

SUMMER 2009

THE LINK FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

# WAGNER



## The Great Wagner Way

Alumni Light Up Broadway

YEAR TWO OF THE WAGNER PLAN • HARD TIMES: SURVIVAL STRATEGIES



## Exhilaration

Janine Zawisny, a master's degree graduate in advanced physician assistant studies, revels in her accomplishment under the blue skies at commencement on May 22.

PHOTOGRAPH: NICK ROMANENKO

# Contents

SUMMER 2009 VOL. 7, NO. 1

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 **From the President**
- 3 **From the Editor**
- 4 **From Our Readers**
- 6 **Upon the Hill**
- 23 **Putting Wagner First**
- 27 **Sports Roundup**
- 29 **Alumni Link**
- 34 **Class Notes**
- 43 **In Memoriam**
- 45 **Reflections**

## FEATURES

# 10

### **Year Two**

In the second installment of our series about the Wagner Plan, meet four students in their sophomore year.



# 14

### **The Great Wagner Way**

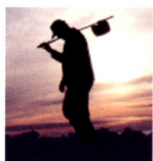
Forty years ago, the College launched a theater arts major. Featuring 10 alums who have lit up Broadway ever since.



# 18

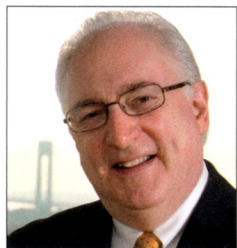
### **Hard Times**

Wagner alumni share their survival stories and strategies for thriving under difficult economic conditions.



# From the President

*701 Reasons to Celebrate*



**“The class**  
of 2009 inspires all of us  
to do more, and to do the  
right thing.”

11 nations — and achieved a superb academic record, with 64 selected for the national honor society Omicron Delta Kappa. Many are headed to top graduate schools, in fields from chemistry to English to sports management. Others will continue their studies at law schools, MBA programs, and medical schools — students like Taylor Wheaton, who will attend George Washington University’s medical school as one of only 20 students accepted early out of an applicant pool of 13,000. Yet others have secured excellent employment opportunities, in spite of the recession, at firms such as Metropolitan Life, Merrill Lynch, KPMG, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Yet this class is marked not only by intellectual prowess, but also by commitment to public service. Elizabeth Hedges-Goettl, for example, is headed to the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer. Meredith Leon has committed to two years with Teach for America. Dave Hammill, who served diligently as the College’s first sustainability coordinator, will begin teaching high school physics this fall.

On May 22, Wagner College celebrated that revered ritual of transition: commencement. I’d like to share with you a few of the reasons why I call the class of 2009 one of the very best Wagner has graduated — and why they represent 701 reasons for all of us to have hope for a better future.

This class came to Wagner from all over the United States and around the globe — 44 states and

We also celebrated the first two graduates of our new Certificate in Civic Engagement program, Ashley Steed and Jennifer Wright. A psychology major and education minor, Steed was a leader in Wagner’s Habitat for Humanity chapter; raised funds for St. Jude Children’s Hospital; worked with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Upstate New York; and provided services for the Brooklyn Educational Opportunity Center and Hospitality House, a women’s and children’s shelter on Staten Island. Wright, a double major in international affairs and French, started a foundation, Heal the Children, to assist destitute and neglected children in the developing world. Her first project: construction of an orphanage in Kenya.

All of our students have given invaluable hours to address causes from breast cancer to autism to suicide prevention, and to support charitable organizations from the Ronald McDonald House to Staten Island’s African Refugee Center. All of this work, and Wagner’s new efforts in partnering with the Port Richmond community in Staten Island, resulted in Wagner College’s being singled out by former President Bill Clinton for special commendation at the Clinton Global Initiative University held in Austin, Texas, in February (see page 7 for more).

This remarkable class is part of a generation that is creating new opportunities for themselves and for others, rejecting old ideologies and worn-out stereotypes as they foster a better world. They have left an indelible mark on this campus and this city, and they will continue to do so wherever they go. They inspire all of us to do more, and to do the right thing. So, please join me in celebrating the class of 2009!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Guarasci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RICHARD GUARASCI  
PRESIDENT



# From the Editor

## *Two Hours with Bunny and Lila*

I met Bunny '39 and Lila Thompson '40 Barbes last year, at the Reynolds House holiday party.

Knowing of their long and devoted association with Wagner College, I asked if I might interview them to gather their memories. They immediately agreed. On April 15, I drove from campus to their home in Great Kills.

Our conversation began with their childhoods on Staten Island, and ranged even further back, to Lila's grandmother and great-grandparents from Scotland, Ireland, and Germany, and Bunny's parents, who grew up in Jamaica and the Bahamas. ("I'm a foreigner!" Bunny crowed with a laugh.)

We went on to their memories of growing up in the Great Depression (see page 19). Many of their classmates, they said, worked themselves through college.

"I was one of the lucky kids," said Bunny. "I had a car, didn't work ..." "Yeah, that's why I picked him," Lila retorted.

Bunny and Lila welcomed me and my questions with open arms. They racked their brains for details from decades ago, and the things they remembered were amazing. Finally I looked down at my recorder and saw that two hours had passed. Bunny and Lila never hinted that they were ready to quit.

As I reviewed the recording, one moment stood out. After Lila told me about how she and her classmates Peggy Bambach and Margie Rieb formed a secret sorority — the dean did not approve — I asked, "What other tales do you have from your Wagner days?"

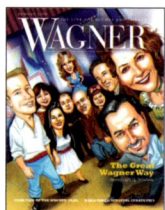
"Oh, some things she can't tell ya," said Bunny. "Some things will go to the grave with her," I replied teasingly. "That's right," said Bunny.

But Lila was all business. "I'm trying to think," she said. "Well, Margie was our star

basketball player..."

Lila Thompson Barbes had a story, and she knew it well. Lila died on May 17. She took a wealth of information as well as joy, energy, and verve with her. After 92 years full of life, she deserved a rest — but she didn't need it.

*Laura Barlament*  
EDITOR,  
WAGNER MAGAZINE



### On the Cover

*Wagner's Broadway stars: Bret Shuford '01, Betsy Joslyn '75, Haley Carlucci '08, Buddy Thomas '91, Michael Portantiere '79, Janine LaManna '88, Kathy Brier '97, Vincent D'Elia '85, Matt Lenz '86, Randy Graff '76 H'01.*

ILLUSTRATION: RICHARD CLARK

# WAGNER MAGAZINE

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## WAGNER COLLEGE

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# From Our Readers



“ I will always cherish fond memories of my years at Wagner.”

## Stormer an Inspiration

My husband and I were eager to read the [fall 2008] cover article on Dan Stormer '68. Our daughter, a 2008 Wagner graduate, spent the summer between her junior and senior years interning in his Pasadena office. As you might imagine, that summer was a great experience on many levels. As an international affairs and economics major, she especially enjoyed the exposure to the case of *Bowoto v. Chevron*. I believe it was this exposure that prompted our daughter to become more civic-minded, and has ultimately led to her desire to enter public

service and her interest in human rights issues. We are very grateful for not only the opportunity Mr. Stormer provided our daughter but, more importantly, the positive role model he obviously was and is.

SHARON WENTZEL  
SINKING SPRING, PENNSYLVANIA

## Memories of 'The Greatest Generation'

We received many responses to the photos by Hal Carstens '50 ("When the Greatest Generation Went to College," fall 2008). Dr. Ed Hecklau '50 and Ellie Straub Hecklau '51 of Stamford, Connecticut, identified many

individuals in the photos. You can see all of the photos — larger than we're able to reprint them here — on the *Wagner Magazine* Web site: [www.wagner.edu/magazine](http://www.wagner.edu/magazine).

## Got a Light?

Several alumni identified Walter Dohrmann '50 in the photo on the back cover. Gloria Stammler Powelson '52 of Windermere,



Florida, wrote: "My husband and I were both very surprised to see my picture on the back cover. I was the one on the right with the raised left arm, as if lighting the pipe. My name, at that time, was Gloria Stammler. I graduated in 1952. I was the first teacher at the Wagner Laboratory School for preschoolers. The girl to my left, who also graduated in 1952, is Pat Patterson. She was a psychology-sociology major." Mrs. Powelson couldn't identify the person between Mr. Dohrmann and Mrs. Patterson, so that's still an open question.

## Wagner Marching Band

Several people were delighted with this photo (*shown opposite*). Dr. Norman E. Schaefer '49 of Chatham, New Jersey, identified himself as the baritone horn player in the middle of the picture. The Rev. Bernard F. Engelhardt '51 of Berwick, Pennsylvania, added: "I recognized Henry Jackson, baton twirler. Henry invited me to join the band in my very first semester. I had a clarinet at home (in Buffalo) and I could bring it back after Thanksgiving vacation. Mr. Ellsworth had me play

## 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

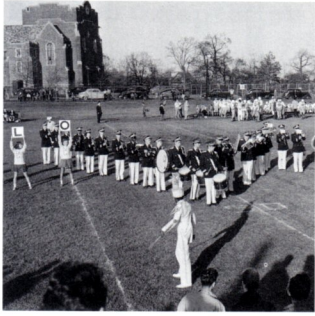
telephone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit them for accuracy and length.

Write to: **Laura Barlament, Editor**

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the cymbals at the band's first endeavor — Homecoming 1947. Wagner defeated Hartwick College 27 to 6. We were all overjoyed. In the photo, I am the third person to the right of the 'O.' Standing right behind me was Ruth Stangeland [Skarsten '52]. I will always cherish fond memories of my years at Wagner."

The photo prompted Dr. John E. Dreslin '64 of Stonington, Connecticut, to write about the band during the early 1960s: "The band disbanded (no pun intended) during the 1950s. In the autumn of 1962, Dr. Harald Normann reconstituted the band. He needed trombonists, so he gave a few lessons and I was able to fill the bill. So we made our first appearance in many years, still wearing the same uniforms as shown in the picture. By the commencement ceremonies in 1963 we had about 40 players and new uniforms!"

A student composer and winner of a Sigvart Steen music award, Dr. Dreslin has continued his musical pursuits throughout his 40-year dental career. He now serves as music director of the Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society, one of whose lead sopranos is fellow Wagner alum Kathleen Thompson '79.

### Vet's Village Romance

When Grace Behling Johansen '51 of Beach Lake, Pennsylvania, saw our article, it evoked strong memories. She had just discovered letters she had written home from college in November 1950, relating the circumstances of her engagement to fellow Wagner student Ken Johansen, a 27-

year-old veteran. They had been "pinned" the previous April, Mrs. Johansen says, but they had no serious wedding plans. "We both thought it would be impossible for another year at least," she wrote to her family on November 7, 1950. "There just didn't seem to be any living quarters available." Ken's buddies, however, thought it was about time this "old man" got hitched. Thus, Grace's letter continues, "But then, yesterday morning, Dick Debus, the bursar, called Ken up and very bluntly asked him if he would get married if he could find us a place to live. Kenny told him to slow down and give us a chance to think — which we did — just about every angle — and we see no reason for it not working out all right."

Bursar Debus had found an opening for the couple in Vet's Village, barracks hastily built to house the influx of World War II veterans returning to college on the G.I. Bill. The two-bedroom apartment with kitchen, living

room, and bathroom rented for \$30 per month. "Ken is making about \$50.00 a week between working in the bookstore and his

G.I. Bill," Grace wrote to her parents. "I guess in these times that's not very much, but it's enough to get along on." She started planning a wedding for December 28.

"All would have been uneventful had it not been for a hurricane gathering strength and aiming toward the East Coast," Mrs. Johansen recalls. "On Thanksgiving holiday 1950, I was at home writing wedding invitations when the hurricane hit." She described the scene on campus in a letter of November 27, 1950: "The vicinity of Vet's Village is really a mess. Luther Hall has one half of the roof completely ripped off on the side facing the football field & part of the wall on the other side is caving in. Cook Hall, the small boys' dorm, is almost completely

demolished, and so is the one end of what was going to be our apartment. The roof of Luther Hall was blown right through it. ... Luckily the couple living in the end apartment had gone away for the weekend, & the Clevelands, in the middle one, had just taken their baby out of the bedroom & into the living room when the big piece of roof tore into the bedroom ceiling. Certainly must have been a Guardian Angel watching over them."

Ken and Grace's guardian angels went to work, too. "Marguerite Hess, the registrar, found us a place to house-sit while the owners wintered in North Carolina," says Mrs. Johansen. "They even let us use their little 'run-about' to get back and forth to school! We were married at 5 p.m., December 28, 1950, in a lovely Christmas wedding." In the wedding party (pictured below) were Ken's Delta Nu brothers Chuck Huppert '52, Andy Thompson '51, and Bucky Hall '51.





# Upon the Hill

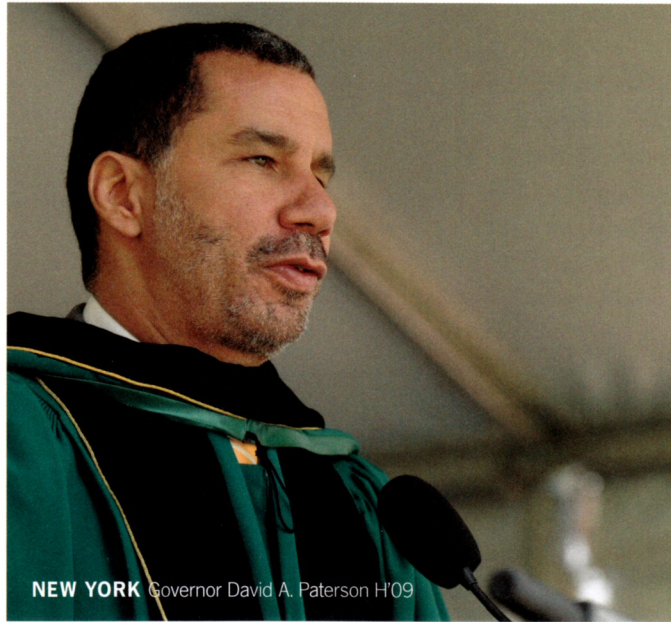
*Learning, teaching, giving and achieving on Grymes Hill and beyond*

## Great Excitement

New York governor headlines commencement festivities

**W**ith encouragement, praise, and good humor, New York Governor David A. Paterson kicked off Wagner's 2009 commencement exercises, at which 701 students received their bachelor's and master's degrees and post-master's certificates.

"It is wonderful to stand before so much achievement and so much promise that exists for all of you, even in these very difficult times," Paterson said. He emphasized his administration's focus on economic development and job cre-



**NEW YORK** Governor David A. Paterson H'09

ation, especially in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"There will be great excitement and great productivity and great vigor and great innovation in this state,"

Paterson said. "So I would like to invite all you graduates to stay in New York to continue your careers — and besides, your friends and family are here.

"In spite of that, stay here," he quipped. "You'll get to understand the value of your

friends and family as you become a little older."

Paterson also announced a new initiative of the New York State Higher Education Service Corporation: the Student Loan Marketplace, an interactive Web site that provides the first transparent, online information and comparison service for private student loans ([www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com)). "And we couldn't be happier that the chair of our Higher Education Service Corporation is our own Wagner College President Richard Guarasci," he added.

Receiving honorary doctorates were Paterson, Wagner

Board of Trustees Chairman Jay P. Hartig '67, and the Rev. Dr. Arthur Caliandro, minister emeritus of Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan. The late Dean Julia Sinisgalli Barchitta '64 M'81 was honored with the Presidential Citation for Lifetime Achievement.

To listen to or read a transcript of the governor's speech, visit [www.wagner.edu/news/node/1204](http://www.wagner.edu/news/node/1204).

## Notable

*President Guarasci mentioned several high-achieving 2009 graduates in his column (see page 2); here are a couple more of special note:*

**Allyssa P. Montgomery**  
Outstanding Senior  
in French  
American Association of  
Teachers of French



**Abigail Albair**  
Region II Leader of the Year  
Omicron Delta Kappa

*Visit [www.wagner.edu](http://www.wagner.edu) to learn more.*





## Service Orientation

Community involvement celebrated and expanded

The College estimates that Wagner students give 80,000 hours per year in a wide variety of community service activities. During the past few months, this commitment to service has been recognized, celebrated, and expanded.

In December, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching applied its "Community Engagement" classification to Wagner — the only institution of higher education in New York City to be so designated, and one of only 120 nationally. The Carnegie classification system has been the leading framework for describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education for more than three decades.

In February, former U.S. President Bill Clinton recognized Wagner College at the second annual Clinton Global Initiative University at the University of Texas in Austin. Wagner was cited for the Port Richmond Partnership, an innovative program that will focus the school's community resources in an effort to improve quality of life in a specific Staten Island neighborhood.

Wagner College and seven Port Richmond community organizations formally signed a

five-year partnership agreement in March. During that time frame, Wagner students and faculty will focus on specific community needs in this diverse and economically depressed area: health care, economic development, family activities, and programs to combat bigotry and hate crimes.

The rubber hit the road on April 25, when Wagner held the inaugural Julia M. Barchitta '64 M'81 Memorial Day of Service, which honored the late dean by continuing her legacy of civic engagement during the Staten Island Community Days service weekend. Students, faculty, and staff fanned out across the island to beautify parks, provide health education, teach crafts to children, serve breakfast, hold food drives, plant community gardens, and renovate a youth center.

