime trustees.

In August of this year, the baseball team unveiled renovated batting cages, made possible through the Richard "Rusty" McGivney '95 memorial fund and named in memory of the former Seahawk baseball player and coach, who died in 1999. The McGivney family, who count several Wagner alumni among their members (Rusty's mother, Cecelia McGivney '82, his sister, Ellen DeMarco '78 M'85 M'99, and his nephew, John DeMarco '04), also donated a state-of-the-art pitching machine.

Finally, at this season's first home football game on September 18, Wagner unveiled a video scoreboard, made possible by a former Wagner offensive lineman, and current successful business owner, Marc Lebovitz '91.

"I have watched, with great pride, Wagner College continue to develop and transform its position as a top-tier private college in the Northeast," says Lebovitz. "Donating a brand-new, state-of-the-art video scoreboard was a way for me to help make a difference in the College and its first-class athletic department. Go Seahawks!" ■



BUILDING STRENGTH
Men's lacrosse player R. J. DeRosa '13 trains in the Dr. Gregory P. Knapp '66 H'00 Strength Room, built and equipped with a leadership gift from Thomas G. Moles '65 H'00. While serving as Wagner trustees, Knapp and Moles also helped to fund the Wagner Stadium in 1997 and the Spiro Sports Center in 1999.



POWER HITTING
Senior baseball team member Joe Conforti was the first to try out the new ATEC pitching machine after it was set up on October 5. Previously, a rainstorm would have scrapped days of batting practice. The McGivney gift provided new concrete floors and a pitching machine that will fire 600 balls at up to 92 miles per hour before it needs to be reloaded.



IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY
Marc Lebovitz '91 and his sons, Zachary and Jeremy, admire the new Lebovitz Family Scoreboard on Homecoming, October 23. The scoreboard measures almost 30 feet high and 32 feet wide, and displays color video as well as game statistics.



AlumniLink

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

Upcoming Events

National Alumni Association

- Winter on the Hill
February 19, 2011
*Basketball Doubleheader:
Wagner v. Long Island University*
- Reunion Weekend
June 3–5, 2011
*Special celebrations for class years
ending in 1 and 6; the newest
Golden Seahawks, the class of
1961; the Horrmann Library's
50th anniversary; the nursing,
business, and education programs'
65th anniversaries; and more.*

Visit www.wagner.edu/alumni/
events for the latest information.

Wagner College Choirs

- Holiday Choral Concert
Dec. 5, 4 p.m., *Trinity Lutheran
Church, Staten Island*
- Vocal Jazz Set
Dec. 7, 8 p.m., *Campus Hall*
- Spring Tour of Florida
March 3–11 (*details TBA*)

Wagner College Concert Band

- Holiday Concert
Dec. 12, 3 p.m., *Main Hall*
- Spring Concert
May 8, 3 p.m., *Main Hall*

Wagner College Jazz Ensemble

- Big Band Tunes and Dinner
Dec. 2, 8:30 p.m., *Lorenzo's
Cabaret, Hilton Garden Inn,
Staten Island (Reservations
required: 718-447-2400, ext. 4)*
- Spring Concert
April 17, 3 p.m., *Main Hall*

Theatre

Main Stage Season

- *The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee*
Nov. 17–Dec. 5
- *Smokey Joe's Café: The Songs
of Leiber and Stoller*
Feb. 23–March 6

- *Seussical, The Musical*
April 13–May 1

Stage One Season

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Nov. 30–Dec. 5
- *Loose Knit*
March 1–6
- *The Dance Project*
April 26–May 1

*Dates are subject to change.
Please call or check www.wagner.edu/calendar for updates.*

{ FLASHBACK }



HORRMANN LIBRARY, CA. 1993

When this picture was taken, the card catalogue's days were numbered. By 1995, computer terminals with digital databases had replaced the paper files.

Since it opened in 1961, the Horrmann Library has seen many changes. Next year, look for a feature in these pages celebrating Horrmann's 50th

birthday. **Please contribute by sharing**

your memories and pictures of

Horrmann Library. Write to

laura.barlament@wagner.edu

or Wagner Magazine, 1 Campus

Road, Staten Island, NY 10301.



For more information, registration, and tickets:

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

Milestones

Alumni remember a year abroad and a perfect season

Alumni reunited this summer and fall to celebrate two unforgettable experiences.

In July, 34 alumni of the 1969–70 Wagner College Bregenz Program gathered in the Poconos at the home of George Laszlo '72 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their year studying abroad in Bregenz, Austria. Wagner offered a study abroad program in Bregenz from the early '60s until the '80s. Using Facebook as a networking and organizing tool, the class located almost all of its 63 members, who now live around the world. The Skype Internet-based video call program enabled some to connect from afar.

“The group is still basking in a warm afterglow from a truly memorable event, and exchanging even more pictures and stories through the Facebook group,” says Erik Unhjem '72.



JUST LIKE OLD TIMES

More than 30 alumni of Wagner's 1969–70 Bregenz Program gathered in the Poconos in July.



In September, another group of alumni gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a Wagner athletic milestone: the first unblemished football season in school history. In 1960, Wagner set a then-school record of 256 points while rolling to a 9-0 record. At the Seahawks' 2010 home opener against Cornell, 1960 team captains Wally Pagan '61 and Charlie Jopp '61 served as honorary game captains, and all returning team members were honored at halftime.

UNDEFEATED

Members of the undefeated 1960 football team, Neil Johnston '62, John Knudson '57 (head athletic trainer), Art Penchansky '64, Tony Franchina '61, Frank Melos '62, and Al Palladino '61 walk on the field for halftime honors.



The Link

The exclusive online community for Wagner alumni.

Version 2.0 coming soon – watch for more information and exciting opportunities to reconnect. www.wagner.edu/alumni



New & Noteworthy



Michelle Cliff '69 *Into the Interior* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010)

In poetic prose, Michelle Cliff spins the story of an unnamed narrator, a bisexual Caribbean woman of color, who travels from Jamaica to New York to London. To read reviews and an interview with Cliff, visit www.upress.umn.edu/Books/C/cliff_into.html.



Rosalind Noonan '80 *In a Heartbeat* (Kensington, 2010) and *Snow Angels* (Zebra, 2009)

In a Heartbeat, Noonan's second novel under her own name, explores one family's journey in the wake of a horrific crime and its unexpected aftermath. *Snow Angels* is an anthology of Christmas-themed novellas; Noonan's contribution, *Miracle on Main Street*, draws on her experience as the wife of a former New York City cop. Learn more at www.rosalindnoonan.com.

