

SUMMER 2011

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

WAGNER



The Big Leap

Preparing to graduate, seniors name their top campus spots, favorite profs, biggest challenges, and more

Rookie of the Year: Andrew Bailey '06 • **Just Right:** The Nicolaises • **Below the Surface:** 9/11

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Lower Manhattan, ca. 1946

Generations of Wagner students have seen versions of this view from the Staten Island ferry. Mike '49 and Margaret Christie '49 Nicolais had this one, 20 years before ground was broken on the original World Trade Center, destroyed on September 11, 2001, and now being rebuilt.

PHOTOGRAPH: HAL CARSTENS '50

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An unlikely road takes Andrew Bailey '06 to a major league bullpen — and ROY honors.



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Below the Surface

Members of the Wagner community reflect on the continuing ripples of September 11.

From the President

In Praise of Our Outstanding Graduates



Particularly impressive is their acceptance into top graduate programs.

With the commencement of the class of 2011 just past, I am again proud to share with you some of the accomplishments of Wagner's newest alumni, who are defined by their academic excellence, remarkable leadership, and commitment to public service.

Particularly impressive is their acceptance into top graduate programs nationwide.

In the sciences, **Joanna Ciavarella** received a full scholarship to Brown University for a Ph.D. program in chemistry. **Derek Rammelkamp** will study for a Ph.D. in material science and engineering at SUNY Stony Brook. **Peter Pisano** also is headed to SUNY Stony Brook for dental school. **Victor Stora** will enroll in a joint DVM-Ph.D. program at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, while **Medije Mashkulli** will study medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

In the humanities, **Charisse Willis** of Olympia Fields, Illinois, will study for a Ph.D. in English at the University of Michigan. **Yirmeyah Beckles** from Toledo, Ohio, will study journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

English majors **Anne Blum** and **Nancy Aravec** will study for master's degrees at New York University.

JP Messina will be enrolled in graduate studies in philosophy at Georgia State University, and **Sarah Nehm** will attend Yale University's School of Divinity on a full-tuition scholarship.

In the social sciences, Student Government President **Sophie Tripp** from San Jose, California, will study for a Ph.D.

in economics at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York

City. **Gabrielle Gill** from Salisbury, Maryland, majored in anthropology and minored in Italian studies, and she will pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Hawaii after teaching for a year in the Federated States of Micronesia as a WorldTeach volunteer. Sociology major **Niya Branham** is headed for a career in public health by studying for a master's at Brown University. And **Peter Blackmer**, a history major, will study for a Ph.D. in African studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In the arts, graduates are entering the workforce at exciting sites, such as art history major **Sara Simmons** at Rachael Ray's magazine, or theater major **Kendra Stockton** at Cirque Du Soleil in Las Vegas. Among business administration graduates, **Avery Miller** will be pursuing a master's in sports management at Louisiana State University, while **Joe Sorrentino** will begin his career with the Frontier Group, a global private equity firm. Brothers **Philip** and **Thomas Ewald** from Walchwil, Switzerland, will study international marketing and management at King's College London. **Emily Pierce** of Phoenix, Arizona, **Christopher Goetz** of Staten Island, and **Danielle Diodati** of Haverhill, Massachusetts, will start their careers in finance, accounting, and auditing with outstanding organizations.

In an age marked by hatred, terrorism, severe environmental stress, widening gulfs of wealth, literacy, and access to basic healthcare, this generation is destined to usher in a new type of leadership, where knowledge and empathy are joined to social responsibility and effective action. I have no doubt that they are prepared to meet these challenges.

RICHARD GUARASCI
PRESIDENT



From the Editor

Where September 11 Has Led Us

September 11 is the primary reason I came to work in Staten Island," says Professor Abraham Unger. A Brooklyn native, Unger was in a Ph.D. program at Fordham in the fall of 2001, while also working with a Jewish community organization and a synagogue in Tribeca. His parents had recently moved to Lower Manhattan.

"So 9/11 was particularly immediate to me on a personal level and a professional level," he says. "When it became evident that Staten Island had suffered the most in New York City, it seemed clear that there is where one had to pastor." In late 2001, he heard about an open rabbinical position in Tottenville, Staten Island. He took it as his call to serve. This move also led him to Wagner College, where he now serves as campus rabbi and assistant professor of

government and politics. This year, the National Alumni Association recognized his spiritual contributions by giving him the Rev. Lyle Guttu Award.

Roz Noonan '80, on the other hand, made the difficult decision to leave New York City after September 11. In 2001, she lived in

Queens with her husband, Mike, a police sergeant, and their two children, Carly, 6, and Alex, 4.

Despite Noonan's efforts to shelter the children, they felt the fright of 9/11 deeply. Three years later, Carly was still having frequent nightmares about terrorists chasing her. Life in New York was too stressful, and Mike was ready to retire from the police department. The family moved to Oregon in 2004.

A freelance writer who has authored scores of juvenile

and "chick-lit" titles, Noonan released her first novel under her own name in 2009.

Loosely based on the story of Pat Tillman, the NFL star who enlisted in the Army and was killed in Afghanistan, *One September Morning* features a scene in which Wagner students see the



World Trade Center attacks from Harborview Hall. It was September 11, Noonan says, that first got her to thinking about

"writing something more substantial."

Ten years later, September 11 continues to affect us in innumerable ways. Read more in "Below the Surface," pages 24–29. And write back to us with your thoughts and stories.

Laura Barlament

EDITOR,
WAGNER MAGAZINE

Editorial

Laura Barlament
EDITOR

Erika Reinhart
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

WRITERS

Carmine Angioli
Laura Barlament

Jordan Conn

Julianne Fishman

Lee Manchester

Edward J. Nitkiewicz '86

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Vinnie Amessé

Pete Byron

Hal Carstens '50

John Emerson

Steve Jordan

Lee Manchester

Anna Mulé

Nick Romanenko

David Saffran

Michael Zagaris

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Donna Sinagra

Wagner Magazine Advisory Board

Lisa DeRespino Bennett '85

Susan Bernardo

Jack Irving '69

Scott Lewers '97

Lorraine McNeill-Popper '78

Brian Morris '65

Hank Murphy '63 M'69

Andy Needle

Nick Richardson

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Wagner Magazine
Wagner College
One Campus Road
Staten Island, NY 10301
718-390-3147

email: laura.barlament@wagner.edu

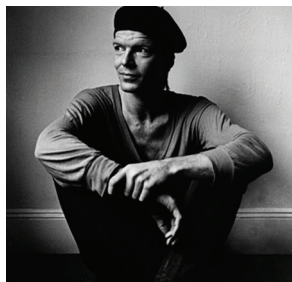


On the Cover

Patrick Heffernan '11, theater major and dance minor, is ready to leap into the future. Starting on page 14, read reflections from him and other Wagner seniors in the final part of our series following students through the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts.

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN EMERSON

From Our Readers



Setting the Record Straight

Last summer, Wagner Magazine published a short article about the late Jim Carroll, author of The Basketball Diaries, who attended Wagner College in fall 1968. The article quoted a high school friend of Carroll's that he left Wagner after only a few weeks. Caryl Black Colgan, who attended Wagner fall 1968–fall 1969, called to correct that assertion, and she contributed the following personal memoir of Jim Carroll at Wagner.

Jimmy Carroll was the first boy I met at Wagner in the fall of 1968. At the freshman mixer, he asked me if I would like to see his friend's gerbils, and sure enough, there were actually little gerbils in a cage in the dorm room. He only bear hugged me a couple of times before we went back to the mixer. Jimmy was on one of the basketball teams that played for Wagner. His team

“He left an indelible imprint on my Wagner College experience.”

played their game first, after which Jimmy joined myself and my friends a couple of times to watch the varsity team play. My friend Ginny and I had made a big banner, which we hung across the top of the doorway to the gym to help cheer on the teams (especially Jimmy's team). I remember cheering for Ollie Featherston '69 as he helped lead the Seahawks varsity team to a very successful season. [Jimmy's] team didn't really do too well, but we cheered wildly anyway.

After classes on a fairly regular basis, Jimmy would just kind of show up and walk me back to the new dorm [i.e., Harborview]. Something so nice about those walks.

Throughout the semester, I got teased a lot about Jimmy because he was always showing up around me. I liked him; he was very young and very cute, and I loved his nickname, Jimmy Rabbit. Sometime in December, we had a fairly large understand-

ing, as often happens in life, and after Christmas break, I no longer saw him at school. I only saw him one more time, and that was down at the Jersey Shore the following summer. However, he left an indelible imprint on my Wagner College experience.

CARYL BLACK COLGAN '72
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

Horrmann Memories

In the fall 2010 issue, we asked for your memories of Horrmann Library as we prepare a feature on the library in honor of its 50th anniversary. Here is an excerpt from one letter we received; there's still time for you to share your memories, too!

As a member of the Wagner College class of 1964, I remember two building projects: (1) the library and (2) the bridge. Quite frankly, as I roomed in New Dorm [now called Campus Hall], my views of the Narrows and the emerging bridge were more memorable. However, when the library was done, its views of the

harbor were spectacular. ...

One day I was in the stacks, and a little 12-year-old fellow was looking high (well, as high as he could) and low, when I asked him what he was looking for. He said he wanted to know what the long “Ess” meant in a mathematics book he had. It was the integral sign — the main symbol of half the calculus sequence taught at Wagner. As I was a mathematics major, I sat right down and began to explain it all to him. This was the beginning of my college-level teaching of mathematics. I believe his presence was an example of how open the library was to the community beyond the College.

Libraries are very special, as we recently found out with our own Thomas Jefferson Library here at West Point. Come on up the river and visit it some time!

BRIAN WINKEL '64
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT, 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.

Write to: **Laura Barlament, Editor**

Reynolds House, Wagner College

1 Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301

email: **laura.barlament@wagner.edu**



Upon the Hill

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



PROUD MOMENTS

Columbia University historian Kenneth T. Jackson (*far left*) gave the commencement address. Elisia Francani and Stefen Gage (*left*) show off their new diplomas. SGA president Sophie Tripp (*below*) used her mortar board to give props.

Lessons in Leadership

Historian, 1964 alumnus, and borough president join Wagner's newest graduates

At Wagner's commencement on May 20, historian Kenneth T. Jackson of Columbia University gave Wagner's 608 newest alumni three inspiring examples of "ordinary people who have done extraordinary things."

"You, too, can overcome obstacles to achieve great things," he added, as he shared the stories of Union officer Joshua Chamberlain's service in the Civil War, Oseola McCarty's gift of a scholarship fund benefiting African-American students at the University of Southern Mississippi, and New York City firefighter Stephen Siller's heroic actions on September 11.

Jackson received an honorary doctorate from Wagner College for his groundbreaking work in urban, social, and military history. One of his best-known books is *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (2nd edition, 2010). The College also honored Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro and Frederick C. Williamson Jr. '64, who has served as a Wagner trustee for 22 years. Williamson is vice president of operations for Starnet Commercial Flooring Inc., a Marine Corps veteran, and a leader in carpet recycling through efforts like the Carpet America Recovery Effort.

For more about Wagner's outstanding 2011 graduates, please see President Guarasci's letter on page 2 and our cover story, page 14.



HONORED GUESTS

Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro (*above left*) and Wagner Trustee Frederick C. Williamson Jr. '64 (*above right*) received honorary degrees for their service to the community and the College.



THOUGHTFUL

Sarah Donovan, associate professor of philosophy



POVERTY AND POTENTIAL

Many Haitians have been living in tents since the earthquake of January 2010. Below: Wagner nurses Eileen McPartlan, Nicole Quinzi, Casey Grillo, and Jessica Carbone sort and clean surgical tools.

A Real Challenge

Wagner nurses spend spring break working in Haitian clinics and villages

In March, 10 graduate-level nursing students at Wagner College headed to the Caribbean for spring break — not to bask on a beach, but to work in some of the toughest conditions in the world today.

These students taking Comparative Health Care Practices with Paula Tropello, chair of the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing, spent five days in Haiti, mostly in the town of Fond Parisien near the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The trip was organized in partnership with the non-governmental organization Foundation for Peace, which provides services for earthquake refugees living at a large camp in Fond Parisien.

Wagner's nursing students worked in a general health clinic and an obstetric hospital, and also visited a nearby village to distribute chlorine tablets and help educate people about preventing the spread of cholera, a waterborne bacterial disease. The recent cholera outbreak hit that area particularly hard.

As professional nurses from New York City, they were shocked by some of the

conditions they saw, and quickly pitched in to help patients and organize the hospital's resources.

The students and their professor saw the experience primarily as an opportunity for them to learn on many different levels. Not only did they acquire new medical knowledge about treating tropical diseases, but they also expanded their skills in thinking quickly and responding effectively under challenging circumstances.

Tropello is planning future trips so that the Wagner-Haiti connection can become a sustainable relationship. Casey Grillo supports her professor's plans. "No place has taught me social awareness like Haiti," she wrote in a reflection paper after the trip. "Although our cultures and language are different, our health care needs remain the same, and the power of caring is infinite and universal. I look forward to my next mission trip."



{ IN THE NEWS }

"We took [the Seahawks] from five to 13 wins this year. To see them learn how to win and feel like all their hard work has paid off assures me we are on the right track. We're going to be that Cinderella soon."

— Bobby Hurley Talks Fab Five, Jalen Rose, March Madness and More," March 27, BleacherReport.com

Head coach Dan Hurley and his assistant and brother, Bobby, were media darlings in their inaugural year with the Seahawks. The sons of Hall of Fame Coach Bob Hurley Sr., they appeared on *60 Minutes* and in an ESPN special, and Bobby was featured in Dove soap commercials.



"I'm a fiscal sanity advocate. I think we're going to have to say, 'Yes, we will sacrifice.' But we're not going to let this great country go the way many have before. This [nation] can't be allowed to expire, because it sets the tone for the rest of the world. We have an opportunity to reinvent ourselves."

— Richard Grasso, NYSE Ex-Boss, Tells Wagner College Audience He Might Run for Mayor," April 15, SILive.com

Richard Grasso grabbed headlines in the *Staten Island Advance* and the *New York Times* when he spoke at Wagner College's Presidential Economic Symposium on April 14 and announced that he would run for New York City mayor in 2013 — if Police Commissioner Ray Kelly did not run and former New York Attorney General and Governor Eliot Spitzer did.



Link to the full articles and videos at www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.



RESTORING A WAGNER ICON

The \$7 million renovation of Main Hall's exterior began in earnest in May, immediately after commencement. The building will receive a new roof, windows, mortar, and brickwork, and its exterior ornaments will be restored. Read more about Main Hall's history and its renovation by clicking on the "Main Hall Renovation" link at www.wagner.edu.

New Leadership

Provost and CFO bring experience, energy, and fresh perspectives

After more than seven years as provost and vice president for academic affairs, Deborah Lieberman left Wagner College this summer to become president of the University of La Verne in eastern Los Angeles County.



Provost Lily D. McNair

Taking her place is Lily D. McNair, who most recently served as associate provost of research at Spelman College in Atlanta.

A former associate professor of psychology at the University of Georgia, McNair is a clinical psychologist who specializes in community-based interventions targeting substance use and early sexual behavior in African-American youth. She is co-editor of the textbook *Women: Images and Realities*.

"I look forward to the opportunities my new role will offer," said McNair. "These are challenging times for higher education, but such times can serve as fertile ground for the emergence of creative, innovative, and immensely promising ideas."

A New Jersey native, McNair earned her bachelor's degree at Princeton and her Ph.D. at SUNY Stony Brook.

In May, Bill Mea joined Wagner as vice president for business and finance, replacing the late Thomas Carroll.



CFO Bill Mea

Mea came to Wagner from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where he was vice president for finance and administration. He previously worked as a financial officer at Philadelphia University and as an auditor for Ernst & Young. He holds a bachelor's in business administration from Widener University and an MBA from Philadelphia University.

