GOOD SPORTS
DYNAMIC DUO MARKS 15 YEARS ON AIR
Senior Jillian Haney, a freshman orientation leader, enjoys a surprise serenade from fellow orientation leaders who offered their rendition of “You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling” in the Carl Hansen Student Center during an early June orientation session. It is tradition for male leaders to sing to their female counterparts.

Photo by Mark Stanczak
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ON THE COVER: Bill Schweizer, left, and Bill Mecca are poised for another busy season as the Bobcats teams (sans ice hockey) transition to the MAAC. Photo by Christopher Beauchamp
Quinnipiac’s Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine marked its historic opening with an inaugural White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 16.

Donning a white coat and with stethoscope in hand—symbols of the connection between the physician and patient—the 60 medical students began a four-year journey that will take them from medical courses to medical centers.

“It represents a starting line,” said Edward Kobayashi, a medical student from San Francisco. “It’s incredibly exciting and humbling at the same time.”

The ceremony, which concluded with the students reciting the Hippocratic Oath, emphasized the importance of compassionate care for patients as well as working with and learning from fellow professionals in the health care team.

Dr. Bruce Koeppen, founding dean of the medical school and vice president for health affairs, said that even though students are not yet doctors, he advised them to consider themselves members of the medical profession and accept the responsibilities and expectations of the field.

“While our faculty can help you learn and master the skills of being a physician, the task of becoming a professional falls squarely on your shoulders,” he said.

Keynote speaker Dr. Jessica Israel described some of the experiences the students will likely encounter—from holding a newborn baby to spending a harrowing night at a sick patient’s bedside.

“Life isn’t all perfect and pretty; sometimes it’s messy and beautiful all at the same time,” said Israel, chief of geriatrics and palliative medicine and medical director of the Inpatient Hospice Unit at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, N.J. "You are going to learn a lot about disease and cures, but you’re going to learn a lot about yourself.”

Israel only wore her white coat for two weeks, but explained that her experiences in the field have created a “virtual coat” she wears every day. Patients were some of her best teachers, she said. “Take what they teach you about medicine and about yourself and weave it into the fabric of your coat,” Israel said. “The coat you’re getting today will be with you the rest of your life.”

Quinnipiac President John L. Lahey said, “We might be the newest medical school in the country, but we will be one of the finest, I can assure you, in the years ahead.”
Be True to Selves, Graduates Urged

Take risks and permit yourself to make at least one mistake in pursuit of your dreams. That was the advice offered May 19 to graduates in the University's Schools of Communications, Health Sciences and Nursing by Josh Elliott, above right, news anchor of “Good Morning America” and the speaker at the afternoon Commencement ceremony.

He said, “Mistakes are now how you will learn.” He noted that graduates of all three of those schools have chosen to go into the business of being right. “Whether you're going to work every day in a TV newsroom or a research lab, a PR department or a hospital, you will be bound by the need to not be wrong, ever.”

Before that reality sets in, Elliott recommended that they depart from the world of doing what's expected of them to pause and take a risk, perhaps see the world, as he did after his own graduation—a decision his parents lamented, but one he has never regretted.

At the morning ceremony, Jessica Jackley, co-founder of the microlending website KIVA, encouraged College of Arts and Sciences and School of Business graduates to devote their lives to serving others. “Life gets really, really good not just when you are living a fulfilling, creative, entrepreneurial life, but when we can live this way together. I believe that you will fall in love, as I have, with work that helps other people thrive and reach their potential, too,” Jackley said.

During that ceremony, James W. McGlothlin, chairman and CEO of The United Company, also was presented with an honorary degree. The University awarded a total of 1,510 undergraduate degrees.

The weekend before, 747 graduates received degrees at the morning Graduate Commencement ceremony. Speaker Denise D’Ascenzo, weekday anchor at WFSB-TV, counseled them to trust their instincts and overcome their personal fears, both in their lives and their careers. Later that day, 149 degree candidates in the School of Law listened to a talk by Dennis G. Eveleigh, Connecticut Supreme Court associate justice, who advised them to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, saying: “You have nothing if you do not have a good reputation.”

NEW EDUCATION DEAN

Kevin Basmadjian was appointed dean of the School of Education in April after serving as interim dean. He played an integral role in helping to craft the Learning Paradigm initiative, collaborating with departments across the University. He joined Quinnipiac in 2004 and was an associate professor and director of the master of arts in teaching program. He has an MAT in English education from Wayne State University and a PhD in teaching, curriculum and educational policy from Michigan State.