Homecoming 2010

IT WAS A GREAT DAY for friends, food, and football on October 23, Wagner Homecoming, with 325 alumni and friends there to share in the fun. On this perfect fall day, more than 100 people attended the 20th annual induction ceremony of the Wagner College Athletics Hall of Fame, at which the College recognized the accomplishments of Peter Demeropoulos '83 (football), Artie DiMella '88 (football), Mayuko Koshiba Perpetua '94, (tennis), Billy Kurisko '91 (basketball), Brenda Milano '95 (basketball), and Rich Negrin '88 (football). Just before the football game pitting Wagner against Duquesne, the Lebovitz Family Scoreboard was dedicated and the Lebovitz family honored for their gift to the College. Duquesne snapped Wagner's three-game winning streak in the final minutes of the game. See more photos at www.flickr.com/wagneralumni.



TOUCHDOWN In an exciting game versus Duquesne University, the stands were packed with Seahawk fans.



FIRST TIMERS Brianne Whalen, Sara Bandurian, and Lauren Moore, all of the class of 2014, enjoy the BBQ in the Alumni Tent.



FAMILY FUN Michael '90 and Jennifer DeVitto enjoy the day with their children, Lauren, Anthony, and Matthew, and with Michael's sister, Marie DiTommaso.



SEAHAWK STAR Arnold Obey '68, pictured with his wife, Cheryl, is a Wagner Athletic Hall of Fame member who set multiple school records in basketball and track and field.



ROYALTY Lisa Schneider '12, Joanna Ciavarella '11, Joe Sciortino '11, Courtney Sowinski '11, Sasha May '12, and Tyrik Miller '12 were in the homecoming court.



HONORED President Guarasci awards Hall of Fame trophies to Artie DiMella '88, Rich Negrin '88, and others at halftime. Hall of Fame chair John Knudson '57 looks on.



Class Notes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1939

John "Bunny" Barbes sold his house in Staten Island. He now lives in Sunrise, Fla., with his daughter, **Linda Barbes Stein** '69.

1942

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

1943

Reinhold "Dutch" Weber wrote in about the death of his wife, **Lois Reisch Weber**, on March 30. "She and I graduated [in 1943] after four happy years on campus," he wrote. "Our marriage of 67 years, including four children, nine grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren, continued our happiness. Lois was a strong support in my 61 years of active ministry."

1950

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

1951

Palmer Thompson has moved to Olathe, Kans., after spending 40 years in Los Angeles and San Diego. Palmer's daughter, **Maralee Striker**, is president of the family's travel agency, Magic Mouse Travel Inc. (www.magicmousetravel.com). A division of A&P Cruises and

Tours, the agency specializes in Disney resorts, parks, and cruises. Palmer is an authorized Disney Planner and serves with his wife, Marge, as vice president of the family business. Having been in the retail travel industry for 20 years now, the Thompsons have been on 39 cruises. Their favorite? Alaska!

1952

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

Dorothy Srabian Corell lives in Bellerose, N.Y., near her children and grandchildren, all of whom reside in Nassau County and Queens. Her daughter Jean is an English teacher at Francis Lewis High School in Fresh Meadows, Queens. **Evelyn Pedersen Gordon** is still living in Baldwin, Long Island, N.Y., where she ended her teaching career to start a family of three girls: Suzannah, Diana, and **Laura Gordon Conlon** '79. Wagner has been an important part of her family's life; alumni include her late husband, **Bill Gordon**, who was a school administrator at Baldwin Public Schools, as well as her brother, sister, brother-in-law, and a niece. She has fond memories of an 8 a.m. class in Cunard Hall with Professor Morse, where she first met her husband-to-be when he came in late and sat at the desk next to her. Dr. **Morton Kurland** was named a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American

Psychiatric Association. He has been practicing medicine at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., in the Coachella Valley near Palm Springs, for the past 40 years. His four daughters have provided him with 10 grandchildren. He reports, "Wagner was a great link in the progress of our success and, in fact, one of our grandchildren, **Jessica Bear** '08, graduated from Wagner summa cum laude and is now at the University of Southern California medical school doing extremely well and loving it." Several of his grandchildren are college graduates, including one who graduated from law school. "We revel in our family's successes," says Morton.

1953

Class Agent: **Albert Tosi**
70 Woodcliff Lake Road, Saddle River, NJ 07458

1954

Class Agent: **Manfred W. Lichtmann**
568 Harbor Watch Loop, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579, lichtmann@sccoast.net

Ingeborg Skarsten Hofrenning, a retired nurse, moderated a health care panel at Becketwood Cooperative in Minneapolis in September 2009. Four physicians from a variety of medical specialties composed the panel.

1955

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

Jill Jacobsen Smith is a successful, longtime educator focused on the needs of children and adults with learning disabilities. In 1974, she established the Smith Clinic in Dallas, which offers diagnostics, tutoring, and school consultations. She also develops textbooks and teaching materials for people with learning disabilities through Read Well Publishing (readwellpublishing.net). She recently completed a computer version of the phonics-based reading program that she originally developed almost 50 years ago. It is delivered via the Internet, and she believes it is the only computer-based reading program that is phonetic. She has used it with great success in various Dallas schools.

1956

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

1957

Class Agents: **Marie Attonito Alberti**
109 Patio Drive, Endwell, NY 13760, 607-754-3400 **Ewald Forsbrey**
1096 Augusta Falls Way, Naples, FL 34119, 239-353-6240

Keep in Touch!

E-mail: alumni@wagner.edu

Web: www.wagner.edu/alumni/

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

Publication policies:

Deadlines: This issue reflects news received by September 15.

The submission deadline for the summer 2011 issue is May 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.

Knot Notes

Wagner Weddings Celebrating new commitments



Britni Orcutt '05 and Scott Morley married on April 7, 2010. Professional magicians with their own entertainment company and shop (read more about that under the class of 2005), they were photographed in Montego Bay, Jamaica.



Christine Pedi '96 M'98 and Andrew Gise were married on April 10, 2010, in St. Rita's Church on Staten Island. Their wedding photo was taken at Wagner, on the Sutter Oval.