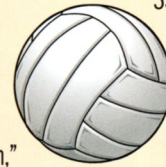
## FAREWELL TO PINS AND SPIKES

Wrestling and volleyball discontinued as of 2009–10

This spring, Wagner announced that it will drop its women's volleyball and men's wrestling programs, effective in the 2009–10 academic year.

"It is with regret that we take this action," said Director of Athletics Walt Hameline. "There were a variety of factors that went into a decision that, while painful to those affected, was necessary."

Factors considered included roster size and retention, scholarship levels, coaching and support staff, facilities, competitiveness, and student welfare and safety.



With 22 sport offerings and an enrollment of just under 1,900 students, Wagner College had one of the highest ratios of sports to enrollments among NCAA Division I schools — and at 20 sports (11 women's and 9 men's), it still does. The 331 Division I institutions offer an average of 18.8 sports.

This year, at least a dozen NCAA Division I schools — including Quinnipiac, Pepperdine, and George Washington University — have announced the discontinuation of sports programs. Wagner student-athletes who stay at the College will continue to receive their financial aid packages. The NCAA will allow students who transfer immediate eligibility at their new programs.



## GOOD BUDDIES

Professor Janice Buddensick's financial management students, including Michelle Lesperance '11 (center), tutored children from P.S. 19 in Port Richmond, Staten Island, in a YMCA after-school program this spring. The work was aimed at advancing financial literacy.

## FIELD OF DREAMS

"Night Game, the Bronx" by Bill Murphy, associate professor of art, was acquired by the National Baseball Hall of Fame for its permanent collection. The lithograph depicts the old Yankee Stadium during its final summer, in 2008. "I never thought I'd be in the Hall of Fame before Pete Rose, that's for sure," quipped Murphy.



## Priced Out

Report sparks debate on challenges faced by middle-class New Yorkers

**A** report funded in part by Wagner College found that middle-class New Yorkers are leaving the city at high rates, even though many would prefer to stay.

Released in February, the report by the New York-based think tank Center for an Urban Future discussed a number of problems affecting middle-class New Yorkers, including cost of living, a dearth of middle-income jobs and paths to advancement, inferior public education, inadequate mass transportation, and unplanned development.

Whether domestic outmigration — that is, people leaving New York for other parts of the U.S. — has reached a troubling level was disputed by Joseph Salvo, director of the New York City Department of Planning's population division. In a March 12 talk at Wagner College, sponsored by Wagner's Hugh L. Carey Center for Government Reform, Salvo said the constant flux of people into and out of the city is "the sign of a dynamic, healthy place."

Jonathan Bowles, a co-author of the report and the director of the Center for an Urban Future, counters that the trends he sees are new and significant.

"In the last six years or so, we've seen a doubling or tripling in the number of residents leaving New York City for places like Philadelphia, Charlotte, suburban Atlanta, and a couple of other places that are much more affordable, growing communities," he said. "I think that it says something that, in a really good environment for New York City, you're seeing more people that are wanting to leave."

President Guarasci, who regularly teaches a seminar on citizenship and urban issues, says the report reveals that recent mayoral economic strategies — built around the so-called FIRE economy of finance, insurance, and real estate — have proved inadequate. "There's a delicate balance needed to have a viable middle class, and the balance is off," Guarasci says. "The question now is how to restore the employment base for the middle class."

Bowles concedes it's "a helluva time" for college graduates entering the workforce, but he sees the economic downturn as a time of potential opportunity for middle-class New Yorkers, too. "Prices are coming down, housing is coming down, so it might be a good situation for New York," he says.

To learn more, download the report, entitled "Reviving the City of Aspiration," at [www.nycfuture.org](http://www.nycfuture.org).

## It's Not All Greek to Them

Cross-cultural business course offers first-hand lessons

Final presentations for Cross-Cultural Business Communications, a joint course of Wagner College and the Hellenic American University in Athens, Greece, were scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Finally, after a semester of working together via Internet linkages, the American and Greek students were to meet in the same place at the same time to share their findings.

We should say, at approximately the same time — while the American students were seated at their desks by 1:55, the Greek students arrived between 2:05 and 2:30.

It was an unexpected lesson in differing cultural values.

Initiated this spring by Wagner Provost Devorah Lieberman, an expert in intercultural communications, the

course linked classrooms at Wagner and HAU to create an incubator of cross-cultural communication and learning. With sound and video transmitted live over the Internet, all of the students heard the same lectures and class discussions at the same time.

The course looked at how cultural differences complicate business communications. Using the Skype video call program, students from both campuses collaborated in small groups to study cross-cultural businesses, whether American firms operating in Athens or Greek-American enterprises in New York. At semester's end, the Greek students traveled to Staten Island to meet their American classmates.

"Before you can resolve a cultural difference, you have to acknowledge that a difference exists," said HAU student Theodosia Koralis during his presentation. "Then you can talk

## CANDID CAMERA

Provost Devorah Lieberman teaches in Staten Island, with live video feed to Greece.



about it and seek resolution," concluded Jennifer Gimbel, Koralis's partner on Grymes Hill.

In the case at hand, they saw and discussed first-hand the conflicting American and Greek concepts of time they had learned about in class. The resolution: they started their presentations, having learned lessons not quickly forgotten.

## E-Hawks Keep up with College and classmates electronically

Over the past few months, the College has launched several online efforts to keep the Wagner family connected. ♦ The bi-monthly Parent Connection e-newsletter includes information about campus events and other news of interest. E-mail [parents.association@wagner.edu](mailto:parents.association@wagner.edu) to be added to the distribution list; the next issue is planned for August. ♦ Find Wagner on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn by visiting [www.wagner.edu/alumni/socialnetworking](http://www.wagner.edu/alumni/socialnetworking). You'll get frequent updates, event invitations, discussions with fellow Wagner fans, networking opportunities, and photos. ♦ The Link, a free and exclusive online community for Wagner alumni, allows alumni to search for friends, update information, search for and post jobs, write class notes, make gifts online, register for events, and more. Go to [www.wagner.edu/alumni](http://www.wagner.edu/alumni) to start.



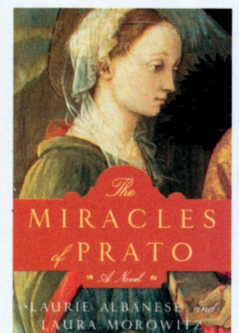
## Novel marries art history and imagined romance

In *The Miracles of Prato* (William Morrow, 2009), adjunct professor of English Laurie Albanese and art history professor Laura Morowitz teamed up to create "an irresistibly passionate novel steeped in art, history, and the miracles wrought by love," according to *Booklist*.

Set in the Tuscan town of Prato, where Fra Filippo Lippi created exquisite frescoes in the Cattedrale di Santo Stefano in the mid-15th century, the historical novel fleshes out a popular legend about Lippi's love affair with the beautiful young nun Lucrezia Buti, the artist's muse.

Albanese and Morowitz did on-site research in Prato, where Lippi's murals were unveiled last year after a seven-year restoration project. "It was really important to us that historians and art historians agree that our version was plausible and reflected the world we were writing about," Morowitz said in an interview with the *Staten Island Advance*.

"Imagining the tenderness and romance between a monk and a nun was challenging," said Albanese. "We created a whole world to help us understand how such an impossible affair could take place in such an unlikely time."





Story by Laura Barlament. *Photographs by John Emerson.*

# YEAR TWO

Last summer, *Wagner Magazine* launched a four-part series to follow students through their four years of the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts.

At the heart of this innovative curriculum, adopted in 1998, are “learning communities” (LCs) that integrate hands-on experience with interdisciplinary studies. In part one, we reported on one of Wagner’s first-year LCs, in which students explored ancient Eastern religions and contemporary social psychology through coursework, writing-intensive tutorials, and activities beyond the classroom.

In this issue, we present the continuing academic journeys of four students in their sophomore year, as they enter different majors; take their intermediate learning communities, the second step in the Wagner Plan; and explore all that Wagner and life have to offer.

## Kyle Glover: The Knowledge Collector

If the stuff in a student's dorm room says anything about whom that student admires, then Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung is Kyle Glover's hero. The Carl Jung Action Figure, a 5-inch plastic icon of the bespectacled doctor, graces Glover's desk in Guild Hall next to his copy of *The Portable Jung*.

"Knowledge is something I collect," says Glover. "I want to study everything. That's why I'm drawn to Carl Jung — he was the last man, they say, to know everything."

For a student of such ambitions, Wagner's learning communities are just about ideal. This past semester, Glover took his intermediate learning community (or ILC). Titled "The Outsiders," this ILC linked a course on 20th-century women philosophers and a world literature course.

Glover was especially fascinated by Albert Camus' *The Stranger* and Orhan Pamuk's *Snow*. "I think it's interesting that those two novels, with predominantly male characters, can apply in a feminist sense," he notes. "It's because they force you to look at the world in a different way — which is what feminism wants us to do."

New perspectives: that's what Glover treasures about his education. This semester, he also found a way to extend this interdisciplinary mode of learning throughout his studies.

"I made my own major," Glover explains. Called "spiritual studies in modern philosophy and psychology," it combines the study of religion, philosophy, and psychology. "I wanted to call it Jungian studies," says Glover; but his advisor, psychology professor Miles Groth, steered him toward the above title.

Glover got to know Groth when he joined a research group the professor is leading. The Wagner Men's Project is part of a nation-wide program that aims to increase college-age men's involvement in volunteering, leadership, and vocational decision-making. At Wagner, students meet weekly for discussion of these issues, and they are mentoring fatherless boys from the Staten Island community. In February, Glover traveled with Groth and another student researcher, Andrew Hagen, to the sixth annual Conference on the College Male at St. John's University in Minnesota, where they gave a presentation about the Wagner Men's Project.

Although Professor Groth has become Glover's advisor, Glover remains close with Walter Kaelber, the religion professor who co-taught Glover's first-year learning community. In four semesters at Wagner, Glover has already taken four of Kaelber's courses. "I always treat Kaelber's classes like gifts," he says. "Of all the professors I've had, he's been the most interesting."

Glover remembers an incident from his first fall at Wagner.

"Kaelber asked us why we came to college. He looked right at me and said, 'Why did you, Kyle, come to college?' I said, 'To learn!' He said, 'That's noble, but it's not what I'm looking for.'" Glover laughs; Kaelber was fishing for an answer more like "to get a job" or "to make lots of money."

“I have my own wealth, of things I learn and people I meet.”

KYLE GLOVER, BELOW

"But I could care less about a job," Glover says. "I have my own wealth, of things I learn and people I meet. I value that over material things."



## Alexandra Mallilo: A Way With Children

Alexandra Mallilo stands before a classroom of fourth-graders at St. Christopher's School in Staten Island. The slender brunette is not in the least flummoxed by this wiggling mass of energy. She and Chris Fourman '09 spend an hour with this class every week to teach a special curriculum designed to make kids aware of bullying and what they can do to combat it. This is Mallilo's



**YEAR  
TWO**  
THE WAGNER PLAN

second semester of teaching the program, part of a research study led by Wagner sociology professor Laura Martocci and psychology professor Amy Eshleman.

"She always had a way with the children, but she has developed so that now she has even better control of them," says Lucie Forte, the class's regular teacher. "They get wild when she comes in, because they love her, but she gets them to calm down. She is very professional. You almost don't realize she's in college."

The class begins with a tangent. The children have a question: "Why do people hang their shoes on wires over the street?" Mallilo and Fourman look stumped. "I don't know, why do you think they do that?" Mallilo asks the children.

Hands shoot up. Because they are too small, says one. Maybe they don't want them, offers another. They're torturing the shoes,

“It's going to be a lot harder than I thought it would.”

ALEXANDRA MALLILO, *BELOW*

says one imaginative boy. "Those are all good answers," Mallilo says. "We'll do some research and let you know what we find out." And she neatly segues into the day's lesson: how to apologize.

As a double major in elementary education and anthropology/sociology, Mallilo is spending lots of time in schools and in the streets in addition to her "book work," as she calls it. She has done research on homelessness in New York. She has attended several plays, including the innovative Broadway production

of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with a black cast. And she has spent hours in classrooms, observing teachers and students.

Mallilo uses every opportunity to get involved in the classrooms she visits. She even taught one class, incorporating lessons from her ILC, "Inclusive Methods and Curriculum for Middle Childhood," which linked a computer science course for education majors and a curriculum development course.

All of this hands-on, real-life experience has

had an impact on her view of teaching. "I realized that it's going to be a lot harder than I thought it would," she says. "I knew it was going to be hard, because that's what I would hear teachers say, but I didn't know why. Now I know from hands-on experience. But that hasn't made me not want to teach. I want to teach even more."

### **Patrick Heffernan: Getting Out There**

Wearing a bright blue shirt with black slacks and jacket, Patrick Heffernan stands in front of the blackboard in a Main Hall classroom. He's tall and lanky, with unruly brown hair and a pale complexion, and a tendency to tuck his chin down and look up through his bangs when he feels a little uncertain.

"I know it's hard to believe," Professor Lauri Young tells me later, "but Patrick is shy. So we [she and co-teacher Amy Williams] picked a song that would make him get out there."

Then the music starts, and Heffernan launches into a whirlwind of a multi-voiced, singing, talking, ringing, shouting, buzzing, grunting, nearly hyperventilating five-minute musical monologue. It blows your hair back.

Today the students in Musical Theater Performance I are having their performances video-recorded, and Heffernan is doing "Franklin Shepard Inc." from Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*. Having driven himself (in the character of Charley Kringas) to the edge of a breakdown, he holds his final wild grimace until the camera beeps, then lets out a loud gasp and runs back to his seat. Professor Williams calls out "Aw-right!" and applauds loudly. The students follow suit.

"From a technique point of view — how I sing, dance, act — I've progressed enormously," says Heffernan, who has been tremendously busy ever since he arrived at Wagner, performing in three Main Stage musicals and one in the Stage One black-box theater. "I have a new outlook. The teachers make you go back to square one." He almost despaired, he says, over vocal coach Lynne Vardaman's insistence that he learn to sing "ah." "It would bring me to tears in my lesson," he recalls. "What do you mean, I can't sing 'ah'? That's one of the simplest sounds!"

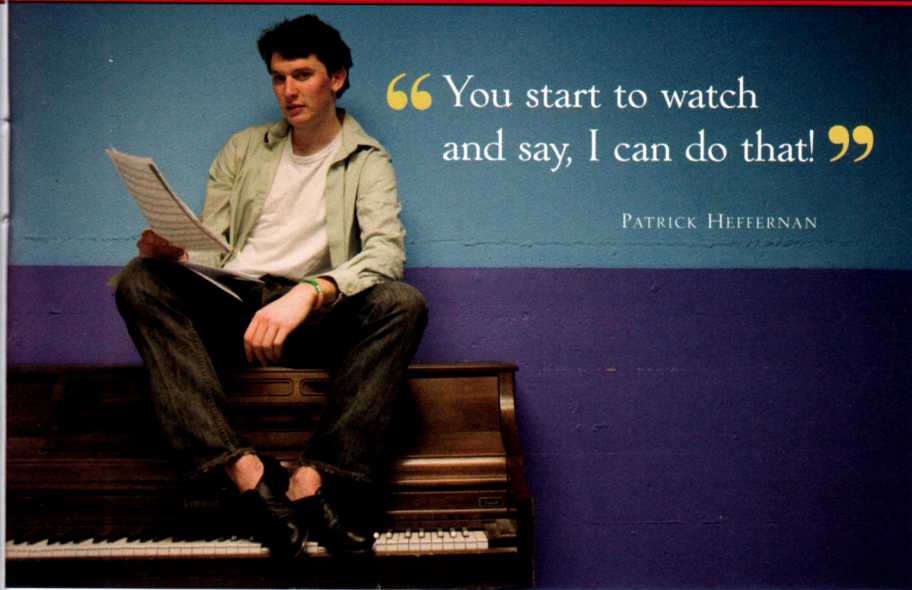
At the same time, he says, he feels closer to the performers he sees on stage in Manhattan. "Going to see professional shows puts things in perspective," he says. "You start to watch and say, 'I can do that.'"

But Heffernan is realistic about making a career of acting, and he appreciates his broad liberal arts education.

"The environment here helps me find other outlets, but still have the love of theater in my life," he says. "You have to keep pursuing what you need to do to make it as a professional performer. If you keep doing that, you'll end up in the right place."

This summer, that place is looking like Cisco, Texas, a little spot on the map west of Fort Worth, where the southern California





“You start to watch and say, I can do that!”

PATRICK HEFFERNAN

native will be on stage for six weeks in the Big Country Dinner Theater and get a taste of the acting life, away from school and family and everything familiar.

Well, almost everything. The Big Country director asked him how he would deal with living in such a small town. “I told him that I go to a college of 1,900 students,” says the ever-positive Heffernan. “I’m used to living in a small community, and I like it.”