PET PROJECT EASES STRESS

A long-haired visitor with a golden touch lent a hand—more accurately, a paw—to students undergoing the stress of final exams in May.

Donna Latella, an occupational therapy professor, brought Aubry, a 3-year-old therapy dog, to the North Haven Campus to help students. Latella and the golden retriever are certified through Pet Partners, an organization dedicated to animal-assisted activities and therapy.

“We know pets make us happy and feel good in general,” said Latella. “However, the sensory interaction with the dog through touch, unconditional affection and the human animal bond is a powerful tool. We hope to show it has a positive impact on relieving stress levels and offering comfort to participants.”

As part of a capstone project, OT students Briana Ardolino, Melanie Havarsat, Nicole Maiorino and Amanda Silberzahn checked the blood pressures, heart rates, respiratory rates and stress levels of those students who visited Aubry. Early results indicated reduced levels after students spent just five minutes with Aubry.

Students were given the opportunity to talk to and pet the dog. “It was magical,” said Marianna DiMaggio, a physical therapy graduate student. “I love animals. Aubry reminded me of my dog from home, which made me more relaxed… It’s just what I needed as finals week began.”
The theory that a sober Ireland is a free Ireland was explored in a May program about the legacies of the Great Hunger and presented by Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University.

Christine Kinealy, professor of history and Irish studies, gave an overview of the cultural and political legacies of British rule and then introduced Garrett O’Connor, a psychiatrist and former president and CEO of the Betty Ford Institute. O’Connor, a recovering alcoholic who has been sober 36 years, detailed reasons why he thinks drinking has been ingrained in the Irish culture.

When the British and others invaded Ireland from the 12th century onward, land was seized from the Irish, a people the British labeled as “barbarous,” according to Kinealy.

“The land was not theirs to take, but they took it anyway and took it by savage force,” O’Connor said. He described the Irish as a primitive society. “They didn’t have gun power or much recourse.”

Building stills to make poteen (moonshine) gave the Irish a weapon of resistance against their invaders, O’Connor explained. “Poteen stills were a cultural remission for poverty and suffering…there were thousands of them. “Families would drink it, sell it, and it would improve the family’s state of life and economy while undermining it at the same time, but it was something they could do, and it gave them a sense of mastery over their oppressors,” he said.

As the Irish emigrated to America, so did the cultural stereotype of them as “lazy and stupid drunks,” O’Connor noted. He believes the Irish suffered from a “malignant shame” brought on by low self-esteem, self-misperceptions of cultural inferiority and suppression of feelings stemming from their treatment before and during the Famine years.

CBS Evening News anchor Scott Pelley wishes the media would concern itself with being right rather than first. In a speech following his being presented with the 20th annual School of Communications’ Fred Friendly First Amendment Award in May, Pelley said, “Never before in history has more information been available to more people, but at the same time, never before has more bad information been available to more people,” referencing the plethora of content available on the Web.

“Twitter and Facebook are not journalism; they are gossip,” he said. Citing the Newtown shootings story as an example, he said journalists are getting the big stories wrong, over and over again. “I reported that Nancy Lanza was a teacher at the school and that her son had attacked her classroom. It was a hell of a story, but it was dead wrong…so I’ll take the first arrow,” he said.

Pelley quoted Friendly as saying: “If you are the first, no one will ever remember; if you are wrong, no one will ever forget.”
G.A.M.E. III Explores Arduous Financial Issues

Internationally renowned finance experts provided insight on pressing issues in the investment industry at Quinnipiac’s annual Global Asset Management Education (G.A.M.E.) III Forum in New York City in April.

More than 1,000 participants from 118 universities, representing 33 countries, 44 states and the District of Columbia attended. Among more than 128 speakers and panelists were Guy Adami, managing director of Drakon Capital and contributor to CNBC’s “Fast Money”; Abby Joseph Cohen, senior investment strategist and president of the Global Markets Institute at Goldman Sachs; and Richard Peach, senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The global economy, alternative assets and corporate governance were among the topics discussed. Cohen raised concerns about repercussions of educational disparity on consumption, the economy and job growth. “We have never seen in the history of modern data as big a divergence as we have right now between those who are well educated and those who are poorly educated in terms of the unemployment rate.”

Peach noted the recent sequester has hurt job growth. “Never before have we attempted this amount of fiscal tightening when the unemployment rate was this high,” he said.

