Art
Mirrors
Life

Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum opens
Features

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40 — ONE LAST THING School of Nursing Dean Jean Lange reflects on changes to the profession over the 40 years that Quinnipiac has been preparing these vital members of the health care team.

ON THE COVER: “Famine Ship,” a model of John Behan’s “National Famine Memorial,” captures the loss of life and suffering during the Great Famine in Ireland and is among several of Behan’s pieces on display in Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum. See story on page 14. Photo: James Higgins
Hansen Center: Where the hearth is

Students are making themselves comfortable in the two-story, 10,000-square-foot addition to the Carl Hansen ’52 Student Center that was built in the former Alumni Hall space. At the heart of the addition is a large, open gathering area that spans both floors and comfortably seats about 100 people. It features a gas-fueled brick fireplace, a large retractable screen for films and two elegant, circular staircases leading to the second floor. The first floor also houses a Greek Life suite, as well as a suite for the University’s media organizations. The second floor has a large multipurpose room and two smaller meeting rooms.
Gibson slams political divide, ‘least productive’ Congress

It was only September, but former “ABC World News” anchor Charles Gibson was already predicting an Obama victory based on the likely electoral votes, some Romney campaign fumbles and his four decades of journalism experience.

No matter who won, the biggest challenge facing the president would be eliminating the partisan politics that has halted progress on important issues, explained Gibson in his lecture, “The (Im)Balance of Power in Washington: How Things Went Off the Rails and How They Can Be Fixed.”

“Today, Congress is a joke,” Gibson said in his talk that followed a day of meetings with Quinnipiac students and faculty. “The 112th Congress...has the distinction of being the least productive Congress in a generation.”

His solution would be to eliminate party caucuses, hold longer sessions and encourage members to stay in Washington, D.C., increasing their chances of knowing people across the aisle. Compromise is easier with someone you know personally, he explained.

Gibson discussed several topics, including the cheating scandal at Harvard and the state of journalism, which he hopes will be redefined by a new generation.

He also described how the 2008 election influenced his decision to retire. He said he had spent his career trying to be unbiased, but it was hard not to be struck by the emotions from the crowds, and even in the studio, when Barack Obama became the first African-American to win the presidency.

Gibson recalled that 232 years earlier, the country’s founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence that stated, “…all men are created equal.”

“We have not done our best to live up to that in our society. But on that night, hadn’t we taken a big step in that direction?” he said.

“I’ll never have another election like this, so maybe it’s time to go,” he recalls thinking.

The psychology of vampires

Just in time for Halloween, Dr. Brendan Kelly discussed the changing, yet enduring, images of vampires in folklore, literature and popular culture, from dark and evil to “pretty” in the popular “Twilight” movies. “Vampires have Eastern European origins, but are present in most cultures in some form,” said Kelly, a consulting psychiatrist at University College Dublin and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. He also described his encounter with a patient who claimed to be a vampire and went to a hospital for blood to avoid harming people and talked about the relationship between vampirism and psychiatric illnesses.

Quinnipiac launched a redesigned website that is more visually appealing and interactive and better reflects the growth and culture of the University.

The new design uses large, bold photographs to showcase Quinnipiac’s community and its three campuses.

The website also takes advantage of new technologies to give website visitors a more interactive experience. The site integrates the University’s social media platforms and includes more videos. Improved navigation and larger menus make it easier and faster to find information and explore the University’s schools, centers and programs.

The new design features stories under broad headings—global citizenship, teaching and learning, business and entrepreneurship, science and technology, legal matters, health and science and communicate and innovate—that illustrate the interdisciplinary learning taking place on campus.

Each school has a uniquely designed page that promotes its programs and events.

“We’re writing stories and profiles to highlight our alumni, our faculty and our students and the great things they are doing, and also to show the outcomes of a Quinnipiac education,” said Mark Ludovico, ’99, MS ’01, director of web communications.

Law team wins contest

The School of Law’s mock trial team triumphed over a national field of competitors Oct. 27–28 to win the 2012 Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition. Eight law schools from around the country competed in the 13th annual contest sponsored by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association and the School of Law.

This year’s competitors were Barry University, Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law (returning champion); Brooklyn Law Center; Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law; Drexel University, Earle Mack School of Law; Fordham University School of Law; Georgetown University Law Center; and University of Illinois School of Law.

Each team tried the case twice that Saturday at U.S. District Courthouse in New Haven, once as the prosecution and once as the defense. Four teams moved on to the semifinal level on Sunday. This year Georgetown and Barry met in one semifinal while Brooklyn faced Quinnipiac in the other. The final round pitted Georgetown as the prosecution team against Quinnipiac, the defense team and the ultimate winner of both the round and competition.

The team of Michael Bivona, Maura Crossin, James Fraguela and Richard Stannard III, all 3Ls, prevailed in the final round against a very strong team from Georgetown. In addition, Bivona won honors as the “best overall advocate.” They were coached by Sean McGuinness, JD ’09, and Ryan O’Neill, JD ’08.

Third-year student Freesia Singnagam drafted this year’s problem—a domestic dispute that ended in the death of a spouse upon the discovery of an adulterous affair. The defense had the choice of arguing self-defense, suggesting the defendant’s lover had dealt the fatal blow, or pointing a finger at the defendant’s teenage child, who had both motive and opportunity to kill the victim.

“Competitions such as ours offer a first-class opportunity for students to put a case together from start to finish, using all they have learned about trial practice, the rules of evidence and criminal procedure,” said Professor Elizabeth Marsh, who directs the program.

Marsh also said that the critiques from 36 superior court judges, trial advocacy professors and prosecuting and defense litigators provided valuable experience for students to take to future employers.

Displaying their plaque, from left: Richard Stannard III, Maura Crossin, Michael Bivona and James Fraguela.
Faculty authors tell about new books

WHO: KATHY LEONARD CZEPIEL, College of Arts and Sciences
WHAT: “A Violet Season” (July 2012, Simon & Schuster)
SYNOPSIS: The violet industry is booming in 1898, and a Hudson Valley farm owned by the Fletcher family is turning a good profit for two of its brothers. But Ida Fletcher, married to the black sheep youngest brother, has taken up wet nursing to help pay the bills, and her daughter, Alice, has left school to work. As they risk losing their share of the farm, the two women make great sacrifices that set them against each other in a struggle for honesty and forgiveness.

CZEPIEL SAYS: “I was inspired to write the book in part as a gift to the people of my hometown in New York State’s mid-Hudson Valley. I wanted to restore a piece of our local history that had been mostly lost—the booming violet-farming industry of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The project also took me, somewhat unexpectedly, deep into issues of women’s work at the turn of the century: laundry, farming, wet nursing, prostitution. Readers are calling the novel a page-turner that keeps them up at night!”

WHO: RAYMOND FOERY, School of Communications
SYNOPSIS: Film scholars and Hitchcock fans alike will enjoy Foery’s recounting of the history—writing, casting, shooting and promotion—of “Frenzy,” one of Hitchcock’s greatest works and the one that restored the director to international acclaim after a lackluster period. Foery also discusses the reactions to “Frenzy” by critics and scholars while examining the movie’s place in film history 40 years later.

FOERY SAYS: “While the book is the result of two summers of research (at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, Calif.), it should be of interest to any film buff. It traces a day-by-day journey by the master director as he shot his last successful film. “Frenzy” was a work of genius, and all of the participants have only fond memories of it. There was no tension at all between the director and any of the actors. It is a scholarly book that should be fun to read and has a happy ending.”

WHO: PAUL STEINLE, School of Communications, and his wife, Sara Brown
WHAT: “The Power and Purpose of Journalism” (2012)
SYNOPSIS: In the digital age when journalism may be losing public esteem, the pair traveled the country to find out who America’s journalists are and what has shaped their professional values and ethics. They also created a website chronicling the status of newspapers (www.WhoNeedsNewspapers.org).

STEINLE SAYS: “Our book, composed of career epiphanies from more than 90 professional journalists, gives readers greater insight into the civic values that motivate them. It portrays reporters and editors as passionate advocates for telling true stories, and it clarifies journalism’s key contribution to the smooth functioning of democracy.”

The following professors also have written or edited specialty books.

David T. Cadden, professor of management, and his wife, Sandra L. Lueder, associate professor emeritus at Southern Connecticut State University, “Small Business Management in the 21st Century.”

Leonard Engel, professor of English, “New Essays on Clint Eastwood” featuring critiques of the director’s life’s work. Engel, the book’s editor, included chapters by three other Quinnipiac professors.


Leslie Neal-Boylan, associate dean, School of Nursing, “Nurses With Disabilities: Professional Issues and Job Retention,” the first research-based book to confront workplace issues facing nurses with disabilities.

Morrell stresses motivation

The School of Education hosted a free public lecture in October by Ernest Morrell, director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Columbia University’s Teachers College. Morrell’s topic was “Powerful Teaching for Social Justice in City Schools.” He told his audience that he comes from a family of teachers, and that teaching is not just what he does—“It’s who I am.” He urged students to make learning relevant to those they teach by motivating them to succeed. “So few people can make a difference in others’ lives, and teachers can,” he said. Watch a video of his talk at www.quinnipiac.edu/morrell.

Recruitment under way for medical students

The Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine earned two important endorsements in October and has begun recruiting students who wish to become primary care physicians.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education granted the school preliminary accreditation, and the Connecticut Board of Education approved the University’s medical degree program. When the Netter School opens in Fall 2013, Quinnipiac will join fewer than 100 universities in America that have both law and medical schools,” according to President John L. Lahey.

Dr. Bruce Koeppen, founding dean, said the approvals were a testament to the efforts of many individuals who have worked tirelessly to build the school. “More important, applicants to our school can be assured that they will receive a high-quality medical education that will prepare them for the contemporary practice of medicine,” he said.

Michael Ellison, associate dean for admissions, said 1,200 applications were received in the first month. The first class will have 60 students. That number is expected to grow to 125 students per class by 2017.

Founded to address the nation’s pressing need for primary care physicians, the medical school is aiming to become a national model of interprofessional health care education and improve the way patient care is delivered. Medical students at Quinnipiac will be part of a learning environment where they will interact with students from Quinnipiac’s School of Health Sciences and School of Nursing to learn to become effective members of a primary health care team.

The medical school, under construction on the North Haven Campus, already has received widespread support from the state’s medical community. “LCME accreditation marks another important milestone for the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine,” said Dr. Stuart G. Marcus, president of St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, Conn., the school’s primary clinical partner. The school also has affiliations with two other Connecticut hospitals—MidState Medical Center in Meriden and Middlesex Hospital in Middletown.