WINDOW ON WAGNER: 'Lyle's House'

Many an alumnus from the late 1970s through the end of 2007 remembers the cottage that served as the late Rev. Lyle Guttu's home.

Few, however, know the story behind that oddly attractive architectural anomaly, located next to Horrmann Library.

"Lyle's house," as many know it, was built in 1922 for Professor George Haas. It was copied from an earlier building on the site, a gatehouse built around 1900, when the property was used as a summer resort.

The original gatehouse was a very simple example of shingle style architecture, popular in northeastern seaside resort towns between 1880 and the early 1900s. It was situated just off the campus entrance on Howard Avenue, and the trustees planned to move it about 50 feet back from the road; they even built a new foundation for it.

The more they looked at the old gatehouse, however, the more renovation work it seemed to need. In the end, they decided to copy its design for an entirely new building that was constructed over the summer of 1922.

That's why the Haas Cottage has the distinctive roof lines, doorways, and windows of a late 19th-century shingle

style house – but no shingles! The exterior surface of the house is stucco, like the other cottages built or renovated on the Grymes Hill campus during that period.

The only feature that may have been added to the original design was a porch with the trellised roof typical of the Craftsman-style homes popular between 1905 and the early 1920s. That porch was later enclosed; Rev. Guttu used it as his study.

President Guarasci envisions renovating this house in the future to serve as a center for spiritual development, housing a multifaith chapel and offices for the various religious faiths represented on campus.

– Lee Manchester

Pictured below: Haas Cottage, ca. 1935



Studying Staten Island

Faculty contribute to borough's 350th anniversary celebration

Wagner faculty are contributing their expertise to this year's celebration of Staten Island's 350th anniversary.

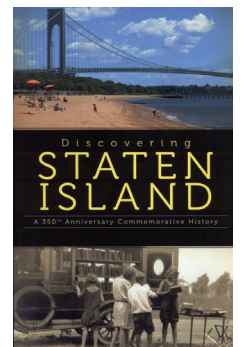
In March, the College of Staten Island hosted a conference, Staten Island in American History and 21st-Century Education, at which 16 Wagner professors presented papers and chaired sessions

alongside local historians, curators, archivists, and faculty from Cornell, Harvard, and many other institutions.

Several Wagner faculty members highlighted Staten Island's connections to U.S. history, such as history professor Rita Reynolds, who spoke about the Civil Rights Movement, and education department chair Stephen Preskill, who addressed Staten Island in the life of the Catholic social activist Dorothy Day.

In addition, Wagner history professor

Lori Weintrob, co-chair of Staten Island 350, is co-editor of a 350th anniversary commemorative history, *Discovering Staten Island* (History Press, 2011). This volume collects descriptions and photos of hundreds of history-rich Staten Island locations. For an excerpt about a famous Wagner alumnus, see page



Grade A

Evaluation team finds much to admire at Wagner

Wagner College recently completed a self-study for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, part of the accreditation renewal process that occurs every 10 years.

A team of evaluators from Wagner's peer institutions, led by University of Scranton President Scott Pilarz, reviewed the self-study and visited the College in March. Their report found Wagner to be in compliance with all 14 standards of excellence set by the commission. They also offered quite a few commendations, highlighting these areas for special notice:

- The Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts.
- The College's strengthened financial position.
- Inclusion of students in institutional governing bodies.
- Effective administrative reorganization.
- Co-curricular programs supporting the Wagner Plan.

- Academic departments' clearly stated learning outcomes and assessment procedures.
- The College's multi-disciplinary approach to learning.
- Its focus on ethics and values in learning communities.
- Its emphasis on communication skills throughout the curriculum.
- Its culture of academic assessment.

"In all my years in higher education, I have never seen such an encouraging and positive review," says President Guarasci. "This report is a strong confirmation of the good work our faculty, staff, and students have been doing and of the College's direction as a leader in higher education."

A copy of the entire report is available upon request. Wagner's self-study is available at www.wagner.edu/provost/accreditation.



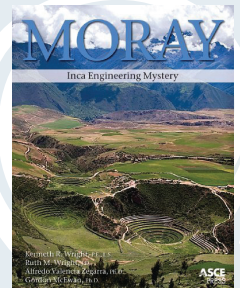
{ TRUSTEE NEWS }

In May, the Wagner Board of Trustees elected three new members who bring diverse areas of expertise to the College's oversight. **Marc Lebovitz** '91 has worked in his family's New Jersey-based transportation and warehousing companies for 25 years, currently serving as president. He is also a generous supporter of Wagner athletics. **Bill Renshaw**, the founder and managing director of Renwood Consultants, has decades of management experience and has consulted with senior executives and boards in major global organizations and regional enterprises. Since 2008, the Rev. **Robert A. Rimbo** has served as bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to which Wagner has historical ties.

Arts & Letters

Exploring and explaining ancient Inca secrets

Halfway between Machu Picchu and the city of Cuzco, Peru, lies a civil engineering wonder that has captivated and puzzled researchers and travelers since it was first photographed in 1931. In *Moray: Inca Engineering Mystery* (American Society of Civil Engineers Press, 2011), anthropology professor Gordon McEwan and his co-authors take readers on a tour of the mysterious site, with its terraced circular depressions reaching almost 100 feet into the earth. In collaboration with water engineer Ken Wright, travel writer Ruth Wright, and Peruvian archaeologist Alfredo Valencia Zegarra, McEwan resolves decades of speculation about the construction and purpose of Moray. McEwan has led archaeological research projects at Pikillacta and Choquepukio, Peru, for more than 30 years, and is the author of many books on Inca and Wari culture. This spring, the Wright Family Foundation endowed an annual award in McEwan's name for Wagner undergraduates to undertake fieldwork in archaeology.





PITCH PERFECT

No one expected Andrew Bailey to be a "phenom," says his mother, Lori. Yet now, says A's teammate Jerry Blevins, "He's the perfect closer. His intensity, the way he approaches the game, it's incredible."

The Perfect **Closer**

*An unlikely road takes Andrew Bailey '06 from
baseball backwaters to a major league bullpen*

— and ROY honors *By Jordan Conn*

In the spring of 2009, Andrew Bailey '06 and his father, Bill, took a cross-country road trip from their New Jersey home to Phoenix, Arizona. There, the younger Bailey would be participating in the Oakland Athletics' spring training, the pre-season practices and scrimmages that help the established major leaguers prepare for the season and give upstart wannabes a shot to compete with stars. • Bailey belonged to the latter group.

A 24-year-old pitcher less than three years removed from his Wagner College graduation, Bailey had been honored to even get invited to spring training. For the past three years, he'd been working his way up through the Athletics' minor league system, and was beginning to draw attention from the big league club; but, as he drove to Arizona, his only goal was to prove himself worthy of making the AAA Sacramento River Cats, the Athletics' minor league

affiliate that sat just one rung below the majors. So together Bill and Andrew drove, having decided that making the trek would be cheaper than paying for Andrew's car to be shipped.

When they passed through St. Louis, Bill made an unwelcome remark.



“You know, the all-star game is going to be here in St. Louis this year,” he said. Yes, Andrew was aware. But that would be the *major league* all-star game. Andrew was just trying to keep working his way up the minors. Bill continued: “I could be coming out here to watch you play.”

“Come on, Dad,” Andrew fired back, angry over the excess expectations. He grew silent as the drive continued.

Turns out, Bill was right.

As cuts were announced each Sunday of spring training, Andrew’s name never appeared on the list. Soon enough, the final cuts were released, and the Baileys were left stunned. Andrew had made it. He’d be going to the major leagues after all. And not only did he go on to make the first of two consecutive Major League Baseball All-Star teams that summer — by the end of 2009, he had also been named American League Rookie of the Year.

The journey to that point was an unlikely one, winding from South Jersey to Staten Island to ballparks all over Texas, Arizona, and California. Bailey had been pitching since the day he graduated from T-ball to baseball. He’d always been a good player — typically a little league all-star — but he never struck anyone as a “phenom,” says his mother, Lori. He’d gone on to attend Paul VI High School in Haddonfield, New Jersey, a Catholic school without much of a baseball program. “Most games they won, it was because Andrew was pitching,” Bill says. He never signed up for showcases, the pay-to-play events that put high school players in front of scouts. With no powerhouse programs recruiting him, Bailey reached out to Wagner coach Joe Litterio, who quickly offered him a spot on the team. “He had the body to become a good pitcher,” Litterio says. “He had the talent. He had the attitude.

He had everything we would want.”

Litterio offered Bailey a chance to join the starting rotation right away, due to both Bailey’s talent and the team’s lack thereof. The Seahawks struggled through that 2003 season, going 11-36 overall and 10-16 in the conference. Bailey posted a paltry 2-7 record with a 6.79 ERA, but he showed flashes of his potential, like in his six-strikeout performance in an 8-3 win over Monmouth that April. “That game was when I realized he could really turn into something,” Litterio says. “That showed what he could do.”

‘He had the body to become a good pitcher. He had the talent. He had the attitude. He had everything we would want.’

Bailey asserted himself as the pitching staff’s ace in his sophomore season, leading the team with a 3.18 ERA and holding opposing hitters to a .209 batting average. He continued to perform well in his junior year, but suffered a serious elbow injury that cut his season short. The injury required Tommy John surgery, a procedure that replaces a ligament in the elbow with a tendon from another part of the body. The surgery is common among pitchers, and although it’s often restorative, it can ruin athletes’ careers. “A lot of people never come back from Tommy John surgery,” Litterio says. “You can start to lose command of your pitches, and then you get that fear factor in your head. There are plenty of kids who are not themselves afterwards.”

While recovering from the injury and ensuing surgery, Bailey was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 16th round of the 2005 MLB draft. Faced with a chance to move

closer to his big-league dreams, Bailey made a decision Litterio calls “a little crazy.” He decided to come back to Wagner. “I wanted to finish my degree,” he says. “I wanted to move up in the draft. I had a lot of goals. And with the friends I’d made and the education I’d receive, I knew I wanted to be there.”

Bailey also wanted to continue rehabilitating his injury with Wagner’s trainers, rather than adjusting to a new staff. “The way Andrew handled the surgery and rehab was incredible,” Litterio says. “He just attacked the rehab every single day. There would be a lot of days where I was showing up for work and he was already walking off the field, already done with his morning workout.” The work paid off. Bailey returned to the mound ahead of schedule — about eight months after he underwent surgery — and pitched better than he had in his life. With his fastball now routinely topping 95 miles per hour, Bailey posted a 2.03 ERA and held opponents to a .146 batting average in the 2006 season. He led the Seahawks to a 15-9 conference record, their best mark since Bailey had arrived.

So the year could be called a success. Bailey improved his draft stock, becoming the Athletics’ sixth-round pick, he earned his degree in business administration, and most importantly, he met his future wife, a Seahawks lacrosse player named Amanda Scalzo ’07. “He was definitely on the fence about whether or not to come back to college,” says Amanda, who married Andrew last fall. “Luckily for me, he did. We always joke that the decision worked out well for both of us.”

Bailey began his professional baseball career shortly after graduation, moving his way up through the Athletics organization over the next two years. After a promising start, Bailey began to struggle when playing for the franchise’s AA affiliate in Midland,

Texas. Rather than sending him back down to a lower level, coaches decided to move him from the starting rotation to the bullpen, meaning he would pitch more frequently, but for shorter periods of time. "I never really thought of myself as a relief pitcher, but switching to the bullpen completely changed my mentality," he says. "Before, I felt like I had to hold something back, pace myself, kind of be picky. But as a reliever I knew that I could just go with my instincts."

The switch served him well, as Bailey dominated the second half of the 2008 season, setting himself up for the opportunity to make the big-league squad in the spring of 2009. Now one of the game's best relievers, Bailey shows no signs that he'll be slowing down anytime soon. "He's the perfect closer," says A's teammate Jerry Blevins. "His intensity, the way he approaches the game, it's incredible." While Bailey insists that he'll work as hard to maintain his all-star form as he did to achieve it, the luxury of life in the big leagues has allowed him to pursue other interests. He serves as director of development for the Strike 3 Foundation, an organization dedicated to childhood cancer research, founded by Athletics pitcher Craig Breslow.

Five years removed from his last Wagner class, Bailey remains thankful for each moment in the process that led him to this point. "This is everything I dreamed of," he says. "I'm right where I want to be."

Jordan Conn is a freelance writer based in San Francisco. His work has appeared in the New York Times, Sports Illustrated, and the San Francisco Chronicle.



A BIG YEAR
1. At the A's v. Mets game at Citi Field on June 23, Wagner baseball head coach Joe Litterio meets the promising pitcher he recruited to the Seahawks in 2002. **2.** Andrew Bailey was named American League Rookie of the Year in 2009. **3.** Bailey is only the fourth former Seahawk whose Wagner number has been retired. **4.** Bailey married former Seahawks lacrosse player Amanda Scalzo '07 last fall. **5.** Bailey-autographed baseballs are among the memorabilia of his ROY year.

the **Big**
Leap

Story by Laura Barlament

Photographs by John Emerson

In the final installment of our four-year series following a group of students through the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts, *Wagner Magazine* talks with those students, now seniors, who began college together in fall 2007 with Learning Community 5: Perception, Illusion, and the Social Construction of the Self. On the cusp of commencement, the seniors told us about their most memorable professors and classes; favorite places on campus and in New York City; immediate plans and dream jobs; challenges faced and lessons learned; and what they will miss the most when they leave Wagner.

PATRICK HEFFERNAN

Hometown Rolling Hills, California

Major Theater Performance,
Dance Minor

The professor who made the biggest impression on me is Rusty Curcio, head of dance, my advisor. I came to Wagner unfamiliar with the craft of dance, and with no self-assurance, and I wanted to get better at it. He saw that in me. He opened my eyes to new ways of looking at movement and how it applied to acting and to being a person in general. What we study with Rusty is a system that analyzes movement. Everything in life is movement, everything. Being aware of that is really beautiful.

My dream job is to be on Broadway. If I could be that song and dance guy, you know, leading man. Especially in a classic, like Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, or Tommy in *Brigadoon*. Amazing stories with great music. That's the stuff, I feel like.

When I leave Wagner, I'm going to miss the intimacy of campus. Being able to walk from Harborview to Foundation or Main Hall or Guild, and be with my best friends in the entire world. We're all interested in the same thing, and we all love the same thing. It's just a creative hotbed for art.

A change I would like to see at Wagner is higher participation in co-curricular activities. Students don't always take the time for them, not realizing that we're not always going to have these opportunities. Also, the theater facilities don't nearly match the level of the faculty that we have in the theater department, or the standard they're training their students to be at. We have a joke we tell prospective students: "It's the worst place you'll ever work." Still, it's worth it to be in New York City.

My next step will be doing summer stock theater at the Arundel Barn Playhouse near Kennebunkport, Maine.





KYLA KNIGHT

My favorite place on campus is outside of the admissions building. I love to sit there at night, listening to music. It looks like my dream house – a yellow house with a porch.

HOPE CLARKE

Hometown Levittown, New York

Dual Major Theater and Elementary Education

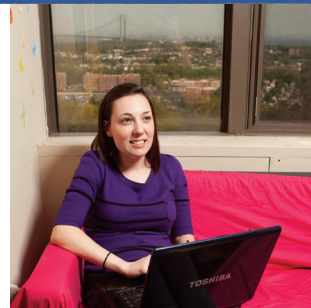
The professor who made the biggest impression on me is Stephen Preskill, chair of the education department. He taught my intermediate learning community, and he's brilliant. I wrote down quotes by him in the front of my notebook. One was, "An educator is a convener of great minds." I love that! Teaching is a humbling job. Dr. Preskill taught us that a teacher is one

who does not stand above the students, lecturing and passing down knowledge, but one who gives the students tools to create their own learning.