Jacob Browne '05 M'08 and **Darby Biggart '06** were married on May 8, 2010, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Md. Pictured here: Kristina Muller of Wagner's admissions office; **John Carrescia '99 M'06** and his wife, Teresa; President and Mrs. Guarasci; **Heather George Krueger '06**; **Leigh-Ann DePascale Nowicki '96 M'08**; Jake Browne; **Christopher Perlongo M'03**; Darby Biggart Browne; Christine Bell, former Wagner staff; **Christine Venturella D'Arbanville '93**; Patrick Shanahan, former Wagner staff; **Kristen Pettis '05**; **Jacqueline Sarkies '05 M'08**; Angelo Araimo, Wagner vice president for enrollment and planning; and **Michael D'Arbanville '93**.

Have a wedding photo with "Wagner family"?
Please see page 36 for publication guidelines.

1958

Class Agent: **H. Milton Keen**
P.O. Box 485, Lees Mill Road, Warrenton,
VA 20186, mk10581@gmail.com

1960

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

1961

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

Constance Lange Lord enjoys "substitute teaching and grandparenting. ... Two months a year in Florida has reconnected us with high school friends," she adds. Her main residence is in Floral Park, N.Y. **Lelah Carlton Urban '61 M'65** and her husband, Kenneth, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. Married on June 4, 1960, the couple renewed their vows on the SS *Oosterdam* while cruising to Alaska. Lelah taught kindergarten

and first grade at St. John's Lutheran School, Port Richmond, Staten Island, for more than 20 years. The couple is active in the Staten Island Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group, and they love to travel.

1962

Georg Bohsack reports that he has put his home in Marshfield Hills, Mass., on the market in anticipation of eventually living full time at his home on Siesta Key, Fla. Three of his fraternity brothers are near there: **Carl Jensen '61**, **Duke Stewart**, and **Manfred Liebner '64**. He is still working and traveling frequently around the world, selling medical products (see www.gwbinternational.com for more information). This fall he is attending his 33rd consecutive American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting, this time in Chicago. Whenever he travels, he looks for alumni in the area, and he believes he may hold the record for the number of Wagner graduates visited. In September, during a trip to Munich, Germany, he looked up **Adalbert Koetter** but was told that Bert

had died years ago. In recent years, Georg visited **Bob Gerber**, who is still in great shape and lives in Germany.

1963

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

1964

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

Dr. **Bruce Barnhard** was featured in the July issue of *New Jersey Monthly* magazine as one of the top dentists in New Jersey. Bruce has been practicing for 35 years and is a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics. He graduated from the St. Louis University School of Dentistry and earned his prosthodontic certification at New York University. Bruce also works as an assistant clinical professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. A former president of the New Jersey Section of the American

College of Prosthodontics, Bruce is an attending staff member and lecturer at Mountainside Hospital, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, all in New Jersey. His practice, Oral Reconstructive Associates, is located in West Orange, N.J. Learn more at oralreconstructive.com.

1965

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

1966

Jean Christ Loken's sister, Sue Brown, wrote to us about the passing of Jean on July 17, and included information about her extraordinary life experiences. Jean worked as a reference librarian at the Dakota County Libraries in Minnesota. "In 1995," Sue wrote, "Jean made medical history by becoming the first Minnesotan to receive a Left Ventricular Assist Device after a massive heart attack,

Jerel Gade '77

The Sledding Pastor

CLAIM TO FAME: The Rev. Jerel Gade '77 has a great day job: For nearly 30 years, he's been a pastor to multi-denominational Christian congregations around Allentown, Pennsylvania – but during his off hours, he's a highly trained official in the high-speed world of international luge racing.

TOO LATE FOR LUGE? While studying at Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary in 1980, the Saugerties, New York, native volunteered at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid. Luge sledding caught his attention, but it wasn't until he attended a winter sports camp in 1993 that he rode one himself. Sliding down an icy, mile-long track at speeds averaging 65 miles per hour hooked his imagination, he says – but not his body. "I loved the sport, but I realized that the time when I could take up something like luge had passed me by."

FINDING HIS NICHE: A few years later, Gade took his son Joshua to Philadelphia for a U.S. luge team "slider search" clinic. Soon, father and son were taking every opportunity to visit Lake Placid, where Joshua could train and compete at the Olympic facility. "I was up here so often," Gade said during an October interview in Lake Placid, "that it seemed silly to be just standing around." That's when he started learning how to be a luge judge, keeping competition fair by enforcing equipment and timing rules.

WORLD CLASS: Jerel Gade is now in his sixth year as a luge official. He has judged at three World Cup competitions and one World Championship. His most exciting meet, he says, was the 2009 World Championship, held right before the 2010 Winter Olympics. While Gade was officiating, Erin Hamlin became the first American woman to win a world luge title. "My congregation knows that, come vacation time, I'm going either south or north," he says – south to visit Joshua, now a senior at the University of Central Florida, or north to judge yet another world-class sledding competition.



which sustained her for three months until she received a heart transplant." Jean was an award-winning quilter who used her talents to serve those in need, including children in crisis and the families of fallen U.S. soldiers. "Jean had an amazing life and accomplished so much after enduring so much," wrote Sue. Jean's survivors include her husband, Steven; two children and two grandchildren; and her mother and four siblings, including **Dorothy Lagerroos** '65. Find out more at www.sjloken.com.

1967

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

1968

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

Conchita Williams Ming was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in June. She received this honor for her contributions to Bermuda's 400th anniversary celebrations in 2009; as chair of the celebration committee, she coordinated dozens of events and activities to mark this milestone. The OBE is an order of chivalry given to people who have played an eminent role in their region or country. Conchita is well known as the co-founder of the National Dance Theatre of Bermuda and as a key figure in establishing Bermuda's Child Development Program. Dr. **Warren R. Procci** took office as the 64th president of the American Psychoanalytic Association (APSA) on June 11. A longtime resident of Los Angeles, he maintains a private practice in Pasadena, Calif., while teaching as a clinical professor of psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. Warren has served on the Wagner Board of Trustees since 1999 and is currently the vice chair. As APSA's president until 2012, he will preside over the organization's 100th anniversary in 2011. A first-generation American, he plans to focus on promoting diversity and inclusion in the association's training institutes and affiliated societies.