Yunus to lecture on March 6

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus will deliver a public lecture at 7 p.m. March 6 in Burt Kahn Court on the Mount Carmel Campus. Yunus, author of “Banker to the Poor,” established the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in 1983 with the goal of eradicating poverty through microlending to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Replicas of the Grameen Bank model operate in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Oklahoma confidentiality

Oklahoma College of Optometry will become a part of the Oklahoma City University health sciences campus on the Northwest Campus. The Oklahoma City University School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Oklahoma College of Optometry will house their first students this fall. OCU will pay $1 million to the college to purchase its building. The college will be renamed the Oklahoma College of Optometry, a program within OCU, and will administer its own admissions process and funding.”

Stephen Wikel, senior associate dean for scholarship at the Netter School of Medicine, chats with health sciences students.

Watch a video of his talk at www.quinnipiac.edu/morrell.
Families + fall = fun

Just as the leaves began turning rust and gold, nearly 5,000 parents and family members arrived at Quinnipiac to attend the annual Parents and Family Weekend in October.

The bike tour along the colorful Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway has become a favorite activity during this weekend, as was Bobcats Madness, when the University’s spirit and dance squads entertained and student athletes were introduced.

In addition to spending time with students, families met faculty and heard presentations about career services offerings, the Learning Center, study abroad and Greek life.

Families who toured the North Haven Campus witnessed the ongoing construction of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, located in the newly named Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.


Quinnipiac Poll on the money

Barack Obama was happy with Election Day results. So was Doug Schwartz, director of the Quinnipiac Poll. “We had a good night,” he said the day after, explaining that the Quinnipiac University/New York Times/CBS News swing state polls accurately predicted Obama’s victory margins the week before in the swing states of Virginia, Florida and Ohio and nailed the Senate races there as well. The institute conducted 13 polls in those states and nine in the swing states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Colorado. In the battle for the Connecticut Senate seat between Democrat Chris Murphy and Republican Linda McMahon, the poll saw McMahon fading several weeks before Election Day and accurately predicted a repeat of the 2010 race when she lost to Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

HERELD HOUSE DEDICATED

Quinnipiac dedicated the Peter C. Hereld House for Jewish Life with a ceremony and Sabbath candle lighting in October attended by Hereld’s daughter, Randi Stein, and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.

Hereld, who died two years ago at age 90, was a Holocaust survivor. Born in Hanover, Germany, he emigrated to the United States, where he had a successful career in the food and beverage industry.

The recently renovated house at 560 New Road on the Mount Carmel Campus, is a comfortable and safe home away from home for students and the Hillel organization.

University Rabbi Reena Judd said it’s a place where students can share personal customs and traditions while fostering friendships. The community helps students create a bridge between Judaism and daily life.

The house features a flat-screen TV, study rooms and Wi-Fi access. The centerpiece is a communal praying room where meals and services take place.

Campus Cross Talk explores bioethics issues

Henrietta Lacks, a poor, black woman, died of cancer in 1951. Her cells, taken without her knowledge, lived on and have contributed to some of the most profound scientific breakthroughs including cloning, gene mapping and the polio vaccine. Known as “HeLa” cells, they have become a billion-dollar industry. Her family, however, knew nothing about this for decades. Lacks’ story was at the heart of this year’s Campus Cross Talk series theme, “Life, Science and Ethics in a Changing World.”

Her story was explored in an October panel discussion, “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” (also the name of the bestselling book by Rebecca Skloot). Panelists were David “Sonny” Lacks, Henrietta’s son who was only 4 when she died; Ruth Faden, director of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics; and Michael Rogers, a journalist and author.

“I was stunned when I met Sonny’s dad,” said Rogers, who was then a 24-year-old Rolling Stone magazine reporter. “No one had explained to them what had happened.” So Rogers did. And then wrote about it in a 1971 article that sparked an ethical debate over the use of the cells and profits derived from them.

The panelists discussed the historical context of the story—segregated Baltimore, Md., in the 1950s—as well as the challenge, even today, of compensating people who donate cells or organs. Faden explained that Johns Hopkins Hospital was the only facility in the region to serve black patients and routinely collected samples without consent. Even today, most patients sign away rights to anything removed from their bodies. Lacks’ son admitted to having mixed feelings about the book and the renewed attention. He said some of his younger nieces and nephews are educated professionals who don’t like the way the family is portrayed.

Lacks’ daughter Deborah worked closely with Skloot. Sonny Lacks said the two “opened doors for each other.” Describing his sister’s dedication to giving their mother recognition for her contributions, he added, “She wanted her mother’s story to be told.”

Other Fall 2012 Cross Talk events included a discussion about end-of-life care and the legal issues pertaining to vaccines and autism, by Thomas Pruzinsky, professor of psychology; Celeste Yanni, associate professor of nursing; and John Thomas, professor of law. Thomas, along with Clement Lewin, head of medical affairs immunization policy at Novartis Vaccines, and Ramesh Subramanian, professor of computer information systems, participated in a discussion titled, “Do You Own Your DNA?” The series also included screenings and discussions on the films: “Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home,” “Gattaca,” “Two Weeks,” “50/50” and “Wit.”

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The School of Business honored seven individuals at the 10th annual Business Leader Hall of Fame in November at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. The event benefitted the school’s scholarship fund.

Hall of Fame Inductee
TIM GANNON
Co-Founder, Outback Steakhouse
Tim Gannon nurtured his passion for food and cooking over a span of 14 years, working as an assistant chef at the Four Seasons Hotel in Aspen, Colo., at Steak & Ale for Norman Brinker, and then for Copeland’s Cajun Cafe in New Orleans. In 1987, he partnered with Bob Basham and Chris Sullivan to launch a new restaurant concept—Outback Steakhouse. Gannon is the creator of Outback’s Bloomin’ Onion recipe, and other dishes.

He has received numerous honors, including Inc. Magazine’s Entrepreneur of the Year award (1994) and the Florida Restaurant Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award (1999). In 2009, Gannon and his partners were inducted into the U.S. Business Hall of Fame. In 2011, he launched a community-service initiative, Kettle Comfort: Cooking for America, which delivers chef-inspired food to thousands of hungry or nutrition-deprived people in Palm Beach County, Fla. An alumnus of Florida State University, he has a degree in art history.

Hall of Fame Inductee
DONALD TOREY
President, Alternative Investments,
GE Asset Management
Donald Torey has been a leader in the financial management industry for more than 30 years. As president of alternative investments at GE Asset Management, Torey is responsible for private equities, real estate and hedge funds. In 1979 he joined GE’s international operations. He served on the company’s consumer products staff until 1986 when he joined GE Asset Management, serving as a portfolio manager in fixed income and as vice president, private placements. In 1989, he moved to the company’s world headquarters as manager of mergers and acquisitions finance, and then rejoined GE Asset Management in 1993 as CFO and assistant treasurer.

Torey has a BS from Hamilton College and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is an active member of CIEBA, a pension leadership group, previously serving as vice chairman of its investment committee. He also serves on the Hamilton College Investment Advisory Board and the Stamford Boys & Girls Club board.

Outstanding Business Alumni Award
KAREN BRADBURY ’89
President, EBEL Americas,
Worldwide Merchandising Manager,
Movado Group
In her positions with EBEL and Movado, Karen Bradbury ’89 has complete responsibility for North America sales and marketing. She is a member of the global EBEL management committee and took the lead in creating a business strategy to return the EBEL brand to the top of the luxury watch category.

After five years working for ESQ Watch Company, Bradbury successfully launched the first global licensed brand—Coach Watches—generating $16 million in sales in its inaugural year. Under her leadership, Coach has been a highly profitable business in the Movado Group brand portfolio for 10 consecutive years.

Four years after earning her BS in marketing, she was instrumental in guiding the magazine to its first-ever inclusion on Adweek’s prestigious “hot list” in the “10 Under 60” category. She earned a BS in marketing from Quinnipiac.

EMERGING LEADER AWARDS

KYLE COOK ’13
entrepreneurship and small business management major

JENNIFER LYDIKSEN ’12, MBA ’13
MBA/CFA track

ALEXANDRA SEITZ ’13
economics major
Six members of the University community received awards for excellence in teaching and service to students at a dinner ceremony in October. Many previous honorees attended in celebration of the Center for Excellence’s 10th anniversary.

Mohammad Elahee, professor of international business, works to ensure that all of his students are knowledgeable, forward-thinking global citizens by cultivating real learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

“I put myself in their shoes and try to envision what challenges a student might encounter while taking my course,” he said. Elahee has taught at Quinnipiac for 14 years. To integrate service learning into his courses, Elahee frequently assigns students to conduct research on a pro-bono basis for people in the greater Hamden community, according to Aileen Dever, associate professor of modern languages and a 2007 Center for Excellence honoree.

As a professor and chair of occupational therapy, Kim Hartmann prepares students to take an active role in their own learning and professional development. Hartmann, who has taught at the University since 1984, helped establish the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education this year. The center provides students with the chance to learn and practice together, identify effective and efficient patient care delivery options and enhance each other’s clinical skills.

Hartmann believes faculty must change with students. “It’s a privilege for us to teach. We have the responsibility to keep it fresh and to figure out what challenges the students are facing, and then meet those needs,” she said.

University Registrar Dottie Lauria has spent a half-century at Quinnipiac. She is the go-to person for numerous student questions and concerns.

“We like to tell freshmen that the registrar’s office is establishing a lifetime relationship with them,” said Lauria. The office keeps a record of every course a student takes and is the point of contact whenever information needs to be verified.

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Terri Johnson, director of academic affairs, said Lauria understands that students sometimes require immediate attention and works to find a solution to every problem.

“In the Office of Academic Affairs, Dottie is the backbone of many efforts and decisions that need to be precise, timely and thoughtfully implemented,” Johnson said. “From the University calendar to the logistics of initiating new programs, she goes out of her way to share her knowledge and experience in a friendly and effective manner.”

KRISTEN RICHARDSON

Kristen Richardson, laboratory instructor in the College of Arts and Sciences, communicates the value of sustainability to everyone she meets. “Professor Richardson is truly an unsung hero,” said Jillian Moruzzi, a graduate student. “She puts hours into the organization of farmers markets, film screenings, speaker presentations and Earth Day celebrations.”

Kara Natalé ’99, director of special events, said Richardson puts in countless hours to educate her students and the campus community about environmental issues. Richardson also believes in using sustainable practices at home. She has chickens roosting under her back porch. She harvests and enjoys the fresh eggs they provide.