### Lauren Turkovich: Brainwork

Somewhere in the brain’s winding folds and branching pathways, scientists believe, lie the answers to many a fascinating question — How do humans learn language? Where do dreams come from? — as well as the possible solutions to many a troubling disease, from Alzheimer’s to schizophrenia.

But how does one begin to make sense of it all? Students like Lauren Turkovich, a newly declared biopsychology major, begin by dissecting a sheep’s brain in neuroanatomy lab.

The tan, oblong, rubbery organ is a palm-sized version of the human brain: Its main mass, the cerebrum, also looks like an interlocking mass of worms; and behind it, the marble-sized ball of the cerebellum also resembles a branching tree when sliced open.

Fortunately, Turkovich says, she’s not squeamish.

Turkovich came to Wagner knowing that she wanted to major in science, probably biology. A course in social psychology that was part of her first-semester learning community exposed her to new ideas that fascinated her. Reading the course catalog, she discovered an interdisciplinary major that combines her interests in the sciences of life and the mind: biopsychology.

The very first step she took toward her major hooked her: Professor Larry Nolan’s introductory biopsychology course. Dr. Nolan, she says, is a great teacher. “He knows so much,” she says. “He makes it fun, and he makes it hard.” She has soaked in new ways of thinking about thinking: When you learn things, she

explains, it’s not like you’re warehousing knowledge like a squirrel storing up nuts, but you’re creating neural pathways in your brain. And every new learning experience reshapes the old. Neuroscience is equally attractive, says Turkovich, for what’s not known. “It’s such an opportunity with the brain,” she says. “Because they don’t know very much, you can do a lot of research.”

At Wagner, she has started to make connections between her academic interests and her concern for others. Having grown up around a friend who suffered from epilepsy, Turkovich believes she’d like to work with children and research. She has poured much of

her extracurricular time into service projects that benefit children. Last year, she helped host a giant letter-writing campaign for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. This semester, she joined the national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, and organized a karaoke night at the on-campus coffeehouse to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Getting involved in scientific research is next on her agenda. One day, she says, she went looking for her advisor, Professor Zoltan Fulop, and was told he might be in his research lab in the basement. She didn’t find him, but she did find his equipment. “There was an electron microscope, a neurology lab — I didn’t know that was down there,” she says. “They should tell us about this stuff!” ■



EAGER TO RESEARCH: LAUREN TURKOVICH

*The*

# GREAT WAGNER

40 Years of Alumni on Broad *Way*

*By Lee Manchester*



Pictured left to right: Buddy Thomas '91, Haley Carlucci '08, Matt Lenz '86, Kathy Brier '97, Janine LaManna '88, Vincent D'Elia '84



# 40

years ago, Professor Lowell Matson began teaching the first courses for a theater arts major at Wagner College. Before that time, the College had only an extracurricular drama club. Today, the Department of Theater and Speech has 10 full-time professors and about 290 students who produce four Main Stage shows and four studio theater productions every year — and, year after year, the program is ranked among the top 10 college theaters in America. In this issue of *Wagner Magazine*, we examine Matson's legacy with 10 quick sketches of Wagner theater grads who have built successful careers on and around Broadway.



Michael Portantiere '79, Bret Shuford '01, Betsy Josyln '75, Randy Graff '76 H'01. Illustration: Richard Clark.

# GREAT WAGNER Way

**B**etsy Joslyn '75, a native Staten Islander, auditioned in 1971 for Lowell Matson. "After I sang my song," she recalled, "Lowell got up, stretched his arms out in the way only he could, and said,

"My dear, welcome to the theater."

A master class in her senior year led Joslyn to her first professional gig that summer in Pittsburgh. She made her off-Broadway debut in 1976 in *The Fantasticks*. Three years later, she was in the original cast of Broadway's *Sweeney Todd*. A 1982 leading role in *A Doll's Life*, a notorious flop, could have proven disastrous — but Joslyn persevered, continuing to find steady work in major productions like *Les Misérables* and *Into the Woods*.

After Joslyn left the musical theater in 2000 — a medical condition had damaged her vocal chords — she and her husband, Broadway composer and conductor Mark Mitchell, began pursuing adoption. They welcomed 18-month-old Molli, a Chinese orphan, into their family in 2004.

"Going through menopause and the terrible twos at the same time was quite an experience," the 55-year-old full-time mom said recently, laughing.

**T**wo years after leaving Grymes Hill, the career of Brooklyn-born **Randy Graff '76 H'01** took off. Within a few months of landing her first professional role off-Broadway, she made her Broadway debut as an understudy in *Grease*. The following year, she was part of the original cast of *Saravá*, which earned mixed reviews.

In 1986, Graff began rehearsals for her signature Broadway role: the tragic heroine Fantine in *Les Misérables*. The show was a huge success, but it also took its toll. "It's not easy to die onstage every night," she said.

Graff's next Broadway role, in *City of Angels*, won her a Tony Award. "Did I get a pile of scripts after winning the Tony? No-o-o-o," she recalled, "but my price went up." And she has worked steadily in shows including *Moon Over Buffalo*, *High Society*, and the 2004 revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

*"No matter how much you've rehearsed, nothing will prepare you for your first time on Broadway."*

— HALEY CARLUCCI '08

**M**ichael Portantiere '79's penchant for the pen evidenced itself almost immediately after enrolling at Wagner. He wrote about theater for the *Wagnerian* as well as the *Staten Island Register*, an independent weekly newspaper.

Portantiere is now in the third decade of his career as a theatrical journalist. His first book, *The Theatermania Guide to Musical Theater Recordings*, edited with Jerry Harman, was published in 2004. A new book, *Forbidden Broadway: Behind the Mylar Curtain*, was co-written with Gerard Alessandrini, creator of the long-running Broadway parody revue.

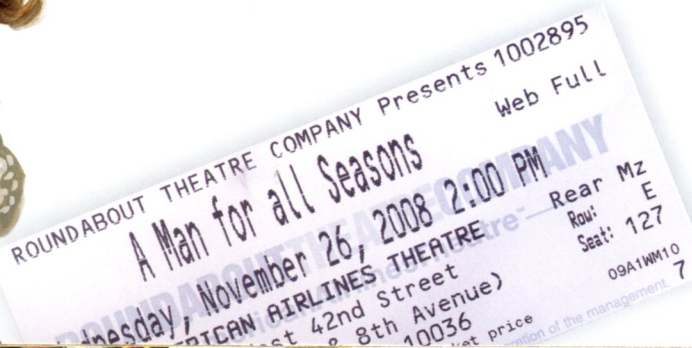
Last fall, Portantiere was back at Wagner to teach a course in theater criticism. "I like theatrical journalism a lot," he said, "but the job is changing so much because of the Web. It's much harder to make a living at it today than it was a decade or two back. I'm glad that I've finally started teaching again."

**"I** got out of the Wag and wasn't sure I was actually going to go into the business," **Vincent D'Elia '85** said. "Friends from Wagner dragged me with them to auditions, really as a bystander, and that's where my career started."

D'Elia has worked steadily ever since, mostly in regional theater productions and national touring companies, but also in Broadway shows, most notably *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, winner of the 1993 Tony Award for Best Musical.

He spent some time in L.A., working in television, but never really took to the City of Angels. D'Elia returned to his rent-stabilized apartment in Hell's Kitchen and has based himself out of New York ever since.

"I have been blessed," he said. "I know many talented actors and singers who don't have the stomach for the business, and eventually they give up. I keep auditioning, and I keep working. There's always another show."



A high school summer job at the Gateway Playhouse in eastern Long Island, where he worked with several Wagner students and alums, led **Matt Lenz '86** to Grymes Hill. After graduation, Lenz spent about four years working his way through a series of acting jobs, including a steady gig in the campy off-Broadway hit *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*.

"After about the fourth month, it stopped being fun," Lenz recalled. That was when he decided to become a director, signing on with Disney Productions in 1993 as an assistant director for *Beauty and the Beast*, followed by three years on *Aida*.

Lenz joined *Hairspray* as A.D. at the end of 2001. The show opened on Broadway the following August. The next spring, it nearly swept the Tony Awards for musicals.

The next big project for Matt Lenz: assistant directing *Catch Me If You Can*, based on the 2002 movie, which premieres in Seattle this summer before opening on Broadway.

"Life is good," Lenz concluded. "Every day, I'm thrilled by what I get to do."

**Janine LaManna '88** started playing steadily in regional theater, on tours, and in off-Broadway productions almost immediately after graduation. "But I didn't do my first Broadway show until *Ragtime* [in the role of Evelyn Nesbit] in 1998 — and I'm glad for that," she said. "I didn't want to debut in something less than a major part."

Her signature role as Gertrude McFuzz in Broadway's *Seussical* came in 2000, winning her a Drama Desk nomination for Best Featured Actress.

LaManna married Army Capt. Mike McDermott while rehearsing for *Sweet Charity* in early 2005. By mid-July, LaManna was carrying their daughter. "I was five and a half months pregnant by the time I left the show," she said. Mia McDermott was born the following April.



*"Every day, I'm thrilled by what I get to do."*

— MATT LENZ '86

"She's really a great little kid," LaManna told *Playbill*'s Andrew Gans a year later. "Whenever she hears clapping or music, she just kind of jumps up and down!"

LaManna's latest role was in last year's off-Broadway comedy hit, *Enter Laughing*.

**Buddy Thomas '91's** focus at Wagner was playwriting, and his student work made quite an impression.

"He has tremendous insight and a wicked sense of humor. I compare him to a young Tennessee Williams," said theater professor Gary Sullivan. "He's got the chops to play to a very broad audience."

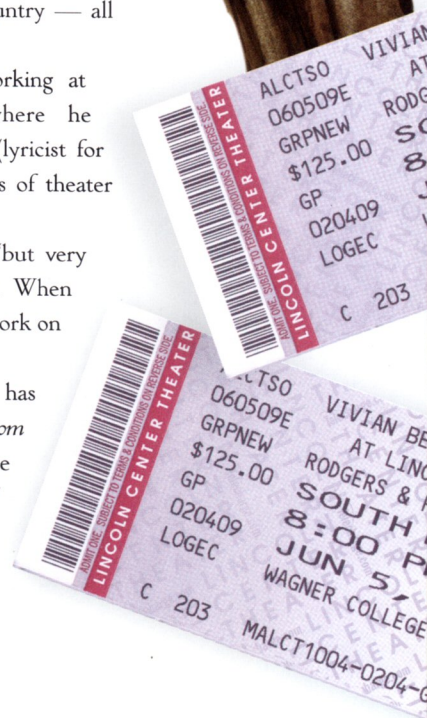
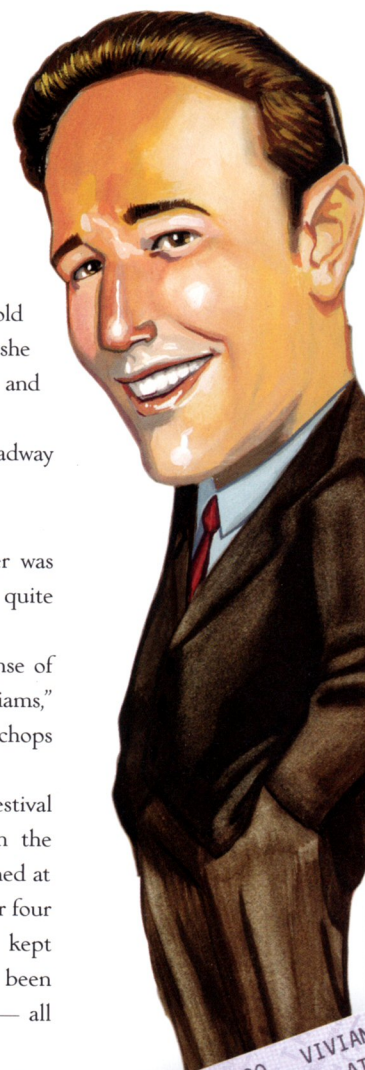
It took many plays, graduate studies, and festival awards for Sullivan's prediction to come true. In the summer of 2000, Thomas's *The Crumple Zone* opened at an off-Broadway theater. "It was supposed to play for four weeks, but we kept getting good reviews, and it kept getting extended," Thomas said. "Since then, it's been performed again and again, all over the country — all over the world."

In the meantime, Thomas began working at International Creative Management, where he represents playwrights like Nell Benjamin (lyricist for *Legally Blonde: The Musical*) and the estates of theater greats William Inge and Arthur Miller.

"It's really interesting work," he said, "but very demanding — a 12-hour-a-day job, easily. When you're done, the last thing you want to do is work on writing another play."

Yet that is just what Buddy Thomas has done. His campy new play, *Devil Boys from Beyond*, will be performed in August in the New York International Fringe Festival. *Devil Boys* will bring Thomas back together with actor Paul Pecorino '92 and, perhaps, Matt Lenz '86 as director.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 42)



## TIMELINE OF MISERY



OCTOBER 1929  
STOCK MARKET CRASH



DECEMBER 1941  
ATTACK ON PEARL  
HARBOR



JUNE 1950  
KOREAN CONFLICT  
BEGINS



OCTOBER 1973  
EMBARGO PRECIPITATES  
OIL CRISIS



NOVEMBER 1982  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
REACHES 10.8%



OCTOBER 1987  
BLACK MONDAY STOCK  
MARKET CRASH



MARCH 2001  
DOT-COM BUST



SEPTEMBER 2008  
STOCK MARKET CRASH

# HARD TIMES

Survival Stories and Strategies from Wagner Alumni

by Laura Barlament

Stagflation and the energy crisis of the 1970s. Sky-high unemployment in the early 1980s. The Black Monday stock market crash of October 1987. The 2001 bursting of the dot-com bubble, followed by the 9/11 attacks. ● The current economic crisis is, obviously, not without precedent, says Don Crooks '69 M'72, director of graduate business programs at Wagner. He joined the faculty after a career with investment banks Morgan Stanley and Lehmann Brothers; a framed photo of a Quotron screen showing the closing prices on the New York Stock Exchange on Black Monday hangs on his office wall, like a memento mori. ● "The difference is the globalization of business," Crooks says. In contrast to other economic downturns of the past 50 years, no place on Earth has escaped this one. Yet, as someone who has seen times like these come and go, Crooks says, "This is a tough one, but the worst is over."

To help us face today's crisis, *Wagner Magazine* has drawn on the collective wisdom and experience of "everyday" Wagner alumni who have survived tough times in the past. Here we present a few stories we gathered this spring.

# “A Lot of People Helped”

John “Bunny” Barbes ’39 and Lila Thompson Barbes ’40 grew up on Staten Island and met at Wagner during the Great Depression. *Wagner Magazine* asked them how people survived during those very tough times.

**L**ila: “We were very fortunate. My father had a city job. He was a surveyor. So that was steady work, and my parents owned a couple of houses that they rented. I took piano lessons, and I had two lessons a week.”

Bunny: “My father worked as a dock superintendent, but he lost his job after I started college, in 1937. He ended up as a watchman, but he was still working. We went to college in the Depression times, so we were not really in the toughest economic state.”

Lila: “The only thing I ever heard about it was one of the people who was renting a house from my mother and father lost his job and wasn’t paying rent. So, my mother said, ‘Fine.’ She used to shop and send him a package of flour and sugar, every month. Finally they moved, and they gratefully promised my mother, ‘We will pay you back everything.’ Never materialized. She said, ‘I couldn’t let them live there’ — I think the wife had just had a baby, too — ‘and not have something to eat.’ That’s the way she was.

“We used to have people come around and ask for a meal, and she’d fix a plate and put it out on the porch and let them eat. We also used to have a monkey and organ grinder come by, and the monkey would tip his hat and collect pennies. We had one man in particular, he used to sell candy, came around almost every week. His wife made

the candy, and he would sell it. My mother would never say no.”

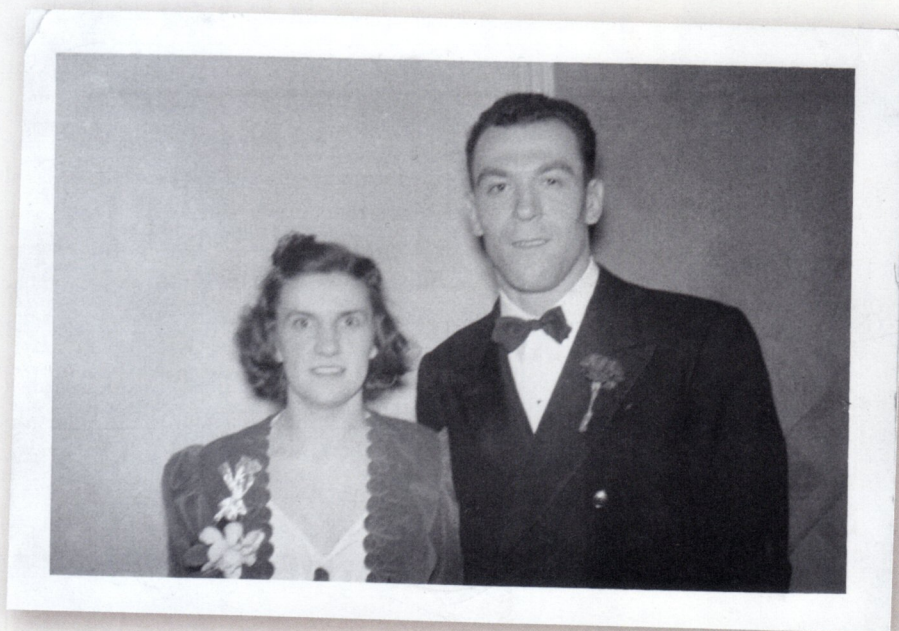
Bunny: “Those were crazy times. Do whatever you had to do. A lot of people helped. Unless they were in such bad states, they would help. Something. Even a bowl of soup.