A challenge I faced at Wagner was trying to win a part in a Wagner Theater show. I started auditioning as a freshman. After I realized how competitive it was, I decided to keep doing it at least for the auditioning experience, which is always valuable. And this year, for the very last Main Stage show, I got a part in the *Seussical* ensemble. "Anything's possible"

is a quote from *Seussical*. It's a cliché, but I believe it's true. I believe that the energy you put out will be returned to you. The universe works like that.

My dream job is to perform and to work with kids in the realm of theater. When you give a child an outlet to express themselves in a positive way, it's very fulfilling. After graduation, I have an internship with the Rose Theater in Omaha, Nebraska, which will allow me to do both of these things – perform and work with children. I'm very excited about it!



"What I learned at Wagner is that you can never have enough questions, and there are an infinite number of answers to every question. Life is so much more interesting if you understand that you should continuously learn, and continuously question, and seek out different answers and solutions to problems. I learned to be comfortable with not knowing. There aren't black and white answers, and that's awesome."

– Samantha Siegel, Dual Major in Psychology and Education

Hometown Orangeville, California

Major International Affairs,
Concentration in Economics, Italian Minor

The professor who made the biggest impression on me is Mary Rose Leacy in economics. I love Dr. Leacy's passion in the classroom every day, how she explains economics in a lively fashion, and gets to know her students. She would take me aside if she saw me missing classes or not doing well, and say, "You're better than this." She got me reading Internet blogs and publications like the BBC and *The Economist*. She taught me how to

do research on my own, understand information and analyze it objectively. I haven't had another teacher make me want to try as hard.

A challenge I faced at Wagner was the unexpected passing of my father during my first semester. I felt like I forgot how to breathe. I left for a month, but I did complete my classes that semester and continued on. Wagner was the right choice for me because of how personal it is. Because when life hits, it hits hard. Wagner's support systems allotted me enough time to work through that struggle. Without Wagner, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

Five years from now, I'd like to be living abroad and starting a business. I would love to go back to Italy, where I studied abroad for a semester through the St. John's program in Rome. I'll always carry a bit of Rome in my heart. But first, I'm going back to California to work for a grassroots political organization.

My dream job is to own my own business. I have written a business plan for a consulting firm that helps small and medium-sized businesses expand their profits by reducing their costs and expanding their markets.



My favorite places on campus are the library – it's quiet, and I love quiet – and this year also my room in Towers, which has a view of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. Seeing the sun rise over the water helps me get up early for my student teaching.

"Wagner has given me a new love of learning. Before, my education seemed forced and contrived, but at Wagner I came out of classes with a new perspective and could connect my knowledge from one class to the next. My dream job would be something like art therapy or communications that combines my interests in creativity and psychology."

– Kate Daniels
Psychology Major,
Art Minor

Photo: Snug Harbor,
Staten Island





ALEX MALLILO

My favorite place on campus is the Oval. It's the place you hang out when the fall semester has just started, when I'm always happy to be back, or the spring semester is about to end, and I'm ready for a break. It's the spot on campus where everyone's the most relaxed. We have the children's Reading Carnival out there, and it's such a pretty view of campus.



KATIE JO YOUNKINS

My favorite place on campus is the war memorial in front of Spiro Sports Center. It's near the center of things, but most don't realize the benches are there, and it is very quiet. I love it when the sun is out!

Hometown Lisbon, New Hampshire


Major International Affairs, History Minor

When I was a freshman, I wish I'd known that you are never too old for Disney movies. I didn't bring mine to campus with me freshman year, but that's all we watch! I really didn't expect it.

My favorite place in New York City is S'MAC in the East Village. Best gourmet macaroni and cheese place ever! I love the walk there from Union Square.

The class that made the biggest impression on me was Economics of Genocide. Learning about multinational corporations' role in exploiting underprivileged countries completely changed my perspective. It made me want to go into human rights in international law.

My next steps are to work as a graduate assistant for the assistant dean of campus life, Curtis Wright, while pursuing my MBA in



international business. Dean Wright offered me the position because of my work as the Student Government Association's vice president for finance. I think an understanding of the business perspective will be helpful with my future law studies.

My dream job is to advocate for those less fortunate in other countries regarding human rights violations, or advocate for the State Department.

One of the best things about Wagner is Student Government Association town hall meetings. How many schools have their president come to meet with the students, and you can ask him any question you want?

Hometown Sayville, New York

Dual Major Anthropology/Sociology and Elementary Education

The classes that made the biggest impression on me were anthropology classes, like Comparative Cultures, taught by Professor Alexa Dietrich. I learned how to read critically and apply theories to real life. Dr. Dietrich was great about helping her students connect anthropology to any discipline or career field they were involved in.

After four years in the Wagner Plan, I would say it worked really well for my

major. I've been in classrooms every semester, observing and teaching. In my senior learning community, we focused on diverse student populations and developed experiential lesson plans, while we were also student teaching. So, we were applying experiential learning while also participating in it ourselves.

My dream job is teaching, ideally in a classroom where I would have enough money to give the kids everything I could possibly give them, and take them on field trips and do projects with them, and where I didn't have to do the paperwork and worry about the political end of it, and lawsuits and everything that's going on in classrooms.

My next step will be teaching social skills at an international rugby camp in Barcelona, Spain, this summer. I've been teaching a program called SARA – Students Against Relational Aggression – in Staten Island elementary schools during my four years at Wagner, so it's a good fit for me.



KYLE GLOVER

Hometown Ridgefield, Connecticut

Self-Designed Interdisciplinary Major Philosophy and Psychology

My favorite place in New York City is anywhere there's great food. New York is the first place I had Indian food, which I love. I ate so much the other day I thought I was going to puke.

The professors who made the biggest impression on me are Walter Kaelber in religion and Miles Groth in psychology. They let me bloom as a thinker and learner. It's been scary and fun.

My dream job is to be a psychologist. I'd like to do something like the men's group I led at Wagner. It was a group of about 10 guys who met weekly to talk about our experiences as males. It was a challenge, because it isn't easy to get guys to talk about feelings

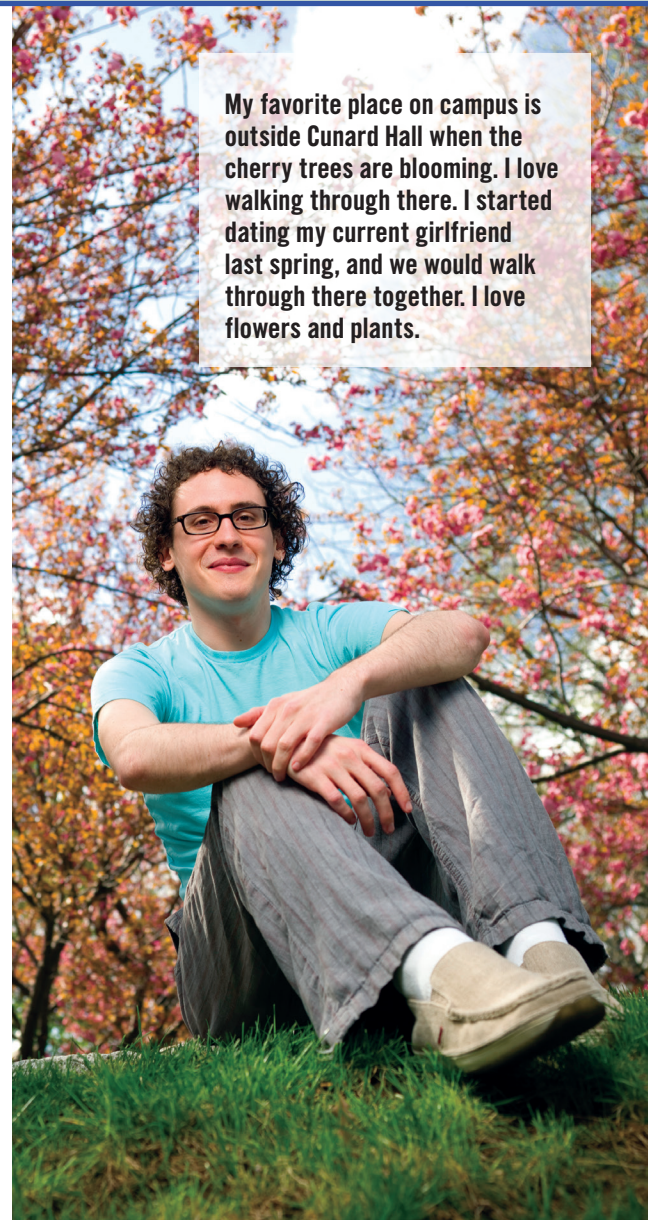
and emotions. Also, it got me involved in political conflicts and power struggles on campus and in larger academic circles as well. But my real aim was to try and understand if there are any differences between males and females, and to improve the relationship and communications. I want to understand myself better as a male. And, I want to continue to learn.

At Wagner, I received the gift of not thinking normally, like in Platonic academies, where they said you hadn't been educated if you hadn't gone crazy, meaning that you've become so filled with the enthusiasm of life that you go a little cuckoo.

When I leave Wagner, I'm going to miss an environment where people are learning and living close together and growing up together, with all the trials and tribulations that brings. That's such a cool environment for anyone who's trying to learn about life.



My favorite place on campus is outside Cunard Hall when the cherry trees are blooming. I love walking through there. I started dating my current girlfriend last spring, and we would walk through there together. I love flowers and plants.





FULL CIRCLE

Mike Nicolais and Margaret Christie met at Wagner College in the 1940s in a classroom like the one pictured above, in Main Hall, pictured below ca. 1946, when it was known as the Ad (Administration) Building.





Just Right *for* Each Other



**Wagner supporters
Mike '49 and Margaret
Christie '49 Nicolais
return to the place
where it all started**

By Lee Manchester

When Mike Nicolais and Margaret Christie enrolled in Wagner College in 1945, they came from Staten Island families of modest means. Their financial situation was like the College's — adequate, but humble. Most of the buildings that make up today's campus did not exist, and more students were housed in temporary war-surplus buildings than in permanent residence halls.

Wagner College's fortunes have ridden a rising tide over the past six decades, and so have the Nicolaises'. While Mike and Margaret married and built a healthy family, a prosperous philanthropic fund, and a strong record of community service, the College built its campus, its faculty and curriculum, and its public esteem, rising from a tiny commuter college to become a Top 25 regional university.

In recent years, Mike and Margaret have become a big part of Wagner's success. In 2004, their \$2.5 million gift made possible the renovation and expansion of the president's house as a site for important meetings with College supporters. And they continue to play an integral role in Wagner's future. In 2007, the couple made the single largest contribution in Wagner College history — \$10 million — as a down payment on our next major building project: the Center for Global Learning, to be constructed on the site of the old Augustinian Academy. They are also serving as co-chairs of the campaign to raise the rest of the money needed for the new building.

Earlier this year, we asked the Nicolaises to come back to Grymes Hill, walk the campus, and tell us about the place where their life together began, and where so much of the wealth they have built is being invested in the future. This walk down memory lane reminds us of where Wagner has come from, what it has achieved, and where it can go in the future.

The center of campus life in the post-war years, especially for commuter students like Margaret and Mike, was the Ad Building, known today as Main Hall. From the basement to the attic, it housed the snack bar, the gym, most of the College's classrooms, many faculty and administrative offices, the library — almost everything that made Wagner College a college.

Since our tour took place on the day after commencement, all was quiet, and it was easy to imagine the ghosts of the past as we walked the empty hallways.

"I used to play basketball in here," said Margaret when we walked into the darkened theater. In the late 1940s, today's Main Stage served as the gym, chapel, and banquet hall.

One floor down, in the basement, Mike recalled the Guilden, the snack bar once located there.

"It was run by a German couple," Mike said, "Mr. and Mrs. Viohl."

"Such nice people," Margaret said.

"He was a good guy; I liked him. He was tough," Mike said.

Upstairs, on the north end of the third floor, was another hangout: the library. Looking up at the open beams and steeply sloping ceilings, Mike said, "I remember this."

"But I don't remember ever opening a book up here," admitted Margaret. "This was where we did our homework."

"[Business professor] Charlie Kraemer used to pile it on,"

Mike explained — he and Margaret had both studied business at Wagner. "You had to work in his classes. ... We spent a fair amount

of time up here in the library, working on accounting, adding up the figures for our spreadsheets."

That led us to Professor Kraemer's classroom, on the south end of the first floor.

"This was it!" Margaret exclaimed when we found the classroom door. "We were in here for a lot of classes with Dr.

Kraemer. He was one that I loved."

He was also tough. "At the beginning of each term, he would explain the rules," recalled Margaret. "'You're going to get 11 pop quizzes, and I don't care if your mother or father died and you went to the funeral.' ... There were absolutely no excuses."

The Nicolaises' friendship with Charles Kraemer continued for many years after their graduation.

"We had lunch with him just a few months before he died [in March 2002]," Mike said. "He was a remarkable teacher in many ways. ... He was probably a bigger influence on my life than anyone except my parents."

Right next door, where today's Megerle Science Building stands, was another hangout for Mike and Margaret: the so-called Veterans Village, consisting of half a dozen one-story Army barracks and a two-story war surplus dormitory. These had been hastily erected to house the flood of young men returning from the war with G.I. Bill college funding. During that period, Wagner's enrollment soared from 440 students in 1945 to more than 2,000 in 1949.



‘The first 57 years
are the tough ones.
It gets easy after that.’



FUTURE HOME
The Center for Global Learning will be built on this site along Campus Road.

Putting Wagner First: The Center for Global Learning

Phase II of the Putting Wagner First capital campaign is focused on raising money to build a 21st-century academic facility for Wagner College, the Center for Global Learning. It will feature the latest teaching technology and will house the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing and the departments of business, education, government and politics, and modern languages. The campaign goal is \$35 million, with \$13 million already in hand. Volunteer co-chairs of the campaign are Mike '49 and Margaret Christie '49 Nicolais as well as Dianne M. Powers, a Wagner trustee and alumni parent.

Mike himself was an Army infantry veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, and he and Margaret were pals with several Veterans Village residents — especially Frank '50 and Janet Mann '50 McCormick. Both the McCormicks were Navy veterans; he served as a fighter pilot and she was a member of the women's reserve corps, known as the WAVES.

"They had a couple of children, and they were both taking classes," Mike recalled. "Their course schedules were arranged so that one of them was home all the time with the kids, who were pre-schoolers. We used to go over there when we had a free period, have a cup of coffee. Whether Janet was home or Frank was home, it didn't make any difference, we just walked in."

"And tell them what happened on that hot, hot day we graduated," Margaret said.

"Geryle, the little guy, he was maybe three years old, and he had a beret on," Mike replied. "I said to him, 'Geryle, you're wearing a hat today?'"

"He said, 'My daddy gave me a haircut, and my mom's trying to hide it!'"

Mike and Margaret's first date was, not surprisingly, a Wagner College affair.

The two had known one another for a couple of years before that date, having shared many of the same business classes. But it took a (more or less) blind date to bring them together as a couple.

Mike's classmate and boyhood buddy, Sam Antico '49, had arranged the date with Renee Richard '50 (later Renee Snyder) and her friend, Margaret Christie. They needed a fourth, and Sam suggested that Mike come along.

"On our way down to pick up the girls at Renee's house, on the other side of Silver Lake," Mike recalled, "Sam said to me, 'You know, I don't really know Renee any more than you do. How do you want to pair off?'"

"We decided that when we got to the house we would open both the front and back doors, and whoever got in the front would be his date, and whoever got in the back would be mine.

"Margaret got in the back seat — and the rest is history.

"We did a very daring thing on that first date," Mike added. "It must have been late October, because we went to a Halloween party at a local church and bobbed for apples.

"We were wild, I tell you!"

Following their graduation in 1949, Mike went to work as a junior accountant at the Clark Estates, which manages the investment funds of the Clark Foundation of Cooperstown.

"They gave me a job on a trial basis for \$225 a month," Mike said. "When I retired 42 years later [having served for 26 years as president] I said, 'I guess I'm still on trial — nobody told me I was off!'"