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“In the Office of Academic Affairs, Dottie is the backbone of many efforts and decisions that need to be precise, timely and thoughtfully implemented,” Johnson said. “From the University calendar to the logistics of initiating new programs, she goes out of her way to share her knowledge and experience in a friendly and effective manner.”

KRISTEN RICHARDSON

Kristen Richardson, laboratory instructor in the College of Arts and Sciences, communicates the value of sustainability to everyone she meets. “Professor Richardson is truly an unsung hero,” said Jillian Moruzzi, a graduate student. “She puts hours into the organization of farmers markets, film screenings, speaker presentations and Earth Day celebrations.”

Kara Natalé ’99, director of special events, said Richardson puts in countless hours to educate her students and the campus community about environmental issues. Richardson also believes in using sustainable practices at home. She has chickens roosting under her back porch. She harvests and enjoys the fresh eggs they provide.
Junior Ben Arnt dives for a loose puck in a non-conference match against Robert Morris University at the High Point Solutions Arena in the TD Bank Sports Center in October. At press time, the Bobcats were 8–0–0 in ECAC Hockey. The Bobcats were picked to finish fourth this season in the ECAC Hockey Coaches Poll and ECAC Hockey Media Poll.
The Quinnipiac women’s rugby team learned very early on this season what a difference a year makes.

The tangible evidence came in the form of a 2–1 Opening Day victory over an experienced Eastern Illinois University squad on Sept. 1. Since then, the team has picked up several huge victories, among them a 94–0 win against SUNY New Paltz, a 91–0 victory over Binghamton, and in an incredible offensive display, the team scored a program-record 130 points in a shutout victory over Hofstra. And then the Bobcats iced the cake by defeating the University of Albany 22–14 to win the 2012 Tri-State Conference Championship Nov. 18 and complete the season with a perfect 11–0 record. For the year, the team outscored its opponents 605–42 and the win earned the Bobcats a spot in the national tournament in the spring.

“We came out on top with not only a win, but a well-fought win. We are miles away from where we were last year and it feels good to go into nationals undefeated,” said Head Coach Rebecca Carlson.

Back in September, senior Colleen Doherty predicted that first win over EIU would be the highlight of the season.

“Last year, half of our losses came against EIU. To prove to them, ourselves and our university that we could beat them was a huge validation of our hard work and commitment. It showed that we are a legit team that is here to stay and one that will be a force to be reckoned with,” said Doherty.

The victory over Eastern Illinois was monumental on many fronts. EIU defeated Quinnipiac three times in the Bobcats’ inaugural season last fall, including a 66–3
drubbing in their last meeting. In exacting revenge, Carlson's upstart squad proved that it belongs on the same field as the Panthers.

Last fall, Quinnipiac's initial match-up against Eastern Illinois marked the first time two Division I women's rugby teams squared off. Eastern Illinois became a Division I program in 2002, while the Bobcats joined the Division I ranks in 2011. Until Harvard makes the jump next season, EIU and Quinnipiac remain the only DI teams in the country.

Devon Vieira, a freshman from Kent, Wash., is one of Quinnipiac's scholarship players. Carlson recruited her during a national tournament. She began playing rugby in eighth grade and continued through high school and with all-star teams. Vieira never dreamed she'd be able to play in college.

“I absolutely feel like a pioneer,” she said. “It’s an amazing experience being able to say you are a part of something that’s developing. Sometimes, that’s even better than joining a team that’s been around for years because you are paving the way for athletes who will come after you.”

Vieira added that the win over Eastern Illinois taught her a lot about her coach and teammates. “Coach Carlson did an amazing job teaching [the returning] players the game in just one year. When I got here, I was really impressed. We were all on the same level. They were all great athletes from other sports.”

Carlson, a former team member and coach at Eastern Illinois, said the win boosted the Bobcats' confidence and team unity. “Last year, I focused on defense and getting them to understand the game. We’re really sewing a lot of the parts together now. There’s a lot more to rugby than the kicking, running and passing. They’re developing an understanding for the little nuances of the game,” she said.

Quinnipiac took its lumps—both literally and figuratively—in its first season, but the new team finished a respectable 3–6–1 overall, with victories over Hofstra, Marist and SUNY-New Paltz.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association does not consider rugby a championship sport. It was added to the NCAA's emerging-sports list in 2002 when about 350 collegiate club-level teams existed.

Team sports are nothing new to Doherty. She played soccer and basketball in high school, but put aside her athletic interests to pursue a physical therapy degree at Quinnipiac. The Ashburnham, Mass., native never dreamed she would be in her second season as a fly-half in a sport she knew almost nothing about. She, along with every female student on campus, received recruitment emails from Quinnipiac athletics last fall.

“I decided to give it a try. I ended up loving it and getting addicted,” she said.

Carlson, who was the emerging sports program manager for USA Rugby from 2006–09, was hired in Fall 2011 and had to move quickly to form a competitive team. She brought in two players on scholarship and began searching for walk-ons. It didn’t matter whether potential recruits knew the difference between the scrum half and prop positions or if they were aware that a try is worth five points and a drop goal gives you three. Carlson was looking for dedicated athletes.

“Sixty players came out for tryouts,” Carlson recalled. “After the first week, 30 were gone.” It wasn’t unexpected, she said, because of the sport’s demanding nature and what the coaching staff expects.

Since then, she has added six more scholarship student-athletes to the roster, but the starting lineup primarily consisted of last year’s athletes.

Carlson describes her team as fitter, faster and stronger than last year. And they began the season knowing they had to be better.

“That’s one of the things I’ve tried to hammer home with them—people didn’t expect anything of you last year, but as time goes on they are going to expect things of you.”

Clearly, expectations have been met—and exceeded.
Irish sculptor Kieran Tuohy used hard black oak to create “Thank You to the Choctaw,” symbolizing the Choctaw Indian Nation’s efforts to raise money for Irish Famine survivors despite its own troubled past.
s a boy in Galway, Ireland, artist Pádraic Reaney recalls his grandmother’s stories about the Great Famine of 1845–52, when her mother would store planks of wood under her bed to build her own coffin.

“One, my grandmother let me taste the Indian meal the Irish ate during the Famine years, but she’d always say, ‘Don’t ever tell your grandfather we talked about this,’” he says.

From her and others, Reaney heard tales of heartbroken and hungry families walking through fields over the unmarked graves of dead relatives to board ships bound for America. “People had a great fear of dying on the ships. They were very much afraid of being buried at sea and not on land,” he said.

While the shame the Irish felt about the Famine and the guilt of the few who did survive made it a little-discussed subject in Ireland, the images conjured by Reaney’s grandmother’s stories made their way onto his canvases as he expressed his feelings through art. One of his well-known paintings, “Departure,” depicts such a family, heads down, walking away from Ireland over blood-red soil with victims pictured in coffins below them.
This painting and another of his hang in Quinnipiac’s new Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, Músaem an Ghorta Mhóir. The museum, at 3011 Whitney Ave., Hamden, houses the largest collection of art in the world related to the Great Hunger, caused when a blight destroyed Ireland’s potato crops in consecutive years. It is estimated that more than a million people died during this time, and two million fled Ireland for America and other countries.

Notable contemporary artists with works in the collection include Robert Ballagh, Alanna O’Kelly, Brian Maguire, Micheal Farrell and Hughie O’Donoghue. Several important 19th- and 20th-century works by James Brenan, Daniel MacDonald, James Arthur O’Connor and Jack Butler Yeats represent the Famine period. Sculptors represented in the collection include John Behan, Rowan Gillespie, Eamonn O’Doherty, Glenna Goodacre and Kieran Tuohy. A newspaper and magazine wall gives visitors a glimpse of writings and political cartoons of the time.

President John L. Lahey hopes that Quinnipiac University, through the museum, will be a nationally and internationally known destination to learn about the Great Hunger.

From a 14-minute video, museum visitors get a short history lesson about the causes and consequences of the Famine, the British response, evictions of peasants by landowners and the horrible conditions on the refugee ships.

The British government’s indifference to the plight of its Irish subjects and its decision to continue exporting food that could have been redirected to Ireland is described in books, but the museum marks the first time the story is told visually, said Niamh O’Sullivan, inaugural curator and a professor emeritus at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin.

From one alcove to another, visitors are confronted with images of rail-thin, desperate Irish families carved in wood, sculpted in bronze and depicted in paintings. Reaney said he became surprisingly emotional as he previewed the collection along with other visiting artists the day before the Sept. 28 dedication.

Guests who spoke at the dedication included Leo Varadkar, Ireland’s minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, who attended along with Noel Kilkenny, consul general of Ireland. Varadkar hailed Quinnipiac’s efforts to spotlight this dark period in Ireland’s history.

“Those slow, painful, torturous, coffinless deaths…were not inevitable. This museum helps us go beyond cold statistics to imagine the unimaginable. Thank you to John Lahey for recreating this painful memory in our history,” Kinealy said.

Kinealy explained that famine is never solely about food shortages.

“Famine is always about political division. The same is true today as it was in the 1840s.” She will be a visiting professor at Quinnipiac this spring.

Ballagh, who created a stained-glass work titled “An Gorta Mór,” remarked during the artists’ panel that it would be controversial to have this kind of museum in Ireland, where descendants of those who may have profited from the Irish emigration, such as landlords, still live. “People here [in the U.S.] understand better than the people at home. It’s complicated,” he said.

Alanna O’Kelly, a painter, agreed. “It really wasn’t spoken about much until more recently.”

“How many generations have to pass before we face up to this huge trauma?” Ballagh asked.
Opposite page: The spectral imagery in Pádraic Reaney’s "Departure" reflects the depth and pain of Famine memories deeply buried.

Above: “Black ’47” by Micheal Farrell highlights the criminal negligence of the British government in a courtroom scene with Charles Trevelyan, assistant secretary to the British Treasury, on trial. The bodies in the grave seem to rise as witnesses for the defense as Trevelyan presents his case for nonintervention.

Center row: Niamh O’Sullivan, the museum’s inaugural curator; author and historian Christine Kinealy with Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein; and Grace Brady, executive director of the museum, left, with Irish artist Alanna O’Kelly, whose paintings go beyond the loss of life to include the erosion of Ireland’s language and culture and scarring of its landscape.

At left: “Irish Peasant Children” was painted in 1847 by Daniel MacDonald and is one of the few pieces from that period in the museum’s collection.
Museum takes shape

Lahey began to think about a museum for Irish art about 15 years ago, when he served as grand marshal for the 1997 New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade and chose Ireland’s Great Hunger as that year’s theme to mark the anniversary of Black ’47, the worst year of the Famine.