“We had a family who lived back to back with my house, the man over there had worked as a dock builder, and they stopped building docks. So I can remember carrying a bucket of food over to the Hillises. They had eight children. It was like full house! But in the meantime, he would do anything he could to make money. He would come over and cut the grass, trim the hedges, and so on.

My father was still making the big bucks, compared with those times. And every week there would be something sent up to Mrs. Hillis.

“My advice for people facing hard times is: Just keep going. Don’t give up. We just did the best we could, that’s all.”

*Editor’s Note: We conducted this interview on April 15; a month later, we were saddened to hear that Lila Barbes had passed away. Read a memorial to this staunch lifelong supporter of Wagner College on page 43.*



# “I Am Not Powerless”

Hedwige Dieudonne '77, a native of Haiti, arrived in New York City in 1968, after attending nursing school in Paris, France. By 1972, she had learned English and enrolled in Wagner College. After completing her U.S. nursing degree at Wagner, she earned a master's in education at Teacher's College of Columbia University, worked at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, and taught at Long Island University. Since 1995, she has studied alternative and complementary medicine. She is a nurse, educator, and entrepreneur. She spoke with *Wagner Magazine* in her Staten Island condominium.



“It started in 1985. I was living on Trossach Road. I owned that house. And that was the time when everybody was remodeling their house. You buy something dilapidated, and you fix it up. So I got a second mortgage, and I had \$35,000 in my hands to remodel the house. Then I thought, \$35,000 is a lot of money. I don't think I should remodel the house. I

could make this money grow. So I took \$29,000 and bought four houses.”

Working with her husband, she continued to buy, remodel, and sell houses, and her business prospered.

“But in 1987, the stock market crashed. And I didn't have the time to sell my houses. I got tenants, but the people who rented my houses could not pay me the rent. And my mortgages were expensive. I had to work two, three jobs. Until I became sick. I completely collapsed, and was unable to work for seven months. I lost everything.

“I could have saved some, but I didn't want to at the time. What was most important for me to save was my life. I couldn't save my life and a house. If you are to survive, you have to do what's going to get you out of trouble first. And that's what I did.

“I never think about what I have lost. As a maternal and child health specialist, I know that nobody comes on this Earth with anything — a small baby comes empty-handed. And when we die, we go without taking anything. Whatever we have, it is not ours; we are only hosting it.

“So when I returned to work, I made a decision: I am too important to work two jobs; I am too valuable to work three jobs; I'm too beautiful to waste my time working

overtime for money. I now realized that the money is not outside; the money is within me. That I have lost all this, and I can recreate it. And that's where you feel: I am not powerless. If I lose one million dollars, or two million tomorrow, I can recreate it. That's strength.

“I got myself the best counselor, and that was to go to Barnes and Noble and buy a book, and apply what it says to the letter. Then I would test it, and I got a little better, and a little better.

“After I lost all the houses, I wanted to live here, in this building. I rented an apartment here, and I moved here with my daughter. And, do you know, I bought two apartments, side by side. From there, I got another apartment, and I got another one.

“So, whatever you lose, it will come back. You just have to have faith in something higher than yourself, and know how to work. I can tell people first hand: As long as you're physically healthy and you're mentally healthy, there is nothing you cannot create in this world, within a short period of time. If you lost your family, you can get it back. I lost my family when I went through the crisis; I got my family back. Whatever you lost, you can get it back, and you can get it ten times better.”

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN EMERSON



**In June 1977 the misery index\* was 14.07.**

\*THE MISERY INDEX IS THE SUM OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE INFLATION RATE. SOURCE: WWW.MISERYINDEX.US.

# “You Make Your Own Luck”

Harold Theurer Jr. '79, a Brooklyn native, majored in biology and psychology at Wagner and earned a master's in counseling psychology from New York University in 1981. He started his career as a Wagner admissions counselor, and then spent many years as a stock broker, a branch manager, and a trainer of brokers. In 2007, he published a children's book, *Hey Dad! Let's Have a Catch*.



**“W**hen I graduated from NYU in 1981, the economy was horrendous. Interest rates were in double digits, inflation was in double digits. No one was hiring.

“[In June 1981] I attended the convocation for Sam Frank when he was installed as the president [of Wagner College]. I was so inspired that I wrote a letter to Sam Frank, just telling him that I had some fond memories of the school, and it was a very important time in my life, and I'm sure he's there to turn things around and whatever.

“He invited me in to talk face to face. By the time we were finished, he said to me, ‘Well, what are you doing now?’ I said, ‘I'm looking for a job.’ So he said to me, ‘Why don't you go over to the admissions office?’ By the time I got there, he had picked up the phone and said to the director of

admissions, ‘Hire this guy.’ So, that's what happened.

“There's an old saying, ‘You make your own luck.’ If I hadn't written the letter, if I didn't go to see him and get face to face with the president of the College, he wouldn't have thought I was a fit.”

After a year in the admissions office, Theurer took a staff position at Merrill Lynch; in 1986, he started working as a broker for E. F. Hutton.

“In the beginning, as a broker, they gave you a pittance of a salary. After six months, once you were licensed, they started taking away your salary. So you were down to whatever commissions you made. Then it was a matter of goal-setting. Everybody had their own ways of motivating themselves. There were people who had Ferrari on their wall. I had a Midtown brownstone on my wall. That was my motivation to keep on dealing with adversity and rejection.

“So here I was a rookie broker, just starting out; and on October 19th of '87, the market crashed like 25 percent. Here I am with all these new clients, and across the board, they were hearing the end of the world

was coming. That's when I learned that it's a matter of staying in touch with my client base. It's very important not to just sit under the desk, but be up front.

“An experienced, old-time broker said to me, ‘See all these people running around with sell tickets? If you have quality stocks in your portfolio, just hold on to them, tell your clients not to worry.’ He had a lot more gray hair than I did, so I said, ‘I'm going to listen to him.’ Sure enough, a year to a year and a half later, if they held on to everything that they owned, everything was back to or above where they had been.

“I think the best quote I ever heard about dealing with adversity was from Sam Walton, the founder of Walmart. It was during one recession when Walmart had stellar performance, so they asked him, ‘How did your company flourish when the rest of the world was in recession?’ And his quote was, ‘Oh, we decided not to participate.’ So when there's adversity all around you, yes, you need to be cognizant of what's going on, you can't bury your head in the sand. But you have to have that mindset of ‘this too shall pass,’ so let's pursue whatever path we're taking.”



**In June 1979** the misery index was 16.59.

# “You Never Know Where It’s Going to Lead”



Billy K. Tyler '80 majored in psychology and political science, and minored in French. After a brief stint in graduate school at Ohio State, he moved to California, where for the past 21 years he has taught at Vine Street Elementary School in Hollywood, surrounded by legendary television and movie studios like Desilu and Paramount. In recent years, he has acted in television commercials, television shows, and movies.

**“W**hen I decided not to continue graduate school in Ohio, I couldn’t find any work. It was 1981. Growing up in New York, I would watch TV and say, ‘I’m going to live in California someday.’ So I moved to California. Four days after I got here, I went on the *Price Is Right* and won a car. I said, ‘That’s it! I knew I was meant to live here.’

“The next day, I went to an employment agency that was just a few blocks from where I was staying. We got to talking, and afterwards the agent said to me, ‘Do you think you can do this? Work in the employment agency, be a head hunter?’ I was so floored, I said, ‘I don’t know, sure, I guess so, why not?’ So she brought me back the next day, I was hired, and I worked there a little over a year.

“But that business was very hard-hit by the recession of 1981 and ’82, and things just dried up. So I placed myself at an insurance company, and I was there for about a year. I’m one of those people who tried to fit into a 9 to 5 job, and it really wasn’t me. I’m somebody who has, I don’t know, creative instincts or whatever.

“Then I was on unemployment for a while, then I went back to the employment

agency. They placed me with another company called BTI, the marketing end of a broadcasting school. I was the placement director, so it was my job to help people get jobs at radio stations around the country. Eventually I went into public relations in the company.

“And then, I knew that I didn’t want to do this anymore, and a friend of mine said, ‘Why don’t you substitute teach while you’re looking for what you want to do?’ So I started substitute teaching, and very early on I realized that I really enjoyed it. So I got my credential, and I have been teaching since ’88.

“I’ve always had creative aspirations, and about five years ago I took a class in TV commercials, and then I hooked up with an agent, and in the last five years I’ve done 11 commercials, two national commercials, I’ve done a couple of films, I’ve been on a couple of TV shows, while teaching full time. So I’ve been very fortunate that I’ve been able to have some fun in the entertainment industry without having to give up my main bread-and-butter job.

“I’ll tell you my little bit of dime-store, unsolicited, pop psychology advice for people looking for a job. Rule #1 I learned

at the employment agency: You’re the most employable when you’re working. So don’t be afraid to take a job that is not your ‘dream job’ or — I hesitate to use the word ‘beneath you,’ because I don’t think there’s any job that’s ‘beneath us’ as long as it’s honest — in the meantime. And even if it’s a job completely unrelated. You never know where it’s going to lead and whom you’re going to meet.”





# Putting WAGNER first

Newsletter of The Campaign for Wagner College

*In This Issue:*

**WAGNER STUDENTS ASK**  
*Will You Make a Difference?*

**ON CAMPUS**  
*New Faces and Places*

**CAMPAIGN PROFILE**  
*Kenneth '59 and Frances Goehl*

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**  
*Nirav Patel '10*

**WAGNER CALLING** Bryan Bickford '10, Alyana Butryn '10, and Ryan Dugan '11 (below) enjoy reaching out to alumni.



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN EMERSON

## Wagner Students Ask: "Will You Make a Difference?"

Current students and a generous alumnus have teamed up to help Wagner students and their families on whom the global economic crisis has taken a personal toll.

For the first time in several years, alumni and friends who answered a call from the Annual Fund in recent months heard a student on the other end of the line, not a professional telemarketer, through the Wagner Calling program.

And these students had a special message to convey: Anyone who gives to Wagner for the first time ever, or for the first time in more than a year, or anyone who increases their annual gift, will have that amount matched by an anonymous alumnus, up to \$50,000. Dubbed the

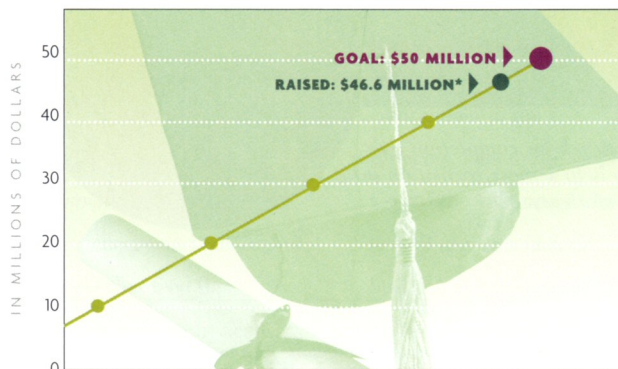
"Make a Difference Challenge Fund," it will provide \$100,000 to help high-achieving but financially strapped current Wagner students remain in school.

Sociology major and student caller Chris Valletta '11 says that he talked with many alumni from diverse professions and areas of the country about the economy and the needs of Wagner students. "A lot of people said they'd like to help, even though they were struggling themselves," Valletta says. "Even young graduates just out of school, as well as graduates of the 1940s and '50s."

The student callers have made a tremendous difference themselves, says Kristen Koehler, director of development. "We have 28 (and counting!) amazing

(SEE "WAGNER STUDENTS," NEWSLETTER PAGE 3)

### Campaign Update: Enthusiastic Response



\*INCLUDES gifts, pledges, and oral commitments made between January 1, 2004, and May 31, 2009.



## On Campus: New Faces and Places

### Campaign Executive Committee Members

John H. Myers, Co-Chair  
ALUMNUS '67 H'02

Robert C. O'Brien, Co-Chair  
ALUMNUS '66 H'95,  
LIFETIME TRUSTEE

Donald & Evelyn Spiro,  
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ALUMNI DONALD '49 H'88,  
EVELYN '49 H'92  
LIFETIME TRUSTEES

Michael & Margaret Nicolais,  
Honorary Co-Chairs  
ALUMNI '49

Margaret Bambach  
Buck Reynolds,  
Honorary Co-Chair  
ALUMNA '40 H'98, TRUSTEE

Walter H. Baumhoff  
ALUMNUS '59, TRUSTEE

Tad Bender  
ALUMNUS '06

Howard Braren  
ALUMNUS '50

Kinsey Casey  
ALUMNA '02

Jeffrey D. Forchelli  
ALUMNUS '66, TRUSTEE

Richard Guarasci  
PRESIDENT

Jay P. Hartig  
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Fred W. Lange  
ALUMNUS '53 H'06,  
LIFETIME TRUSTEE

Donna Mollica New  
ALUMNA '68, TRUSTEE

Warren R. Procci  
ALUMNUS '68, TRUSTEE



**REYNOLDS HOUSE** Kate Smith '08, director of the Inner Circle; Kristen Koehler, director of development; and Yvonne Rodriguez '08, assistant director of the annual fund.



**OLD BALLFIELD** Foundation Hall is on track for completion by spring semester 2010. Designed to help seniors transition into post-college life, it will house 200 students.

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN EMERSON

PHOTOGRAPH: LEE MANCHESTER

**WAGNER FACT:** Certain kinds of planned gifts allow you to invest in Wagner's future and produce a lifetime income for yourself and a beneficiary. Call Frank Young, director of major gifts, at 718-420-4494 for more information.



(WAGNER STUDENTS' CONTINUED)

and hard-working student callers contacting our alumni," she says. "They are updating alumni records, collecting e-mail addresses, raising money for student scholarships, and hearing about the wonderful things our alumni are up to."

Andrew Sheldon '10 says that contacting alumni has been a pleasure. "There are so many common threads, like experiencing Songfest or playing sports at Wagner, that sometimes it feels like I could have gone to school with the

alumni I am speaking with," he says.

*If you'd like to learn more about the Wagner Calling program or the Make a Difference Challenge, contact Kristen Koehler at 718-390-3304 or kristen.koehler@wagner.edu.*

*To participate, you can make a gift with your credit card at [www.wagner.edu/give\\_now](http://www.wagner.edu/give_now) (note "Make a Difference Challenge" in the "In Honor Of" field) or at 1-800-231-2252. And, if you see 718-390-3100 on your caller i.d., it's Wagner Calling!*



**CAMPAIGN PROFILE:**

## Kenneth '59 and Frances Goehl *The Power of Education*

Having retired from full and productive business careers, Kenneth '59 and Frances Goehl are pouring their energy and passion into causes that feed their community — physically, spiritually, and intellectually.

Ken, a retired commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves, joined the "Noble Crew," the volunteers who helped restore a historic building at Staten Island's Sailors' Snug Harbor as an elegant home for the Noble

Maritime Collection, a museum dedicated to marine artist John A. Noble.

Ken also pitches in at the Bennett Café in Historic Richmond Town, a museum village of Staten Island historic buildings. Frances and other members of Richmond Town's women's auxiliary established the restaurant in 2007 and staff it with their volunteer

labor. It quickly earned an avid following for its lunches, Sunday brunches, and occasional dinners and has proved a successful fundraising tool for the museum village. On any given day at the Bennett Café, you might find Frances, a former manager for Philip Morris Companies, cooking lunch, washing dishes, or serving customers.

The Goehls have extended their generous support to Wagner students as well by endowing a scholarship for business and economics majors. "We both feel strongly about the power of education," says Frances, a Fordham graduate. "It opens so many avenues for a person to have a happy, healthy future."



## Motivated to Achieve

### *The Kim A. Lehmann Scholar in Nursing*

**N**ursing major Nirav Patel is used to the idea of going to extra lengths to pursue his dreams.

After all, he grew up hearing stories about how his father studied engineering by the light of a streetlamp in his native India, because his family couldn't afford electricity.

At Wagner, Patel's passion for his studies immediately made an impression.

"He was above and beyond the other students in his work ethic," recalls Pat Tooker, assistant professor of nursing, who co-taught Patel's first-year learning community. "His strength is the fact that he is so motivated and so bright, and his own standards are so high, which today's health care requires."

This summer, Patel will have an opportunity to put his budding skills into practice through a nursing internship at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan. The Kim A. Lehmann Scholarship, founded in 1988 by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Lehmann '62 in memory of their daughter, is helping this highly motivated future nurse enter one of the most-needed professions in the U.S.