Meanwhile, Margaret left New York City for two years of nursing school in Chicago. Neither of them can recall exactly when they decided to marry, but at some point after her return to Staten Island, they both knew that "we were just right for each other," as Margaret said.

They were married on June 7, 1953.

"The first 57 years are the tough ones," Mike added. "It gets easy after that."

SEE MORE: Photos of Wagner in the 1940s, with audio of Mike and Margaret's reminiscences, at www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.



LOSS

Michael Fiore '78, a Wagner business major, joined the New York City Fire Department in 1982. He died in the line of duty on September 11, 2001, one of 343 firefighters lost, including fellow alumni Michael Cammarata '00 and Michael J. Clarke '96.



MEMORY

"Postcards," the September 11 memorial in St. George, Staten Island, frames the view of Lower Manhattan, where the World Trade Center stood.

Below the Surface

Reflections on the continuing ripples of September 11

By Laura Barlament

HOPE

The Wagner College class of 2005 made this peace pole their senior class gift. "We wanted to end with good things and people getting along, and people moving forward despite tragedy," says Mel Powers '05. "This is what we feel strongly about."



On the morning of September 11, 2001, Courtney Fry was waking up in Harborview Hall. In her first semester of college, she was getting ready to go to her 9:40 a.m. history class, part of her first-year learning community (LC), "Cities and Civilization," taught by history professor Alison Smith and English

professor Anne Schotter.

Courtney felt so lucky to have been placed into this LC, which focused on great cities of history as well as contemporary New York City. She had come to Wagner all the way from Orange County, California, with big dreams about life in the Big Apple.



PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP LEFT, RUSSELL KIRK; TOP RIGHT, DAVID BLAIKIE; BOTTOM, PAUL O'MARA; OPPOSITE, COURTESY COURTNEY FRY

Though far away from her home, Courtney had family nearby: her father's brother, Peter Fry, lived with his wife and children in Wilton, Connecticut. Courtney had just spent Labor Day weekend with them, and she planned to see her uncle again soon. One of her best friends from home was visiting, and Courtney planned to take her to visit Peter's office, located in one of New York City's must-see tourist sites: the World Trade Center.

Courtney was in the shower when she heard a commotion in the hallways. Someone was yelling, "A plane hit the tower!" Courtney's first thought was of Towers residence hall on the Wagner campus, but then she started watching television. She sat in her room, riveted to the unfolding events — until she realized it was time to go to class. She jumped up and ran to Main Hall in flip flops and with wet hair, afraid she'd be in trouble for being late.

Classmate Jake Browne '05 M'08 remembers having a similar reaction that morning; he now laughs at the incongruity of the situation: "I went into a friend's room [with a Manhattan view], saw the second plane hit the second tower — and then, like very good freshmen, we still went to our 9:40 class."

So began the day that redirected Courtney's life, reshaped Professor Smith's and Schotter's approach to teaching history and literature, and did so much more to change our world.

"The 9/11 attacks were a boulder thrown in the water, creating ripples that moved out wider and wider," writes the Rev. Dr. Stephen Paul Bouman H'08 in *Grace All Around Us*, his 2006 book of memories and reflections on September 11. At that time, he was bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and a Wagner trustee.

"Everything changes; nothing changes — as with all tragedies," Bouman continues.

"But there is more going on than meets the eye. ... Percussive waves beneath the surface ripple, still emanate from the boulder in the water and connect wider and deeper than what is visible. The analogy is imperfect[,] but come with me to the deep."

As the 10th anniversary of September 11 approaches, let's go to those deep places with a few members of the Wagner community. Hearing their personal stories, we feel the "percussive waves" still emanating from the boulder of September 11.

For Courtney Fry and her family, September 11 meant, first of all, loss of a beloved uncle, husband, father, son, and brother.

At Wagner College, classes were canceled for the remainder of the week, and the administration encouraged all students to go home if possible. Courtney, however, remained on campus. She couldn't stay away from Manhattan. It was helpful, she recalls, to share in the city's collective pain, as she and her friend walked around and looked at the pictures of the missing.

While dealing with her own grief and loss, she also began an intellectual journey. And the two combined to give her a new direction in life.

"I grew up very sheltered in Orange County. September 11 opened my eyes," she says. "This sounds a little trite, but I was 18 years old, and I was thinking, 'How could something like this happen in America?'" She attended the special seminars Wagner offered for students hungry to learn more about historical and cultural factors that had led to the attacks. She plunged into her studies and explorations of New York City with her learning community, which she

CALLED TO D.C.
September 11 motivated Courtney Fry '05 'to want to make a positive change.'



calls "one of the coolest things I've done in my entire life." She became a leader in the history and political science clubs, organizing a trip to Washington, D.C.

Finally, although she loved Wagner College, she decided she had to be in Washington. "I got the overwhelming sense to want to make a positive change in the world, so something like this wouldn't happen again, as naïve as that sounds," she says. She transferred to American University. After graduation in 2005, she began working in politics, first doing campaign fieldwork for the organization Emily's List. In 2007, she joined the staff of Congressman Steny

Hoyer, currently House Democratic Whip.

"The recent news of [the death of Osama] Bin Laden reminded me of why I'm here," she says. "September 11 affected everyone, but for me it was really life-changing."





PLACE OF REFLECTION

Art professor Andy Needle designed the Wagner 9/11 memorial, a gift of the class of 2002. September 11 is commemorated here each year. “It is heartening to see that tradition continue,” says Needle. “People are still thinking about 9/11 and what it means.”

“Cross from shore to shore, countless crowds of passengers!” rhapsodizes Walt Whitman in “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” an ode to New York and New Yorkers, present and future. It just so happened that this poem was the reading assigned for the day that Courtney’s learning community returned to class after September 11. Wall Street had just reopened, with the workers taking ferries from Brooklyn and New Jersey because the subways and trains to Lower Manhattan were shut down.

“It’s been one of those few times as a

faculty member that I remember thinking I was going to cry while I was teaching something, and having to get it under control,” recalls Alison Smith, history professor for the LC.

In the light of what had just happened in New York City, Smith and Schotter recall, every history lesson, every reading rang with fresh resonance.

“Our study of New York became painfully relevant as the city, which before had seemed invulnerable and even cruel, became a wounded creature, whose pulse was taken daily,” they wrote in a proposal for a conference about 9/11 and the college curriculum.

“I had the feeling for the rest of that semester that I was sort of improvising,” says Smith. She captioned her midterm exam with the saying, “May you live in interesting times.” “We had such an intense feeling that we were living through such a historical, terribly important moment, and that in fact it was not a good idea to be living through interesting times,” she says.

Ten years later, Smith and Schotter have transformed their approach to this learning community. Instead of using great cities of Western civilization as their lens for studying medieval and early modern history and literature, they look at cross-cultural connections around the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic. They give increased attention to the great religious traditions of Christianity, Judaism, and especially Islam. Global immigration has risen from a minor to the major theme of the course. It’s all part of giving students a better view of the historical and cultural evolution that has led to our post-9/11 world.

“We are having to forge new and quite ‘cutting-edge’ ideas about what and how to teach the material to American undergrads,” says Smith. “There are few if any models to fall back on.”

well of September 11, often repeated in the Wagner community, is an increased level of civic commitment, and a greater love for New York City.

Professor Smith’s children had just started attending school on Manhattan’s Upper East Side in the fall of 2001. After September 11, she and her husband discussed whether they should be sending their children to school in Manhattan, whether they should even be living in this city. “But it got to a point where I just became fiercely loyal to the city,” Smith says.

Professor Schotter agrees. “There was a tremendous sense of tenderness toward New York, that it was vulnerable for the first time in a while.” Adds Smith, “We needed to protect it and resurrect it somehow.”

President Guarasci, a native New Yorker, was Wagner’s provost in the fall of 2001. One of his most vivid memories from that time was going door to door in Harborview to check on students in the days following September 11.

He expected to find students overcome with fear and anxiety, and eager to leave the city. Instead, in room after room, the students wanted to know how they could get to Ground Zero, how they could give blood — how they could help. “I was so pleasantly stunned by the remarkable big hearts and civic commitment of our students,” he says.

Seeing how New Yorkers came together in a new way in the aftermath of September 11 had a profound effect on him, Guarasci says, causing him to rethink his own relationship to patriotism and to citizenship.

“I mean patriotism not in the sense that Americans are better, but appreciating the special privileges we fought to gain, and that — in our best moments — uplift humanity and human dignity. It’s something to cherish — that became more embedded in my heart after 9/11.”

It wasn’t easy to awaken John Orecchia ’04 to reality on September 11 —

‘Be a Part of That Coming Together’
For more information about the Michael De Rienzo ’87 Golf Outing, the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run, and the World Trade Center Run to Remember, go to www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.

One great theme from the deep

literally. As a “born and bred New Yorker” from Bath Beach, Brooklyn, he was blasé when his roommate, Drew Babitts ’03, who’s from suburban Boston, told him the city had been attacked by terrorists. “Drew, you are in NYC now, there is some sort of terrorist attack every other month,” he said.

John had spent the previous evening at a local bar, drowning his frustration in beer and karaoke after an argument with one of his fraternity brothers. “The argument we were having was very important to me at the time,” John says. “Basically, he wanted to be inactive in our fraternity, Kappa Sigma Alpha, and I was all about being involved.”

Finally, Drew turned up the television volume and yelled, “Look!” Outside, John and Drew saw the smoke billowing across the water. “At that point, it just came to me how minuscule my stupid argument was,” says John.

Later, he learned that his parents’ neighbor, a firefighter, was missing. It turned out that he was one of the 343 firefighters who died that day. “All of it made me realize how at the time what I thought was so important to me really wasn’t important at all,” says John. “It put a lot of things in my life in their proper priority.”

John noticed that this, the worst of times, brought out the best in his community. “As terrible as those attacks were, it was equally amazing to see a city severed by this incident

TUNNEL TO TOWERS

Christine Pagano ’04 M’09 (pictured below) is one of the thousands who participate in the annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers run, honoring fallen firefighters like Siller and raising money for charitable causes.



come together,” he says. “All I wanted was to be a part of that coming together.” He switched his major from theater to sociology. He joined the New York Police Department immediately after graduation, in June 2004. After six years as a Manhattan street officer, he is now a sergeant in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

“If it wasn’t for 9/11, I don’t think I would have the life I have now, nor be the person I am now,” John adds.

Drew’s goals changed as well. A business major, he wanted to go into sports marketing; he even had an internship with NASCAR’s Manhattan offices that semester. As he watched the destruction unfold in Lower Manhattan, he realized that the day before, at the time the planes hit the buildings, he had been walking just a few blocks away.

“The whole thing changed me,” Drew says. “It gave me a better perspective on life. That things can change in a moment’s notice. That my internship was just a small piece in the bigger picture of the world.” His interest in sports marketing waned. He started to take education courses along with his business track. Today, he works in fundraising for Wagner College. “I raise money for education at Wagner because I believe in what I do,” he says. “I feel that education is the way to prevent events like 9/11 from continuing to happen. Through education comes a better understanding of other people and other cultures. Hopefully it will bring an end to the hatred that led to 9/11.”

The sudden and traumatic loss

of life on September 11 left permanent wounds in the hearts of those who lost their loved ones. Yet it also left a legacy of compassion and generosity that shows no signs of abating.

One of the biggest examples is the annual Tunnel to Towers run, inspired by Staten Island firefighter Stephen Siller. Although his shift had ended, Siller returned to duty when

Life After KIMBERLY LITTO REX ’04



Staten Islander Vincent Litto was one of the many who were at work at Cantor Fitzgerald on September 11. His youngest daughter, Kimberly Litto Rex ’04, was a Wagner College sophomore.

Kimberly took a leave of absence for the fall 2001 semester, but she picked up her studies again in the spring and finished her degree in August 2004. “The school was very good to me,” she says, adjusting some coursework requirements so that she could accept a job offer from St. Joseph Hill Academy on Staten Island. She also received financial assistance from the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, benefiting Wagner students whose parents died on September 11.

When she thinks of September 11 now, she says the initial confusion, fear, and pain have faded into “just sadness.” “I never had an anger phase like some people. I feel sad and bad for my father, for what he had to go through, for how he died,” she says. She doesn’t pay attention to politics, which before 9/11 was an intense interest that she had shared with her father. Instead, she says, “I just want to focus on good things” – things like teaching English and coaching cheerleading, her marriage to Anthony Rex in 2008, her puppy, her sisters and nieces and nephews. She is working on a 9/11 memoir. “I’m forever piece by piece writing it,” she says.

Her father continues to exercise a positive influence in her life. “I’ve never met a person who didn’t like him, who wasn’t inspired by him. He was selfless and humble. He wanted to make other people happy. He was driven by the desire to do what is right, and he taught that to us.

“Now, when I have to make a decision, I will ask myself what my father would do in that situation, and do what he would have done, which is the kind and selfless thing to do.”

TOP: Vincent Litto with daughter Kimberly



Life After LINDA FIORE '73

While thousands were trying to escape the burning towers, Michael Fiore '78 was one of the New York City firefighters rushing to the scene. The Wagner business major was a 20-year veteran of the FDNY with three commendations for extraordinary service already to his credit. "His death," says his older sister Linda Fiore '73, "was a terrible loss. It left a big hole in my heart, and in my parents' heart. To this day, it's a wound that just won't come together, just won't heal."

Yet Linda, a Wagner nursing graduate who had a long career with the New York City Department of Health, has made her peace with her brother's death. She remembers going to Ground Zero on the first anniversary of September 11, being with thousands of other grieving survivors in the pit. It was a beautiful morning, as it had been the previous year, and the air was completely still. Then, she says, "All of a sudden, the dust started swirling. It was like the spirits of those lost on that day were surrounding us. Everyone who was there felt it, because the stillness became this energy."

"[Ground Zero is] my brother's burial ground," she continues. "It's not morbid to go there, not sad. Speaking for myself, it's a fulfilling experience to be down there and just reflect."

TOP: Siblings Michael and Linda Fiore in 1955

he heard of the attack on the World Trade Center, running through the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel to reach Ground Zero.

The annual run in his memory follows his route through the tunnel to Ground Zero. Around 25,000 people participate each year, including a busload from Wagner College. Firefighters line the route, holding banners with the names and pictures of those who were lost on 9/11. Because of the special spirit of the event, "[it] beats every race you can do," says Christine Pagano '04 M'09, who was the top female finisher in 2009. The event has raised millions of dollars for the Stephen Siller Children's Foundation, which benefits orphaned and neglected children.

Stephen Siller's large and loving family includes nephew and godson Dan Scullin '07, a Wagner theater graduate who was a senior at Staten Island's Curtis High School on September 11.

Dan still struggles with hurt, anger, and disbelief at his uncle's death. But the race gives him hope. "If you're going to have to lose somebody, it's good that it turns into something that gives back to the community," he says. "It almost makes you feel like there's a purpose to it. It wasn't just death for death's sake. Something good has come from it."

Dan says that September 11 helped to inspire him to go for his dream career of acting in musical theater. He has been working steadily in theater since graduation; this summer, he will earn his membership in Actors' Equity.

Lisa De Rienzo '87, twin sister of Michael De Rienzo '87, a Cantor Fitzgerald employee who perished in the North Tower, says that this year's 10th annual golf outing to raise money for her brother's charitable fund will be the last. But the thousands of dollars that she and Michael's friends have raised will keep on giving. At Wagner, they created a \$100,000 endowed scholarship that has already

helped one student, Alexander Smith '11, through four years of a Wagner education. As a permanent fund, it will continue to provide scholarships for Wagner students in perpetuity. The charitable foundation has provided scholarships to students at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School as well.

Despite being twins, Michael and Lisa were two quite different personalities. Lisa, a police officer who left Wagner College after her junior year to join the NYPD, was always outgoing and loud. Michael tended to be more quiet and bookish, majoring in business and going into the financial services field. Whereas Lisa thrived in team sports, earning a Wagner softball scholarship, Michael enjoyed running — he even ran the New York City Marathon in 1996 — and golf. Michael always tried to interest Lisa in golf, but she says she found it boring and resisted him "tooth and nail" on that topic.