A second-generation Irish-American, Lahey said he experienced an intellectual awakening about the Famine after reading Kinealy’s accounts of the tragedy. He spoke frequently on the topic during his year as grand marshal, and the late Murray Lender ’50, bagel entrepreneur and former vice chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, was listening. “Murray grasped the compelling nature of the Great Hunger story and the importance of educating people about its true causes and consequences,” Lahey said.

Lender and his brother, Marvin, gave a generous gift to Quinnipiac that funded the Lender Family Special Collection Room in Quinnipiac’s Arnold Bernhard Library in 2000. The son of a Jewish immigrant from Poland, Murray drew parallels between the Holocaust and the Famine, and thought it was a story that needed to be told.

As the collection continued to grow, Lender and Lahey discussed moving it to a building more easily accessible to the public. Many pieces of art also are on display in the Lender Family Special Collection Room, as well as literature and other educational materials about the Famine.

The museum, once the site of Hamden’s first public library, has an exterior of gray stucco and stone. Inside are many striking pieces, among them “Famine Ship,” a model of John Behan’s National Famine Memorial, the largest bronze sculpture ever commissioned in Ireland and situated at the foot of Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, a place of annual pilgrimage. The ship is a tribute to all who emigrated and especially those who did not survive the “coffin ships” as they were called. The three masts rise above the ship like crosses, and the semi-abstract rigging that connects the masts consists of flattened bodies entwined.

A 10- by 15-foot acrylic on canvas by Micheal Farrell titled “Black ’47” dominates one wall. The painting depicts Trevelyan on trial in court as he presents his case for nonintervention during the Famine, while skeletons seem to rise up as witnesses for the defense. A keystone piece in the collection is Daniel MacDonald’s “Irish Peasant Children” oil painting because it was one of a few created during the actual famine in 1847.

Lahey hopes the 4,750-square-foot museum will serve as a venue for discussions, films, plays and concerts to showcase the richness of Irish culture and ideas. The Lender room in the library will continue to house artwork as well as educational and research materials for students and scholars.

Conor Kenny, managing director of Kenny Gallery in Galway, assembled the collection and attended the dedication.

“To succeed in art is a triumph over the nightmare, and we honor the dead by full engagement with the artwork.” —NIAMH OSULLIVAN
Andrea Prenez of Thomaston, Conn., moaned and put her hand to her mouth when she wandered upon “The Leave-Taking” sculpture by Margaret Lyster Chamberlain. She was touring Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum in October with friends and family. “It’s heartbreaking and horrifying, this mother and child being separated after the mother has lost so much already,” she commented.

Her mother, Kathleen Prenez, said she knew of the Famine, being of Irish descent. But she gained a new and sad appreciation for what victims went through. “I’m glad the museum tells the story that more should have known. The British role has been downplayed in history.”

During the first week the museum was open, more than 600 visitors toured it, according to Grace Brady, executive director. Before coming to Quinnipiac, Brady was assistant secretary to the board of trustees and general manager in the office of the senior vice president, secretary and general counsel at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Art hits you in a visceral way, observed Susan Kaminski of Ashfield, Mass., who read about the museum on an Irish blog. “Good art evokes emotions, and you can’t help the tears.” Kaminski recalls hearing about the Famine as a child. “I always wondered why the Irish didn’t grow something else. There was a disconnect. Now I understand.”

Brian Cavanaugh of Prospect, Conn., labeled the calamity as “passive genocide.” He was among almost 100 people to tour the museum on opening day.

Stacy Eldridge of Hamden visited with her friend, Helen Louise Ramsey. “I was struck by the video and the inhumane decision to withhold food and medicine,” she said, adding that she shed some tears.

Debbie Smith of Milford, Conn., said she knew of the potato blight, but never realized the suffering brought on by government and greed. “We need these reminders to stay focused, lest it happen again.”

Much of the artwork was done in the ’90s to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Black ’47. Art from the time of the Famine is scarce because most of the artists had left Ireland and had little resources for materials and wealthy patrons in London either were not aware of the calamity or wouldn’t buy paintings depicting such a subject.

Because there are some 40 million Americans of Irish descent, the museum is really the story of two nations, O’Sullivan said. She advised the University on strengths and weaknesses of the collection and acquisitions that would enhance it.

Sculptor Margaret Lyster Chamberlain’s cast bronze, “The Leave-Taking,” was one of the collection’s original pieces, commissioned by Lahey, who asked her to interpret the Famine from the perspective of the refugees, some of whom are boarding a ship and bidding goodbye to family.

Chamberlain surrounded herself with pictures from the Holocaust. “I needed to reference what starvation and cruelty would do to the human figure.” The photos transported her to what she referred to as a “dark place” that allowed her to imagine how each family member might have felt. “Artists can illuminate aspects of humanity by bringing darkness to life,” she said.

In 1997, the British government took partial responsibility for the Famine. U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, speaking at the dedication, said the museum teaches a great lesson. Referencing Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s philosophy that “everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not to their own facts,” he cautioned against standing by and closing eyes and ears to tragedies like this.

Although the art elicits tears from some visitors, bearing witness is important, according to O’Sullivan. “To succeed in art is a triumph over the nightmare, and we honor the dead by full engagement with the artwork,” she said.
Josh Scollins, JD ’12, fundamentally opposes capital punishment, so his hand shot up when Associate Law Professor Kevin Barry asked if any students would be interested in doing legislative advocacy work in support of the repeal of Connecticut’s death penalty.

“Once the ultimate punishment has been given out, there’s no opportunity for us to correct a mistake,” Scollins said, explaining his position. “Regardless of the crime committed, no matter how heinous or how horrible, we still can’t trade an innocent man’s life for a guilty man’s life. The only way to make the system perfect is to get rid of the death penalty entirely,” he added.

During the Fall 2011 semester, Barry learned that a “prospective” repeal bill—a repeal that would leave in place the sentences of those currently on death row but abolish the death penalty going forward—would be brought up during the Connecticut General Assembly’s short session. Barry, the co-director of Quinnipiac’s Civil Justice Clinic, invited students in January to research a legal argument raised by the bill’s critics, who feared that a prospective repeal would render the sentences of those currently on death row unconstitutional.

Barry and students Scollins, Christine Gertsch, JD ’13, Celeste Maynard, JD ’13, and Marissa Vicario, JD ’13, researched the law in New Mexico, where legislators passed a 2009 bill that repealed that state’s death penalty going forward. They noted that the Supreme Court of that state did not find the repeal unconstitutional.
They also studied a Connecticut Supreme Court ruling in the case of State v. Rizzo from last November in which the court upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty and cited federal and state law supporting abolition of the death penalty going forward while supporting the constitutionality of existing death sentences after prospective repeal.

Based on their findings, Barry and the students felt comfortable telling Connecticut legislators that the legal argument against prospective-only repeal would most likely not withstand scrutiny. For their work, the Civil Justice Clinic was honored last summer with the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case/Project.

Barry, Scollins and Gertsch delivered the group’s findings to Connecticut’s Joint Judiciary Committee in March, spending a day in Hartford listening to the testimony of others and waiting their turn to speak.

“We testified about 8:30 that night, and I think we were up there over an hour,” Barry said. Gertsch read the group’s prepared testimony, which was quoted by both the Associated Press and the Hartford Courant newspaper.

“Testifying in front of the Legislature was not something I imagined doing in law school. We left the moral arguments for and against the death penalty to other people. We were trying to use case law and past Connecticut precedent to show that the court wouldn’t apply the law retroactively.”

Butterflies multiplied as the wait grew longer, but when the time came, Scollins was happy with the way the trio fielded questions and responded to legislators. “We knew we had our precedent down cold, and we felt very confident in our position.”

Barry said the bill had previously failed to pass, in part because members of the legislature believed that the “prospective-only” repeal would render the sentences of 11 inmates currently on death row meaningless. "We testified about 8:30 that night, and I think we were up there over an hour,” Barry said. Gertsch read the group’s prepared testimony, which was quoted by both the Associated Press and the Hartford Courant newspaper.

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row unconstitutional. Members of the Legislature wanted assurances that those on Connecticut’s death row—including Steven Hayes and Joshua Komisarjevsky, the two men convicted of the home invasion triple murder in Cheshire in 2007—would still face the death penalty.

“There were two huge elephants in the room,” Barry said, noting that the students were well aware that the Cheshire case weighed heavily on some of the legislators. “But we were making the argument that those on death row will remain on death row. We told them the court would respect their decision, based on some pretty good authority.”

On April 5, Connecticut’s Senate voted to repeal the death penalty prospectively, relying in part on the students’ testimony. Six days later, Connecticut’s House of Representatives followed suit. Gov. Dannel Malloy signed the bill into law on April 25, and Connecticut became the 17th state to abolish its death penalty.

Ben Jones, executive director of the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty, said the Quinnipiac students provided “the authoritative reference guide to the issue of prospective repeal for our legislators.”

Barry said the students’ testimony changed the debate from doomsday scenarios about how Connecticut’s Supreme Court might interpret a prospective-only repeal, to a cogent legal argument concerning what the court almost certainly would do in light of binding precedent and persuasive authority.

“It demonstrated that lawyers are not just the folks who wait on the other end for laws to be passed so they can argue them before judges,” Barry said, adding, “Lawyers also can play a crucial role in helping to create law.”

Maynard said the experience was invaluable. “We did a lot of legal research and writing, but in the broader spectrum we were able to influence legislators in ways that are outside of what people typically think a lawyer does.”

The CLEA award was presented at the Association of American Law Schools’ Clinical Law Conference in Los Angeles. Quinnipiac shared the award with University of Alabama students who were recognized for work on a tornado relief project.

“We were delighted to hear that the Civil Justice Clinic was being honored with this prestigious award,” said Brad Saxton, dean of the School of Law. “Professor Barry’s work has allowed us to add legislative advocacy to the Civil Justice Clinic’s docket, and we are pleased that he and our students were able to help the state of Connecticut wrestle with such critically important policy questions.”

The clinic represents clients through a combination of direct legal services, community education and policy advocacy. It works on a range of direct service cases: wage and hour, special education, substandard housing conditions, prisoner re-entry issues, unemployment, family and more.

“It was obviously a great sense of accomplishment, taking an idea and hoping you can do something to help effect change,” Vicario said.

Barry said the students got an unforgettable, real-world learning experience and a good understanding of the power lawyers wield, all over the course of a semester.