G.A.M.E. III Forum

SCORING BUSINESS PLAN
MBA GRADUATE PLANS TO CONNECT COACHES AND PLAYERS

Garvey Young ’12, MBA ’13, a former Quinnipiac basketball captain, plans to create a website with digital media to introduce athletes and recruiting coaches. It’s an idea that’s already won him a $5,000 prize. Young’s business plan for his interactive website, Draftspot, took first prize in the Quinnipiac University Business Competition in April.

Coaches are good at recruiting talent, Young explains. “Athletes who have the talent sometimes don’t have the platform to display their skills to the coaches.”

Draftspot would provide an online space for athletes to show their talent in videos and news articles as well as academic achievements. Plus, it’s a way for coaches to contact players.

Young aims to raise $100,000 to launch the business in January 2014, and is already speaking with investors.

This fall he is set to play basketball in Europe for the FIBA International Basketball Association, but will continue to work on his business remotely. He has already been globetrotting this summer, spending three weeks in Ghana as a soccer coach at a Christian school and orphanage.

“I was able to create some strong bonds in a short amount of time,” said Young, who grew up playing soccer. “I was like a big brother and it felt great.”

DOCUMENTARIES WIN INTERNATIONAL HONORS

Professor Becky Abbott and Tim Malloy, former School of Communications Professor in Residence, won a 2013 Boston/New England Regional Emmy Award for their documentary, “Aeromedical.” The two co-directed the film, which tells the story of the life-and-death struggles that take place in the skies above Europe on aeromedical evacuation missions. Bradley O’Connor ’12, associate producer and cameraman, was included on the Emmy nomination.

Quinnipiac’s film, “Justice is a Black Woman: The Life and Work of Constance Baker Motley,” was named Best Documentary Feature at the St. Tropez International Film Festival in France in May. Michael Calia, director of the Ed McMahon Mass Communications Center, produced the film, which also was honored at the 34th Annual Telly Awards and Offshoot Film Fest.

CHINA AT TURNING POINT

Jonathan Spence, an expert on Chinese civilization and professor emeritus at Yale, highlighted three emerging trends in that country at the Resurgent China in the 21st Century Symposium in April.

Areas to watch are China’s growing investment in Africa, its desire to develop technological skills, and its pursuit of sea power in recent years, according to Spence.
HUNGARIAN TIES GROW

Chris Ball, the István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics at Quinnipiac, has been named honorary consul of Hungary for Connecticut. Ball is the first to hold this diplomatic appointment in the state. H.E. György Szapáry, the Hungarian ambassador to the U.S., will conduct the inauguration ceremony in September.

The Quinnipiac institute that works to build relationships between the U.S. and Central European nations changed its name from István Széchenyi Institute to the Central European Institute recently. The institute also has established an official board of directors. The board also has established an official board with prominent members, including Nancy Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and Péter Küllö, founder of the Serious- Fun Camp in Hungary.

Each year, the institute will host an art exhibit from Central Europe. This year’s exhibit, “Art and forum organizer. She was a lab manager, weighing, counting and registering artifacts.

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NEW ADMINISTRATOR

In August, Paul Tiyambe Zeleza came on board as the new vice president for academic affairs, succeeding Mark Thompson, who has been promoted to executive vice president and provost. Zeleza previously was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and presidential professor of history and African American studies at Loyola Marymount University. He is an honorary professor at the University of Cape Town.

Professor and Students Unearth Artifacts from Bronze Age

Sophomore Justine Tynan and Lauren Tosti ’13 spent much of their summer sifting through dirt, looking for pieces of history.

They, along with Julia Giblin, assistant professor of anthropology, were on a team that conducted research through the Bronze Age Körös Off-tell Archaeology (BAKOTA) project. They surveyed and excavated an archaeological site in Békés County, Hungary, to learn more about social organization, trade and mobility during the Bronze Age of Eastern Hungary. The field study group uncovered 39 cremation urns on farmland that was once a cemetery. The group also studied bones, teeth and other artifacts, including what might be part of a bronze bracelet.

“We were actually getting to touch things that were thousands of years old,” said Tosti. “You can’t get that from a textbook. Something as simple as a little pottery shard made for an eye-opening moment.”

Tosti, who spent four weeks in Hungary, was largely responsible for measuring the location and elevation of points during excavation. She also snapped photographs that will be used to make a 3-D model of the cemetery. Tynan, who spent six weeks on the project, served as a lab manager, weighing, counting and registering artifacts.