A SPECIAL BOND

Twins Michael '87 and Lisa '87 DeRienzo had quite different personalities; but no matter what, says Lisa, "You always knew you had each other." Michael died on September 11 in the North Tower.

Ironically, after Michael's death, golf has become an important part of Lisa's life, a key way of remembering and celebrating Michael's life. When she and friends like Steve Mehler '87 were thinking about how to establish a lasting memorial for Michael, Lisa observed that golf tournaments were a good way to raise a lot of money with relatively little effort. So, despite her distaste for golf, she started attending golf outings and learning how they worked.

Not only did she become an expert in golf fundraisers, but she also fell in love with the game. Since then, she commemorates September 11 on the golf course. For her, it provides a place of peace and respite, away from the crowds and the public memorials. As a police officer on duty on September 11, she experienced the trauma of seeing the horror first-hand — the fire, the smoke, the falling bodies, the building collapses. "[The golf course is] the safest place to be, sanity-wise," she says.

The memorial golf outings have provided a good outlet for dealing with her brother's death, Lisa says, and the joy of giving has given her much hope. But now, she has another Michael in her life. In another extraordinary twist of fate, a year ago, Lisa and her partner, Kerri, had twin boys. Their names are Cooper and Michael.

The ripples of September

11 also continue to manifest themselves in stories like that of Francie Kontominas '07 and Christopher Kline '02 M'04.

On September 11, Francie was a junior at Parsippany Hills High School, about 30 miles west of Manhattan, and Christopher was a senior business major at Wagner College. Francie first visited the College in fall 2002, a few months after Christopher's graduation. She noted the unique skyline view from campus — and the fact that

"sadly, something was missing," she says. "It brought back feelings of sorrow and anger."

Fast forward to September 2009, and that "something missing" again becomes a force capable of bringing people together for good. Christopher is a financial controller for Morgan Stanley; Francie works as an operating room nurse at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. One of Francie's Alpha Delta Pi sorority sisters, Dominique Zirino '07, asks if she would be interested in running with her in the first annual World Trade Center Run to Remember on Governor's Island. Dominique and her friends were participating in memory of Joseph A. Mascali, a Staten Island firefighter who died in the line of duty on September 11.

Francie thought it was a great idea. At the race, she met Joseph's son, Chris Mascali — and also Chris's roommate, Christopher Kline. Francie and Christopher hit it off immediately. They started dating, and late last year they became engaged to be married. The wedding is planned for June 16, 2012.

"We will continue to participate in the WTC Run to Remember annually," Francie says. "This year it falls on September 4. We'll run in loving memory of our friend Chris's father, Joseph A. Mascali, and honor the lives of those lost on September 11, 2001." ■



A FORCE FOR GOOD

Christopher Kline '02 M'04 and Francie Kontominas '07 met at the World Trade Center Run to Remember on Governor's Island.



Life After CRAIG JANTZ '73

On September 11, Craig Jantz '73 was working for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 105th floor of the North Tower. In what he calls a "bittersweet" confluence of events, he is alive today.

In the days before September 11, Craig's mother, Winnie Jantz, was hovering near death. She had had surgery the previous year to remove a brain tumor and had never fully recovered. She lived with Craig's brother, Stephen, who had decided to retire after 20 years with the FDNY and devote himself to his mother's care at his home on Staten Island. Craig spent most of Sunday and Monday with her, returning home to Holmdel, New Jersey, late in the evening.

On Tuesday, September 11, Craig got up at about 5:30 a.m. to go to work, when he noticed the answering machine light blinking. He listened as his brother said, "Craig, you know why I'm calling you." Steve had left his message at 12:59 a.m. Their mother had passed away.

Craig knew he couldn't work that day; he didn't know it would save his life. Cantor Fitzgerald, which occupied floors 101–105 of 1 World Trade Center, lost a total of 658 employees, making it the single organization with the greatest loss of life on September 11. No one from Craig's division who was in the office that morning survived.

"I don't know why I'm still here," he says. He points out that his mother gave him life twice. "Through some divine intervention, I was saved from this. I'm still trying to figure it all out, and I probably will till the day I die."

TOP: Winnie Jantz with her sons and daughters-in-law, Kay Lynn and Craig (top), and Stephen and Coleen.



BRAIN DRAIN

"[The season] takes a toll on your body," says Breanne Sweeney '12 (pictured here). "You're exhausted physically, mentally and emotionally."

No matter what the meet schedule says, two opponents in swimming stay the same every day.

One, the stopwatch, gives no ground, measuring progress in hundredths of seconds.

And that's why the other, the swimmer's brain, requires so much care and feeding.

"It's an endurance-based sport," says [former] Wagner College women's swimming coach Mark Sowa. "It can be lonely. It can be hard mentally when all you are staring at is the black line (on the pool floor)."

Indeed, they stare for months on end, and that is why Sowa devotes so much time to helping his swimmers cope with the often mind-numbing drudgery of training.

"It's a long season and it's extremely taxing," said Wagner junior Breanne Sweeney, a three-time Advance All Star from Notre Dame Academy. "It takes a toll on your body. You're exhausted physically, mentally and emotionally."

"You can't make it less monotonous, so mentally you have to keep yourself engaged,"

Mental LAPS

In the pool, it's mind over matter for Seahawk swimmers

By Carmine Angioli,
Staten Island Advance

said Seahawk senior Sarah Plucinsky. "You can't allow yourself to fall into a rut."

"I am no innovator," says Sowa. "I am a listener. I try to listen to people who have been successful."

Bag of Tricks

All that listening has helped the third-year head coach assemble a healthy bag of tricks. On a good day at Wagner's pool, you'll see swimmers tethered to rubber tubes, or shadowboxing with their pink boxing gloves, or tied to a metal pulley-and-barrel contraption that could be ripped from a Rube Goldberg sketch book.

The rubber tubes pull swimmers back toward the starting block, forcing them to keep pace. The barrels on the "power tower" provide resistance as the athlete, wearing a belt connected to the pulleys, tries to swim away and raise the barrels.

"(Tubing) simulates speeds that are faster than or as fast as race pace, which is hard to

simulate because we don't get to top speed until the end of the season," Sowa explained. "The barrels are just basic power training. It's similar to running with a parachute behind you. It's a lot of fun. Kids like to play with toys."

As for the boxing gloves, Sowa explained that aspects of the punching movement transfer physiologically to an effective freestyle stroke.

"The more creative we can be with our approach, the better," Sowa said. "These are bright kids. You appeal to their intellect."

But adding variety to the training is the easy part. The swimming season is among the longest in college sports. The workload is daunting, with a typical athlete logging anywhere from 50,000 to 70,000 yards a week during peak training, topped off with dry-land activity like running and weight work. Maintaining a mental edge for the duration is as hard as the toughest workout.

Long Season

"It's very difficult in November and December, when you're in the grind," said Sweeney, a backstroker. "(In February), the hard part is over and the fun stuff (the NEC meet) begins. The most important thing is the other girls. We're all in the same situation and it's nice to have the other girls to go to. If you come to our practices, you hear a lot of encouraging."

"(Sowa) is very good at making the (workouts) have a purpose," said Plucinsky, a freestyler from Whitehall, Pennsylvania. "It's never just, 'Go swim.' He'll say, 'Swim 16 100s, but focus on the middle 50.' He keeps you engaged and makes you think, and that helps."

"We talk about (the mental challenges) from Day 1," Sowa said. "In one of our first meetings, we'll ask them, 'When are the potential challenges of the season going to occur?'"

"Near the end of October, beginning of November," Sowa said, answering his



own question. "The weather gets cold, the training gets harder, school gets harder, and we haven't started to race yet. So there's a lot of work, but no reward."

"Then in January, you're still six weeks from the conference meet, we're doing our heaviest training. They're on campus by themselves."

As he said, it can get lonely.

"We eliminate the drama by talking about it," Sowa said, "sometimes incessantly. The easiest thing is to just be open and honest about it. Don't deny the emotions, but treat them objectively."

"You train 10 months for 10 minutes (of races). But the only way to get better is to put in the time," said Plucinsky. "Everybody else is doing the same work you are. You have to find your edge someplace else."

This story first appeared in the Staten Island Advance on February 15, 2011. Reprinted with permission.

Payoff Time

Seahawks smash 11 school records at NEC championship

The swimming and diving team's hard work paid off big at the Northeast Conference championship, held February 17–19 at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Seahawks broke 11 school records and brought home a third place finish, trailing only Central Connecticut State and back-to-back champion Saint Francis of Pennsylvania. The

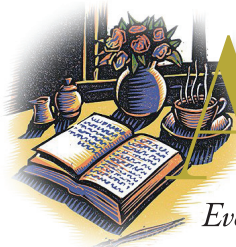
Seahawks had 25 individual championship finalists, with 15 of them coming from members of the freshman class. Also, the diving team capped off its inaugural season with impressive results, and the team placed first among all NEC schools on the winter Academic Honor Roll and on the Commissioner's Honor Roll, based on grade point average and distinguished participation in varsity athletics.

Mark Sowa, who after three seasons at Wagner has coached

every Seahawk swimmer in the College's record books, announced on June 28 that he is leaving Wagner to become head coach at the University of Idaho. Sowa led the Green and White to three straight top-three finishes at the NEC championships, including a second-place finish in 2008–09. Sowa's student-athletes set 23 school records and two NEC records, and they garnered 12 All-NEC honors as well as Wagner's first ever NEC Swimmer of the Year, Jessica Hart '10.

the **A** List

The **water polo team** finished the season as the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) runner-up. It was the first time the Seahawks had reached the championship game since 2007. • Women's golf coach **Christopher Fourman** was named NEC Coach of the Year, after guiding the Seahawks to a fifth-place finish at the 2011 NEC Championship. • In **men's and women's track and field**, the Seahawks set new school records in more than a dozen events over the course of the indoor and outdoor seasons. • The **Wagner College ice hockey club team** captured the Metropolitan Collegiate Hockey Conference Championship with a 6-3 win over top-seeded Fordham University on February 20. The second-seeded Seahawks finished the season with a 20-6 record under the direction of first-year coach George Cherubini, an adjunct business professor at Wagner.



AlumniLink

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

A Reunion Just Waiting to Happen

Long-lost friends reconnect at neighborhood alumni reception

It had been more than 40 years since Christine Fleming Mahon '70 had seen her dear friend and big sister from Alpha Omega Pi, Carol Hulnick Woodruff '68. The two had managed to keep up a Christmas card exchange for a while after graduating, but as "life goes, we lost touch," says Chris.

Unbeknownst to Chris and Carol, both had relocated to the Phoenix, Arizona, area about 10 years ago. The two went on with their lives, never imagining that just a few minutes down the road there was a Wagner reunion just waiting to happen, 2,000 miles away from Grymes Hill.

Then, earlier this year, Carol received an invitation in the mail from Wagner College. She hesitated to open it, thinking it was for an event on campus. But "something just made me open it," she said. "I saw it was an alumni brunch being hosted by Chris! I knew I had to go no matter what."

WONDERFUL SURPRISE Thanks to a Neighborhood Alumni Reception, sorority sisters Christine Fleming Mahon '70 and Carol Hulnick Woodruff '68 met for the first time in 40 years at Chris's home in Phoenix. *Pictured left to right:* Chuck and Christine Mahon with Carol and David Woodruff



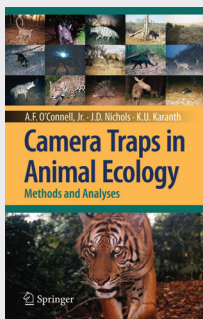
"I am still amazed that I looked up from the table in the backyard, and there Carol was in the doorway," says Chris, who hosted the Neighborhood Alumni Reception with her husband, Chuck. "And to think we have been so close to each other. Wow, what a wonderful surprise."

The Neighborhood Alumni Receptions hosted by alumni, in conjunction with the Wagner College Alumni Association, bring together alumni and friends of the College to reconnect, network, and learn about what is happening with the College. In the past year, more than 225 alumni and friends have attended neighborhood events from coast to coast, including California, Arizona, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York.

Next time you receive an invitation from Wagner College, open it — you never know what wonderful surprises might be in store for you.



SEE 'HAWKS IN YOUR CITY More than 200 Wagner alumni and friends, including these in the Phoenix area, gathered for Neighborhood Alumni Receptions throughout the country during the past year.



New & Noteworthy

Allen F. O'Connell '76 *Camera Traps in Animal Ecology* (Springer, 2011)

Allen O'Connell, a research ecologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, was senior editor and co-author of this book on a new field of ecological research: the use of remote photography and infrared sensors to study animal populations in the wild. This research may contribute to the conservation of such endangered and elusive animals as tigers and jaguars as well as many others.

Upcoming Events

Admissions

- Summer and Fall Campus Visit Days
Aug. 11, Oct. 2, Oct. 23, and Nov. 12

Lectures

- Founders Day and Kaufman-
Repage Lecture
Speaker: Rebecca Skloot, author of
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Spiro Hall, Room 2

Music

- Italian Idol Singing Contest
Oct. 14, 5 p.m., Performance
Center, Campus Hall
- College Choirs Fall Concert
Nov. 6, 4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church,
Staten Island
- Jazz Ensemble
Nov. 20, 3 p.m., Main Hall

- College Choirs Holiday Concert
Dec. 4, 4 p.m., location TBA
- Vocal Jazz Set
Dec. 6, 8 p.m., Performance Center,
Campus Hall
- Concert Band
Dec. 11, 3 p.m., Main Hall

National Alumni Association

- Homecoming
October 29



{ FLASHBACK }



NURSE'S CAP AND CAPE, 1946 VINTAGE

Muriel Schweer Wood '46, one of Wagner's first nursing graduates, donated her original nurse's cap and wool cape to the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing. Wagner's nursing program was founded in 1943 in cooperation with the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps to address wartime medical needs. The nursing program was celebrated at Reunion in June, marking the 65th anniversary of Wood's class's graduation.

For more information, registration, and tickets:

Admissions 800-221-1010 or 718-390-3411 • Alumni Relations 718-390-3224

Music Department 718-390-3313 • Theater Box Office 718-390-3259

Who in the Wagner World Was ... Paul Zindel?

Paul Zindel [1936–2003] ... earned the [Pulitzer Prize] in 1971 for one of his eight plays, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*. He also authored 39 novels, including *My Darling, My Hamburger* and *The Pigman*, which are still widely read in high schools across the country. As a child, he moved frequently from place to place on Staten Island with his mother and sisters after his father abandoned them, an experience that profoundly shaped his later writings. He graduated [from] Port Richmond High School. At Wagner College, he majored in chemistry, while studying creative writing with playwright Edward Albee. [Zindel earned his bachelor's in 1958 and master's in 1962, and received an honorary doctorate in 1971.] He briefly worked for Allied Chemical and taught science at Tottenville High School until 1969. His "zany stories" and performances kept teenage audiences "screaming with delight."



— An excerpt from *Discovering Staten Island: A 350th Anniversary Commemorative History* (History Press, 2011), edited by Kenneth M. Gold and Lori Weintrob, professor of history at Wagner College. Reprinted with permission.



Alumni Honors

At Reunion in June, the National Alumni Association recognized significant achievements and contributions by members of the Wagner community.



John "Johnny K" Knudson '57 was named the John "Bunny" Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Wagner Alumni Laureate. He dedicated his professional life to Wagner College, especially through its athletic

programs, as coach, trainer, and administrator. Since retiring, he has continued to support Wagner athletics as a volunteer, including chairing the Athletic Hall of Fame for many years. He has touched the lives of innumerable students and alumni during his more than 50 years of service to Wagner College.