“On a scale of 1–10, I thought this project would be a five, but it turned out to be a 10, given the legal skills the students used, the impact their work had and, of course, the thrill of seeing the bill pass.”
Entrepreneur Murray Lender leaves imprint on Quinnipiac

BY DONNA PINTEK
Although the late Murray Isaac Lender ’50 did not live to see Quinnipiac open Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum in October, the support his family provided ensures that the story of this tragic time in Ireland’s history will be told for generations.

Lender, a longtime supporter of the University, died in March. His wife, Gillie, attended the museum dedication ceremony Sept. 28 at which President John L. Lahey honored Murray Lender and his brother, Marvin, for their generous gift that assisted the University in amassing the most extensive collection of art and artifacts in the world relating to the Irish famine of 1845–52.

Born on Oct. 29, 1930, in New Haven, Lender was one of six children of Harry and Rose Brighter Lender. He came from humble roots—his parents emigrated from Poland in 1927—but was destined for greatness. His father operated a small bakery in the family’s garage. While in his twenties, Lender saw that the future of bagels was in freezing them. He, along with his two brothers, transformed that bakery into a multimillion-dollar business.

As an undergraduate, Lender studied business management, earning an associate’s degree from the Junior College of Commerce in 1950, a year before the school changed its name to Quinnipiac College. After graduation, he spent two years in the U.S. Army before joining the family bagel business full time in 1955. From 1974–82, he served as president and later chairman of the company. He used his ingenuity and marketing savvy to propel the company to global status and earn it the title of world’s largest bagel producer.

A pioneer in the business, Lender had the foresight to realize that freezing bagels was the key to mass distribution. His other ideas—pre-slicing the bagels and adding flavors such as onion, egg and cinnamon–raisin—revolutionized the business.

And the ideas just kept coming. For St. Patrick’s Day, he introduced green bagels, delivering some personally to Lahey each year. He made oval bagels to send to the Oval Office. Other specially shaped bagels were served to celebrities and world leaders. When Lender’s Bagels unveiled the world’s largest bagel (714 pounds) during Bagelfest in Mattone, Ill., Murray was there to christen it with a kiss. Soaring sales unveiled the world’s largest bagel (714 pounds) during Bagelfest in October, 2002.

The University honored Lender, a resident of Woodbridge, Conn., many times over the years. In 1990, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award, and both he and Marvin were awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degrees from Quinnipiac in 1997.

In 2002, the Lender brothers were part of the inaugural group inducted into the Business Leader Hall of Fame.

In 1987, Lender joined the Quinnipiac Board of Trustees, serving as vice chairman from 1990 until his death in 2012. His energy, leadership and business acumen made him an invaluable member of the board, and helped guide Quinnipiac to a position of national prominence. Following his death, the board voted to name him chairman emeritus.

The Lender family’s generous support of the University had groundbreaking results. Murray Lender co-chaired the fundraising campaign for the Lender School of Business Center, which opened in 1993. At the dedication ceremony for the new building, Lender remarked that seeing the progress at Quinnipiac was “truly one of the exciting episodes” in his family’s life.

In January 2007, the Lenders were among the hundreds of University friends and supporters who came to celebrate the official opening and dedication of the TD Bank Sports Center and unveiling of the bronze bobcat statue, which stands atop the University’s York Hill Campus. The Lender brothers described the 185,000-square-foot sports center—and the Lender Court where the men’s and women’s basketball teams play—as nothing short of a “miracle.”

Donald Weinbach, vice president for development and alumni affairs, said, “Murray was Quinnipiac’s biggest cheerleader. I remember sitting with him in the front row of the Quinnipiac/UConn basketball game at Storrs when the referee threatened to throw him out of Gampel Pavilion after Murray vehemently protested a bad call against his alma mater. His passion for this University was unparalleled.”

Lahey remembered Lender as a man of warmth, genuineness and enthusiasm. He noted that his contributions to the University went far beyond philanthropy.

“He was a visionary leader on our board whose very presence changed the perception of Quinnipiac from that of a small, local college to a growing regional and eventually nationally recognized University,” said Lahey, who spoke at Lender’s funeral service.

Lender also was known for his exuberance and showmanship. He once led the Quinnipiac contingent up Fifth Avenue in New York City for the 1997 St. Patrick’s Day Parade—the year Lahey was grand marshal. “He told me afterward that he didn’t know you could have that much fun without doing something illegal,” Lahey said of his friend.

Perhaps the Lenders’ most meaningful contribution to the University was the An Gorta Mór collection. Both Lender brothers felt that the famine shared some similarities with the Jewish Holocaust and were eager to help Lahey educate the public about the true causes and consequences of this dark period in Ireland’s history in which more than a million people died and twice that number emigrated.

The initial collection of art, literature, research and educational materials has been augmented during the last 15 years. Many pieces of art remain on display in the Lender Family Special Collection Room in the Arnold Bernhard Library, which was dedicated in 2000. A separate story on the museum appears on page 14.

Lender suffered a stroke at the age of 68 and for the last 13 years of his life, struggled with the loss of his ability to speak. What he lacked in ability, he made up for in fortitude and enthusiasm. “In many ways, my brother was bigger than life,” Marvin Lender said at his brother’s service.

Lender’s son, Carl, said his father realized he had a second chance and rebuilt his life, aided by the love of his family. “He wanted me to tell you that the reason for his success was his never-ending quest for learning,” Carl Lender said.
Quinnipiac students and faculty from several disciplines offer programs to encourage healthy choices.
During the summer Olympics, wedged between competitions of gazelle-like runners and powerful gymnasts, a commercial aired that featured an overweight, red-faced, 12-year-old boy, drenched in sweat, shuffling along a country road. It was Nike’s newest commercial that replaced its “Just do it” slogan with “Find your greatness.”

The commercial stirred controversy: praise for encouraging young people of all sizes to strive for their athletic personal best, and criticism for what some called a “degrading” image of the boy. The ad poignantly placed a spotlight on the epidemic of childhood obesity and illustrates an attitude shift that’s part of a larger movement to end it. Like the boy in the ad, it’s a movement taking tiny steps on a long road.

“Kudos to Nike. We need to see more of that,” says Karen Myrick, assistant professor of nursing, who wrote a chapter on preventing childhood obesity for the upcoming “Encyclopedia of Primary Prevention and Health Promotion.” “We need more advertising, more parental involvement and more school involvement.” Myrick was involved in First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign that has added momentum to the movement. Launched in 2010, it aims to reduce childhood obesity to 5 percent—something that hasn’t happened since the 1970s.

The solution must involve everyone, from parents and teachers to health and government officials. Members of the Quinnipiac community are already making change: teaching children to read nutrition labels, creating fitness programs that involve families, and working in health care fields to identify weight issues before they cause health concerns, particularly in overweight children.

“Children need to know that there is another way; they are not on a set path,” Myrick says. “Society needs to say, ‘Hey, it’s not destiny. You have choices.’”

When it comes to ending childhood obesity, this nation has no choice but to do it now.

Weighty situation

Today, 23 million, nearly a third of all U.S. children, are overweight or obese. Medical costs associated with treating obesity-related diseases in children are estimated to be about $14 million annually. Children with excess weight are already experiencing a slew of health problems, such as Type II diabetes, and are on a path to heart disease, cancer and ultimately, premature death. In addition, obese children endure psychological issues such as low self-esteem and depression.

Eight out of 10 of these children will grow up to be obese adults. It’s not surprising that, unless people make changes, half of all U.S. adults are expected to become obese by 2030, according to a report released in September by the Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
Perfect storm

A number of factors have caused this global epidemic.

“It’s a layering effect,” explains Celeste Yanni, a professor of nursing who works in community health. “It’s not just one thing. It’s like a perfect storm where everything came together to work against these kids.”

Children have become more sedentary, opting to play online instead of outdoors. In the U.S., only 8 percent of elementary schools and 7 percent of middle and high schools have daily physical education. The cost of organized community sports prevents some children from participating.

Processed and fast food, filled with high fructose corn syrup, salt and sugar, is cheaper and more easily available than fresh foods—and in some “food deserts,” harder to find. Couple that with the “super-size” deals, and it’s a scenario that can tip the scale.

A healthy lifestyle must include both good nutrition and exercise, explains Dana White ’01, assistant professor of athletic training, registered dietitian and founder of Dana White Nutrition Inc. “Children are taking in too many calories, but those calories aren’t meeting their needs nutritionally. They are overweight, but undernourished. That is a very bad combination.”

White pinpoints a societal shift in nutrition beginning in the 1950s, with the introduction of TV dinners that sparked a demand for more convenient foods.

“That convenience comes at a price. The more ready to eat a food is, unless we’re talking about an apple,” says White, a contributor to the Food Network and its “Healthy Eats” blog. She has addressed nutrition and health issues on national media, including “GMA Health.”

Biological, environmental and genetic factors also play a role. But human genes could not have changed enough in the past few decades to explain the steep incline in obesity, researchers note. Two recent studies found that antibiotic use in children may change the bacteria found in the gut, leading to weight gain. According to researchers, obesity is most likely caused by a combination of factors in a formula that isn’t yet understood.

“It’s not just genetics, it’s not just a lack of activity, it’s not just access to foods with higher calories,” Myrick explains. “We have this huge problem that is multifactorial.”

After reviewing studies, Myrick found several promising influencers in the battle to lower obesity rates: breastfeeding; community social marketing campaigns; programs that include physical activity; and programs that encourage primary care providers to identify and address obese children.

Studies found that many primary care providers didn’t refer the families of obese children to community resources of which there are many. For example, the Fit for Kids program at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn., counsels families on healthy living and raises awareness at health fairs.

“Talking about obesity with children can be difficult, but avoiding the issue may only result in lifelong struggles with the disease,” says Chris Ann Meaney, a student in the doctor of nursing practice program at Quinnipiac and a nursing manager in the bariatric unit at Middlesex, one of the University’s clinical partners. For a class, she participated in the Fit for Kids program. Many of the children she met were acutely aware of their weight, sometimes bullied because of it, and often overwhelmed by the challenge before them.

“One little girl just put her head down on the table during the family session at Fit For Kids,” Meaney explains. “She struggled with hearing that she was obese and what the effects of obesity have and will continue to have on her body.”

Meaney encourages families to make lifestyle changes so the children don’t feel isolated. Many parents say they don’t have the time or money to make healthier meals.

“My belief is that you could take that $20 you spend on fast food and you could turn it into a more nutritious meal bought at the grocery store,” White says. “It would much rather see a family make grilled cheese and tomato sandwiches instead of ordering a pizza.”