“Being there with people who are professionals and getting real experience was amazing,” Tynan said. “It was actually surreal touching people who were alive thousands of years ago and unearthing their stories.”

To participate in the BAKOTA project, Tosti received aid from Quinnipiac’s Central European Institute. Tynan received a student research support grant from the College of Arts and Sciences.

IMMIGRATION FORUM

Students Raise Awareness

Quinnipiac hosted “Coming to America: A Forum on Immigration” in April. Panelists discussed issues surrounding the then-proposed immigration reform bill, explored some of the challenges immigrants face, and shared personal stories. “There are 11 million undocumented people living in the U.S., and I wanted to bring awareness that this could be anyone, a roommate, a friend, a friend’s parents, but we don’t talk about it because we live in the shadows. We live in fear of being deported from the only place many of us know as home,” said Alba Ortega ’13, a School of Nursing graduate and forum organizer. She shared her own experiences being part of a family where not all members are U.S. citizens. Panelists included students, as well as members of the Connecticut Students for a Dream. “We had a good crowd, deep conversation and a lot of emotion,” Ortega said.
Yearning to Say, Hello Kitty?

If a loved one with a cat allergy stands between you and your feline, there’s hope in a vaccine called Circassia, according to Norbert Herzog, a professor in the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. He explained why in a recent episode of “Medical Discovery News,” the syndicated radio show he produces with David W. Niesel ’75. The show airs at 6:40 a.m. Tuesdays on Quinnipiac’s AM 1220 WQUN.

The duo reported on research that shows Circassia significantly eased symptoms, such as runny nose and watery eyes, in clinical trials. Those are allergic reactions to cat dander, which are microscopic pieces of dead skin that carry a protein called Fel d 1. Cats secrete it onto their skin, and from there it gets on furniture, clothing and in the air.

Normally the body treats this protein like any of the millions of antigens or foreign matter entering our bodies. Either there’s no threat or the antigen is removed without us being aware of it. But some immune systems overreact by making too much immunoglobulin E—an antibody that triggers a release of histamines.

One effect of histamines is to relax capillaries, which expands them, allowing blood fluids and antibodies to pass through. That’s why people with cat allergies suffer a runny nose and watery eyes. The body reacts by sending antibodies there to wash it away. The new vaccine stops the immune system from reacting by incorporating pieces from the cat protein. Introducing Fel d 1 this way shifts the immune response so the body does not see the protein as a threat. If this vaccine and a few others in the works are approved, Herzog says they’ll be the “cat’s meow!”

KIDS EXPOSED TO TECH CAREERS

Sarah Berke, assistant professor of biology, reached deep into a brown paper bag, promising Pond Hill Elementary School third-graders in Wallingford, Conn., that it contained an amazing piece of technology. She then pulled out a green crayon.

“Technologies are objects or something created to make our lives easier,” Berke explained. “We hope that the students learn that technology is more than their iPad, iPhone or TV.” Berke represented Quinnipiac’s Bristol-Myers Squibb Center for Science Teaching and Learning at the school’s STEM Day in June. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. Justin Kile, associate dean of engineering, also attended. “The ultimate goal is to keep them interested in STEM-type fields,” he said.

OFF THE PRESS

A book titled, “The Techno-Human Shell: A Jump in the Evolutionary Gap” (Sunbury Press), by adjunct law professor Joseph Carvalko, focuses on advances in medical technology that would allow the implanting of modern micro-computers with Internet-like communications. As their size spirals downward, their use will extend lifetimes; enhance intellects, and control technology outside the body.

Lara Dotson-Renta, assistant dean of career development, has written “Immigration, Popular Culture, and the Re-Routing of European Muslim Identity” (Palgrave MacMillan). Exploring literature, film and hip-hop created by Arab and Muslim immigrants, her book traces the ways in which Spain has become an axis by which new “European Islamic” identities are forged and contested.

JULY’S HEAT WAVE WAS THE PERFECT TIME FOR FACILITIES WORKERS TO TACKLE THEIR ANNUAL REPAINTING OF THE BOBCAT LOGO UNDER FRESH ICE AT THE TD BANK SPORTS CENTER.
Mudder No Match for Team GRIND

Tim Morris ’03 completed what some athletes haven’t even attempted: a Tough Mudder competition in June. Morris, a paraplegic who injured his spinal cord in a near-fatal car accident in 2007, finished the grueling, 12-mile obstacle course without using his legs, but he had the help of many hands—63 pairs to be exact. Many were QU alumni.