1969

Class Agent: Philip Stranieri
3 St. Austins Place, Staten Island,

NY 10310, 718-447-4717,
judgephil96@aol.com

Michelle Cliff has a new book out. See "New & Noteworthy" on page 34 for more information.

1970

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

1971

Class Agents: Pamela Broderick
P.O. Box 564, Winter Harbor, ME
04693 **Kathy Chinnici O'Donnell** 3322
Woodland Drive, Tobyhanna,
PA 18466, 570-894-4731,
katcod0221@yahoo.com

Carol Rabbitt Barth was invited to become a member of the Washington, D.C., board of St. John's Community Services. This nonprofit, community-based organization supports children and adults with intellectual, developmental, physical, and other disabilities. The organization's "support without walls" activist approach enables people with disabilities to fully participate in and become contributors to their communities. **Gene Guerriero** '71 M'80 wants his classmates to know that he is alive and well, despite the fact that he was listed in the summer 2010 issue's "In Memoriam" section. That was an error for which the editor sincerely apologizes. Gene wrote the following report to us in July: "I recently retired from Merck Pharmaceuticals, where I was executive director of hospital sales. My wife, Donna (who was our Alpha Sigma Phi sweetheart), and I have two sons and have recently become first-time grandparents (Avery Irene, born June 6 to Brian and Erin). We maintain a home in Doylestown, Pa., where we have lived for the last 20 years. We spend the winters at our home in The Villages, Fla. I stay active, golf several times a week, and play senior softball. I work part time for a pharmaceutical consulting company. We enjoy traveling, having spent three weeks in Central Europe last fall (Prague, Vienna, Budapest, as well as several cities on the Rhine). Donna and I recently returned from a trip to China and have booked a Mediterranean cruise during October with seven other couples." He adds that his son Brian is in marketing at Merck, while his other son, Michael, has numerous business interests in

Fort Collins, Colo. Michael wrote a successful book, *Party Across America*, and a pilot for a reality TV show was shot in September based on the book. "The chances of it being picked up are not good, but we are excited by the prospect," Gene notes. "As you can see, we have a lot to live for, and to quote Mark Twain, 'The report of my death was an exaggeration.'" **Sandra Logan O'Connor** has retired from teaching after 37 years. She taught third grade for 10 years, then earned her master's degree in special education from Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y., and taught for 27 years in that field. In retirement, Sandra plans to relax, read, and travel with her husband, Neil. She wrote in July that their son, Neil III, would be getting married in October. She also noted that if she misses teaching, she can help in the classroom of her daughter, Betsey.

1972

Frank Thomas was featured on PressOfAtlanticCity.com on July 28. The article, "Brief Case: Financial planning suits Richard Stockton College professor well," highlighted his teaching, his financial planning business, and his integration of those two career tracks. Frank has been a professor of accounting and finance at Richard Stockton College in Pomona, N.J., for 33 years. He is also the owner of Francis C. Thomas, CPA, in Port Republic, N.J. "Stockton is a unique place, with good students hungry for learning," he told the *Press*. "I get unsolicited comments from parents of past students that are enormously satisfying. For example, a couple of months ago a farmer from Vineland saw me at Home Depot and said, 'You really changed my son's life.' A big percentage of people practicing in public accounting around here were people in my classes."

1973

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

1974

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

David Burke, a labor and employment attorney with Robinson & Cole LLP in Stamford, Conn., received his firm's Pro Bono Award this summer. David was recognized for representing organizations such as Latino Community Services in Hartford, Conn., which helps promote healthy lives and communities for people affected by HIV or AIDS. He also worked with Stamford Emergency Medical Services, a nonprofit that serves emergency medical response needs in Stamford and Darien, Conn. **Debra Lee Schinkel Newell** achieved national teaching board certification. This rigorous certification process by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards requires intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment, peer review, portfolios, and a written exam. Deb is the library media coordinator for Urbana School District 116 in Urbana, Ill.

1975

Class Agents: Richard G. DePaul
8 McKay Drive, Bridgewater, NJ
08807, 908-218-1418 **Patricia Martin**
1341 NE Market Dr., Apt. 355,
Fairview, OR 97024,
pattym.phd@comcast.net

Donna D'Ermilio was honored at the November 12 recognition dinner of St. Joseph Hill Academy in Staten Island. The music director of both the St. Joseph's Singers and the Drama Club, Donna has taught English literature, introduction to drama, creative writing, writing lab, music appreciation, and fine arts at St. Joseph Hill. An experienced on-stage performer, music director, and conductor, she has also taught a musical theater seminar at Wagner. This year, she also received the Distinguished Woman Award from the Business and Professional Women's Club of Staten Island. Dr. **Maryellen Romano** '75 M'98 was featured in the *Staten Island Advance* on August 12. Following in the footsteps of her father, Dr. Francis Romano, Maryellen went to New York Medical College and began practicing obstetrics and gynecology on Staten Island in 1985. Currently, she has a large private gynecology practice in Bloomfield, Staten Island. She has two sons, William and Matthew; her husband, William Pezzolo, owns a heating and air-conditioning company. Learn more about her practice at www.maryellenromanomd.com.

Crib Notes

Classes of 2031 and 2032 *Some of the newest faces to join the Wagner family*



Amy Prezyna Allen '01 and her husband, David Allen, welcomed twins Gillian Claire and Griffin Conner on July 2, 2010.



Dr. Carol M. Russell '96 and her husband, Bert Barry, announce the birth of Emmett Albert on New Year's Day 2010.

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

1976

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

1977

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

1978

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

1979

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

Elissa Malcoln is proud that her creative writing appeared in three 2009 prize-winning publications: Her story "Memento Mori" was published in *Unspeakable Horror: From the Shadows of the Closet*, which won a Bram Stoker Award from the Horror Writers Association; "Hermit Crabs" appeared in issue 14 of *Electric Velocipede*, which received a Hugo Award at the World Science Fiction Convention; and "Arachne" appeared in *Riffing on Strings: Creative Writing Inspired by String Theory*, which won an IPPY Silver Medal, given by Independent Publishers. "Hermit Crabs" also made the recommended reading list in *The Year's Best*

Science Fiction, 26th Annual Edition (2009). She has been published in many journals and books in 2009 and 2010, and her work is forthcoming in *A Sea of Alone: Poems for Alfred Hitchcock* (Dark Scribe Press), *Mythic Delirium, Dreams and Nightmares*, and *Star*Line*. She also self-published a chapbook, *30 Science Sonnets*, and you can download her *Deviations* novel series for free at her website (home.earthlink.net/~deviations/index.html).