They key is to make meals children will eat. Some school districts have argued that children won’t eat healthy options, but White found school districts across the country that have successfully redesigned menus with more vegetables and whole grains. Some have added...
salad bars. And, the children aren’t starving. New York’s new school menus are credited with helping to reduce the obesity rate among students in kindergarten though eighth grade by 5.5 percent in 5 years. Annually in the U.S., 31.8 million children eat school lunches; nearly 12 million eat breakfast there as well.

Starting this fall, the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act, supported by Michelle Obama and organizations including the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, will require all school meals to limit fat, sugar and salt and eliminate trans fats. It’s based on the more visually understandable “food plate” that replaced the food pyramid.

It’s not perfect. White points out that tomato paste on pizza is considered a vegetable, but for the first time, the USDA will cap the number of calories in school lunches and will have influence over the foods sold in schools, including the high-calorie treats in vending machines.

“If something isn’t there, they don’t have to go through the agony of making a choice,” says Martha Sanders, associate professor of occupational therapy.

Children are inundated with food choices, even with the push to limit the marketing of junk food to children. To give children the tools to make healthy decisions, Sanders and students and faculty from Quinnipiac’s nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician assistant programs taught Nutrition Detectives and ABC for Fitness to third-graders in Wallingford, Conn., and Hamden. It was part of a 2010 research project.

In the Nutrition Detectives program, QU students explained how to read food labels and the third-grade students poured over the fine print on the boxes of cereal and snack bars to find clues marking unhealthy foods, such as long, complicated ingredient lists or the inclusion of hydrogenated vegetable oil or high-fructose corn syrup. The program was so impressive, school nurses in Hartford asked the students to do the program there. In the ABC for Fitness program, students showed teachers how to incorporate 5- or 10-minute activity bursts between lessons and based on the curriculum, such as moving like an insect after a science lesson.

The children not only retained the nutritional tips after the program ended, but also significantly improved scores on national fitness tests. Even months later, at an activity day held at Quinnipiac to reinforce the concepts, most of 200 children could apply what they had learned, Sanders says. “The cool thing was that the students took this information home to their parents,” says Sanders. One parent described the discussions he now has with his son in grocery store aisles.

Making parents sweat

“If it can be reinforced at home, that’s where you’re going to see a more lasting effect,” White says.

Physical therapist Russ Cerro ’82 agrees. In 2006, when he wanted to help overweight children get fit, he not only included parents—he also made them sweat.

Certo, owner of the Medically Oriented Gym in Grand Island, N.Y., collaborated with local pediatricians, school nurses and physical education teachers to create MOG Kidz, an eight-week program of workouts and discussions on healthy eating. Each week, the children have family homework, which may include making a low-calorie recipe or spending time sledding or swimming. Parents have the option to work out in the gym while their child is in the program.

“We don’t require it, but we strongly encourage it,” Cerro explains. With the gym’s glass partitions, the children can see their parents in the gym, which he says inspires the children.

He’s had several success stories, including a 210-pound girl who lost 40 pounds. “She had so much more self-esteem,” Cerro says. Like all of the professionals working to get young people on a path to healthy living, he adds, “We’re trying to transform their lives, and in some instances, give them back their lives.”

Professor and nutrition expert Dana White ’01 says parents need to lead by example in healthy living.
Reunion 2012

Alumni savor chance to reside on campus, even if for a weekend

BY ALEJANDRA NAVARRO

Reunion 2012 offered Robert Drakeford ’72 a second chance to do what he couldn’t when he was a student: to live in the residence halls. Even if it was just for a weekend, it was an interesting way to experience his alma mater, said Drakeford, who now lives in Marston, N.C.

For years, alumni clamored for a stay-over option and, during Reunion 2012, they had the opportunity. About 100 of the nearly 550 alumni who attended the reunion opted to stay in Larson—one of the new residence halls when Drakeford was in school. Nostalgia was the biggest draw. He and other alumni lugged bags, pillows and coolers through Larson’s spacious atrium, past the indoor trees surrounded by benches, and into campus abodes.

This year, he was eager to see the changes at Quinnipiac that he had heard so much about.

“I was blown away,” said Drakeford, who toured the campus with his wife, Sharon. “It’s wonderful.”

Drakeford studied behavioral management at Quinnipiac. He later attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned two master’s degrees in regional planning and public health, and UNC, Greensboro, where he earned an EdD. He served as the mayor of Carrboro, N.C., from 1977-83, after which he taught political science at Auburn University. He now owns Oasis of North Carolina, an RV campground on land originally bought by his great-grandfather.

“We had lots of interesting times,” recalls Drakeford, who remembers the student activism that sparked changes on campus, such as the addition of cultural programming. He had a front-row seat as the first student member of the Quinnipiac Board of Trustees and as a member of several student organizations, including the Black Student Union. He had a different perspective as one of the few black students on campus. He wished more of his former classmates could have come to reminisce.

Don Sharp ’72 attended the reunion, but he didn’t realize he could have stayed in the residence halls—an option he would have taken. He called his time at Quinnipiac “a pivotal point in my life.”

“As soon as I saw we could stay here, I got excited,” said Cali Hettrich ’04, now a school psychologist. Since graduation, Hettrich and about 20 of her former classmates, including Val Pensa ’04 and Keri Zodda ’04, have been reuniting, sometimes twice a year. “We’re right back where we were when we met.”

“We all had a great time the first time living in the dorms, so to go back and experience it again for one or two days was special,” said Jeffrey Aronson ’04, who is earning a teaching degree and working at a school in Newton, Mass. He lived in Larson his sophomore year. “Sleeping upstairs on the second floor—that brought back some memories.”

Emily Jacober ’07, MAT ’08, from Long Island, N.Y., said she appreciated the simple pleasures of living on campus, such as hanging

Inside Larson, from left: Jessica Stephens, Tara McDonald ’06, Elizabeth Wolff ’06, Kurt Fisette and Dee Mastronardi ’07.
out with friends on the benches in the common areas, just as they did when they were in school. “We had the same roommates since freshman year. We had a great time,” said Jacober, who attended with Caitlin McAteer ’07. “I’ve been in contact with them almost weekly, but we just love seeing each other.”

Having experienced campus life before, Aronson arrived armed with a fan and requested a room with an outside window to get a breeze. “Most of the nights, we were pretty, ehm…tired, so it wasn’t too much of a problem,” Aronson said. He enjoyed the events throughout the weekend. Friends who couldn’t stay overnight attended day activities, including May Weekend Remembered, a family picnic on the quad.

“If QU keeps doing Reunion Weekend exactly like this, I can almost guarantee that we will all be back every year.”

Reunion 2013 will be held June 21–23. Attendees again will have the option to stay in a residence hall.

NEARLY $1 MILLION RAISED

This year’s reunion classes, including the Golden Bobcats, raised about $975,000 during the annual Reunion Giving Challenge. More than 60 alumni representing reunion classes led the fundraising effort and the drive to increase attendance at Reunion 2012.

The Class of 1962 raised the most money, winning the Spirit of Quinnipiac cup. It also had the largest percentage of donors, earning the Class of 1929 cup in honor of the University’s first graduates. The Class of 1997 won the Pride of Quinnipiac cup for having the largest percentage of alumni attend.

“Our class really got along and we remained very close,” explained reunion committee member Matt Martocci ’97. “We all got a lot out of the University, and we are all eager to give back,” Martocci said. “It’s a beautiful school with a very good vision, and like a business, it grows every year and it has become a source of pride for us.”
Albert Carfora teaches sixth-grade math in East Haven, CT, where he lives. He has three children, daughters Britney and Angelena, both of whom are college graduates, and a son, AJ, who will study and play lacrosse at Penn State this fall.

Deborah (Whitaker) Amini of Wilmington, NC, is an assistant professor of occupational therapy at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

Patricia (Conte) Melady, MPS ’83, of Madison, CT, is an adjunct professor of nursing at Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University.

John Sickola III ’84, MBA ’92, of Beacon Falls, CT, was elected president of the Waterbury Area Ostomy Support Group, which provides information and counseling and advocates for people who need bowel or urinary diversion surgery.

Susan (Richards) Brand of Southport, CT, ran for state representative in Fairfield County’s 132nd district. She serves on the Fairfield Board of Education and the Board of Health, and worked as a cardiac intensive care nurse for 10 years.

Tia Blevins of North Haven, CT, is a research technician at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. She enjoys playing soccer in a competitive over-30 women’s team in Guilford, CT.

Kristine (Lucarelli) Carling of Wallingford, CT, is the director of finance and operations for the North Haven Board of Education. Philip Goduti is the author of “Robert F. Kennedy and the Shaping
Shelley Massey '88
Alumna becomes a parent ambassador  By Alejandra Navarro

Shelley (Ezold) Massey '88 attended Quinnipiac, in part because of its proximity to her hometown of Branford, Conn. But for her twin daughters, Morgan and Taylor, proximity to home was a bit of a deterrent.

The pair had visited nearly a dozen campuses before a series of gentle nudges from their mother—including buying Bobcats gear for the entire family and coaxing them to visit just so their mother could see how her alma mater had changed—landed them on the Mount Carmel Campus.

"After the tour and the info session, they both turned to me and said, 'Mom, we love it!' " recalls Massey with a wide, "mom-knows-best" smile. "You walk on the campus and you get this feeling that this is where they are supposed to be."

With two additional campuses and the expansion of academic programs, Quinnipiac is not the same school Massey attended to earn a bachelor’s degree in management. Yet, the University has retained its close-knit community feeling that Massey says she enjoyed as a student and she knew that her daughters would want.

“They don’t have that feeling of being lost,” adds her husband, Robert “Bob” Massey Jr., CEO of Massey’s Plate Glass & Aluminum Inc. in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

As members of the tennis team, the Massey twins, now sophomores, met students and staff members the summer before their freshman year. “We were already part of a family and we hadn’t stepped on campus,” Shelley says.

Impressed with the University, the Masseys joined the Quinnipiac Parents Council, a group of about 25 families who, as ambassadors, spearhead outreach efforts and campaigns to support the University’s goals. The couple has always been involved in their children’s education. They were active in the parents association at Hamden Hall, where their daughters attended and their son, Brandon, currently is a freshman. Bobby Massey remains on that school’s board of trustees.

“Being part of the Parents Council, I feel that I am supporting them in an important way,” says Shelley. “We’re doing it for the good of the University.”

To help other families make the transition into college life, the Masseys hosted a welcome reception for parents of incoming freshmen in their area. Last summer, eight Parents Council families hosted receptions.