Two Distinguished Graduates of Wagner were chosen this year: **Carl R. Fischer '64** and **Laura Graham '95**. Carl Fischer, Wagner's first

male nursing graduate, became a distinguished hospital administrator at Yale-New Haven and the university system hospitals in Cincinnati, Arkansas, and Virginia. Laura Graham has been part of President Bill Clinton's staff since his White House days, and she now serves as his chief of staff and as chief operating officer of his foundation.



Maureen L. Robinson '67 H'03 received the **Dr. Kevin Sheehy '67 M'70 M'92 H'99 Alumni Leadership Medal**. A retired English teacher, she has served for many years as

a member of the National Alumni Association Board of Directors and of Wagner College's Board of Trustees. With her husband, Derish Wolff, she established a fellowship program supporting the research activities of junior faculty members at Wagner.



Carmine C. Carullo '71 M'74 was named **Wagner Alumni Fellow in Business**. In his 40-year career with ExxonMobil Corporation, he has combined his business

expertise with civic engagement locally and worldwide. Currently, as planning manager of medicine and occupational health worldwide, he is charged with the well-being of 80,000 employees in 50 countries.



Lorraine McNeill-Popper '78 was named **Wagner Alumni Fellow in Marketing**. She has contributed her creative skills to many award-winning advertising campaigns, including Pepsi's

music platform; healthcare clients such as AstraZeneca, Glaxo, Colgate, and Pfizer; the Partnership for a Drug-Free America; and the U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Command.



Alonzo "Lonnie" Brandon '72 received the **Certificate of Appreciation** for his leadership in last year's commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the student takeover

of Cunard Hall, a milestone in the history of Wagner College. His efforts brought many African-American alumni back to campus for the first time in decades, and it helped Wagner College renew its commitment to inclusiveness.



The Reverend Lyle Guttu Award went to **Rabbi Dr. Abraham Unger**, Wagner's Jewish chaplain, advisor to the Hillel student organization, assistant professor of government and politics, and director

of Wagner's City Studies Program. He helped create the Office of Jewish Community Affairs on Staten Island and was founding co-chair of the Faith and Public Policy Roundtable of New York City.



Andrew Bailey '06 received the **Wagner Alumni Key**, newly defined this year to recognize graduates of the last decade who have made extraordinary achievements in their personal and

professional endeavors. The star Seahawks pitcher was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in 2006. He developed into a top-notch closer, and was named the American League's Rookie of the Year in 2009. He also represented the A's in the 2009 and 2010 Major League Baseball All-Star Game. Read more about him on pages 10–13.



Find out more about the award winners at www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine.

Guest Lecturers

Alumni bring diverse areas of expertise to campus

Many alumni returned to campus during the 2010–11 academic year to share their expertise with Wagner students preparing for life after college.

Richard Barratta '73, for instance, took time off in November from producing HBO's movie *Too Big to Fail* to visit Professor Todd Price's arts administration class, *The Business of Film*. Barratta has served as production manager and producer for many blockbuster movies, including all three *Spider-Man* films and this summer's *The Smurfs*. As a movie project's top manager, he told the class that when he reads a script, he thinks, "This is 108 pages of problems. Everything's a problem, and you've got to solve them."

Beverly Hoehne Whipple '62 was on campus to give a public lecture and speak to classes in February. A Wagner nurse with a Ph.D. in psychobiology, she is a Rutgers professor emerita best known as co-author of *The G Spot and Other Discoveries About Human*

Sexuality. She gave a frank and inspiring talk on "Sensuality and Sexuality: Enhancing Intimacy" to a large group of students and faculty.

Allan F. O'Connell '76 visited Wagner on March 28 to speak to biology students on his area of expertise: wildlife management. He is a research ecologist at the internationally renowned Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the U.S. Geological Survey, part of the Department of the Interior, and author of a new book on using camera traps to estimate the abundance and health of wildlife populations (see page 32 for more on the book). He cited his experience with animals ranging from rainforest frogs to kangaroos to the Florida panther.



PRACTICAL LESSONS

Beverly Hoehne Whipple '62 incorporated games and group work into her on-campus presentation.

If you're interested in helping with career development events for Wagner students, please contact Victoria Crispo '00 M'02, assistant director of career development, at vcrispo@wagner.edu or 718-420-4016.

Reunion 2011



GOLDEN MEMORIES Ingrid Arend Buswell '61 and Nancy Luquer Wallich '61, fellow nursing graduates, were delighted to see each other again at the 50th reunion dinner.



BACK TO CLASS Faculty and students gave a demo in the Nursing Resource Center. Wagner's first class of nurses graduated 65 years ago.



CONGRATS President Guarasci applauds Lonnie Brandon '72 for his leadership.



SCREENS, NOT STACKS In the Horrmann Library's Class of 1959 Learning Commons, dedicated at Reunion, technology enhances group study spaces.



FOREVER YOUNG Georg Bohsack '62 sported his vintage Seahawk soccer letter at the Kappa Sigma Alpha v. Theta Chi kickball game.



Class Notes

Updates from old friends across the generations

1940

We are sad to report that **Gloria Lorenz Volland** died on July 11, 2010, in Tucson, Ariz. A note from her daughter-in-law, Mary B. Volland, described her as a former teacher in Lawrenceburg, Ind. Surviving are her three children, Lawrence Volland, Kay McAndrew, and Fred Volland, as well as five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

1941

Dorothee Heins Holmstrup Bryant lost her husband, Rev. Frederick Bryant, on April 15. He was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Jersey City, N.J., and a member of the Wagner College chaplain's office as well as liaison for Wagner's Upsala program for Lutheran ministerial candidates. The entire Wagner community extends condolences to Dorothee.

1942

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

1947

Diana V. Marsh Holland wrote a note about her time at Wagner: "I look back on my days at Wagner

College with a great deal of warmth and pleasure. They were my happiest days with the most welcoming people to study with and many great professors. I follow with interest the great strides Wagner has made." Diana lives in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

1950

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

Rev. **David Greer** began serving as interim rector for Christ Episcopal Church of Nacogdoches, Tex., in October 2010. He will serve in this "John the Baptist" ministry, as he calls it, until the church's new, permanent rector comes on board. Located directly across from Stephen F. Austin State University with 11,000 students, Christ Church has an active college ministry as well as a school. David also reports that he was honored last year by St. James Church in Warrenton, Va. He served there for 16 years, from 1964 to 1980, the second-longest term for a rector in that church's history. In his honor, the church dedicated a portrait of him, painted in the 1960s by the famous illustrator Wesley Dennis.

1951

Lt. Col. **Miton J. Grosz** and **Margaret "Peggy" Jerlin Grosz** think back

affectionately to the place where they met each other in 1948-49. "We have been married for nearly 60 years," they write. "Thank you, Wagner College!" They live in Palm Harbor, Fla., and are both retired. **Margaret Manrodt** keeps active in her retirement through the American Red Cross Disaster Health Service, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pennell, Penn., and the Briot Senior Center. She lives in Levittown, Penn. **Charles Sokolowsky** is serving as president of the Wagner Guild, and he and his wife, Gertrude, are working very hard to promote this fundraising organization. They want to update the group and set new goals, while keeping the focus on raising money for student scholarships. Yvonne Rodriguez (yvonne.rodriguez@wagner.edu, 718-420-4551) is the staff contact for the Guild.

1952

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

Fred Brockmann writes with the latest book news from his daughter, Suzanne Brockmann, a *New York Times* best-selling author. Her 50th novel, *Breaking the Rules*, was published in March by Ballantine Books. **Sam Polk** has retired from the advertising business and lives in Hallandale Beach, Fla.

1953

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

Ann Strickland Belury attended the Wagner Choir concert in March in Naples, Fla., where she lives. She wrote a note saying that she sang with the Wagner choir under Dr. Steen, and the current choir's performance made her "proud and happy." Her husband, Rev. William R. Belury, passed away on June 21, 2009. Wagner also offers condolences to **Bill Wehrli**, who lost his wife, Caroline, in May.

1954

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

Dr. **Manfred W. Lichtmann**, who is retired and living in Myrtle Beach, S.C., is enjoying golf and bowling and is very active in community activities and reading. He has gone on several cruises and is planning a trip that will follow Leif Ericson's route. **Wanda Schweizer Praisner** won the 2010 Princemere poetry prize from Gordon College.

1955

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

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 June 20.

The submission deadline for the fall 2011 issue is September 15.

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.

Doris Rockefeller Lehmann looks back fondly at her experiences at Wagner. "My great joy in attending Wagner from 1951 to 1955 was being able to sing with the Wagner College Choir and to go to Germany with them in 1952 for the Lutheran World Federation." Doris retired from the Board of Education in Upper Saddle River, N.J. She lives in Mahwah, N.J. **Leonia Mroczkowski** exhibited her art as part of a group show at the Middletown Township (N.J.) Public Library in May and June. She majored in nursing at Wagner and had a career as a nurse, but she also studied art after graduation. Upon her retirement, she decided she would give all the proceeds from the sale of her art to the Medical Mission Sisters. "I so believe in their work," she told the *Middletown Patch*. "They were founded in 1925. Today they continue their special mission in 17 nations on five continents helping the poor and oppressed." Leonia paints natural landscapes in watercolors and oils, and is a member of the New Jersey American Artists Professional League and an elected member of the New Jersey Watercolor Society and the Garden State Watercolor Society.

1956

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



Costie, Forsbrey and Steinhauer

Mike Azzara was honored at the January 2011 kickoff event of SI 350, Staten Island's 350th anniversary celebration committee. Mike retired after a long career as a reporter for the *Staten Island Advance*, where he created the "Memories" column and the longrunning "Strictly Political" column. **Beverly Bettinger Collins** is retired; in her last position, she served as school nurse with the Liverpool (N.Y.) Central School District for 23 years. She lives in North Syracuse, N.Y. John H. Cunningham writes about his wife, **Irene Lueders Cunningham**. "Due to rheumatoid arthritis, Irene is now in the skilled nursing section of our continuing care retirement community, Seabrook Village [Tinton, N.J.]." Although she is a very active person, the disease has managed to slow her down significantly. **LuAnn Steinhauer** shared a photo from September 2010 and caption: "Almost 57 years after we first met as roommates in Guild Hall in 1953, **Pat Swanson Costie**, **Kate Tracy Forsbrey**, and **LuAnn Steinhauer** took a trip together. We spent a great time in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., then we went for a relaxing few days to a lake house in Stanardsville, Va. It was so much fun to reminisce, catch up on our families, and just be in awe that so much time had passed since our graduation in 1957!"

1958

Class Agent: **H. Milton Keen** 10581 Lees Mill Road, Warrenton, WA 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 Lord, looking forward to the class's 50th reunion, wrote, "Seems like yesterday I was walking the Hill and planning my life. Thank you Wagner — and Mom and Dad, who encouraged me." Retired, Constance lives in Floral Park, N.Y.

1962

Carol Gaise Crews received a 2010 Saint Benedict Award from the Benedictine Health Foundation in Kingston, N.Y. The award was conferred at the 41st Annual Winter's Eve Gala on December 10 in New Paltz, N.Y. The award honors members of the Benedictine community who consistently exhibit the hospital's core values of hospitality, community, stewardship, respect, peace, and excellence. Carol served as a member of the Benedictine hospital board for 17 years. In 2002, she became the first woman to be named board chair. She now serves as a member of the board of directors for HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley. A volunteer for many community organizations, she is executive director of Hudson Valley Psychiatric Associates. She lives in Port Ewan with her husband, John. **William F. Schmitz** retired from the U.S. Air Force as a major, and from the Boy Scouts of America, where he worked on the professional staff for 13 years. In his retirement, he continued to work as a substitute teacher. He has been married for 47 years and has two children and two grandchildren.

1963

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

Charles Gravenstine spent the fall of 2010 teaching courses in clinical pastoral education to Indian clergy in Guwahati, Assam, India.

1964

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

John Korky received an Award of Recognition from the University of Nebraska Husker Relay Club in Lincoln on February 5 for his years of coaching service, 1972–78. His teams won two Big 8 track championships during those years. He spoke after Football Hall of Fame Coach Tom Osborne on the importance of academics after a track career. John earned his Ph.D. in zoology in 1977 and is a full professor in the Department of

Ottati, Johnson, Meyer, Chapman, and Minch



Biology and Molecular Biology at Montclair State University in New Jersey. In February, **Irene Goetz Nelson** played the lead in *And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little* at the Chatham Drama Guild in Cape Cod, Mass. The play's author is a fellow alum, the late **Paul Zindel** '58 M'62 H'71. On October 10, 2010, five Wagner 1964 grads — **Nancy Welter Ottati**, **Susan Johnson Johnson**, **Liz Schweikhardt Meyer**, **Carole Hurbec Chapman**, and **Linda Grace Minch** — reunited at the Horizon Diner in Ramsey, N.J. All members of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity, they still look fabulous, and had a wonderful afternoon reconnecting. Linda drove down from New Hyde Park, N.Y., meeting Liz at the Turkey Hill Inn in Summit, N.J., and from there on to Ramsey to pick up Carole, whom they had not seen since graduation. Sue and Nancy drove down from upstate New York. Linda also sent in an update about her work as school lunch aide and librarian, which she is enjoying very much.

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

Karen L. Dawkins retired as vice president of planning and assessment and dean of students at Bucks County Community College on January 1. She had worked at Bucks for 37 years. Previously, she worked at Douglass College in New Brunswick, N.J., and Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. She lives in Doylestown, Penn. **Carl F. Wilfrid** joined the ranks of the grandparents when Samuel Wallace Sykes was born on November 5, 2010, to Tom and Alissa Wilfrid Sykes. Carl lives in Reno, Nev., where he is lead pastor for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Bridget Herrmann '05

Music Maven

CLAIM TO FAME: With a passion for music and a knack for marketing, Bridget Herrmann '05 has found her niche as an executive assistant to the general manager at A&M/Octone Records. At this small label that represents multiple Grammy-winner Maroon 5, as well as seven other artists and bands, Herrmann wears many hats, from marketing to promotions to sales.

CREATING THE NEXT BIG THING: Recently Herrmann has been traveling across the country, working with radio stations to get A&M's artists heard. "We are focused on artist development, so we have virtually unknown bands that we work to the top," Herrmann says. "It's an amazing experience when you have artists that you believe in so much and you witness someone else's eyes open up and believe in them too."

FINDING HER CALLING: Herrmann has always had an ear for talent. As a college student, she cut her teeth in music marketing by working on a "street team" for then-unknown, now Hollywood heartthrob John Mayer. It was real grassroots publicity, handing out buttons and stickers on the street. Her stint with him was brief, because soon Mayer was signed to Columbia Records. But the experience convinced her to study arts administration. Now at A&M, she works with up-and-coming artists such as Hollywood Undead, K'naan, and Paper Tongues.

LANDING HER DREAM JOB: "It's not who you know, but who knows you," is Herrmann's mantra. She began building relationships with A&M/Octone as an intern during her senior year at Wagner. "Internships give you the opportunity to make connections and showcase your abilities," she says. After graduation, she went to work for music giants Sony and Warner Elektra Atlantic, but kept in touch with her boss at A&M/Octone. When they had an opening, she was at the top of their list of people to call.



1966

Carolyn Haas Henry retired more than five years ago and lives in an active adult community in Rochdale, Mass., along with her husband of almost 45 years, Paul. Their two dogs, a German shepherd and a cavalier spaniel/bichon mix, are “fondly known as the ‘odd couple.’” Their three children live nearby, as does her father, Harold Haas, a former Wagner dean of students in the 1960s, and her sister. They have nine grandchildren ranging from ages 6 to 15. **Robert Lawrence M’66** earned his Ed.D. at Teachers College, Columbia University, in student personnel administration. He taught English at Wagner, 1964–73, and then began working at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Ky, where he taught English, philosophy, and introduction to college from 1976 to 2005. He also worked in the advising center and served as the center’s director, as well as serving briefly as chair of the humanities division. After his retirement, he returned to New York, and lives in Jackson Heights.