1980

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

Rosalind Noonan has two new books out. See "New & Noteworthy" on page 34 for more information. **Billy Tyler** wrote in about the passing of two former Wagner staff members that his classmates might remember. **Luke Piscitelli**, who served as resident director of Parker Towers Hall for more than 10 years and was a mentor to many students, died on March 13. He is survived by his mother, brothers Joe and Bruce, and his soul mate, Elaine Capano. Also, **Theresia Schlachter** died on April 14, five months before her 90th birthday. For many years, Frau Schlachter housed Wagner students in Bregenz, Austria, when they were studying abroad as part of the Wagner program there. "Countless Wagner students spent time at the beautiful

Schlachter home at Reichstrasse 9 overlooking the Bodensee [Lake Constance]," says Billy. "She will live forever in our hearts!" She is survived by her five children, their spouses, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1981

Class Agents: Joan Sutera
23 Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway,
NY 07866, 908-901-8382,
joan.sutera@pfizer.com **Lauretta Zitano**
2129 Locust Road, Sea Girt, NJ
08750, 732-449-4883

Cheryl Gucwa works for the New York Department of Education as a speech-language pathologist at two Staten Island schools: P.S. 38, the George Cromwell School, in Midland Beach; and P.S. 55, the Henry M. Boehm School, in Eltingville. She has been singing as a cantor during Mass at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Richmond Town, Staten Island, for more than 25 years.

1982

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

Sandra Kastner announces that her first grandchild, Ella Ava, was born on May 26. "She brought a lot of joy and happiness into our lives," Sandra notes.

1983

Class Agents: Donald T. Browne
31 Tannery Hill Drive, Hamburg,
NJ 07419, 973-827-4584,

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

Rich Wilner, the Sunday business editor at the *New York Post*, was named the paper's business editor in June. Rich had been the Sunday business editor for the previous two years. An employee at the *Post* since 1996, Rich also worked as a reporter for Fairchild Publications in Manhattan for seven years. He is the treasurer of the New York Financial Writers Association.

1985

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

Lisa Bennett announces that her stepdaughter, **Danielle Bennett Hunton**, completed a second degree in nursing at Wagner and passed her boards in February 2009. Danielle is employed at Richmond University Medical Center, West New Brighton, Staten Island. Lisa's younger stepdaughter, **Tara Bennett**, graduated from Wagner in May, and passed her nursing boards as well.

1986

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

1987

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

1988

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

Richard Negrin was appointed deputy mayor for administration and coordination of the City of Philadelphia on June 3 by Mayor Michael Nutter. This cabinet position has direct management responsibility over the city's key infrastructure departments and coordinates across all of city government to provide oversight and support, according to the mayor's office. "I appreciate this opportunity to serve the City of Philadelphia and look forward to working with Mayor Nutter and the other deputy mayors to help lead this city in the right direction," said Richard. He previously served as vice chair of the Philadelphia Board of Ethics and as executive director of the city's Board of Revision of Taxes.

1990

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

Monica Ursillo Passante is a teacher at I.S. 2, George L. Egbert Middle School, in Midland Beach, Staten Island. She has been married to Richard Passante for 17 years, and they have two children who attend I.S. 7 in Prince's Bay, Staten Island. Alexa Rose, 10, is in sixth grade, and Philip Richard, 13, is in eighth grade.

1991

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

1992

Class Agent: **Natalie Migliaro**
510 Col. DB Kelley Way, South
Amboy, NJ 08879, 732-721-6170,
natmig@rci.rutgers.edu

1993

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

1994

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

Anne Marie Rautenstrauch M'94 retired in September after working in the human resources field in health care for over 30 years. "I have been blessed to have enjoyed a wonderful career as a human resources professional," she said. "Most of my career was spent working at St. Vincent's Medical Center (now Richmond University Hospital) and St. Elizabeth Ann's Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, both on Staten Island." Additionally, for the past five years Anne Marie worked with a team of managers to start up the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center in Elizabeth, NJ. In retirement, she plans to give back to the community by volunteering.

1995

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

1996

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

Christine Pedi '96 M'98 and Andrew Gise were married on April 10 in St. Rita's Church on Staten Island. Christine is a home-based early intervention teacher and educational evaluator for Early Start. Andrew is an operating engineer. They live in Meiers Corners, Staten Island. *Turn to Knot Notes, page 37, to see their wedding picture, taken on the Sutter Oval on the Wagner campus.* Dr. **Carol M. Russell** and her husband, Bert Barry, announce the birth of Emmett Albert Barry on New Year's Day. She notes that Emmett's birth date — 01/01/10 — makes him a "binary baby." See *Crib Notes, page 40, for a photo.*

1997

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

James Haran was hired as a clinical nurse at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo. He started in the hospital's Critical Care Fellowship program on February 8, 2009. James received a B.S. in nursing, magna cum laude, from the University of Missouri in St. Louis on December 19, 2009. **Scott Lewers** was named vice president of multiplatform program planning and acquisitions for Oxygen Media. He has been with the company for seven years, previously serving as vice president for program planning and acquisition. In his new position, he has increased responsibility for program planning and is in charge of acquisition strategy for all program purchases. **Alison Penna Maniscalco** and her husband, Joseph Maniscalco, announce the birth of Elizabeth RoseMary on July 28 in Richmond University Hospital, West New Brighton, Staten Island. Elizabeth was named after her great-grandmother Elizabeth and her grandmother RoseMary. Alison and Joseph were married on April 2 and live on Staten Island.

1998

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

Jennifer McKinnon and Marianne Doyle announce the birth of Bryan Gerard McKinnon-Doyle on May 10 in Brooklyn. His big brother, Owen, is excited to have a new playmate! **Kathleen O'Keefe** '98 M'03 married Kenneth Burke on August 14, 2009. The couple lives in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and both are members of the Breezy Point Pipe & Drum Band. Kathy has been a bagpiper since graduating, while Kenny has been a drummer for over 15 years. A total of 54 pipers and drummers played at their reception. Other alumni who attended from Alpha Sigma Omega co-ed fraternity were **Laura Stafford Kochon**, **Mark Pryce** '96, **Kevin Moran** '96, **Jeff Gallagher**, **Mike Murphy** '95, and **Tom Koncewicz** '99. "It was an amazing thrill to have our friends and family see us do exactly what brought us together and what we love to do with our free time!" says Kathy.