The Masseys say they enjoyed talking to parents at the reception, discussing student opportunities and resources on campus, such as career services and the Learning Center, and putting parents at ease. “Being able to describe what you feel at home when the kids aren’t there and being able to say, ‘It’s going to be OK’ is great,” Shelley explains. “At the end of the day, we raised our kids to get to this point—even though it happened so soon.”

As members of the Parents Council, the Masseys have met with administrators and faculty, have become familiar with the University’s direction, and have attended special events, such as the Business Leader Hall of Fame in New York City, where they chatted with President John L. Lahey.

Shelley has a framed picture of herself shaking hands with the president at Commencement in 1988, the year after he arrived on campus. After graduation, she worked for four years in customer service at Blue Cross Blue Shield before deciding to raise her family full time.

As the new chairs of the Parents Council, the Masseys will be on campus more frequently for meetings and events, but they make sure to give their daughters space.

“Mom doesn’t want to cut the strings, and that’s the bottom line,” Shelley jokes, tossing up her hands. She adds with more seriousness, “They will be doing their thing, and we’ll be in another area of campus doing ours, but they know we’re around. I felt that being involved with the University, we could still all be together and that was huge for me.”
American Nurses Credentialing Center as a family nurse practitioner.

Eamonn Wisneski and Kori (Terenine) Wisneski, JD ’06, announce the birth of a son, John Jerrold on April 29, 2011. Eamonn is an attorney at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen in Middletown, CT, where he handles personal injury, workers’ compensation, and general civil litigation. The family lives in Middletown.

Desiree Beaulieu works as a flight nurse/paramedic for MedCenter Air in Charlotte, NC. Previously, she worked as an ER nurse at Hartford Hospital, in the PICU at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and completed paramedic training at Creighton University. She lives in Moorestown, NC.

Jennifer (Rabitor) Vincenzo and Ryan Vincenzo ’00 live in Bentonville, AR, with their sons Anders, 4, and Hudson, 1 1/2. Jennifer is a professor in the PTA program at Northwest Arkansas Community College and received her geriatric clinical specialist in PT in June 2012. She plays competitive tennis and is pursuing a PhD in exercise science at the University of Arkansas.

Shannon Coleman married Cory Shepardson on April 21, 2012. They live in Foxborough, MA. Pamela (Meyer) Clark ’01 was the matron of honor. Shannon is an account representative with the Sofft Shoe Co.

Andrew Castagnola married Lauren Fikslin ’04 on July 13, 2012. The couple lives in Wallingford, CT. Christopher Ort ’03 served as best man.

Jennifer (Salfi) Gianetti and Craig Gianetti ’03 welcomed a son, Jonathan Matthew, on June 8, 2012. The family lives in Scotch Plains, NJ.

Rachel Hecht married Joseph Shola on May 26, 2012, at The Cafe Escadrille in Burlington, MA. Bridesmaids included Jennifer (Culyer) Abbott ’03 and Andrea Penke ’03. The couple lives in Windham, NH.
Joseph Marullo of Springfield, MA, is vice president of commercial lending in the Pioneer Valley at Berkshire Hills Bancorp.

Sean O’Shea married Shannon Aiko McGuire on Sept. 10, 2011. He is a district sales manager for NetLook Listing Service. The couple lives in Costa Mesa, CA.

Jonathan Dillon is a consultant at Fortress Inc. in Boston, specializing in emergency preparedness, physical security and asset protection. Previously, he was the chief of statewide emergency operations at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. He lives in Everett, MA.

Cheryl Plinio married Keith de Graffenreaidt on June 2, 2012. They live in East Hartford, CT. Members of the wedding party included maid of honor, Alyson Fox ’05, and best man, Jerry Sarfo-Darko Jr. ’04.

Amir Nadimi, MHS ’05, of Wolcott, CT, opened Advanced Spine and Sports Care in June 2012. His focus is treating musculoskeletal conditions, particularly those affecting the spine, extremities and sports injuries.

Rebecca (Olsen) Frost ’05, MAT ’06, EDL ’11, of Meriden, CT, was named assistant principal for the Walter C. Polson School in Madison, CT.

Edward Clemens of Hoboken, NJ, is the director of tour marketing with The Agency Group in New York City.

Sarah (Ciavola) Fountain, MHS ’06, of Stratford, CT, is the president of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants.

Christina Bukowski married Matthew Newton on Oct. 22, 2011, in Westhampton Beach, NY. The bridal party included Vanessa Arone ’06, MPT ’08; Stephanie Benedict ’06, MHS ’08; Jacqueline Brower ’06; and Lindsey (Colby) Foss ’06, MHS ’08. The couple lives in Norwalk, CT.

Edward F. Dunn 88

Global success requires face-time  By Janet Waldman

Edward F. Dunn Jr. ’88 has visited China more than 40 times in the last 15 years. Although technology could put him face to face with business executives there and in Europe, the supply chain executive says in-person meetings yield better results.

Dunn is vice president, supply chain, at UTC Climate, Controls & Security in Farmington, Conn. The $19 billion unit of United Technologies Corp. operates in more than 170 countries.

“It’s all about relationships, especially with global customers, and we rely on those relationships when things get tough,” he says. Supply chain is a term that refers to the strategic aspects of what you buy and the processes you use to negotiate for supplies, Dunn explains. His company employs a supply chain team of more than 1,000 people.

The finance major attributes his successful career to advantageous moves and three college internships, two in the financial services industry. His third, with Patrick Healy ’66, senior vice president for finance at QU, made him realize that he preferred a leadership role at a large corporation to selling mutual funds. Hamilton Standard, then a division of United Technologies, recruited Dunn in his senior year and placed him in its financial leadership program, a series of three one-year assignments within its units. The first was in North Berwick, Maine, doing cost accounting at Pratt & Whitney. He met his wife, Mary Jo, during that time. They now live in Avon, Conn., with children who range in age from 6 to 16.

His second, at Carrier in Syracuse, N.Y., provided divestitures experience. After the final assignment at Sikorsky in Stratford, Conn., Dunn became a manufacturing business unit controller at Hamilton Standard in Windsor Locks, Conn. Several years into that position, Dunn’s wife took a job in Stamford, Conn. The couple moved, and he left United Technologies for a management consultant position at KPMG, a global accounting and consulting firm, from 1993–96. Four years later, he returned to United Technologies as controller for procurement at Hamilton Standard, eventually moving into operations at Carrier and the first chapter of his supply chain career.

In 2002, Dunn’s boss resigned, and Dunn was named acting vice president of supply chain. While the job eventually went to a senior staffer, Dunn’s performance got him noticed. He left United Technologies once more, this time to gain negotiating experience at Rheem Manufacturing in New York City. When the vice president of supply chain position opened at Carrier in 2005, he was invited back. In 2011, United Technologies merged Carrier with UTC Fire and Security, and Dunn was named vice president, supply chain, of that company.
Christopher Weaver of Syracuse, NY, received his MD from SUNY Upstate Medical University in May 2012. He will complete his transitional year internship at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse, and in July 2013, he will move to Charlottesville, VA, to complete his residency in ophthalmology.

Michael Lyle, MS ’08, of Old Bridge, NJ, received the 2012 Connecticut AP Broadcast Award for best sports story for his WQUN piece, “Whalers back in Hartford.”

Anthony Matozzo and Heather Lauren (DiLieto) Greene ’06, MS ’10, works for NBC Sports in New York City. She went to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver where she worked on an Emmy-award winning team. She worked as a producer for NBCOlympics.com at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Nicole Sanders ’06, MOT ’08, married Nicholas Fidanza on May 18, 2012. She is an occupational therapist for Genesis Rehab Services at the Glendale Center in Naugatuck, CT. They live in Waterbury, CT.

Andrew Turczak ’07, MHS ’09, of Fairfield, CT, is the president-elect of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants.

Breault ’09, MOT ’11, were married on May 12, 2012. The couple lives in Charlton, MA. Anthony is a radiographer/MRI technologist for Hartford Hospital, and a professional magician. Heather is an occupational therapist at Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital in Worcester, MA.

Kellie McNamara of Weymouth, MA, is the new MRI department day shift supervisor at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Kara Callahan, MHS ’09, wed Luke Kireyczky on Aug. 18, 2012. She is a physician assistant with Connecticut GI, working out of Hartford Hospital and the Enfield office. They live in Windsor, CT.

Stacy Davis, MS ’09, is a reporter and columnist for the Connecticut Post in Bridgeport, CT. She won first place in the commentary category in the 2012 National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Awards for her piece, “A television is just a screen, not a mirror.”

Lisa DiVirgilio, MS ’09, is company director at WyckWyre. She develops new and current customer relationships, manages marketing and public relations campaigns and executes strategic advertising partnerships. She previously worked at FOX 40 WICZ-TV as the hyperlocal content specialist. She lives in Nashville, TN.

Jeffrey Mozealous of Wallingford, CT, is an IT project manager at Hartford HealthCare Corporation in Hartford. He previously was an information systems analyst.

Elizabeth Ryan ’09, MAT ’10, of Levittown, NY, is a math teacher at Newtown High School in Newtown, CT.

Jason Sena of Fair Haven, NJ, received his JD from Hofstra University School of Law in May 2012. He serves as a judicial clerk to
the Honorable Judge Linda Grasso
Jones, Superior Court of New Jersey.

Jessica Brown ’10, MAT ’11, of
Manasquan, NJ, took part in the St.
Aloysius Kids Musical Theater Camp
as an acting coach. Jessica is an
experienced actress, English teacher,
theater teacher, play director and
drama club adviser.

Jennifer Dauphinais, MAT ’10,
of New Haven took part in a
discussion with U.S. Secretary of
Education, Arne Duncan, at Brennan-
Rogers School in New Haven,
where she is a fifth-grade teacher.

Victoria Reitano of Huntington,
NY, is a digital producer for “Live!
with Kelly and Michael” at Disney
ABC Television Group.

Samuel Friedman of Dover, DE,
is the communications coordinator
for the Caesar Rodney Institute.
He conducts investigative journalism
and also writes feature stories.

Gianna Gleeson of Canastota, NY,
had her summer research published in
Fairfield University’s Undergraduate
Journal of Global Citizenship. Her
piece was titled: “Connecting the
Disconnects: Human Rights and
Global Citizenship.”

Kevin Mahoney of Saugus, MA, is a
junior account coordinator at Mills
Public Relations in Boston.

Randi (Iaco) Plake, MS ’12, of
Middletown, CT, is a communications
specialist at Middlesex Community
College in Middletown. She is co-
owner of Grand Street Creative,
which offers services in public rela-
tions, social media, graphic design and
marketing. The firm also specializes in
church crisis management.