# KING of Ugly

*Mundweiler's style may be unorthodox, but the end justifies the means* By John Beisser

**F**or more than a decade, Joey Mundweiler '09 has wowed fans, coaches, teammates, and opponents alike with a jump shot that is uniquely his own. His shooting form, while unconventional in appearance, has proved to be effective and reliable at every level of basketball he's played.

"Oh, it's ugly," Wagner head coach Mike Deane jokes. "If the shot was a blind date, you'd walk right out. But the end justifies the means."

The crowning example of the "end" to which Coach Deane refers came on February 28, 2009. With the Seahawks in need of a victory to gain entry into the Northeast Conference Tournament, Mundweiler nailed 11 three-pointers, setting an NEC record and leading the Seahawks past Monmouth 91-60. Ultimately, Mundweiler set the Seahawk single-season three-pointers-made mark (98) and became Wagner's all-time leader in three-pointers made (312), which placed him in second on the NEC all-time list. He finished 18th on the Seahawk all-time scoring list with 1,281 points.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN EMERSON



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

The exceedingly likeable and unflappable Mundweiler commented on his questionable “means” just days before earning his degree in sociology. The 6-foot-2, 185-pound sharpshooter learned his black sheep of a jump shot in Central New York, where he was born in 1987; honed it in South Florida, where his family moved when he was 10; and perfected it in Overland Park, Kansas, where he completed high school. Somehow, when he arrived in Staten Island in the fall of 2004, no coach had forced him to change his unorthodox mechanics.

“It looked different, but the ball kept going in, so nobody tried to change it,” said Mundweiler. “My father was an assistant coach on some of my teams growing up, and he played in college. If anyone would have tried to change it, you’d think it would have been him. But he also left me alone when it came to my shot.”

The shot is hard to describe but — to those who have seen it — easy to identify. Unlike a conventional right-handed jump



shot, Mundweiler’s is influenced heavily by his left hand. The motion begins as a two-handed push, yet the stroke ends traditionally, with a smooth, fluid finish. So, just how did the Mundweiler method come about?

For one thing, he says, he was trying to emulate his favorite player growing up, former Indiana Pacers great Reggie Miller, who had an idiosyncratic shooting stroke of his own. But Mundweiler also used his own individual tendencies to come up with a winning combination.

“I’m left-handed in all activities that involve throwing, like baseball and football, but I’m right-handed in everything that involves hitting, like golf or batting. So, I guess my shot is some sort of combination of the two,” he reasons.

Mundweiler hopes the shot will serve as his ticket to a professional basketball career in Europe next year. Meanwhile, Coach Deane is anticipating the arrival of another member of the Mundweiler clan, Joey’s younger brother Danny, who’ll begin his career with the Seahawks next fall.

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

## the **A** List

The Seahawks racked up some serious kudos this year. The story begins with the **men’s cross-country team**, which placed fifth at the NEC Championships last November, their best in program history. Teammate **Zachary Spector ’12** earned All-NEC status for his performance. In April, the **water polo** team clinched the MAAC regular season title; **Kelsey Rodgers ’10** was named Co-Defensive Player of the Year. In May, two seniors were honored: **Alaina Alfano ’09**, Wagner’s record-holder in six track and field events, received the NEC Most Valuable Performer award along with Most Outstanding Field Performer honors for her extraordinary scoring efforts at the NEC Track and Field Championship. Fellow senior **Andrea Lazzari ’09** was named the 2009 NEC Softball Player of the Year for the second straight season. The infielder led Wagner’s offense with a team-best .412 batting average and set Wagner records in home runs, doubles, total bases, and putouts. Finally, the **baseball team** crowned the year by winning their first-ever NEC regular season championship with a 9-1 victory over Fairleigh Dickinson on May 17. The Green and White set a new school record with 31 victories; **Matt Watson ’10** was voted NEC Pitcher of the Year and head coach **Joe Litterio** garnered NEC Coach of the Year honors.

### **He Lived Strong** *Unexpected diagnosis drives Wagner student and coach to action*

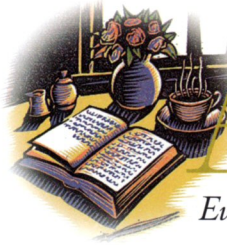


**D**an Waeger M’05, an assistant golf coach at Wagner College from 2004 to 2006, died on March 16 at the age of 26. His powerful legacy, however, lives on.

A native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Waeger was working on his Wagner MBA, coaching, and training for a marathon when he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2005. He managed to complete his degree while undergoing treatments at Johns Hopkins in Maryland. A non-smoker and a life-long fitness enthusiast, Waeger not only waged his

own battle against cancer for nearly four years, but also raised public awareness about lung cancer and the needs of the young adult cancer community.

Dan and his fiancée, Meghan Rodgers, developed a blog about their experiences ([www.waegerwillwin.blogspot.com](http://www.waegerwillwin.blogspot.com)) and founded the National Collegiate Cancer Foundation ([www.collegiatecancer.org](http://www.collegiatecancer.org)). The foundation provides services and support to young adults pursuing their education during and after cancer treatments.



# AlumniLink

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

## Upcoming Events

### Admissions

- Campus Visit Days  
August 6, October 4  
& 18, 2009

### College Choir

- Fifth Annual Italian Idol  
Singing Contest  
October 16, 2009
- *Viva Italia!* Finale Concert  
October 25, 2009
- Fall Choral Concert  
November 8, 2009
- Holiday Concert  
December 6, 2009
- Vocal Jazz Set  
December 8, 2009

### National Alumni Association

- Young Alumni Party  
in Lake Como, New Jersey  
August 8, 2009
- Long Island Wine Tour  
August 15, 2009
- Homecoming  
October 24, 2009
- Alumni Trip to Las Vegas  
December 18–23, 2009
- Alumni Trip to Peru  
February 22–March 4, 2010

- Reunion Weekend  
June 4–6, 2010

### Theater

#### Main Stage Season

- *The Who's Tommy*  
October 7–18, 2009
- *Brigadoon*  
November 18–  
December 6, 2009
- *Little Women*  
February 24–March 7, 2010
- *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*  
April 21–May 2, 2010

#### Stage One Season

- *Waiting for Lefty*  
by Clifford Odets  
September 30–  
October 10, 2009
- *Speech & Debate*  
by Stephen Karam  
November 11–21, 2009
- Dance Project  
February 17–27, 2010
- *Dead Man's Cell Phone*  
by Sarah Ruhl  
April 14–24, 2010

*Dates are subject to change.*

### 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

[www.wagner.edu](http://www.wagner.edu)



## { FLASHBACK }



### MONKEYING AROUND

We found this image while sorting through boxes of miscellaneous photos stored in Reynolds House. Can you enlighten us about this photo? We'll publish your responses in the next issue of *Wagner Magazine*.

**Plus:** Send us your ideas and/or photos for future issues of "Flashback." Contact Editor Laura Barlament: [laura.barlament@wagner.edu](mailto:laura.barlament@wagner.edu); Office of Communications, 1 Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301.





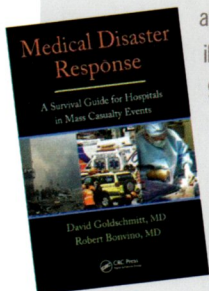
**PRETTY COOL** Class of 2009 leaders Abigail Albair, Seneca Smith, David Norman, and Harry Jackson take a break on the new Union patio furnishings they helped to provide as their senior class gift. Since 2004, seniors have chosen a project to fund for the College. This year's seniors raised a record \$9,300 for new tables with umbrellas and new tree plantings to beautify this popular gathering spot.



**RECONNECTING** At the inspiration of Daymon Yizar '82, an African-American alumni group has met several times over the last year to discuss connecting with current students and increasing attendance at alumni events. They are beginning an alumni-student mentoring circle, and 33 alumni attended the second annual African-American Alumni-Student Celebration on campus in February. Pictured at last November's meeting are (back) Ernest Jackson '87, Keisha R. Miles '91, Ann Clarke '81, Yizar, Michell Speight '80, (middle) Gail Bond-Ramseur '82, Carol Lewis Bellamy '81, Karen Parker-Morris '83, Mary Morris Wiggers '83, Linda Hamilton '87, (front) Ashlee Redmond '09, and Andrea DeLoney '10. Contact NAA board member Carol Bellamy at [ccb578@aol.com](mailto:ccb578@aol.com) for more information.

## New & Noteworthy

**Robert Bonvino '71 and David Goldschmitt**  
*Medical Disaster Response: A Survival Guide for Hospitals in Mass Casualty Events* (CRC, 2009)



Dr. Robert Bonvino's guide looks at many types of disasters, illustrated by recent events like 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the SARS outbreak. Currently a private consultant and physician, Bonvino previously served as senior vice president for government relations and corporate development for the New York Downtown Hospital. Bonvino is a member of the Wagner College Board of Trustees.

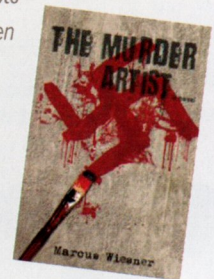
**Rosalind Noonan '80** *One September Morning* (Kensington Publishing, 2009)



Author of various genre books (including Nancy Drew mysteries and Charmed TV tie-ins), Rosalind Noonan has published her first novel under her own name. In this morally complex suspense story involving the death of a U.S. soldier in Iraq, the protagonist was a student at Wagner during the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. The novel describes the view from Harborview Hall and contains other Wagner references. Noonan lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and two children.

**Marcus Wiesner '53.** *The Murder Artist* (iUniverse, 2009)

"Drawing on his experiences as an *Advance* reporter, city official, and his current incarnation as a psychologist, former Staten Islander Dr. Marcus (Mark) Wiesner has written a riveting crime story in which an investigative reporter goes after a serial killer who targets prominent New York City Jews," wrote Mike Azzara in his *Staten Island Advance* review.





## Arrivals

New leaders elected to NAA Board and Executive Committee

The National Alumni Association announces new members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

## Executive Committee

*President:* Rita King '62  
of Scottsdale, Arizona  
*Vice President:* Tad Bender '06  
of Rye, New York  
*Corresponding Secretary:*  
Michael Muccino '73  
of Staten Island, New York

## Board of Directors

Carol Lewis Bellamy '81  
of Burke, Virginia  
Beth Hartung Cruz '71  
of Ridgewood, New Jersey  
John "Jack" Felver '65  
of Palatine, Illinois  
Howard Graeffe '75  
of Emmaus, Pennsylvania  
Dana Guariglia '06 M'07  
of Staten Island, New York  
David W. Martin '60  
of Paradise Valley, Arizona

## Departures

Alumni relations staff take on new positions

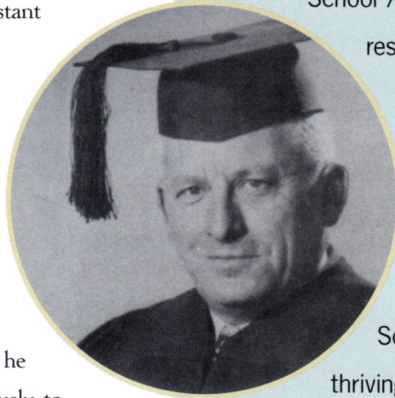
June marked the departure of both Director Jake Browne '05 M'08 and Assistant

Director Kara McGann '07 from the Office of Alumni Relations.

Browne returned to Wagner's Office of Admissions, where he had worked previously, to serve as director of recruitment. "I look forward to continuing my work with alumni, as we begin to develop a strong recruitment program that relies on alumni volunteers," he said.

McGann accepted the position of director of alumni relations at Mercy College in Westchester County, New York. She had worked in Wagner's alumni office since 2007.

As of press time, the director search was open. Visit [www.wagner.edu/human\\_resources](http://www.wagner.edu/human_resources) to find out more.



## Who in the Wagner World Was ... Elias Bernstein?

Last fall, students from Elias Bernstein Intermediate

School 7 on Staten Island decided to do some research on their school's namesake – and in the process discovered that he was a Wagner alumnus. They sent us their findings.

Elias Bernstein was born in 1890 and graduated from Curtis High School. A World War I veteran, he had a thriving law practice on Staten Island. In

1940, he gave up his practice and devoted himself to Staten Island civic causes. Schools, veterans, Boy Scouts, hospitals, the local bar association, and the chamber of commerce all benefited from his time and talent. Bernstein also decided to go back to school. In 1948, at the age of 58, he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts from Wagner College. He died two years later.

"Elias Bernstein was a leading citizen of our community for the first half of the 20th century, and our school's motto of scholarship, service, and integrity is a tribute to his honor," wrote the student researchers. You can learn more about the Elias Bernstein School at [www.is7vikings.org](http://www.is7vikings.org).

*Inspired by the Bernstein School students, Wagner Magazine would like your suggestions for a new "Who in the Wagner World Was ...?" column: Would you like to know more about a Wagner alum who made a distinctive mark on his or her community? Do you remember an intriguing person from your student days, and you'd like to know what he or she is doing now? Contact Editor Laura Barlament: [laura.barlament@wagner.edu](mailto:laura.barlament@wagner.edu); 718-390-3147; Office of Communications, 1 Campus Road, Staten Island, NY 10301.*



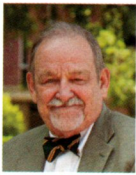
## The Link Online

Go to [www.wagner.edu/alumni](http://www.wagner.edu/alumni) to register for The Link, a free and exclusive online community for Wagner alumni.



# Alumni Honors

*At the annual reunion luncheon in June, the National Alumni Association honored eight alumni and memorialized two other special alumni who died in the past year.*



**The Kevin Sheehy '67 M'70 M'92 Alumni Leadership Medal was awarded to Carl Westerdahl '59.**

Since his graduation 50 years ago, Westerdahl has served the NAA as master of ceremonies, board member, awards committee chairman, and co-founder of Wagner Class of '59 and Friends. He is also a leader in the Friends of the Horrmann Library.



**The Distinguished Graduate of Wagner award went to Carol Lewis Bellamy '81,** who has spent her career giving a

“head start” to culturally diverse children and families. Bellamy has worked as a teacher, mentor, and manager in the Head Start program since 1990, and in 2008 she was selected as a national Head Start Fellow because of her dynamic leadership.

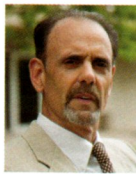


**The Rev. Lyle Guttu Award recognized the Rev. Burton Vincent '57 for his spiritual contributions to his community.** A

pastor, chaplain, and bereavement counselor, he was named the 2008

national Chaplain of the Year by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., for his work with the VA's New Jersey Health Care System.

*The NAA named five Wagner Alumni Fellows, who hold distinguished careers in defined aspects of the College's academic program.*



**Richard Baratta '73, Alumni Fellow of Theater and the Arts,** studied history at Wagner

and has gone on to make history through his role in film production. Since 1992, Baratta has worked as a producer or production manager for many highly successful films, including such popular favorites as *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, all three *Spider-Man* films, and many more.



**G. Roy Horst '59, Alumni Fellow of Biology,** attended formal school only through the eighth grade, yet he

educated himself well enough not only to enter college but also to complete a Ph.D. in zoology. His

work under Cornell bat expert William Wimsatt led Horst to his own career in bat biology research. In 1970, he founded the North American Society for Bat Research, which today has over 500 members. He was a professor and chairman of the biology department at SUNY Potsdam for more than two decades.



**George E. Lewis '56, Alumni Fellow for Business and Civic Engagement,** is remembered well for his baseball

career — he was a Wagner star before hitting 37 home runs in his first season with the Boston Red Sox organization. Then he enjoyed a nearly four-decade run at Merrill Lynch. In retirement, Lewis has devoted himself to the Rotary Club, founding the Guatemala Water Project, which has provided clean drinking water to more than 130,000 people.



**Richard Negrin '88, Alumni Fellow for Pre-Law Studies,** is associate general counsel and a member of the

Aramark Corporation's executive leadership council. *Philadelphia Magazine* has named him one of Pennsylvania's Super Lawyers. His

community involvement includes serving as pro bono general counsel to Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy and as an inaugural member of the Philadelphia Board of Ethics.



**Carrie Ceder Root '77, Alumni Fellow in Physics,** is a leading expert in underwater acoustics and fluid

dynamics. She earned a Ph.D. in fluid dynamics from Catholic University and has provided support and expertise for the U.S. Navy on a variety of projects. Read more about her on page 37.



Also at the reunion luncheon, the late Dean **Julia Sinisgalli Barchitta '64 M'81** was posthumously named the John “Bunny” Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Wagner Alumni Laureate, and President Guarasci honored the late **Frederick F. Witte '49 M'75** with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Read memorials to them on pages 43–44.





**CONNECTIONS** President Guarasci speaks with alumni at the Reunion Luncheon, where the NAA award winners were announced.



**A WARM WELCOME** Frankie Tiripicchio '11, Aylene Gocmen '09, Stephanie Savoia-Pearl '08, Lauren Patsos '07, Yvonne M. Rodriguez '08, and Kristen Woodbury '08 socialize at the President's Welcome Reception.



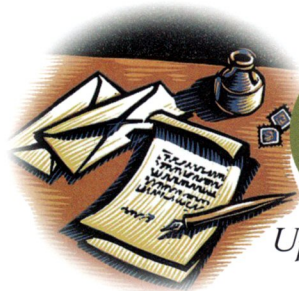
**CAREFREE** The grandchildren of Burton Vincent '57, recipient of the Rev. Lyle Guttu Award, play in the shade of Trautmann Square.