1999

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

Dan Seigle, who began playing professional basketball for the men's national basketball team of the Philippines a year after graduating from Wagner, is continuing to perform at a high level. According to a *Staten Island Advance* article of July 3, "He was a standout on seven league championship teams, a two-time national team member, and four-time league playoff finals MVP." Dan lives in Makati City, the financial center of the Philippines. He has also begun working on a master's degree in sports psychology. **Robert Toscanini** and his wife, Christina, announce the birth of their first child, Nicholas Robert, on September 5, 2009, in Staten Island.

2000

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

Karen Robinson and Philip Michael announce the birth of Joshua Philip on February 11. His big sister, Kayla, was very excited about the new arrival, Karen reports.

2001

Class Agent: **Simone Diaz**
1655 N. Colony Road, Unit 19,
Meriden, CT 06450, 203-639-4855,
simoneamcbride@yahoo.com
Michael E. Poole 405 Pinkster Lane,
Slingerlands, NY 12159,
716-764-2835

Amy Prezyna Allen and her husband, David Allen, welcomed twins Gillian Claire and Griffin Conner on July 2. Griffin's proud godmother is fellow alumna **Allison Hynes** '01. See *Crib Notes, page 40, for a photo.* **Bret Shuford** is on tour with the Lincoln Center production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Bret plays the roles of Lt. Eustis Carmichael and Petty Officer Hamilton Steeves. For tickets and tour schedule, visit www.southpacificontour.com.

2002

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

Katie McAvoy married Peter Nicholas Caras of Sayreville, N.J., on June

26. The wedding was held on the beaches of Aruba. Katie is a fifth-grade teacher in Hillsborough, N.J., as well as the head cheerleading coach at Hillsborough High School. Our condolences go out to the Acierno family on the loss of **Jonathan Acierno** on January 18. A career counselor at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, he suffered from epilepsy and myasthenia gravis. Nevertheless, he was very involved in life at Wagner and beyond, serving as president of the College's Commuter Club, presenting papers at conferences, and publishing books, among other activities. His survivors include his parents and grandmother, and his siblings, **Erica Acierno** '08 M'10 and **Michael Acierno** '04 M'06.

2003

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

Jessica Biren Caverly obtained her Ph.D. in clinical psychology. She works at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass., and holds a faculty appointment at Harvard University.

2004

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

Michelle Bingham married Glenn Turnbull on July 2 at the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City, N.J. The couple lives in Brooklyn. **Jaime Sommella** was the maid of honor and **Jennifer DiBella** was bridesmaid for the ceremony. Alumni in attendance were **Michael Alas**, **Nicole Colonna** '03, **Christine Colonna** '05, and **Kyle McGinley**. **John Desantis** M'04 published a non-fiction work of political commentary, *A View of the Republic* (AuthorHouse.com, October 2010). In the book, he deals with several topics, including government, media, family, the justice system, the economy, Hollywood, and education. John earned undergraduate degrees in political science and economics at Fordham University before earning his MBA at Wagner. He is an engineering designer who has traveled throughout Europe. John also served in the US Navy and the US Army Reserves in a combat role.

"I decided to write about this topic about four years ago because of the frustration and disappointment the current state of affairs within our country has caused me," he says. "I decided to put pen to paper instead of complaining about it." **Renée Marino** joined the cast of *West Side Story* on Broadway as a swing. She also danced with the Spangles Dance Company on the TV show *America's Got Talent*, broadcast on June 15, and advanced to the next round of competition in Las Vegas.

2005

Class Agents: **Melissa D. Powers** 313 Vesta Court, Ridgewood, NJ 07450, 201-394-2408, powers.mel@gmail.com **Matthew L. Sheehan** 114 Gray Ave., Apt. 3B, Syracuse, NY 13203, 315-437-5430, mshsheeh05@gmail.com

Jacob Browne '05 M'08 and **Darby Biggart** '06 were married on May 8 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Md. They both work at Wagner, Jake in admissions and Darby in the business office. **Britni Orcutt** married Scott Morley on April 7. The couple met while performing in a wizard-themed illusion show. They formed Wonderfun Productions in 2006, a company that provides entertainment for private parties and corporate events. They are very proud of their newest show, "Houdini: Master Mystifier," which has been performed at many magic conventions in the Northeast. Scott and Britni also own the Wonderfun Magic & Costume Shop in Pompton Lakes, NJ. The store has become Wonderfun headquarters, where they offer magic lessons, host parties, and serve the local theater community with hundreds of costume rentals. Visit www.WonderfunProductions.com for more information. See *Knot Notes*, page 37, for wedding photos of *the Brownes and the Orcutts*.

2006

Class Agents: **Leandra Aguirre** 2521 14th Street, Apt. 2, Astoria, NY 11102, 617-645-4859 **Michael A. Armato** michael.a.armato@gmail.com **Charles Bender** 18 Klondike Ave., Stamford, CT 06907, 603-759-7439, charles.bender@credit-suisse.com **Dana Guariglia** 312 Tysens Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306, 718-980-1848, daynez74@aol.com **Derek Lightcap** 33 First Ave., Pottstown, PA 19464, 610-570-2954, dlightcap@hotmail.com

Andrew Bailey of the Oakland A's pitched in the MLB All-Star Game on July 13. Bailey entered the contest in the top of the seventh inning. This was his second straight All-Star selection, but the first in which he saw action. **Darby Biggart** and **Jacob Browne** '05 M'08 were married on May 8 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Md. See *Knot Notes*, page 37, for their wedding photo.

2007

Class Agent: **Christopher Silvestri** 1730 E. 31st, Brooklyn, NY 11234, csilvest227@gmail.com

Alex Jacobs won a major writing award from the New York State Associated Press Association in August. Her November 2009 story for the *Watertown [N.Y.] Daily Times*, "In Search of Timbucto," placed second in the features category for newspapers in the 25,000 to 50,000 circulation division. Alex, who is now a media spokesperson for SUNY Potsdam, covered higher education for the paper from 2007 until 2010. Her award-winning story is about a summer archaeological dig by SUNY Potsdam students at the site of a pre-Civil War African-American colony located just outside Lake Placid. You can find a link to the article at www.wagner.edu/news/node/1487.