Richard Scinto of Fairfield, CT,
is working for the New Haven Register,
covering Milford, CT, news.

Cornelius Spillane, MBA ’12,
of Brunswick, ME, is working for
Urban Farm Fermentory, an experi-
mental fermentation factory in
Portland, ME.

Brian Del Gatto of Darien, CT, is
regional managing partner at Wilson
Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker.
He works in the Connecticut office,
where he chairs the transportation,
cargo and logistics practice and is a
member of the firm’s executive
committee. He received the
Transportation Lawyers Association’s
Distinguished Service Award in May.

Rick Brown of Matthews, NC, is a
partner at Bryan Cave in Charlotte,
NC. He is part of the firm’s banking
group. His practice deals with syndi-
cated credit facilities, asset-based
financing and equipment financing.

Stephen F. Peluso of Franklin, TN,
is the managing director of Morgan
Keegan and Company of Memphis.
He is a wealth management specialist
in the firm’s planning and executive
services department in Nashville.

Richard Henderson of Thomaston,
CT, is principal of Farm Hill Element-
ary School in Middletown, CT.

Andrew Roth has been named a
partner at Sahn Ward Coschignano &
Baker, where he practices in the area
of complex commercial litigation.

Themis Klarides of Derby, CT, has
joined the law office of Cohen and
Wolf in Orange, CT. She currently is
serving her seventh term in the
Connecticut General Assembly. She
has been in private practice for 17
years, concentrating in litigation and
bankruptcy.

Susan Nofi-Bendici of Shelton, CT,
has been named executive director
of New Haven Legal Assistance. She
replaces Patricia Kaplan, who has
retired after 34 years with the organi-
sation. She also serves on the
Connecticut Judicial Branch Access
to Justice Commission.

Have you gotten married or
welcomed a new baby recently?

Beginning with the
Spring 2013 issue of Quinnipiac
Magazine, we will be
accepting wedding and baby digital
photographs for
publication, and you can submit them
online along with
your class note.

The date of your
wedding or baby’s
birth should be with-
in the last 18 months
of the date you sub-
mit the photo.

Your photos must
be high-resolution
photos. Quinnipiac
Magazine reserves
the right to decide which photos are
used. If we find that your photo will
not reproduce well in print, we will
contact you.

To submit a class note
(with or without photo), go to
www.quinnipiac.edu/submitclassnote
and follow the instructions.
Cristin (Bauby) Traylor and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of a son, Cole Garrett, on April 29, 2012. He was welcomed by his big brother, Evan. The family lives in Richmond, VA.

Jeremiah J. Cottle and his wife, Denise, of Columbia, MD, announce the birth of a son, Jacob John, on May 21, 2012.

Jennifer (Salfi) Gianetti and Craig Gianetti, BA ’03, of Scotch Plains, NJ, announce the birth of a son, Jonathan Matthew, on June 8, 2012.

Jill E. Alward has joined Blank Rome as an associate in the consumer finance litigation group. She lives and works in New York City. She is also a member of the firm’s Consumers Financial Services Industry team.

Lynn (Clinch) Pinder, BS ’90, JD ’05, a partner at Wilson, Pinder & Snow, was elected to the Clinton Board of Selectmen. She lives in Clinton, CT, and formerly chaired the town’s Water Pollution Control Commission.

Steven Bonafonte, a partner at Pullman & Comley, was named general counsel of the Connecticut Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He lives in Hartford.

Katherine (Henry) Gonzalez of Ashburn, VA, is assistant general counsel at Capital One in McLean, VA. Her focus is on strategic transactions and business development, specifically mergers and acquisitions, corporate real estate, global procurement, including private label and co-branded cards, as well as digital lab products.

Kori (Termine) Wisneski and her husband, Eamonn Wisneski, BA ’01, of Middletown, CT, announce the birth of a son, John “Jack” Jerrold, on April 29, 2011.

Rory Riley is staff director for the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. She has worked with the Special Olympics since 1997, teaching gymnastics and coaching Team USA for the Special Olympics’ World Games in Athens, Greece, last summer. She lives in Washington, DC.

Matthew Wiley of Bethany, CT, opened his own law practice, Wiley Law, in North Haven, CT. The firm focuses on estate planning services and business succession planning.

Danielle Robinson Briand and Darren Pruslow ’11 opened the Law Offices of Briand & Pruslow in the historic district of Bridgeport, CT. The firm focuses on immigration law, as well as family law, criminal law and mediation matters. The practice provides affordable representation, particularly for low-income immigrants who currently are underrepresented in the courts.

Ashley (Adams) Sauvé of Middletown, CT, earned her master of laws degree in insurance from the University of Connecticut School of Law on May 20, 2012.

Elana Bertram of Hawleyville, CT, joined Michaud-Kinney Group. She focuses on intellectual property law with an emphasis on patent and trademark prosecution and licensing.

Kelly Obermeier has accepted a position with Murphy & Karpie in Bridgeport, CT, where her main focus will be insurance defense litigation.

Lauren Scotton of Wingdale, NY, is an associate at Baillie & Hershman, a nationally recognized real estate firm specializing in relocation and residential closings. She is based in the firm’s Cheshire office.
Alumni connected at a variety of events.

1. Former ABC “World News” anchor Charles Gibson, center, chats with Pat ’70 and Tina McGrath, MHS ’89, at a fall reception before his lecture.

2. Basketball alumnae Shrita Smith ’05, left, and Lindsey O’Neil ’04, MAT ’05, catch up at Fall Athletics Alumni Day.

3. From left, Dominic Contessa ’71, Robert Kinniburgh ’72, Nick Geskos ’72 and Nolan West ’73 at the 49th Annual Alumni Golf Championship in July at the Brooklawn Country Club, Fairfield, Conn.

4. From left: Joe Boccaccio ’00, John Conte ’02 and Michael Baglio ’02, MBA ’03 at the New York City Career Connections Fair and alumni event in Manhattan.

5. Alyssa Swaniger, JD ’12, right, and Peri Swaniger, JD ’83, attended a reception at the Union League Cafe in November to celebrate the 90 percent bar passage rate for recent graduates of Quinnipiac University School of Law.

6. From left, softball alumnae Alicia Giaimo ’97, MHS ’07, and Ashley Morgan ’03 at Fall Athletics Alumni Day. Giaimo is a clinical assistant professor of diagnostic imaging.

7. The 2001 field hockey team was inducted into the 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming. Here, they display their plaques, along with Head Coach Becca Main, standing second from right, who also was inducted. In 2001 the team advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time.
Much has changed since the 1970s, when most of today’s nurses were educated, and when Quinnipiac first began its nursing program. Since then, nursing caps and uniforms have given way to scrubs, pill trays have been replaced by unit-dose packaging, and the meticulously handwritten Kardex, once nursing’s “roadmap” to care, has become obsolete, thanks to the electronic health record.

At Quinnipiac, we just celebrated the 40th anniversary of the nursing program. We have grown from a department offering a two-year associate’s degree in 1970 to a school with nearly 700 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral students.

For decades, Hollywood has inaccurately reflected the image of nursing on shows such as, “Marcus Welby, M.D.,” “General Hospital” and “Grey’s Anatomy,” but most people have seen real nurses in action: helping families through crises, securing resources for those in need and alerting physicians when a patient’s health declines. We are the caregivers in your home, at your bedside in the hospital and in clinics and doctor’s offices.

Our role and responsibilities have expanded over the years. We knew even in the ’70s that there weren’t enough doctors, and so began the role of the nurse practitioner. These nurses have graduate degrees and specialize in diagnosing and treating common illnesses such as bronchitis, poison ivy or a sprained ankle. Studies show that the care provided by nurse practitioners compares favorably with that of physicians.

In its “2010 Future of Nursing” report, the Institute of Medicine recommended that nurses play a central role in reforming our nation’s health care system. We need to improve health care in ways that are safe, more effective and more efficient. In response to this call, we launched our doctor of nursing practice program in 2011. Our first DNP students will graduate in May. These students develop leadership skills, study policymaking, and learn to implement research-based, quality care while being acutely aware of the potential costs. These experiences will position our graduates to be an informed voice at the place where health care decisions are made.

At Quinnipiac, we are working to meet the needs of the future by preparing primary care physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical and occupational therapists and other health team members who understand the value of working together to provide the best resources for each and every patient.

Today, people are living longer, but more often they are living with chronic disease and disabilities. School of Nursing faculty members are working in teams to study how to improve transitions in care, such as from hospital to rehabilitation, and to optimize care near the end of life. Faculty believe that caring means meeting the patient where they are, and so, we not only teach our students about managing disease with drugs and procedures, but also the science regarding nonpharmacological options such as massage, acupuncture and herbs. In recognition of this, our programs are some of only a few to be endorsed by the American Association of Holistic Nursing. In addition, all of our faculty members have doctorate degrees—a rarity given the severe nursing faculty shortage.

For the past two years, nursing has been the most sought after major at QU, and our freshman class this year is one of the most intellectually talented in our history. As a School of Nursing, we are on the move, and we aim to do great things!

Jean Lange is the founding dean of the School of Nursing.
Help Meet The Challenge

The Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship provides financial aid annually to students who are the grandchildren, children and siblings of Quinnipiac alumni.

This year, when Quinnipiac alumni join together to give $500,000 toward the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship, the University will match the combined giving, dollar for dollar.

This means a $1 million increase to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship, which translates to an additional $50,000 in annual scholarship awards to legacy students!

The Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Challenge is truly an important project by alumni, for alumni.

Meet the challenge today. Visit www.quinnipiac.edu/give to give online; mail your gift to Quinnipiac University, AH-DVP, 275 Mount Carmel Ave., Hamden, CT 06518-1908; or call 203-582-8797 for assistance in making your gift.

In 1970, the fund gave $200 to one student. Today, six students receive nearly $2,000 each. Current Alumni Association Endowed Scholars are, from left: Jennifer Peat, Adrian David, Jason Rotell, Amanda Cianciola and Amy Solomon. Missing from the photo is Jake Miller.
Former resident assistants and directors surround Carol Boucher, center, at a reception during Homecoming, where she was surprised with an endowed scholarship to mark her coming retirement as associate vice president of student affairs. Gina Grubb Frank, dean for graduate student affairs, established the scholarship, along with Quinnipiac colleagues and alumni. With Boucher are Sabrina Tanbara, Phil Goduti ’97, Jen Scumaci ’00, Theresa Skelly ’01, Tim Lynch ’00, Rich Napolitano ’00 and Rich DeCapua ’99.