**OLD FRIENDS** Elaine Schreiber Petrella '59, Susan Clarke, Ruth Bergemann Heil '59, and Henry Heil '59 chat at the Heritage Society luncheon.



**GOOD AS GOLD** The Class of 1959 marked their 50th reunion and induction as Golden Seahawks with style and substance. The class raised \$615,000 for Wagner College through current gifts as well as an annuity and a trust. The gift includes unrestricted support for the annual fund and endowed funds for scholarships and the library.



# ClassNotes

Updates from old friends across the generations

## 1949

**Egon O. Wendel**, professor emeritus and former academic vice president at Wagner, wrote to reminisce about his student days on the occasion of his 60th reunion year. "To the best of my knowledge, the class of 1949 has exceeded all others in giving and service," he wrote. "We are a proud class, but fewer in number than 10 years ago. Those who are able octogenarians will arrive at the 60th reunion with joy and thanks, hoping further to reminisce about the good years 'On the Hill.'" In attendance on reunion weekend were **Egon, Norman Schaefer**, and **William Beveridge**.

## 1950

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

**David Greer** has traveled the world over the last 60 years, since he took his first big trip across the U.S. in 1948 while he was a Wagner student. He has visited 71 countries as well as Bermuda, Hong Kong, Tibet, and Antarctica. He travels to Alaska every year. One of his most interesting trips was to the South Asian nation of Bhutan, where the country's well-being is measured in Gross National Happiness instead of Gross National Product, and he

has been to the three places he most wanted to visit: Tibet; Churchill on the Hudson Bay in Manitoba, Canada; and the Holy Land. He plans to spend his 80th birthday, in October, in Kenya and Tanzania. He lives in Shreveport, La., and has a second home in the mountains of Virginia, and he says that those are his two favorite places on Earth.

## 1952

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

**Marie Young Ballweg**, a retired teacher and counselor, honored her late husband, **Frank Ballweg '50**, with her original poetry published in the Staten Island Poetry Society's 2007-08 *Anthology*. President of the Staten Island Poetry Society, Marie has also been publishing articles and poems in Staten Island newspapers and has published a series of children's educational storybooks, called *Reluctant Ronnie*. **Fred Brockmann** and **Lee Schriever Brockmann '53** report that their daughter, Suzanne Brockmann, has written her 47th romantic suspense novel, entitled *Dark of Night*, published by Ballantine in February. It joined her previous 10 novels in making it to the *New York Times* bestseller list. **John De Nicola**, now

retired, is living in Coral Gables, Fla., amidst many family members. John sends his regards to all his classmates.

## 1953

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

**Lee Schriever Brockmann** and **Fred Brockmann '52** report that their daughter, Suzanne Brockmann, has written her 47th romantic suspense novel, entitled *Dark of Night*, published by Ballantine in February. It joined her previous 10 novels in making it to the *New York Times* bestseller list. **Mark Wiesner** published his second book, *The Murder Artist*, read more about it on page 30.

## 1954

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

Dr. **Manfred Lichtmann** and his wife, Emily, celebrated their 50th anniversary on December 27, 2008, on a Western Caribbean cruise. They were joined by their children and grandchildren for a very special Christmas. Before that trip, they volunteered at the polls for the presidential election, where

they met many people who were voting for the first time. They continue to enjoy living in Myrtle Beach, S.C. **Walter L. Zielinski Jr.** wrote us to report on his life and career. After receiving his Ph.D. in analytical and physical chemistry from Georgetown University, he worked for private research labs and for the federal government at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, and the National Cancer Institute at Frederick, Md. Recently, he has been working with a small pharmaceutical company on advanced technology for the needle-free intranasal delivery of drugs and vaccines.

## 1958

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

**Lou** and **Carol Bean Imhof** reunited last October with **Elizabeth Ebers Press** and her husband, Bob, and **Carl Westerdahl '59** and his wife, Susan, at Lou and Carol's Cambridge Hotel in Cambridge, N.Y.

## 1960

Class Fund Agent: **Peter Welker** P.O.  
Box 485, Caroga Lake, NY 12032,  
518-835-3198, pwwelker@nycpar.com

### Keep in Touch!

#### Submit your news and photos:

**E-mail:** classnotes@wagner.edu

**Web:** www.wagner.edu/alumni/

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

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

#### Publication policies:

**Deadlines:** This issue reflects news received by May 15.

The submission deadline for the fall 2009 issue is September 1.

**Content:** Wagner welcomes your news and updates, and we will happily share them with the Wagner family. We ask that you send us announcements of weddings, births, and graduations after the fact.

**Photos:** We accept photos of Wagner groups at weddings and other special events. With the photo, send the names and

class years of all alumni pictured; birth date, parents' names, and class years with photos of children; and dates and locations of all events.

**Photo Quality:** Digital and print photos must be clear and of good quality. Prints should be on glossy paper with no surface texture; they will be returned at your request (please attach your address to the photo). Digital photos must be jpegs of at least 250 pixels per inch; low-resolution photos converted to a higher resolution are not acceptable.

The Rev. **Stephen "Chick" Biegner** was among the first responders to the February 12 crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in suburban Buffalo, N.Y. The crash site was only a few doors from the church he pastors, Zion Lutheran Church in Clarence Center, N.Y. "I got over there as fast as possible and started praying," he said, according to a story released by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) News Service. He also provided support to the firefighters and other rescue workers, many of whom attend Zion Church. The Rev. **Eric Olaf Olsen '80**, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo, also joined the pastoral outreach. **Sally Reibel Maertens '60 M'75**, who lives in Woodland Park, Colo., received national recognition for her volunteer work: the George B. Hartzog Jr. Award from the National Park Service. Sally, who is the 2009 national individual award winner, was nominated for spearheading the "No Child Left Inside" weekend in the Pikes Peak Region. The whole weekend provided opportunities for youth and families to enjoy and learn about the region's natural heritage. A retired educator and education administrator, Sally has volunteered at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Florissant, Colo., for more than 12 years.

## 1962

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

**Beverly Hoehne Whipple** has a new book coming out from Johns Hopkins University Press in November: *The Orgasm Answer Guide*. This is the seventh book she has co-authored.

## 1966

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

**MaryRose Barranco Morris '66 M'73**, director of lifelong learning at Teachers College Columbia University's Center for Educational Outreach and Innovation, published an article, "Personalized

## A Perfect Storm

The global economy may be depressed, but the people of Bermuda are celebrating this year – and a Wagner alumna is leading the party. The Atlantic island's yearlong 400th-anniversary commemoration is chaired by **Conchita Williams Ming '68**. ●

"The U.S. would not be the way it is today if it were not for the wreck of the *Sea Venture* in 1609," says Ming, a native Bermudian. The *Sea Venture* was leading an expedition to the colony of Virginia when it hit a storm and wrecked on Bermuda. The survivors managed to rebuild their boats, stock them with food from the island, and reach Jamestown, where they rescued the almost-decimated colony. A major celebration will take place the week of July 28, the date of the shipwreck. ●

Ming ran Bermuda's child development program for many years and introduced modern dance, which she learned at Wagner College under Jane Gardner, to Bermuda's top dance schools. Last year, she was named chair of the Bermuda 2009 Steering Committee. Find out more at [www.bermuda2009.bm](http://www.bermuda2009.bm).



Medicine and Patient-Centric Learning: A Core Requirement for Informed Decision Making," in the May 2008 issue of the international journal *Personalized Medicine*.

## 1968

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

**Nancy Behling Dillon** received the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Award for Excellence in Leadership — Advanced in October 2008. She is the first nurse executive to be employed in the Minnesota Department of Human Services, State Operated Services. The award is given to nurses demonstrating unique leadership qualities, mentoring, and continuous improvement in their own skills and knowledge base. **Dan Stormer's** legal work with the South Central Farmers of Los Angeles was documented in the film *The Garden*, which was nominated for a 2009 Oscar in the best documentary features category.

## 1969

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

**Ethel Lee-Miller** has been very busy since publishing her memoir, *Thinking of Miller Place: A Memoir of Summer Comfort* (iUniverse, 2007), a tribute to unforgettable summers with her twin sister in the family's Long Island beach house. In addition to marketing her book, she conducts workshops on writing, publishing, and marketing memoirs. Ethel turned to writing after many years of teaching, counseling, life coaching, and public speaking. Learn more at [www.etheleemiller.com](http://www.etheleemiller.com).

## 1970

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

**Kimi Nakamura Fukuda** reconnected with Wagner last summer when Wagner staff member and alumnus **Drew Babbitts '03 M'06** visited her on a trip to her native state, Hawaii. Kimi had been living in

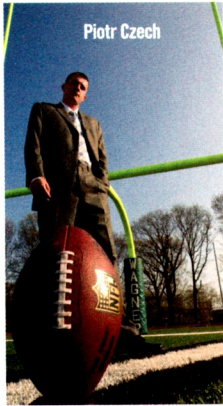
New York, but returned to Hawaii after 9/11. She now works for Baccarat Crystal, managing the company's store in Honolulu. She has spent a career in retail and marketing, including working for Chevron/Texaco's internal marketing department and implementing their new corporate logos. She travels to New York City often, as she is part of the buying team for Baccarat. **Peter Rapp** was inducted into the Staten Island Soccer League Hall of Fame in January. He is a member of Wagner's Athletic Hall of Fame and director of athletics emeritus at Staten Island Academy, where he coached for 40 years.

## 1971

Class Fund Agent: **Kathy O'Donnell**  
3322 Woodland Drive, Tobyhanna,  
PA 18466, 570-894-4731,  
katcod221@yahoo.com

Dr. **Robert Bonvino** co-authored *Medical Disaster Response: A Survival Guide for Hospitals in Mass Casualty Events*. See "New & Noteworthy" on page 30 for more information. **Kathy Van Tassell Maxcy** knows the way to Carnegie Hall: She sang there on November 23,

## Kicker and Closer in the Big Leagues



Piotr Czech

Two former Seahawk student-athletes are getting the chance to show what they can do in the big leagues this spring. ● **Piotr Czech** '08, a 2007 All-American placekicker, signed a free agent contract with the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers in April. Czech had signed a free agent contract with the Baltimore Ravens last spring and was a member of the team throughout training camp. Czech possessed the strongest leg of any placekicker in the Northeast Conference's 12-year football history. ● **Andrew Bailey** '06, who was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in 2006, is fast becoming Oakland's top closer. As of

press time, Bailey had appeared in 33 games, using his 95 mph fastball to compile a record of 4-1 early in the season, had an incredible earned run average of just 2.23 and eight saves to his credit as well. Bailey is the third player from Wagner to make the major leagues – and the first in four decades.



Coach Joe Litterio and Andrew Bailey

2008, along with other members of the Cappella Festiva Chamber Choir of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Sharon I. Richie-Melvan** of Inverness, Fla., was elected to the Board of Directors of the Military Officers Association of America. A retired U.S. Army colonel and nurse, she served in the Pentagon and in Army hospitals throughout the U.S. and the world.

## 1972

Rev. **James R. Bocchino** resigned as rector of All Saints' Memorial Church (Episcopal) in Providence, R.I., after a 21-year ministry there. He is now doing interim ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island; as of December, he was serving as interim rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in Barrington, R.I.

## 1975

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

**Joan Arnold**, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia and chair of the firm's Tax Practice Group, has been elected to the Board of Regents of the American College of Tax Counsel, the organization's governing body, representing the Third Circuit. She has been a fellow of the college since 1999. **Marty Bryce** had the amazing experience of having his Wagner class ring, which was stolen in Florida more than 20 years ago, returned to him! Last fall, someone turned the ring in to Marty, who lives in Larkspur, Calif. **Glenn Sinatra** has retired from a career in education after more than 30 years as an art teacher in the Copiague, N.Y., school system. Glenn is now enjoying life in Naples, Fla., where the fishing is great and the weather is even better!

## 1976

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

**Adrienne Lamia-Liander**, vice president for nursing services at Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center on Staten Island, earned a New York state license as a nursing home administrator. "My husband, Peter, and I have also been season ticket holders to the Wagner College theater for too many years to count," she adds. Assemblywoman **Donna Lupardo** won re-election in 2008 and is now serving her third term in the New York State Assembly (126th District, Binghamton area). She is the only Wagner alum now serving in the New York Legislature.

## 1977

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

**Jane Lyons** M'77 was honored at the Community Health Action of Staten Island's annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. She is a Staten Island Woman of Achievement and a loyal board member of CHASI.

## 1978

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

**Lorraine McNeill-Popper** led the team from Prime Access Inc. that created an award-winning TV spot for the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. This spot, "Huggin' the Block ... Hard," won the African-American category at the Association of National Advertisers Multicultural Awards, celebrating the best multicultural advertising campaigns. The ad was part of the Partnership's "Above the Influence" advertising effort and the White House's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. Lorraine, who was executive creative director of Prime Access, worked with fellow alum **Jack Irving** '69, senior vice president and media director for the Partnership, on this project.

## 1979

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

**Elissa Malcoln** published a story, "Prometheus Rebound," in the online journal *Helix: A Speculative Fiction Quarterly*, issue 10. She explains that it was inspired, in part, by an art course she took at Wagner in 1977, when she viewed Chris Burden's performance/body mutilation piece *Transfixed* at the Whitney's Biennial. "When I set out last year to write a story using mythic elements, the image of *Transfixed* popped into my head in conjunction with the punishment meted out to Prometheus of having his liver consumed daily by an eagle. I thought: If Prometheus were present in today's world, that cycle of torture and rejuvenation would be right at home in a place like the Whitney." You can read the story in the archives at [www.helixsf.com](http://www.helixsf.com). **Brian Petuch** M'79 M'84, a biosafety officer at Merck & Co., earned certification as a Specialist Microbiologist in Biological Safety Microbiology by the National Registry of Microbiologists. **Harold Theurer Jr.** inspired an event at the National

# Carolyn Ceder Root '77

## *The Ultimate Troubleshooter*

**CLAIM TO FAME:** A consultant to the U.S. Navy, Carolyn Ceder Root '77 has worked in anti-submarine warfare for 30 years and is an expert in underwater acoustic simulation. "I'm the ultimate troubleshooter," she says. "Through simulations, I create the environments and conditions that our war fighters will have to successfully navigate in real-time situations. My work prepares them to be battle-ready and successful."

**THE ACCIDENTAL ENGINEER:** Root calls her educational journey, which took her down some unusual paths for a woman, a "random walk," at least initially. She enjoyed Professor Otto Rath's Physics 101, so she stuck with it and became a physics major. "When I was in my senior year, Dr. Rath asked me where my recommendations were. I asked him, 'What recommendations?' He replied, 'The ones for graduate school.' I told him that I didn't have the money to go. He told me they would pay my way – tuition, room, board, and salary. That was how I ventured off into the world of graduate education." She completed a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering (fluid dynamics) at Catholic University in 1991.

**IF IT AIN'T BROKE:** A new submarine combat system uses control screen formats Root developed in the 1980s. "It was nice to think that in 20 years they hadn't found a better way to do it."

**WHAT SHE IS WILLING TO LOSE SLEEP FOR:** "I lived in Harborview 1201 as a freshman. It was a long wait for the elevators for 10 a.m. classes, so I got into the routine of going to breakfast to avoid the rush. It was the best meal served at the cafeteria all day – they did eggs on a short-order basis and the bacon was always done just right."

**HER BEST INVESTMENT:** "I believe that getting an education is one of the positive selfish things you can do for yourself. It's something that no one can take away. The value of your education doesn't evaporate in a bad market. It's not lost in a divorce. And it says something about being able to stay focused and make a commitment."

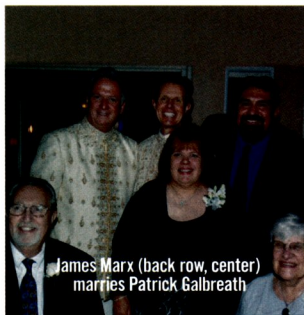


Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y. His children's book, *Hey Dad! Let's Have a Catch*, portrays Harold's childhood memories of playing ball with his father. On Father's Day weekend, the Hall of Fame opened Doubleday Field to allow families to play catch in the spirit of the book. Harold held a book signing at the event, part of the first-ever Baseball Hall of Fame Classic Weekend

## 1980

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

**Brian Grissler** M'80, president and chief executive officer of Stamford Hospital, has been inducted into the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Hall of Fame. He received the award for the health sciences category in the New York metropolitan area. **Dwight Hutchinson**, a board member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Staten Island, was honored by NAMI for his 10 years of volunteer consumer advocacy on behalf of the mental health community. He is a presenter for NAMI's In Our Own Voice education program, which offers insight into the recovery possible for people living with mental illness. **James Marx** married Patrick Galbreath on September 6, 2008, in one of the first same-gender marriages in California. The couple, who had been together for almost 20 years, were married in their backyard in Bonita, Calif. In attendance were James' parents **Herbert Marx** '57 and **Pauline Pape Marx** '57, who had celebrated their 50th



James Marx (back row, center) marries Patrick Galbreath

wedding anniversary in 2007. Other Wagner alumni in attendance were **Kristine Anderson Siebel** '76 and **Billy Tyler**. **Rosalind Noonan's** novel, *One September Morning*, was published by Kensington Publishing in January. It features a protagonist who flashes back to her days as a student at Wagner College. Read more about it on page 30. **Claire Regan** was honored by the New York State Associated Press Association in a statewide competition for graphic design. Her award-winning page design for the *Staten Island Advance* about Pope Benedict's visit to New York City was entitled "Bless the Children." Furthermore, her design work on the front page of the November 5 issue of the *Advance*, announcing the victory of Barack Obama, has been included in the book *President Obama: A Collection of Newspaper Front Pages*, published by Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Claire also received the adjunct faculty teaching award at Wagner College in May.