Q: How did the accident change your life?
A: I’m not the same person at all. I was 26 and I had life in the palm of my hand, and I didn’t realize it. I think a lot of people are like that. Then losing it all gave me an incredible amount of perspective.

Q: What do you remember of the accident?
A: I wasn’t wearing my seatbelt. It was raining and wet. I hit a curb and rolled my jeep. I came out the moon roof, and the jeep rolled over me. I sustained a T4 spinal injury, as severe as it can get without my spinal cord being severed. In six years, I never took any diagnosis as a permanent situation. I really believe you can do or be whatever you want as long as you are willing to work for it. Part of my goal is to get on my feet. Since that time I have been able to stand a little bit. I can crawl for hours. It’s good stuff. My ultimate goal is a full-length Ironman triathlon.

Q: Has anyone tried to deter you?
A: When I was in rehab, the head nurse told my father I was wasting my time and money with what I was planning to accomplish, and I should get used to living my life in a wheelchair. I don’t like using negativity as a motivator, but I remember it. I really focus on the positive and surround myself with good people; people who support me.

Q: What made you decide to do the Boston Tough Mudder?
A: My life is more about motivating and providing hope and help for people who are going through difficulties in their lives. My goal was to use the Tough Mudder and a few other future physical activities to help people realize that they can conquer things that may appear unattainable—if they want it bad enough. We had one of the largest teams—63 people were part of Team GRIND, which stands for “Get Ready It’s a New Day.”

Q: Did you train some of your team members?
A: I’m a certified strength and conditioning specialist and, in addition to my BA in communications, I have an MS in kinesiology-pedagogy from The University of New Hampshire. I was working with some of the guys—Jeff and Chris—on their conditioning to prepare for the obstacles.

Q: How challenging was the Tough Mudder?
A: I figured out the best ways to help me maneuver up and around obstacles after I had studied the events. A group of about 15 friends stuck with me the entire time. The first two miles were tough. It was difficult to maneuver through the rough terrain that had 6-8 inches of mud. Even to get to the starting line we had to climb up Gunstock Mountain. On mile two, my wheel broke. It was 2.5 miles into it and 90 degrees. Cameron Smith ’03 created a tow hinge. The team members would rotate every 45 seconds pulling me along.

Q: Did you think about giving up?
A: Never. The cutoff was 7:30 p.m., and it was already 6 p.m. They weren’t going to take us off the course because we weren’t going to get off the course, so they rerouted us. I crawled to the finish with my friends cheering. It was very special to me. They sacrificed their experience to make sure I made it through.

Q: What’s your next adventure?
A: My biggest adventure has been working with NextStep Fitness to create a neurological recovery and wellness facility to treat people with partial to full paralysis, both physically and emotionally. My next adventure is in October, when I will hand-cycle the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., raising money for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, fighting for a cure for spinal cord injuries.—Alejandra Navarro
Tim Morris ’03 competed in a Tough Mudder competition to help people realize they can conquer things that may appear unattainable.
Frozen Four Headed Here

Women’s ice hockey championship happening on Quinnipiac ice in March

One way or another, the Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey team will be at the Frozen Four this March. The Bobcats hope it’s on skates. Quinnipiac will host the 2014 NCAA Women’s Ice Hockey Championship March 21–23 at the High Point Solutions Arena at the TD Bank Sports Center.

“We told the team that we can be there participating or we can be there showing people to their seats,” Head Coach Rick Seeley said. “It’s a dream for every team,” he added, noting that the team has reached the semifinals of its conference tournament twice.

There is already a blueprint for national success. The men’s ice hockey team, ranked No. 1 for most of the winter, advanced to the Frozen Four last season, losing to Yale in the national title game.

“We’re pretty close friends with the men’s team,” junior goalie Chelsea Laden said. “We’re together in the weight room, and we see each other every day. They told us what a great experience they had at the Frozen Four.”

Quinnipiac Athletic Director Jack McDonald said 2012–13 was a banner year for Bobcats athletics. In addition to the men’s ice hockey success, the women’s basketball team made the NCAA Tournament, women’s rugby played in the Final Four, acrobatics and tumbling competed in the national championship, and the men’s soccer and women’s cross country team topped conference titles.