2008

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

Justin Ensign was named interim head coach of the University of Central Missouri's wrestling program for the 2010-11 season. He has been an assistant coach there for the past two years, during which the Mules twice finished in the top 25 at the National Championships. Justin is also working on his master's in sports administration. **Joe Testa**, who was a part of the Minnesota Twins organization for the past two seasons, was sent in July to the Washington Nationals in a deal for Major League Baseball closer Matt Capps. Testa, who was packaged with catcher Wilson Ramos, will now be pitching for the Potomac Nationals of the Carolina League. **Stephanie Williams** won the Miss D.C. pageant on June 20. A medical student at George Washington University, she will compete in the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas on January 15, 2011.

2009

Class Agent: **Jacob Shoesmith-Fox** 570-765-5022, jacob.shoesmith-fox@wagner.edu

Matt Ban is part of the year-long North American tour of *Monty Python's Spamalot*. He is playing Sir Bedevere and is the understudy for King Arthur. This has been a busy year for Matt. From April 30 to May 15, he played the role of Harold in *The Full Monty* at the Palace Theater in Manchester, N.H. He went on to secure a role as Adolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* at the Broward Stage Door Theater in Coral Springs, Fla., June 11 to July 25. To see Matt in his latest role, visit www.montypythonspamalot.com. **Josephine Guglielmino Marcantonio** M'09 received an award for mentoring at the annual Nursing Spectrum Nursing Excellence Awards on June 2. She is a clinical nurse specialist at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian in Manhattan, and she teaches as a clinical adjunct for Wagner's pediatrics course. **Andrew Minucci** completed his master's degree in sports management at Georgetown University this year. He is now working for Major League Soccer's D.C. United, where he had been an intern since August 2009.

2010

Class Agent: **Spencer Taylor** 4 Sheridan Drive, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, 570-839-8139, spencer.taylor@wagner.edu

Peter Marinaro made his professional debut, only a month after graduation, in *Spaghetti and Matzo Balls Fuhgeddaboutit!* at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in Manhattan. This new play is by David Lamb, who also authored the long-running off-Broadway hit *Platanos & Collard Greens* about the blending of Latino and African-American cultures. *Spaghetti and Matzo Balls* is a romantic comedy about the culture clash that occurs when a nice Italian boy (Marinaro) falls in love with a sweet Jewish girl (Jennifer Leigh Cohen). For more information, visit www.spaghettonstage.com. **Andy Wells** became the seventh former Seahawk in the last six years to sign a professional baseball contract. A pitcher, he is now part of the independent Evansville Otters of the Frontier League. The team is based in Evansville, Ind.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Since Clinton was appointed the U.N. Special Envoy to Haiti in May 2009, Graham has overseen his work there. Typical of the Clinton Foundation's methods, her efforts were aimed at bringing together the government, business, and NGOs to create sustainable solutions by creating jobs and improving health — not administering hand-outs.

Little did anyone know that exactly two months later, the Haitian situation would become unimaginably more acute. The massive earthquake that hit on January 12 killed more than 222,000 people, left 1.3 million homeless, and decimated the government. The Clinton Foundation not only mobilized immediate help, raising millions of dollars and serving as a clearinghouse for information, supplies, and volunteers, but is committed to Haiti for the long term. Clinton himself serves as co-chair of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission, which the Haitian government established to guide the country's recovery process. Graham is the one behind the scenes, making sure his vision for Haiti's future is realized.

"She's singlehandedly running [Clinton's] Haiti efforts," says Doug Band. "The people of Haiti owe her a huge debt of gratitude, although they'll never know that."

Behind the Scenes with Bill Clinton

Listening is the first thing Graham names when asked what she has learned from working with Bill Clinton all of these years. "He's taught me to listen a lot closer to people," she says. "He's a wonderful listener. That's why he's a great communicator."

These famous communication skills were in evidence at a recent event that brought Graham back to familiar ground: Wagner's Spiro Sports Center, where Clinton campaigned for Staten Island Congressman Michael McMahon at a September 3 rally.

While Clinton gave a rousing 30-minute speech and afterward shook every hand, signed every autograph, and smiled for endless photos, Graham hung out with her extended family and played with her 15-month-old foster son, Matthew, in between working her Blackberry. (She has foster parented five children and is looking to adopt.)

Just before leaving, Clinton spoke personally about his chief of staff. "I'll tell ya, there's one reason why Laura is where she is today," he said with a mischievous look and a long pause. "It was all Wagner!" With a big laugh, he gave Graham an affectionate side hug. Looking chagrined, she retorted, "It was all you!"

More seriously, Clinton said that what makes Laura so good at what she does is not just her speed and not just her hard work — it is all those things combined with keen intelligence. "She works hard, and she's smart enough to know what to work hard at," he said. "And she gets stuff done!" Listing the Clinton Foundation's slate of global projects, with a special mention of the work in Haiti, Clinton said, "It wouldn't be possible without her." With Clinton's hand on her shoulder making her stay put, Graham looked more and more embarrassed. "She'll never take any credit for it," he remarked. ("I'm reserved, and I don't like to take credit," she later admitted. "So it was an uncomfortable posture for me.")

"Also, she has the gift of disagreeing with someone without making them mad," Clinton added — a comment that made Graham smile.

"Clinton has been like a second father to me," says Graham. "And I don't say that lightly, because I had a very good relationship with my father." Claude Graham was enormously proud of his daughter's work, too, and he wasn't shy about bragging about her, or the phone calls he received from Clinton himself during his final illness. Family members were shocked and delighted when Clinton appeared at Claude's funeral on Staten Island. "My father would have thought that was the coolest thing," she says wryly.