## 1981

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

Dr. **John J. Genco** authored the book *Homeopathy: The Law of Similars*; it's available on his Web site, healthdrg.com.

## 1983

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Donald T. Browne** 31 Tannery Hill Drive, Hamburg, NJ 07419, dbrowne100@aol.com **Linda Romani** 40008 N. Integrity Trail, Anthem, AZ 85086, 623-551-9136, momofdm@qwest.net

**MaryAnn Troiano** M'83 joined the staff of Ocean Health Initiatives in Toms Rivers, N.J., as a board-certified family nurse practitioner and child health care consultant. She received her post-master's certification as a family nurse practitioner from Wagner College in 1997 and is a candidate for her doctor of nursing practice at Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, Pa.

## 1989

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

**Laurie Wilson Merhi** '89 M'93 and her husband, Dr. Zaher Merhi, welcomed another son. Please see Crib Notes, page 40, for more information and a photo. **Alexandra Queripel** and Anne Taggart, parent volunteers at Washington School in Summit, N.J., used their art history backgrounds to develop a curriculum enrichment program for Summit's five elementary schools. The program introduces elementary school students to 15,000 years of art history in 44 lessons. Alexandra minored in art history (along with her business major) at Wagner, earned a teaching certification, and taught second grade for many years in Scotch Plains, N.J.

## 1990

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

**Patricia Amis** is founder and host of *Elderview*, a cable TV talk show that allows the senior population to voice their opinions on issues affecting them. Learn more about it at [www.elderviewtalkshow.org](http://www.elderviewtalkshow.org). **Sam Borowski** made a short film, *The Mandala Maker*, which features many fine actors, including Daniel Roebuck. Sam also produced the movie *Rex*, which won the coveted Audience Choice Award at the 2008 SINY Film Festival and has won awards at several other festivals.

## 1991

**Timothea Shefers Moore** announces the birth of Callan Reagan, on November 10, 2008, joining big brother Charlie.

## 1993

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

**Pia Wilson** received a 2009

playwriting fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and a residency at the Women's Work Lab at New Perspectives Theatre, which will present the resident playwrights' work in public festivals held in August of this year and March 2010. You can find out more at [www.newperspectivestheatre.org](http://www.newperspectivestheatre.org)

## 1994

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

**James Hickey** '94 M'96, principal of Old Bridge High School in Matawan, N.J., was named Visionary Principal of the Year by the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association. James has held the top post at Old Bridge High School for five and a half years. He is now a candidate in the MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year competition.

## 1995

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

**Alice Giovanniello-Cohen** '95 M'96 and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son. See Crib Notes, page 40, for more information and a photo. **Len Hunter** and his wife, Felicia, announce the birth of Lucia Patricia on December 23, 2008. At 10.5 pounds and 22 inches long, Len commented, "Could be the future of the girls softball team." **Debra Kessler-Westgate** and **Neil Westgate** also reported happy news: the birth of Sarah on September 25, 2008. They live in South Plainfield, N.J.

## 1996

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

Dr. **Susanne Coppola-Apazidis** and her husband, Dr. Alexios Apazidis, announce the birth of Dominick Joseph, on September 24, 2008. Dominick joins a big brother, Harry John, and two big sisters, Georgia and Evelyn. **Carmine Dominick Giovino**



was honored by his hometown when he received the Arts and Letters Award at the Neptune Ball, an annual fundraiser at Staten Island's Sailors' Snug Harbor. Carmine plays Danny Messer on *CSI: New York*. He also plays in and writes for an alternative rock band, Ceesau, a name which he came up with during his Wagner student days, he told the *Staten Island Advance*. **Dan Mullen** '96 has been named the new head coach of the Mississippi State Bulldogs. He has been in college coaching since 1994, holding positions at Syracuse, Notre Dame, Bowling Green, Utah, and Florida. **Leigh-Ann DePascale Nowicki** '96 M'07 and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their second child, Henry Michael, on May 14. Big brother Merritt is one and a half years old. **Frances-Ann Sciotto** graduated from the University of Florida in December 2007 with an educational specialist (Ed.S.) degree and a master's (M.Ed.) degree in mental health counseling. She also received certification from the National Board of Certified Counselors. She lives in Ocala, Fla., and works as a family engagement specialist in the child protective services division of a local community health organization.

## 1997

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

**Colin A. Barnhard** and his wife, Jennifer Kent-Barnhard, announce the birth of Madison Jane on November 8, 2008. Proud grandparents are Terry and **Bruce R. Barnhard** '64. **Josh Hill** has completed his master's in information security at Norwich University. **Valerie Brown-Runge** and **Mark Runge** '98 welcomed a daughter. Please see Crib Notes, page 40, for more information and a photo.

## 1998

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

**Jennifer Mckinnon** and partner Marianne Doyle; **Mark Runge** and **Valerie Brown-Runge** '97; **Monica Tuzzi**

## Our Man on City Council

**Ken Mitchell** '87 won the seat representing Staten Island's District 49 in the New York City Council in a special election in February. Former District 49 Councilman Mike McMahon had been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November. Mitchell had served as McMahon's chief of staff for seven years. Now he represents the district of his alma mater, Wagner College, and one of his first actions as councilman was to renew funding for an internship program that places Wagner students with several Staten Island Local Development Corporations.



**Sanzone**; and **Laura DeYoung Scanlon** '98 M'00 and her husband, Kevin, all sent us baby announcements and photos. See Crib Notes, page 40.

## 1999

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

**Barbara Bellesi** has moved back to New York after spending 10 years in the Boston area, where she earned an MFA in creative writing at Emerson College, taught high school English, and worked on her writing career. She has launched an editorial consulting business called the Write Woman ([www.thewritewoman.com](http://www.thewritewoman.com)). She has spent a lot of time with her AOPi sisters, and she gave the keynote speech at Wagner's ODK awards ceremony. She will be back on campus as an adjunct professor in the English department. Dr. **Marissa Ginn Clements** moved back to New York from Atlanta, Ga. She accepted a staff psychologist position at Stony Brook University's counseling center and also has a private practice in Stony Brook. **Dawn Galluccio-Bauer** and **Todd Bauer** '00 got married in July 2002 and live in Old Bridge, N.J. Todd teaches sixth-grade science in Perth Amboy, and Dawn teaches fifth grade in North Brunswick. For their baby announcement and photo, as well as one from **Michael Rubinfeld** and **Jennifer Greene Rubinfeld** '01, see Crib Notes, page 40. **Chad**

**Moran** '99 M'01 and **Pam Abrams Moran** M'02 announce the birth of Logan Gerard on November 12, 2008.

## 2000

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

**Todd Bauer** and **Dawn Galluccio-Bauer** '99 got married in July 2002 and live in Old Bridge, N.J. Todd teaches sixth-grade science in Perth Amboy, and Dawn teaches fifth grade in North Brunswick. For their baby announcement and photo, see Crib Notes, page 40. **Nicole Libby** drew praise for her performance in the Snug Harbor Performing Arts Department production of *Wait Until Dark*, which was chosen as Best Overall Production in the *Staten Island Advance's* 2008 AWE Readers Poll. **Mark DeCristoforo** was featured in the *Staten Island Advance's* weekend entertainment section last October for his success as a rapper under the stage name Mark D, while by day he teaches and coaches football at Monsignor Farrell High School on Staten Island. He released a CD, *Blast4Me*.

## 2001

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

**Jennifer Corbett McFarland** and her husband, Brian, as well as **Jennifer Greene Rubinfeld** and **Michael Rubinfeld** '99 sent in baby announcements and photos; see Crib Notes on page 40. In other news, **Bret Shuford** was recognized as Best Wagner Grad on Broadway in the *Staten Island Advance's* 2008 AWE Readers Poll for his performances in *The Little Mermaid*.

## 2002

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Peter J. Herbst**  
24 Bethke Road, Killingworth, CT  
06419, Herbstpe@bc.edu **Cindy M. Storza Maley** 54 Webster Ave.,  
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4757, smallwonder124@hotmail.com  
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nay537@yahoo.com

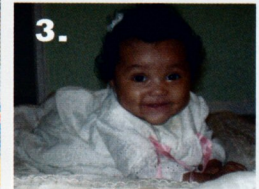
**Pam Abrams Moran** M'02 and **Chad Moran** '99 M'01 announce the birth of Logan Gerard on November 12, 2008. We also received baby announcements and photos from **Angie Bombardier Heaney** and **Tim Heaney** '03 M'04 and from **Maryann Giammarco Reichel** and **Thomas Reichel** '03; see Crib Notes, page 40. In performance news, two class members were honored: **Christina DeCicco** received a Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre for her portrayal of Eponine in the Walnut Street Theatre's staging of *Les Misérables*. The Barrymore Awards recognize artists in the Greater Philadelphia area for excellence and innovation while serving to increase awareness of the

## Crib Notes

## Classes of 2029 and 2030

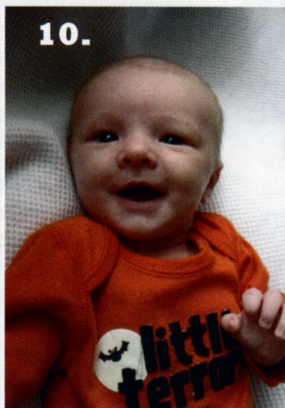
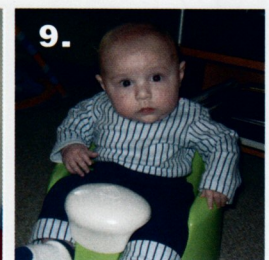
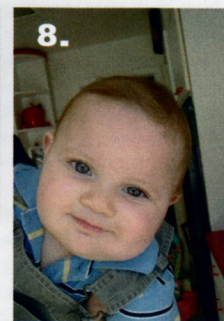
*Some of the newest faces to join the Wagner family*

- 1.** Laurie Wilson Merhi '89 M'93, Dr. Zaher Merhi, and Ryan Omar Merhi welcomed Adam Joseph on October 20, 2008. **2.** Alice Giovanniello-Cohen '95 M'96 and her husband, Michael, welcomed Jack Ryan on September 10, 2008. **3.** Valerie Brown-Runge '97 and Mark Runge '98 are proud new parents to Chloe Violet, born on June 8, 2008.



- 4.** Jennifer Mckinnon '98 and Marianne Doyle announce the birth of Owen Peter on October 31, 2008. **5.** Monica Tuzzi Sanzone '98 announces the birth of Joseph Louis on September 16, 2008. **6.** Laura DeYoung Scanlon '98 M'00 and her husband, Kevin, welcomed Katherine Ann on May 4, 2007. Her brother, Dylan Alfred, is four years old.

- 7.** Dawn Galluccio-Bauer '99 and Todd Bauer '00 announce the birth of Nathan James on January 18. **8.** Jennifer Corbett McFarland '01 and Brian McFarland announce the birth of Joseph Jerome on February 26, 2008. **9.** Jennifer Greene Rubinfield '01 and Michael Rubinfield '99 announce the birth of Justin Geoffrey on July 7, 2008.



- 10.** Angie Bombardier Heaney '02 and Tim Heaney '03 M'04 announce the birth of Timothy Patrick Heaney Jr. on September 7, 2008. **11.** Maryann Giammarco Reichel '02 and Thomas Reichel '03 announce the birth of Thomas Jude on August 13, 2008. **12.** Diana Senese Scattaglia '03 and Jerry Scattaglia welcomed their first child, Gianna Rose, on July 9, 2008.

We'd love to see your baby's face. Please see page 34 for publication guidelines.

local theater community. **Joel Richardson** '02 M'07 was voted Best Standup Comic in the *Staten Island Advance's* 2008 AWE Readers Poll. He performs frequently in Staten Island and Manhattan and organized the four-day Staten Island Comedy Festival. He is a member of the National Alumni Association Board and has sponsored many events for the alumni and co-curricular activities offices at Wagner.

## 2003

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

**Kristen Aherns Bentson** gave a lecture on campus in September, entitled "Live Well: Strategies for a Healthy Body." She is clinical director of nutrition and wellness at Lehigh Valley Chiropractic in Bethlehem, Pa., and a staff member at Lehigh Valley Hospital. She graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, in 2007, and then completed an M.S. in human nutrition from the University of Bridgeport Nutrition Institute. **Bryan Distefano** '03 M'05 and **Jeannine Romano** '04 were married on September 13, 2008, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. **Christopher Jenkins** and **Toni Susi** were married on August 8, 2008. They live in South Deerfield, Mass. **Diana Senese** married Jerry Scattaglia at Our Lady of Peace Church, Staten Island, on May 5, 2007. Diana and Jerry work at JPMorgan Chase in New York City: Diana is a finance accountant in the treasury services controllers division; and Jerry is a tax accountant for corporate tax. For baby announcements and photos from Diana and Jerry, as well as from **Thomas** '03 and **Maryann Giammarco** '02 **Reichel** and **Tim** '03 M'04 and **Angie Bombardier** '02 **Heaney**, see Crib Notes, page 40.

## 2004

Class Fund Agent: **Alexis D. Hernandez** 5252 Orange Ave., Apt. 335, San Diego, CA 92103, [lex382@aol.com](mailto:lex382@aol.com)

**Andrew Booth**, a third-year law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law, was part of the winning team at the 2009 National Moot Court Competition, held February 2-5 in New York. This is the second consecutive win for Chicago-Kent in the largest appellate advocacy tournament in the U.S. **Jeannine Romano** and **Bryan Distefano** '03 M'05 were married on September 13, 2008, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. **Thomas Smolka**, a technology teacher at St. John's Lutheran School in Staten Island, coached his school's robotics team to a win in the New York City FIRST Robotics tournament. It was a great showing for a young rookie team, Thomas told the *Staten Island Advance*.

## 2005

Co-Class Fund Agents: **Jacob Browne** 935 Castleton Ave., Apt. 1, Staten Island, NY 10310, 347-934-3828, [jbrowne@wagner.edu](mailto:jbrowne@wagner.edu) **Melissa D. Powers** 313 Vesta Court, Ridgewood, NJ 07450, 201-394-2408, [powers.mel@gmail.com](mailto:powers.mel@gmail.com) Class Correspondent: **Matthew L. Sheehan** 114 Farmstead Ln., Glastonbury, CT 06033, [mshsheehan05@gmail.com](mailto:mshsheehan05@gmail.com)

**Rebecca L. Coldren** was promoted to captain on February 2 and, as of February, was serving as the headquarters company commander for Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 in Twentynine Palms, Calif. She also started a master's degree program in school psychology at Capella University. **Victoria Consentino** '05 M'07 wrote in March to say that she had secured a position with the New York City Department of Education. She enthusiastically accepted the challenge of becoming a kindergarten special education teacher in an integrated co-teaching classroom at P.S. 236 in Brooklyn. **Abbie Leese** married Reidar Jensen on May 10, 2008. Classmates in attendance were **Tom DeFrancesco**, **Lisa Gargione**, **Brendan Lynch**, **Marc Schaeffer**, **Sharon Webster**, and **John Wolff**. **Elizabeth Pawlowski** was on tour earlier this year, performing the lead part, Janet Van De Graaff, in *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

## 2006

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

**Christopher Corbo** '06 M'08 is teaching at Wagner College while working on a Ph.D. in neuroscience at the City University of New York. **Mitch Sims** is in Vienna, Austria, teaching English through a Fulbright grant and working on two master's degrees, one in musicology and the other in mathematics, at the University of Vienna. He is also studying trumpet at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna under Josef Bammer. One of his compositions will be performed at the University of Music and Performing Arts in the fall, and he was also commissioned to compose a work for an Austrian wind ensemble. He planned to visit New York City this summer and then go on a lecture/concert tour in North Florida in August before returning to Vienna.

## 2007

Class Fund Agent: **Alison J. Hay** 228 South Ashburnham Road, Westminister, MA 01473, [Alison.J.Hay@gmail.com](mailto:Alison.J.Hay@gmail.com)

**Chris Flanigan** joined Wagner's Counseling Services Staff as a counselor. He is working toward his master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Hofstra University. **Angela Kahres** is enjoying her position at Public Interest Projects, a public charity that supports philanthropic institutions and nonprofit groups working toward a society that ensures justice, dignity, and opportunity for all people. She attended the L'dor v dor Ethical Leadership Retreat run by the Woodhull Institute in March, which she describes as a very empowering experience. **Jessica Margolis**, whose stage name is Jessa Rose, has been on the road,

performing in the touring cast of *The Wizard of Oz*, since last September.