“And to be hosting an NCAA Frozen Four or Final Four in any Division I sport is just phenomenal,” McDonald said. “Four of the best teams in the world will be here in Hamden.”

Seeley is entering his sixth season with the Bobcats. The team has averaged 20 wins over the last four winters and was nationally ranked last season. “When we took over the program, there wasn’t a lot of success in the bank,” he said. “Each year, we’ve just chipped away and added more and more talent.”

Seeley graduated six seniors in May, while Erica Uden Johansson will miss the upcoming season to train for the Swedish Olympics. She plans to return for her senior year in 2014–15.

The Bobcats return senior leading scorer Kelly Babstock as well as junior forward Nicole Kosta, who endured an injury-plagued sophomore campaign. “Clearly, Kelly has led us in scoring, by a wide margin, for her first three years here,” Seeley said, adding: “She and Kosta could be scary together. If Nicole can stay healthy, it’s hard to imagine how good she could be.”

He noted that defensemen Kristen Tamborg and Cydney Roesler, as well as forward Nicole Connerly adjusted quickly in their freshman seasons and were top performers most of last season. Quinnipiac’s roster will be bolstered by the addition of seven freshman recruits, including transfer Shianne Darkangelo, Syracuse University’s top forward the past two seasons.

“It was a thrill watching the men’s team. Obviously, for our kids, it was encouraging to see a season like that, and realize it is attainable. We have the same resources and opportunities they have. We just have to commit ourselves to it.”

Babstock, who tallied 28 goals and 27 assists en route to All-ECAC and New England Division I All-Star Team honors, said hosting the championship gives the Bobcats something to shoot for.

“All of us definitely want to be there. We all know it’s going to be here, and everyone wants to be there. No one needs to tell us. We just know.”— John Pettit

NEW SCOREBOARDS FEATURE REPLAYS

Missed that goal while you reached for your drink? Won’t be a problem this year at the TD Bank Sports Center, where spectacular new scoreboards will greet fans. The University partnered with ANC Sports Enterprises to install and operate HD center-hung scoreboards in both the basketball and ice hockey arenas. The new scoreboards are composed of four squarely arranged video boards, 16.5 feet wide by 9.5 feet high. Video streaming, animation and replays will contribute to an incredible viewing experience, according to Athletic Director Jack McDonald.

HALL OF FAME TAPS 3 BASKETBALL STARS

In June, the New England Basketball Hall of Fame inducted three members from the men’s basketball program into the Class of 2013. Guards James Johnson ’12 and Rob Monroe ’05, and Head Coach Tom Moore were recognized.

Johnson, a two-time All-NEC representative, wrapped up a remarkable career with the Bobcats in 2012. In his final season, he finished with 22 points in the NEC quarterfinals to become the University’s Division I scoring leader, surpassing the previous mark set by Monroe in 2005 (1,685). Johnson went on to amass 1,729 points and climb to No. 7 on the all-time scoring list. Monroe ranked among the top 50 in four major NCAA Division I categories: fourth in scoring (22.7 points/game); 14th in assists (6.5/game); 27th in free-throw percentage (.859); and 45th in three-pointers/game (2.8). He received several prestigious awards including the New Haven Tap Off Club’s Male Athlete of the Year and Quinnipiac Athlete of the Year.

Moore has transitioned the basketball program into a perennial power in the NEC. He guided the Bobcats to an average of 20 wins over the past four seasons, including two 20-plus-win campaigns in 2010 and 2011. He has amassed a 108–81 overall record. Under Moore’s tutelage, the Bobcats made three straight national postseason appearances (NIT, CIT, CBI) from 2009–11. He was named the Jim Phelan Northeast Conference Coach of the Year in 2019.
Current senior Shelby Wignall goes after the puck in a December 2012 game against Princeton.
Describing the nation’s current health care system as dysfunctional, Dr. Andrew Morris-Singer offered a prescription: Focus on the centrality of primary care and encourage an innovative, team-based approach to deliver it.

“Our existing payment systems reward volume, not value,” Morris-Singer noted, “while current scope of practice laws prevent members of the care team from operating at the top of their training. Patient-provider interactions are often confined to 15-minute encounters that leave neither patient nor provider satisfied.”

Morris-Singer, president and co-founder of Primary Care Progress, a Boston-area interprofessional network whose mission is the transformation of primary care, spoke last April at a symposium titled Primary Care and the Law.