1967

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

Peggy Nuspliger lives in Lyons Falls, N.Y. She retired in 2000 from a 32-year career teaching music. She has been director of the Adirondack Community Chorus since 1976, performing three concerts a year, sometimes accompanied by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Syracuse Symphony.

1968

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

Ray Burgos is retired after 35 years of teaching with the New York City Board of Education. He lives in Sun City Center, Fla. **Joseph Kelly M’68** is running as the Republican candidate for Franklin Lakes (N.J.) Borough Council. He is retired, having worked for IBM for more than four decades as a computer programmer and brand manager. He is active in volunteer work in his community.

1969

Class Agent: Philip Straniere 3 St. Austins Place, Staten Island, NY 10310, 718-447-4717, judgphil96@aol.com

Nick Rossos, M.D., was featured in the *Register-News* of Central New Jersey on January 20 in an article entitled, “A Doctor by Day, a Musician by Night.” He fell in love with music as a junior high school student and acquired his first keyboard after seeing The Doors play in Manhattan in 1967. He describes his first CD, *Listen to the Music* (1995) as “a lot of little melodies” and “relaxation, go-to-sleep, meditation music.” It helps his patients in his day job who have problems relaxing. He released his fourth CD, *Improvisations: Dr. Nick and the Wah Wah Boys*, in January. He was also on the Grammy Voting Committee and attended the Grammys in February.

1970

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

Beth Linsenmaier Hoffman wrote to us about the passing of classmate **Ellen Loche Mohn** on November 8, 2010. “Due to Ellen’s nudging, 20 sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi from nearby graduating classes joined the class of ’70 at Wagner for their 40th reunion [in June 2010].” Beth wrote. “Little did we know that five months later, one of us would be gone. We had a great time being back on campus! Our memories of that great weekend are even sweeter now.” By reconnecting at Wagner, Ellen’s sorority sisters were able to rally around her as she battled cancer. They joined Ellen, her family, and colleagues from Sultan Healthcare in the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in Paramus, N.J., on October 25. Ellen lost her battle with cancer two weeks later. **Nancy Langman** was named program director of Island Counseling, the community mental health center for Martha’s Vineyard. She is only 18 credits shy of completing a doctorate in public health. She lives in Vineyard Haven, Mass., with her husband, Gary, a dog and cats.

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

Leland Jacob was promoted to senior import specialist with Customs and Border Protection in June 2009. He lives in East Rockaway, N.Y. **Burton Wilcke M’71**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences at the University of Vermont, wrote to us about his work while on sabbatical in fall 2010: “The project on which I am working is a publication by the American Public Health Association. This publication addresses the laboratory’s role in communicable disease control and surveillance. I am the senior editor, working with an editorial board that includes representation from the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, and other national and international health agencies. The publication is intended to fill a need globally. As a result of disease outbreaks like SARS and influenza, the WHO has called for the development of basic laboratory infrastructure in every county in the world. This publication will help to fulfill that goal.”

1972

Rev. **James R. Bocchino** began serving as the interim rector of Christ Church (Episcopal) in Westerly, R.I., in October 2010. **Fred W. Curtis Jr.** is a licensed charter boat captain, providing fishing trips to Everglades National Park and the Ten Thousand Islands of Florida. He lives in Bay Harbor Islands, Fla.

1973

Class Agent: Henry E. Gemino
5 Strickland Place, Manhasset,
NY 11030, 516-467-4191,
henryedmund@aol.com

1974

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

Susan Moan Hardie is the director of Stuart House in Santa Monica, Calif., a multidisciplinary investigation and treatment center for sexually abused children.

1975

Class Agent: 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

Joanna Di Mango-Orr ’75 M’77 was elected vice president of the Tinton Falls Education Association. She is a teacher who lives in Manalapan, N.J.

1976

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

Joseph P. Chirichella M’76 was named president and chief executive officer of the Deborah Hospital Foundation in Browns Mills, N.J., as of January 1. The foundation supports the Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Joseph has worked at the hospital for more than 30 years, most recently serving as vice president for operations.

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

Lorraine McNeill-Popper started her own ad agency in January, called Attention! Agency. It uses the talents of both advertising veterans and military veterans to promote products and causes with creativity and passion. **Augie Melendez** was named chief diversity officer and director for community affairs at Kodak. Melendez has more than 32 years of human resources experience, having previously served at Kodak as HR director for Kodak Park, HR director for global manufacturing, and most recently HR director for

worldwide regional operations. He is also active within the community, having served on many volunteer boards, including the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force at the University of Rochester.

1979

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

Harold Thurer released a video based on his 2007 children's book, *Hey, Dad! Let's Have a Catch*. The video features psychologists and parents — including Wagner College psychology professors Miles Groth and **Carolyn Oglio '97** — talking about what it means to "have a catch" with their children. The video can be viewed at www.wagner.edu/news/node/1536.

1980

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

1981

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

1982

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

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

1985

Class Agents: **Annamarie Lambiasi** 1551 Arden Ave., Staten Island,

NY 10312, 718-420-4163, alambias@wagner.edu **Andrew G. Williams** 30 Roberta Street, Apt. G, Key West, FL 33040

Vincent D'Elia is performing in two productions at the Tuacahn Performing Arts Center in Ivins, Utah: The regional premiere of Disney's Broadway production of *The Little Mermaid*, in which he plays Scuttle; and *Grease*, in which he plays Vince Fontaine/Teen Angel. Those shows are onstage now through October. Previously at Tuacahn, he played Bela Zangler in *Crazy for You*, in June through October 2010.

1986

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

Ed Nitkewicz, an attorney with the Sanders Law Firm in Mineola, N.Y., published two essays in connection with his work in the special needs community. "Today I Bought a Mitt" was originally published in February 2010 at www.aweinautism.org, and you may read a version of it in this issue of *Wagner Magazine*, page 45. "God and the Special Needs Child: A Father's Journey of Faith," detailing the creation of a religious instruction program at St. Elizabeth's Parish, was published on the Diocese of Rockville Centre website, www.drvc-faith.org/specialNeedsResources.html. Furthermore, the American Dance Theatre of Long Island honored Ed at its 10th anniversary gala on October 1, 2010. He received the ADTLI Director's Award for supporting charitable causes benefiting children, families, communities, and society.

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

1989

Class Agent: **Peter Ottaviano** 2 Calder Court, Marlboro, NJ 07746, 732-851-6052, pottav89@aol.com

Natalie Burkley and her husband, Michael LoPrete, announce the birth of Madison Anna on March 18, 2010. See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for a photo. **Frank Micelli's** daughter, Kristi Miceli, took second place in the country in the Aquafina Pitch/Hit/Run competition in the 13-14-year-old softball division in the summer of 2010. The event took place in Anaheim, Calif., during the Major League Baseball All-Star Game festivities. One of her prizes was an autographed baseball from **Andrew Bailey '06**, who pitched for the Oakland Athletics in the All-Star Game. Frank lives in Middletown, N.J., with his wife, Dina, and his two daughters, Briana and Kristi. Frank is a director at Telcordia Technologies. **Peter Ottaviano '89 M'95** has worked as a football coach for the past 13 years, employed by the New York City Board of Education. He lives in Marlboro, N.J.

1990

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

Emmanuel Agbejemisin was recognized by U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr. for his efforts to coordinate the American African Asian Chamber of Commerce's Benin-US-China Conference. The conference allowed citizens of other countries to see firsthand the inner workings of the U.S., and Emmanuel was applauded for his hard work to promote American ideals such as the freedom of speech, press, and religion. **Rebekah Eid Burton** and Gregory Burton announce the birth of Elijah Paul on May 18, 2010, in Lake Forest, Ill. Benjamin, 3, is thrilled to be a big brother! See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for a photo. Dr. **Anthony Pannone** was featured in the *Staten Island Advance* on December 16, 2010, along with his dental practice partners, including Dr. **Mark Ruggeri '01**. Their thriving six-year-old Staten Island practice is named Oakwood Dental Arts, and they have opened a branch in Freehold,

N.J., as well. **Monica L. Passante** just passed the 20-year milestone of her teaching career. She teaches language arts and drama at I.S. 2 in Staten Island. Her son, Philip, received a full scholarship in music to Xavierian High School, which he will attend in the fall.

1991

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

Joseph Percoco was named executive deputy secretary to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in January. A longtime aide to the Cuomo family, Joe was campaign manager for Andrew Cuomo's 2010 run for governor, and he served under Cuomo during his terms as New York state attorney general and as the U.S. secretary of housing and urban development. He also served as director of advance under former Gov. Mario Cuomo in the 1990s. **Buddy Thomas's** play *Devil Boys from Beyond* was picked up by producer David Foster and opened off-Broadway in November 2010 for a commercial run at New World Stages in Manhattan.

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

Dr. **Christina Klein** and Dr. **Diane Klein '99** are sisters who operate a team dental practice, Dynamic Dental, in Staten Island. Last fall, they donated over 1,400 dental care packages to Wagner to promote proper oral care as well as the overall well-being of students. The sisters were featured in the *Staten Island Advance* on October 7 in an article titled, "An Office Where D.D.S. Stands for Dynamic Dental Sisters."

1994

Class Agent: **James Hickey** 4209 Route 516, Matawan, NJ

07747, 732-290-3900, james.hickey@wagner.edu

1995

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

1996

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

Rosemary Gioia Van Nostrand and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of twins Aiden Scott and Ella Rose on December 11, 2009. They live in Massapequa, N.Y. See *Crib Notes* for a photo.

1997

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

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

1999

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

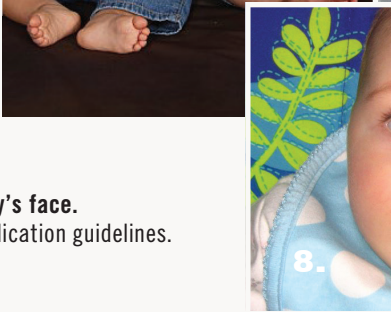
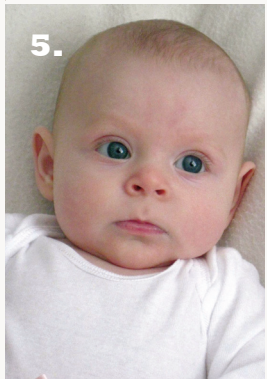
Dr. **Thomas Bottiglieri** was featured on northjersey.com ("Specialist Knows Dangers Firsthand," September 27, 2010) as "one of the most respected concussion experts in northern New Jersey." Thomas suffered from concussions while playing football in high school and at Wagner. After being diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome, he decided to stop playing the sport he loved and focus on becoming a doctor. Thomas is praised for using his personal experience to help children and teens. **Ian Inverno** is working both as a police officer and

Crib Notes

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



1. **Natalie Burkley '89** and Michael LoPrete announce the birth of Madison Anna on March 18, 2010. **2.** **Rebekah Eid Burton '90** and Gregory Burton announce the birth of Elijah Paul on May 18, 2010. Benjamin, 3, is thrilled to be a big brother! **3.** **Jenny Ludvigsen Madden '04** and **Matthew "Brooks" Madden '05** welcomed Kali Marie on March 29, 2010. **4.** **Nicole Holcinger Moore '01** and William Moore announce the birth of Brayden Cole on April 12, 2010. **5.** **Kathryn Cannizzaro Morgan '02** and **Shane Morgan '01** welcomed Annabel Margaret on September 7, 2010. **6.** **Rosemary Gioia Van Nostrand '96** and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of twins Aiden Scott and Ella Rose on December 11, 2009. They are shown here on their first birthday. **7.** **Anne Marie Daiuto Bruck '01 M'03** and **Dennis Bruck M'03** announce the birth of Jake Donato on March 17, 2011. **8.** **Michael Ponzio '00 M'04** and **Leslie Schechter Ponzio '01** announce the birth of Abigail on November 16, 2010.



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

in the performing arts. He lives in South Plainfield, N.J. Dr. **Diane Klein** and Dr. **Christina Klein** '93 are sisters who operate a team dental practice, Dynamic Dental, in Staten Island. Last fall, they donated over 1,400 dental care packages to Wagner to promote proper oral care as well as the overall well-being of students. Both sisters were featured in the *Staten Island Advance* on October 7 in an article titled, "An Office Where D.D.S. Stands for Dynamic Dental Sisters." **Craig Laurie**, who played the role of Guido in the musical *Nine* at Wagner under the direction of the late Professor Christopher Catt, reprised the role at the Phoenix Theatre in Arizona this spring. He dedicated his performance to Catt's memory, writing, "I remember the spring of my junior year, Chris called me into his office and talked to me about *Nine* and how it was one of his favorite shows. He was pushing the department to do the show, and had me in mind for the role of Guido. I was flattered. It was so inspiring to work with him on the show, as he was so passionate. ... He often spoke of it as one of his proudest moments at the school." **Amanda Young** graduated in June 2010 with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, Calif. She had completed her master's in transpersonal psychology in 2007, as well as a master's in business/industry consulting in 2002 from Kean University. She lives in California, where she is completing a postdoctoral fellowship for clinical licensure in addiction and pain management for athletes.

2000

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

Jedediah Bila has written a book, *Outnumbered: Chronicles of a Manhattan Conservative* (2011). She is a conservative columnist and a regular on Fox News and Fox Business. Go to www.jedediahbila.com for more information. **Michael Ponzo** '00 M'04 and **Leslie Schechter Ponzo** '01 announce the birth of Abigail on November 16, 2010. They live in Somerset, N.J. See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for a photo.

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

Scott Barnhardt is part of the ensemble of the Broadway show *The Book of Mormon*, which opened in February at the Eugene O'Neill Theater and won multiple Tony Awards in June, including Best Musical. Created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone, Emmy Award-winning creators of *South Park*, *The Book of Mormon* is a musical about a pair of mismatched Mormon missionaries sent to Africa. **Anne Marie Daiuto Bruck** '01 M'03 and **Dennis Bruck M'03** have two children, DJ Bruck, born on August 30, 2008, and Jake Donato Bruck, born on March 17, 2011. They live in Belford, N.J. Dennis teaches at Colts Neck High School, and Anne Marie teaches second grade at P.S. 3 in Staten Island. **Nicole Holczinger Moore** and her husband, William Moore, announce the birth of their second child, Brayden Cole, on April 12, 2010. **Shane Morgan** and **Kathryn Cannizzaro Morgan** '02 welcomed Annabel Margaret on September 7, 2010. **Leslie Schechter Ponzo** and **Michael Ponzo** '00 M'04 announce the birth of Abigail on November 16, 2010. They live in Somerset, N.J. See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for photos of the Bruck, Moore, Morgan, and Ponzo babies. Dr. **Mark Ruggeri** was featured in the *Staten Island Advance* on December 16, 2010, along with his dental practice partners, including Dr. **Anthony Pannone** '90. Their thriving six-year-old Staten Island practice is named Oakwood Dental Arts, and they have opened a branch in Freehold, N.J., as well.

2002

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

Jackeline Anca married Nikos Vasilatos on July 3, 2010, in Athens, Greece. After completing a B.S. in finance at Wagner, Jackeline earned an MBA in strategy and marketing from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She is currently a corporate strategy and business development professional at a global beauty company. Nikos is a vice president at a private equity firm. The couple lives

in Manhattan. **Christina DeCicco** is performing in the ensemble of the new, Tony-nominated Broadway show *Sister Act The Musical*. The show began previews on March 24 and opened on April 20. **Dana Marano** is development coordinator at Harpo Studios, the home of Oprah Winfrey's company, Harpo Productions Inc. Dana is responsible for keeping track of all of the pitches that Harpo receives and brainstorming new ideas, working closely with the EVP of creative development in New York. On May 24, 2008, she married **Sean Connery**, an attorney with Pryor Cashman in New York. They live in Manhattan. **Kathryn Cannizzaro Morgan** and **Shane Morgan** '01 welcomed Annabel Margaret on September 7, 2010. See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for a photo.