## 2008

**Bryan Brand** along with fellow Santa Barbara City College graduate, **Dusty Stutsman**, created [SBmenus.com](http://SBmenus.com), a free Web site devoted to connecting users to the best local spots for dining and drinking. It is the first of its kind in the area, reported the *Daily Nexus* of the University of California at Santa Barbara. **Naveena David** gave a guest lecture on careers in social work this spring in Professor Jean Halley's class at Wagner. Naveena is working on a master's in social work at Rutgers, while also serving as a resident director for Rutgers. **Kathleen Fehrlie** was voted Best Actress in a Musical in the *Staten Island Advance's* 2008 AWE Readers Poll for her performance as Eliza Doolittle in a Staten Island production of *My Fair Lady*. **Christina Lamb** was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for her Ph.D. research at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The three-year grant is for research she started this summer at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's main research facility in Durham, N.C. She will be looking at the molecular changes that occur in the heart after exposure to air pollution. **E. J. Marotta** and **Ben Izzo** produced Ben's comedy *Sadie, Sadie* through their own company, BE Theatre Company ([www.BETheatrecompany.org](http://www.BETheatrecompany.org)). The play ran in January at the Gene Frankel Theatre Underground in Manhattan, and several other Wagner alumni were involved, including **Jon Grenon**, director, and **Lilly Tobin** '09, who starred in the role of Sadie.



## The GREAT WAGNER Way

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

**K**athy Brier '97's first break after graduation came when she was tapped for the offbeat off-Broadway show, *Bat Boy, the Musical*, in 2001. A year later, she was hired to play young Marcie Walsh on the ABC daytime soap opera *One Life to Live*. In 2003, things got really crazy for a while when she was hired to play Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* on Broadway, and she decided to keep her day job, too. She played both Marcie Walsh and Tracy Turnblad for eight and a half months. Shortly after returning full time to OLTL in May 2003, Brier was nominated for a daytime Emmy in the supporting actress category.

Since late 2007, soap-opera fan mags have been reporting on Brier's desire to get out of daytime TV and return to the stage. This March, the producers of *One Life to Live* announced that her contract, which expired at the end of May, would not be renewed.

What's next for Kathy Brier? Stay tuned for the next episode of *As the Alumna Turns*.

**B**ret Shuford '01 auditioned for his first professional role in a Paper Mill Playhouse production of *Carousel* during spring break of his senior year. *Carousel* got Shuford an Equity card, his ticket into the professional theater world, and he has used that ticket well.

Shuford landed his first role in the ensemble of a Broadway show, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, in January 2005. In June 2006, he signed on with *Beauty and the Beast*. Less than a year later, he began rehearsals as part of the original company of *The Little Mermaid*, which is where he is currently performing. Most nights, Shuford is part of the ensemble on stage — but, occasionally, he gets to play the male lead, Prince Eric, when actor Sean Palmer is away.

"Understudying, you never know when you will go on," Shuford wrote last summer, "unless, of course, the actor that plays the part is on vacation. I've gone on twice this year. Both times, it was a blast."

*"Lowell got up, stretched his arms out in the way only he could, and said, 'My dear, welcome to the theater.'"*

— BETSY JOSLYN '75

**W**est Side Story has played a recurring role in the stage career of **Haley Carlucci '08**. During the summer of 2003, she played in a community college production of the show. She performed in *West Side Story* again in 2005 as a Wagner sophomore, playing Maria.

Last spring, as graduation approached, Carlucci appeared in the theater department's annual senior showcase performance, where she got signed by an agency. "They sent me in for the new revival of *West Side Story*," Carlucci said. "I did three auditions — and then I waited.

"I was walking in Times Square with a friend when I got the call," she said. "I was standing right outside the Palace Theatre, where *West Side Story* was going to play. I said to my friend, 'We have to go in there!' The staff people were so great. They took us in, and I looked all around, and it just hit me: 'Oh, my God! I'm going to be on Broadway!'"

Carlucci was cast as the understudy for Maria.

The show opened in March, and by mid-May she had gone on stage as Maria eight times. "I really had an adrenaline rush," she said of her first live Broadway performance. "No matter how much you've rehearsed, there's nothing to prepare you for that." ●

# In Memoriam

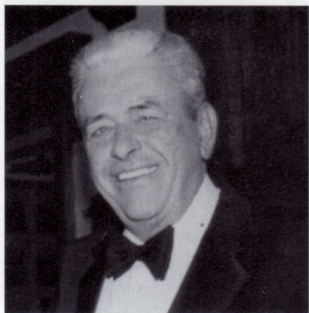
*Celebrating lives that enriched the Wagner family*

## Frederick F. Witte '49 M'75

*Too busy for golf, but not for Wagner College*

**Frederick Witte** died on December 29, 2008.

For more than 60 years, Fred Witte poured his energy and enthusiasm into Wagner College. As a student, he participated in the Varsity Club, student government, track, and cross country, and was president of Kappa Sigma Alpha. After he graduated with a B.S. in accounting, he earned a law degree from Brooklyn College and pursued a successful career as an attorney with Liberty Mutual Insurance



Company and Nabisco Brands.

As an alumnus, he served as president of the Staten Island Alumni Club, the National Alumni Association, and the Touchdown Club, and served on the College's Board of Trustees. He sold hats on football game days, made fundraising calls, set up tables at flea markets, and coordinated alumni mailings. He was a key charter member of the Wagner College Golf Classic Committee. He was recognized with the Alumni Service Award in 1972 and the Sal Alberti Award in 2007. The stone sign marking the campus on Howard Avenue is a testimony to his efforts.

A Staten Island native, Witte was an avid outdoorsman, and he served as a ski instructor with the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army. He kept in good shape all his life, running, skiing, swimming, and gardening. Despite his involvement with the golf classic, he did not golf — "he said golf was too slow for him," said fraternity brother Bob Peirano '50.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley, and their two children, **Jeffrey Witte '88 M'92** and **Deborah Witte '85**.

## Lila Thompson Barbes '40

*Exemplar of enthusiasm and service*

**Lila Thompson Barbes** died on May 17, 2009. Emblematic of her tireless efforts and enthusiasm for her college and community is the name of the National Alumni Association's highest honor for service: The John "Bunny" Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Wagner Alumni Laureate.

A native of Rosebank, Staten Island, Lila Thompson majored in biology at Wagner, where she met student-athlete Bunny Barbes. In 1941 they began a marriage that lasted 67 years.

While Bunny served as a coach and as director of alumni relations at Wagner, Lila traveled around the world on alumni trips, raised countless dollars through the Wagner College Guild and other programs, served as president of the Staten Island Alumni Club and of the NAA, participated in the homecoming committee, and attended nearly every alumni event. She was honored with the Alumni Service Award in 1965.



She gave 100 percent to all that she did. She was a leader in the Camp Fire Girls organization, Staten Island Episcopal Church Women, the board of the Mariners Family Home, the Huguenot Garden Club, and Historic Richmond Town, just to name a few of her causes. She founded a support group for those who suffer from celiac disease, as she did. She was named a Staten Island Woman of Achievement in 1978.

Her survivors include her husband, **John "Bunny" Barbes '39**; her children, **Allan Barbes '71** and **Linda Barbes Stein '69 M'73**; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

### ALUMNI

Dr. Paul V. Rogler '36  
 Dr. Manuel A. Bergnes '37  
 Mrs. Lila Thompson Barbes '40  
 Rev. Jack Cooper '40  
 Mrs. Marjorie Rieb Seguine '40  
 Rev. Carl T. Sheie '41  
 Mrs. Jane Gustin Kemp '43  
 Mrs. Mary Morabito Pavis '44  
 Mrs. Gloria Montrola Gilmour '46  
 Mrs. Dorothea Morch Karl '46  
 Mrs. Jeanette Kleinman Schwartz '46  
 Mr. Alfred B. Hartstein '48  
 Mrs. June Bellows Hickman '48  
 Mr. William W. Sephton '48  
 Mr. Kenneth R. Hansen '49

Mr. Edwin F. Mensing '49  
 Mr. Frederick F. Witte '49 M'75  
 Mr. Paul Guertler III '50  
 Mrs. Helen Deuschle Niederhauser '50  
 Rev. Walter G. Smihula '50  
 Mr. William R. Ryan '53  
 Rev. Edward R. Hanson '54  
 Ms. Frances Fortinash '56  
 Rev. John Paul Mlynar '56  
 Mrs. Angela B. O'Dowd Schleier M'56  
 Mrs. Wilma Noffke Studenmund '56  
 Mr. Robert Montana '58  
 Mr. Charles Depaola '59  
 Mr. Ralph J. Cannarozzi '61  
 Mr. Walter S. Plowman '61

Mr. Karl P. E. Christensen '63  
 Mrs. Judith Holscher Mueller '63  
 Mrs. Julia Sinisgalli Barchitta '64 M'81  
 Mrs. Jean Heaton Burton '65  
 Mrs. Shiela L. Reh '65  
 Ms. Barbara Kotite '66  
 Mr. George Prall '71  
 Mr. Anthony Ventura '71  
 Mr. Allan F. Crane '73  
 Mr. William A. Donnelly '73  
 Mr. Theodore C. Herrmann '73  
 Mrs. Elaine Chapman Wick '73  
 Mr. Anthony Ferrara '76  
 Dr. Gerald Arpino H'80  
 Mr. Seth H. Benjamin '80  
 Ms. Elizabeth Miller '82  
 Dr. Gail K. Hepner '85

Mr. Alee Ralph '86  
 Hon. Dr. John J. Marchi H'87  
 Mrs. Gina Paradiso Casella '90  
 Ms. Donna L. Mills '96  
 Mrs. Amie Lee Solis Vertucci '98  
 Mr. Dan Waeger M'05

### FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS

Mr. Jerome Berg  
 Ms. Mary Elaine DeMaso  
 Ms. Ruth Fetteroll  
 Ms. Karen A. Mullins  
 Ms. D. Lynne Vardaman  
 Dr. Kim Worthy

*Deaths reported to Wagner College, August 27, 2008–May 15, 2009.*

**Theodore Dowd '50**  
*A flair for hospitality*

To truly appreciate **Ted Dowd**, you had to experience him prepare a dinner of Caesar salad and steak Diane.

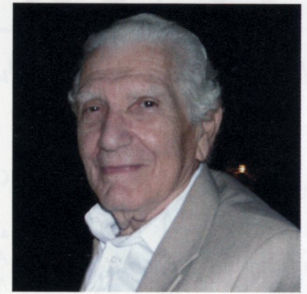
Having honed his culinary skills at the Plaza Hotel in New York City, Ted would delight his guests with memories of those years while he mashed anchovies. His hands, weathered from a maritime career that took him from New York to California to Greece and finally to Florida, ripped Romaine lettuce. With an engineer's precision, he would whisk the egg and slowly add

olive oil. After preparing each guest's plate, he would proudly declare, "That's how we made Caesar salad at the Plaza."

Steak Diane is traditionally prepared tableside, and Ted took tradition very seriously. Rolling a cart with gas burner to the dining table, he would set his carefully selected steaks to sizzling in clarified butter with Worcestershire sauce, shallots, garlic, and mushrooms. Tilting his pan forward, he would douse it with Grand Marnier and turn the burner on high. Whoosh! As the flame hit the ceiling, the guests would gasp while Ted giggled infectiously.

Ted enjoyed his life and made the lives of those around him more enjoyable. Ask anyone who shared his company aboard the *Queen Mary II* on Wagner's inaugural alumni trip, or who danced with him at Wagner reunions, or who ponder the Wyland painting he donated to Wagner, now hanging in Spiro Sports Center.

When Ted passed away last July, Wagner lost one of its most loyal alumni. A longtime member of Wagner's Heritage Society, he generously left his house in Florida to the College. When I placed Ted's ashes in a columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery, following a



funeral with full military honors, I remembered a good friend who will not be forgotten.

— Gail Kelley '97

FACULTY REMEMBRANCES



**Dean Julia Sinisgalli Barchitta '64 M'81**  
*Nursing professor and Wagner's first dean of learning communities and experiential learning*

**Julia M. Sinisgalli Barchitta** died on February 22, 2009. She was an integral part of Wagner College for almost 50 years, starting with her enrollment as a nursing student in 1960. After her graduation, she worked as a clinician and an instructor in the Bronx and Brooklyn. She returned to Wagner to teach in 1973, and also served as chair of the nursing department before being appointed Wagner's first dean of learning communities and experiential learning in 1998.

Barchitta enjoyed connecting students and faculty with the Staten Island community, and she received many honors for her work, including the American Legion Outstanding Citizen Award and the Soroptimist Woman of Distinction Award. She was posthumously named the John "Bunny" Barbes '39 and Lila T. Barbes '40 Alumni Laureate by the National Alumni Association and awarded the Presidential Citation for Lifetime Achievement at commencement.

She courageously battled cancer for several years, and traveled all over Europe and the United States to share her experience with a breakthrough cancer-fighting drug, Sutent, giving hope to other cancer survivors.

She met her husband, the late **Roy Barchitta '64**, when they were students at Wagner College. Her survivors include her children, **Anthony '91 M'96**, Lucille, and John; a sister, Valerie Nansen; a brother, Bernard; and two grandsons.



**Professor Kim Worthy**  
*Inspirational teacher of film studies and English, director of Writing Center*

**Kim Worthy**, adjunct professor of English and film studies and director of the Writing Center at Wagner College, died on October 3, 2008.

She began working at Wagner in 1992, after completing her Ph.D. in English at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Her areas of focus were cinema studies and modern American literature, especially literature and film about the Vietnam War. She led the charge to create a film studies minor at Wagner, and last year she led an Expanding Your Horizons trip to Vietnam. With Don Stearns, professor of biology, she taught an award-winning First-Year Learning Community, "Earth Island," which integrated film, literature, and environmental biology.

In the *Wagnerian*, students poured out tributes to Worthy. "It is impossible to measure in words how much this inspirational woman meant to my writing, my love of cinema, and my academic career," wrote Jesse Hagen '09, who was part of her learning community and the Vietnam trip. "Dr. Worthy left an undeniable impact on the Wagner campus and community."

Survivors include her husband, Jim Clawson; daughter, Kelsey Caitlin; stepmother, Rita Binkley Worthy; and stepbrother, Frederick Charles.

# Hope Is in the Air

*Transformation we can believe in by Abraham Unger*

After more than a year of economic crisis, nothing seems more welcome than change. Yet, “change” is a vague word, and uncertainty can be scary. My trusted *American Heritage Dictionary* reports that another word for “change” is “transformation.” That defines things a little better, because in transformation lies hope.

I believe that not just change, but transformation is the key to a more prosperous future. As we teeter at the precipice of either deeper recession or recovery, a window of opportunity has opened up. We need to start thinking seriously today about the kind of society we want tomorrow.

Political scientist Robert Putnam’s *Bowling Alone* reports that Americans have become disconnected from community.

Measures of our “social capital” — the forums within which Americans gather to express shared visions and concerns, whether PTAs or political parties

— have declined in membership. Isn’t it interesting that our communal sensibility disintegrated just as the cornerstone of our financial system, the banking sector, spiraled out of control without regard for the massive economic risks it was placing on the American people?

It is time for Americans to reverse Putnam’s findings and reinvest in our society not only financially, but civically as well. We are doing just that at Wagner. Through campus civic forums, such as student clubs and community outreach, our students are deeply engaged in building community in contemporary America. In so doing, they are not only adding a transformational civic dimension to our campus, but they are also bringing that message to the city in which they live and learn.

Take, for example, Hillel, a Jewish student club I advise. For us, pluralism is a core value. Because Hillel programs are campus-wide events, Jewish values become a resource for the broader Wagner community. But that’s not all. As director of urban programs, I see students providing



“A window of opportunity has opened up.”

intensive research and volunteer support for community-rooted nonprofits that have joined Wagner’s Port Richmond

Partnership. This partnership, a substantial Wagner-driven capacity-building initiative in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island, touches upon so many intertwined and urgent public policy issues, ranging from economic development to immigration.

Imagine this kind of transformational communal commitment spread throughout the nation. Who wouldn’t want to invest in an economy grounded in such a shared sense of purpose? This is the meaning of change. It is happening at Wagner because our students, faculty, and administration have come together to share in a civic engagement so strong that one can’t help but feel hope is in the air.

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*Abraham Unger is an assistant professor and director of urban programs in Wagner’s Department of Government and Politics. He serves as campus rabbi and faculty advisor to Wagner Hillel, and as rabbi to Congregation Ahavath Israel, Tottenville, Staten Island.*

WAGNER COLLEGE

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Go to [www.wagner.edu/alumni](http://www.wagner.edu/alumni) to register for The Link, a free and exclusive online community for Wagner alumni. Why? **You can:**

- Update your alumni profile info when you move, get a new job, get married, etc.
- Search for classmates.
- View and post class notes.
- Make new connections.
- Register for upcoming events.
- Integrate it with your Facebook account.
- Meet some cool cats like these...