The program was co-sponsored by Quinnipiac’s Schools of Health Sciences, Nursing, Medicine and Law, as well as the Quinnipiac Health Law Journal and the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education.

Health care and legal professionals from within and outside the University explored the implications of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

While several provisions of the health care act have been implemented over the past three years, most of it goes into effect next year.

Because the 900 pages of statutory text leave many details of implementation to the states and various federal agencies, thousands of pages of both state and federal regulations are currently being written.

“There is no doubt that creating, interpreting and implementing the regulations related to the act will be a significant area of legal practice over the next several years,” says Jennifer Herbst, assistant...
professor of law and one of the symposium's organizers.

The federal act vastly increases both the number of people with insurance coverage and incentives for a more extensive and better-integrated system of primary health care.

This latter feature is significant, Morris-Singer explained, because primary care has long been marginalized, with vastly more resources directed toward specialty care.

In addition to showing how his network uses a grassroots organizational model to both deliver care in its own community and transform the way that care is delivered nationwide, Morris-Singer proposed two solutions to increase the availability of primary care practitioners: changes in medical reimbursement policies and greater accountability from institutions of graduate medical education.

In the day's first panel—“What is Primary Care and What Should it Do?—practitioners across legal and health care professions discussed how medicine, nursing, occupational and physical therapy, and law define and generally understand primary care, and how each of the professions sees itself working in light of the health care act.

Various panelists pointed out that the traditional notion of primary care is that it is delivered to individual patients in physicians' offices. However, that definition no longer reflects reality. Primary care also might be defined as a range of services (e.g. vaccinations, wellness exams), or by the locations of the provider-patient interaction, or by the perceptions of patients.

Dr. Anthony Ardolito, executive dean at Quinnipiac's Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, and Catherine Meriano '86, MHS '91, JD '00, professor of occupational therapy, served as panel moderators.

Other QU participants were Dennis Brown, clinical assistant professor of physician assistant studies; Diane Cooper, a second-year law student at QU; Kim Hartmann '76, MHS '82, interim dean of the School of Health Sciences; and Lynn Price, associate professor of nursing.

With many people already receiving primary care from non-physician clinicians in settings such as homes, outpatient clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities, the health care act provides statutory recognition to the full range of health care professions.

Herbst notes that cross-professional conversations are essential to determine how best to use finite resources to meet the growing need for primary care that will occur because of the health care act.

One option for meeting that need lies in technology. More than 40,000 mobile medical and patient-clinician communications applications are currently available.

A panel composed of a software engineer, an attorney and two health care professionals raised the following questions: How can technologies improve the delivery of primary health care, especially in relation to chronic care management or rural practices? Are these technologies likely to increase or diminish the digital divide in patient populations with limited connectivity or computer literacy? How might apps and mobile consultation affect a provider's exposure to liability?

And with the Federal Communications Commission governing bandwidth, the Food and Drug Administration regulating medical devices and the Federal Trade Commission responsible for truth in advertising, where will regulatory jurisdiction lie, they wondered.

The day's final panel discussed innovations in managing increasing demand for health care services, including community health centers; clinics run by medical school students; and integrating legal practitioners into medical practices.

Herbst notes, “There are social determinants of health that cannot be treated by medicine, but that the law can address,” such as convincing a landlord to clean up mold or provide an air-conditioner, or obtaining restraining orders in domestic violence situations.

“The law has far more of an impact on health and health care than many people realize,” Herbst says.

“This symposium is the beginning of many more conversations that will be required in response to the upcoming changes in our health care systems.”
Reunion 2013

Alumni came together one weekend to dance, dine, play games and reminisce about the memorable moments of their years at Quinnipiac.

Under a brilliant sun, hundreds of alumni and their families and friends returned to Quinnipiac in June for Reunion 2013. They participated in events, both traditional and new, including the Golden Bobcats Dinner for the reunion classes from 1963 and prior; Reunion at the Ratt; Dance Party in the Dorm; May Weekend Remembered; an alumni baseball game; Milestone Dinner Dance and more.

The best part is always reconnecting with old friends. Many took the opportunity to see the changes that have taken place on campus, such as the renovated Carl Hansen Student Center. For a second year, about 100 alumni slept in the residence halls for the weekend, reliving the full college experience.

Clockwise: Christine “Rocky” LaVallee ’03, MAT ’04, Molly (Harrington) Evans ’03, Alison (Jaquith) DeLong ’03 and Jen Monaco ’01 relax on the quad. Abdul Staten ’01 and Jessica Staten ’03, Pat McGrath ’70 and Tina McGrath, MHS ’89, enjoy the Dance Party in the Dorm event.