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

Pamela Coppola married Joseph Columbia on September 18 in Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in Staten Island. Pamela is president and owner of Statewide Fire Corp. in Staten Island, and Joseph is a New York City firefighter. They live in New Springville, Staten Island. **Jacqueline Ajello Fury** and her family, owners of Brooklyn-based Pastosa Ravioli, were featured in *The Brooklyn Ink* in November 2010. Jacqueline's grandfather, Anthony G. Ajello, founded Pastosa Ravioli, and now she and her brothers and her father run the successful wholesaler of Italian cuisine. Jacqueline is the business's shipping manager and has been with the company for five years. An arts administration major, "she has brought her artistic sensibility and flair to the business," the article said. **Alyssa Gibaldi M'03** and George Fricke announce the birth of Michael Harold Fricke on September 3, 2010, in Singapore. **Justin Knudsen** married Elisabeth Weber on March 5 in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brooklyn. Elisabeth is a registered nurse, and Justin is a police officer, both working in Brooklyn. The couple lives in Staten Island.

2004

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

Mike Checklick, a hip-hop artist who goes by the stage name of Mike Check, was featured in the *Suffolk Times* for making it to the final round of Hip Hop Unplugged, a showcase and competition for undiscovered hip-hop artists, held in the East Village of Manhattan in December 2010. He has also launched a record label, Kinetic Music Group. **Jenny Ludvigsen Madden** and **Matthew "Brooks" Madden** '05 welcomed Kali Marie into the world on March 29, 2010. See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for a photo. **Morgan McLean**, interim minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockford, Ill., was featured on the *Rockford Register Star* website, rrstar.com, in December 2010. The article reports that she received her M. Div. from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Mass. She felt called to ministry after several years of working for Amnesty International in Washington, D.C. "Ministry offers something new every day," she said. "It is both the best part and the most difficult. ... Each day, I am honored and humbled to share the joys and the sorrows of people's lives."

2005

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

Matthew "Brooks" Madden and **Jenny Ludvigsen Madden** '04 welcomed Kali Marie into the world on March 29, 2010. See *Crib Notes*, page 41, for a photo.

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

Cherisse Brandefine and **Alex Wilk** were married on October 16 in Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in Staten Island. Cherisse works in Staten Island as assistant director of Brandy's Dance Unique and a second-grade teacher at Our Lady of Good Counsel School. Alex is a loan trade closer with J.P. Morgan in Manhattan. They live in Oakwood, Staten Island. **Andrew Hunton** married **Danielle Bennett** '08 in October 2010. **Leandra Aguirre**, **Stefanie Shuman**, and **Erin O'Brien** wrote this remembrance of **Kira Marshall**, who died on April 4, 2011: "Friend to many, loved by all, Kira Marshall was everything to everyone. She was one of those rare



Kira Marshall

people who not only found the time, but made the time to stay involved in everyone's lives, whether near or far. No matter the moment, big or small, she'd be there. From engagement parties and weddings, to family gatherings and spending time with her nephew, to regular happy hours and shoe shopping excursions, she would go the distance if it meant five more minutes of memories. She was the shoulder to cry on. The rock to lean on. The one who always knew what to say. She defined what it meant to be a friend. We are fortunate to have been one of hers. From her passing, we learn that time is precious. Our everyday moments are filled with thoughts of her. We approach each day the way Kira would — full of possibilities. We take time every day to remember her. We keep her with us in everything we do. We cherish the memories we made and embrace new traditions in her honor. She was — and forever will be — amazing. And as Kira would say, "Life is short. Buy the shoes." **Alan Pagano** stars as the late comedian Chris Farley in a show he developed with **Carlo Rivieccio** '04, actor and writer, and Charles Messina, director. The show, *The Fatman Cometh: The Life and Death of Chris Farley*, received a private industry reading on February 28. Pagano and the show were featured in a blog on WSJ.com, which said, "Pagano's take on Farley aims to go

beyond mere impersonation. He strives to inhabit Farley down to the last detail."

2007

Class Agents: **Jeff Logan** 912 Garden Street, Apt. 2, Hoboken, NJ 07030, 908-625-8281 **Christopher Silvestri** 1730 E. 31st, Brooklyn, NY 11234, csilvest227@gmail.com

Cori Curylo, a first-grade special education teacher, organized the second annual Math-A-Thon for kindergartners and first graders from her school, P.S. 55 in Eltingville, Staten Island. Held in June on the Wagner Oval, the Math-A-Thon entertained children while teaching them through math-centered games. **Jennifer Lemoncelli** '07 M'08 married Joshua Gitto on September 25, 2010, in Peckville, Penn. After graduation, Jenn lived in Manhattan for three years while working for the New York branch of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. Jenn now works for the Albany branch as an audit associate. Jenn and Josh live in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. **Daniel McCartney** ran the 2010 New York City Marathon. He finished in 3:27:28, besting his previous personal record of 3:59:40, set in the 2009 Chicago Marathon. Daniel, who works in advertising sales and lives in Staten Island, ran cross country and track and field at Xaverian High School in Brooklyn and at Wagner. In a feature about him in the November 6 *Staten Island Advance*, Daniel mentioned that part of his inspiration to run came from his father, a legendary coach at Xaverian, and part from **Mo Halwani** '08, a former teammate in high school and college.

2008

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

Danielle Bennett married **Andrew Hunton** '06 in October 2010. **Brian McCartney** became the head coach for cross country and track at Xaverian High School in Brooklyn in fall 2010. He follows in the footsteps of his father, Frank, who coached at Xaverian for 40 years. **Christina Lamb**, a doctoral student in biomedical science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, fulfilled a

Moorthy and Lamb



longtime dream by traveling to India earlier this year to visit her beloved Wagner biology professor, Ammini Moorthy, who was back in her native Kerala on a yearlong sabbatical. Christina wrote us a glowing report describing Indian feasts, tropical plants, elephant rides, and more. Best of all, Christina wrote, was being a part of the Moorthy family. "It is rare to have the opportunity to live and experience someone's homeland, and I was honored to see India through Dr. Moorthy's eyes," she wrote. Her full report with more photos is posted at www.wagner.edu/wagnermagazine. **Gwendolyn Moore** held her first photo exhibit in October 2010 at Lounge Zen in Teaneck, N.J. **Stephanie Williams** competed as Miss District of Columbia in the 2011 Miss America Pageant, and she was selected to receive the pageant's fourpoints Scholarship Award. Stephanie is a medical student at George Washington University.

2009

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

Jacob Shoemith-Fox directed a benefit performance of Cy Coleman's *Wildcat* at the Julia Miles Theatre in Manhattan in December 2010, featuring Broadway favorites such as Robert Cuccioli and Luba Mason as well as alumni **Kenneth Kasch** '07, **Spencer Andrew Taylor** '10, **Michael Puglia** '08, **Erin O'Neil** '08, and **Christopher DeRosa** '10. This performance was a production of Theatrical Gems, which Jacob co-founded last year with **Jonathan G. Galvez** '06. Learn more about Theatrical Gems at www.theatricalgems.org. **Yuliya Seldina** was accepted into two doctoral programs: SUNY at Albany (Ph.D.

program in biomedical sciences in the School of Public Health) and the Uniformed Services University (Ph.D. program in emerging infectious diseases in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology). **Jennifer Wright** traveled to Kenya again this summer as she continues her work with the Rehema Girls Rescue Center through the HEAL the Children Foundation. Over the past year, the foundation provided the Rehema girls with new shoes and beds and a new gate for their home.

2010

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

Alyssa Herrera plays the lead role of Sandy in the 2010–11 national tour of the new production of *Grease*. It launched in Denver, Colo., at the Buell Theatre on October 12. **Nicole Malliotakis** M'10 won her first bid for public office in November 2010. The Republican beat two-term incumbent Democratic Assemblywoman Janelle Hyer-Spencer to represent New York's 60th Assembly district in Albany. The district includes parts of Staten Island and Brooklyn. A former community relations aide for Staten Island and Brooklyn under Gov. George Pataki, she most recently worked in the public affairs office at Consolidated Edison. Taking office on January 1, she joined fellow Wagner alum **Donna Lupardo** '76 in the Assembly. Lupardo, a Democrat representing the Binghamton area since 2004, easily won her re-election bid. **Michelle Rossman** has been teaching English as a Second Language in Oyama, Tochigi, Japan, since December 2010. Her report on experiencing the massive March earthquake there was published in the *Staten Island Advance* on March 13. "The same panic and questions from September 11th rushed through my mind," she wrote. "What's going on, and what should I do?" Electricity, Internet, and cell phones were knocked out in her area, but there was no significant structural damage. She continues to blog about her experiences at garrulousgaijin.wordpress.com.

In Memoriam

Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family

Alumni

Mr. Ernst P. Rittershausen '37
Mrs. Norma Brandkamp Holmes '42
Mr. Leon J. Miller '42
Mr. Wilbur H. Sterner '42
Mr. James La Hart '43
Dr. Edythe Kershaw Larson '44
Mrs. Mildred Stutzman Ahrend '47
Mr. Benjamin A. Certo '48
Mr. Olaf Bredholt '49
Mrs. Betty Bondesen Gardner '49
Mr. Wesley E. Geigel '49
Prof. Victor G. Wightman '49 M'57
Mrs. Alyce Crocco Ferretti '50
Mr. Christopher Kartalis '50
Mrs. Patricia Weidknecht Blomquist '51
Mr. Francis T. Dolen '51
Mrs. Marion Agnes Juchtern Goebbert '51
Mr. Norman G. Heil '51
Mrs. Mary Ann Nelson Tankleff '51
Mr. Wilbert L. Corbin '52
Mr. Emil Polk '52
Rev. Louis J. Roder '52
Mr. Burton H. Helgeson '53
Mrs. Beatrice Arnold M'54
Rev. O. Robert Oberkehr '54
Mr. Leroy N. Houseman '55
Mrs. Joan Anne Santangelo Jaeger '56
Rev. Harry O. Lysgaard '56

Ms. Nancy A. Glusker '57
Mr. Walter J. Pezzei '57
Mr. Frank E. Wille '57
Mr. Henry S. Melofchik '58
Mr. Harold C. Wilkening '58
Mr. Joseph A. Casucci '59
Mr. Kenneth A. Kruser '59
Mr. James Ledford '59
Mrs. Kathryn Wählers Reisch '59
Mr. Claus Schwarzkopf '59
Mr. Ellsworth D. Foggini '60
Mr. Ralph Perosi '60
Mr. Rolf A. Stensrud '60
Mrs. Priscilla Rylance Preuss '61
Ms. Lillian Filipowicz-Boesch '62
Mr. Ralph A. Daiuto '63
Mrs. Linda Molnar Musto '63
Mrs. Jacquilyn Gardiner Rubin '63
Mrs. Paulette Tholen '64
Cdr. Lance H. Borman Sr. '66
Mrs. Lena La Caff M'66
Mrs. Jeanette Christ Loken '66
Mrs. Veronica Cattani Basker '67
Mr. John Brunda '67
Mrs. Nancy Wheeler Martiny '67
Mr. Ward W. Westerberg '67
Mrs. Patricia Cushing Osmundsen '69
Mrs. Susan Jane Heap Robinson '69

Mrs. Ellen Loche Mohn '70
Mr. Nicholas La Porte Jr. '71
Mrs. Sandra Skwiercz '71
Mr. Leigh F. Koerbel '72
Mr. Kevin McCarthy '72 M'74
Mrs. Shirley Sager M'72
Mr. Michael J. Bale '73
Dr. Vincent Andreano '75
Mrs. Concetta D'Angelo M'76
Mrs. Pamela Kaminsky Sydorko '76
Miss Susan Johnson '78
Mr. William Conroy M'80
Mr. Jeremy Champe '82
Miss Sandra Smolka M'83
Mr. Peter Feiner M'90
Rev. Dr. Peter Gomes H'04
Ms. Kira Marshall '06

Faculty, Staff, and Friends

Rev. Frederick Bryant
Mr. Stanley Grant
Mr. Bill Hodge
Mrs. Mary Kane
Ms. Christine McIntyre
Ms. Frances Rubens

FACULTY REMEMBRANCES

Professor Edythe Kershaw Larson '44 *Alumna taught bacteriology and health science for nearly 30 years*

Edythe Kershaw Larson, professor emerita of bacteriology and health science at Wagner College, died on December 22, 2010, in Palm Beach County, Florida.

She earned her Bachelor of Science from Wagner in 1944 and her master's and doctoral degrees from New York University. She began teaching bacteriology and health sciences at Wagner in the mid-1950s and later became chair of the bacteriology department. She retired in 1984 and relocated to Florida. Active in her community, she volunteered as a hospital dispatcher and was an avid golfer and gardener.

"You have no idea how bright she was. She was an exceptional lady and a brilliant scholar," said her nephew, Jacques Jacobsen Jr., who studied at Wagner under his aunt's tutelage, according to the *Staten Island Advance*.

She was predeceased by her husband of 30 years, Dr. Carl Larson, and by her sister, **Anita Kershaw Jacobsen** '63 M'68. She is survived by her brother, George Kershaw Jr., as well as 18 nieces and nephews, including **Jacques Noel Jacobsen Jr.** '54 M'63 and **Jill Jacobsen Smith** '55.



A Dream Reformed

Lessons in fatherhood By Edward J. Nitkewicz '86

I fell in love at the age of seven.

It was 1971, and in June of that year my father brought me to my very first professional baseball game at Shea Stadium. A few weeks later, my uncle took me and my two cousins to a double header at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. I saw Tom Seaver pitch, Duffy Dyer catch, and Willie Mays bat. I witnessed Thurman Munsun block a runner trying to score from second base and Bobby Murcer hit a home run into the bleachers. Never before had I laid my eyes upon grass so green or skies so blue. Soon, no white T-shirt in my wardrobe was safe. A black marker helped me convert every one into a Mets jersey.

Years came and went. In high school, I accepted the reality that I was not a very good baseball player. But I never lost my love of the game. I could not wait to share my passion for baseball with my children.

It is said that people plan and God laughs, not at us or our misfortune, but at our adherence to the notion of what we believe will make us happy.

My beautiful son was born in 1998. My wife and I were on our way to building the family we dreamed about, but there were signs that things would not always be as planned. In the delivery room, Edward was not immediately responsive. After he reached 18 months, his verbal skills began to decrease. By the time Edward reached age 2, we were advised that he suffered from autism.

As I learned more about autism, I accepted that my son may not have friends. I understood that Edward would probably not go to college. And my dream of buying my son a baseball mitt



“ I grieved the loss of the father I planned to be. ”

was dashed. I grieved the loss of the child I planned to raise and the father I planned to be.

In 2007, I learned that a group of parents had organized a baseball program for children with special needs. On the field, I saw children with Down syndrome and autism wearing baseball uniforms and holding baseball gloves. Parents stood by to keep their children on task. And miraculously, the task was playing baseball. Edward participated for the remainder of the season.

Since then, I have become Coach Ed for a group of wonderful athletes in South Huntington. There are no outs. There are no errors. The last batter of each inning hits a home run and victoriously does their own unique home run trot. The joy in their eyes is surpassed only by the tears of joy in their parents' eyes.

I love my son and I love baseball. I learned a valuable lesson these past few years. Sometimes dreams aren't dashed. They are merely delayed and reformed. I will never forget the day I shopped for a baseball glove for my son. I said then, with tears in my eyes, "Today, I bought a mitt." I trust that God laughed.



Edward J. Nitkewicz '86 is a senior attorney at the Sanders Law Firm in New York City, where he specializes in personal injury cases. He is also an education law attorney and parent advocate for families with children who have special needs.

WAGNER COLLEGE



READY ... SET ...

Wagner seniors including Niya Branham and Emily Burkhardt (in white stoles) and Hope Clarke (holding beach ball) watch with anticipation as commencement concludes on May 20. Read about Hope and other seniors in "The Big Leap," pages 14–19.

PHOTOGRAPH: NICK ROMANENKO