Graham calls Clinton "the hardest-working, most dedicated public servant I have ever seen," but she matches him step for step. Her reward and satisfaction come not from public recognition, but from sticking with things for the long term. "Seeing it through is very important," she observes. "Any time you can leave your work and say I played a tiny part in helping, it's worthwhile. I sometimes remind the staff of this: If you can contribute in some small way to helping someone, somewhere, it's a good day." ●

In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family

Alumni

Mr. Louis Whiteside Balmer '38
Mrs. Erma Rudloff Coutts '39
Mrs. Gloria K. Lorenz Volland '40
Mrs. Ruth M. Zoll Pecan '41
Mr. James Henry LaHart '43
Mrs. Lois Reisch Weber '43
Mr. Richard A. Erickson '50
Mr. Raymond C. Smith '51
Mrs. Jane Lee Joseph Sylvester '51
Mr. Roger N. Bissell '52
Dr. Michael G. Kobasky '52
Rev. William H. Rittberger '52
Mrs. Helen Kiloh McCarthy McCullough '53

Mrs. Barbara Blumoehr Ogren '53
Ms. Helen Wenkert Charpentier '54
Mr. William Francis Luce Jr. '54
Mrs. Dorothy McKnight McHale '54
Rev. Richard C. Pankow '54
Dr. Anthony J. Polomene '55
Mr. Paul Charm '57
Mr. Edward W. Monkman '58
Mr. Alan S. Engelberg '63
Mr. Howard G. Meyers Jr. '63
Mrs. Joanne Wisniewski Durkin '65
Ms. Marsha Waitekunas Francis '66
Mrs. Jean Christ Loken '66

Mr. Robert J. Ricca '66
Dr. James Landry '68
Mr. Thomas Kovolka '69
Mrs. A. Louise Finegan Cain '73
Mr. J. Mark Pearson '74

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

Dr. Thomas C. Carroll
Ms. Bergljot "Belle" Johnson
Mrs. Theresia Schlachter

Correction: In the summer 2010 issue of *Wagner Magazine*, Gene Guerriero '71 was mistakenly listed as deceased. We apologize for this error.

Deaths reported to Wagner College, May 15 – September 17, 2010.



Thomas C. Carroll *Vice president and professor exemplified integrity*

Thomas C. Carroll, Wagner's vice president for finance and administration, died on July 17, 2010, after battling cancer for more than a year.

Carroll came to Wagner in 2004. A certified public accountant and a certified financial manager, he was a graduate of Rutgers University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his doctorate in education. He was also an esteemed professor at Wagner, teaching graduate business courses.

An avid cyclist, runner, and triathlete, he was known for his personal integrity and his devotion to his wife, Cheryl, and his daughters, Rebecca and Erin. "In my nearly 40 years in higher education, I have never met a man with greater personal character, a sharper mind, or a more gracious manner," said President Guarasci. "All of these virtues were packed inside a personality keen on heightened achievement and personal responsibility."

Howard G. Meyers Jr. '63 *Trustee and attorney was active in his community*

Wagner Trustee Howard G. Meyers Jr. '63 died on August 28, 2010.

A practicing attorney for over 40 years, Meyers graduated from the Columbia University School of Law in 1966. Most recently, he was a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Meyers, Meyers & Tonachio. He was also active in his community, serving not only on the Wagner College Board of Trustees twice but also as chairman of Eger Lutheran Home and Services on Staten Island, a board member of RSVP/SERVE, a senior volunteer agency on Staten Island, and a member of Staten Island Community Board 1. In addition, he had been an adjunct professor at Wagner College and St. John's University, lecturing on constitutional law, securities regulation, and business law.

Survivors include his wife, Fran, as well as his two children and four grandchildren.



My Most Important Lesson

Finding your way By Claire Regan '80

Whenever I introduce myself to a Wagner journalism class, I break the ice with a few biographical facts. Associate managing editor of the *Staten Island Advance*. Faculty adviser to the *Wagnerian* newspaper and *Kallista* yearbook. Assistant professor of journalism at Wagner for 25 years.

Then I write the most significant fact on the board: Wagner College graduate, class of 1980.

Wagner bonds last a lifetime and Wagner connections go a long way. This may very well be the most important lesson I teach at my alma mater each semester.

Today, the journalism program is thriving at Wagner. Students pursue it as a minor and complete required internships at sites including the *Advance*. But back in my day, there weren't any journalism classes at Wagner. I majored in education, expecting to follow in my parents' footsteps. Without realizing it at the time, I was learning how to be a journalist on the staffs of the *Wagnerian* and *Kallista*.

Wagner connections helped me land my first journalism job soon after graduation.

During my junior and senior years, I was a student worker in the registrar's office in Cunard Hall. Longtime Registrar Barney Jensen knew of my interest in journalism, and when his friend at the *Advance*, lifestyle editor Larry Miraldi '68, mentioned he was looking to fill a job, Mr. Jensen contacted me.

I interviewed with Les Trautmann '40, editor of the *Advance*. I don't remember much about that meeting because I was so nervous, but I do remember that Wagner came up.

"So you're a Wagner grad," I recall him saying as he leaned back in his chair and took a puff from his pipe.

Mr. Trautmann hired me as the wedding and engagement writer. It was a part-time, entry-level job, but I loved it. Spelling all those names of bridesmaids, ushers, rabbis, and priests established a useful obsession with accuracy. The job helped me realize that a newsroom was where I belonged.

In the two journalism courses I teach each semester at Wagner, I make sure my students hear how Wagner bonds are threaded through my life. Some of my closest friendships were forged in the *Wagnerian* office, where long hours and relentless deadlines



“ I realized a newsroom was where I belonged. ”

are still required to get the paper out. There's Ed Burke '80, Staten Island deputy borough president;

Rich Wilner '83, a business writer for the *New York Post*; Rob Weening '80, a financial executive in California; Debra Bennett '80, an Episcopal minister on Long Island.

Teaching at Wagner has established another layer of bonds — former students who have become fellow alumni. There's Abby Albair '09, an editor at the *Valley Press* in Hartford, Connecticut; Andrew Minucci '09, who just earned a master's in sports management from Georgetown University; Jeannine Morris '05, entrepreneur of a successful beauty and style website; Jill Higgins '05, marketing manager for an arts organization in Boston; Alexandra Anastasio '95, programming coordinator at ABC Daytime.

Looking out of my office in the *Advance* newsroom, I see a dozen colleagues who are my former students — whose Wagner connection landed them their first journalism job, too.

For this alum, teaching at Wagner is a privilege. It's exhilarating to grow young journalists and watch them thrive on the *Wagnerian* and in internships at New York City news outlets. I use the opportunity to empower students, teach them how to advocate for themselves, and use their Wagner relationships as they find their way. Because that's exactly what Wagner did for me. ■

WAGNER COLLEGE

SWEET VICTORY

The Seahawks celebrate head coach Walt Hameline's 200th career win after defeating Monmouth on November 6. In his 30th season at Wagner, Hameline is the 66th head coach in NCAA history to join the 200-win club.



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SAFFERAN