Kasey Keegan ’03, Diana Cunha ’03 and Felicity Melillo ’03 sport their Bobcat gold-framed sunglasses.
Above: Patricia O’Leary-Eiermann ’03 brought Scrappy Doo to the festivities. At right, Head Baseball Coach Dan Gooley ’70 with Brien Magee ’05, Sal Puccio ’02 and Charles D’Elia ’02, MS ’04. Below, friends from the Class of 2008 celebrated their fifth-year reunion.
Luis Diaz, 73, came to the emergency room complaining of chest pain. Before a doctor examined him, a nurse at Midstate Medical Center asked him some routine questions and learned he was having trouble doing chores at home. “He said he was trying to clean his house the other day and barely had the strength to hold the mop,” said Nurse Manager Camila Rubino, who translated Diaz’s answers from Spanish. “He said he had a stroke in the past, which caused some physical limitations on his left side.” She set up a consultation with a social worker to see if there were any services that could help.

In a traditional ER, Diaz’s difficulty getting along at home might have been missed. But Diaz had come to one of a small but growing number of senior-friendly emergency departments in the country—and one of only two in Connecticut—where staff is specially trained to deal with the unique needs of older adults.

The goal is to not only treat the medical problem that brought the patient to the ER, but also to address the psychological and social issues that can coincide with aging and make the patient more likely to return, said Dana Garvey ’03, a registered nurse who led the multidisciplinary committee that brought the changes to MidState, one of the clinical partners of the new Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac.

Since the program launched in May, nurses at the Meriden, Conn., hospital conduct a six-question screening on every patient 65 or older who visits the ER. This includes questions about the patient’s living arrangements, their medications and whether they are there because of a fall—which could be a red flag that the patient cannot safely return home. The staff also looks for signs of dementia and checks for harmful drug interactions.

The answers Diaz provided about his home situation—he lived alone in a second-floor apartment—were enough for a nurse to probe further. Depending on the visit with the social worker, Diaz could be connected with a home health aide or to programs like Meals on Wheels.

“He needs that extra little bit of help, and having that extra little bit of help will...
"The goal is to not only treat the medical problem that brought the patient to the ER, but also to address the psychological and social issues that can coincide with aging and make the patient more likely to return."
—Dana Garvey ’03

Students Learn to Disclose Medical Errors as Team
Health professions students learned how to collaborate in disclosing an error to a patient and family member and make a plan to correct it. The interprofessional exercise last spring involved students from programs including athletic training, cardiovascular perfusion, diagnostic imaging, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician assistant.

"We work as a team. We must all acknowledge our personal role and acknowledge the error," says Cory A. Boyd, associate professor of nursing. "We are trying to teach our students that they need to do this disclosure in a blame-free way."

PA Meets Heroes at Work
Mumbi Ngugi, MHS ’12, considers her job an honor. As a physician assistant on a U.S. Air Force base, she treats active service members and their families. "That’s the coolest part of the job ... listening to heroic stories of sacrifice and love for the country," she said.

As an undergraduate, Ngugi volunteered at a local hospital where she discovered her passion for medicine. She earned a business degree from the U.S. International University in Kenya. After graduating from QU, she began work in the family medicine clinic at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. Ngugi completed officer training school and then began seeing patients.

"In my role, I get to sharpen my skills in pediatrics, treat the relatively healthy age 18–40 population, and also work with internal medicine patients treating chronic illnesses," she said.

hopefully prevent him from having that catastrophic fall or that medical mix-up that will send him back here," said Garvey. Pam Cruz ’07, manager of marketing and community relations at MidState, said it is especially important that patients are transitioned home with the resources they need.

Nationwide, seniors accounted for more than 19 million emergency room visits in 2010, according to the Centers for Disease Control. As more baby boomers turn 65 and more seek care in the ER, it makes sense for hospitals to address their unique needs, said Lynne Hodgson, professor of sociology and director of the gerontology program. She sees the trend toward geriatric ERs as no different from specialized pediatric wings.

"I am a baby boomer myself, and we have changed everything as we’ve moved through our life stages. We are going to have to change hospitalization," said Hodgson.

Hodgson said a trip to the emergency room can be especially frightening and disorienting for seniors, who may have deficits in vision, hearing and mobility.

"The ER has a lot going on, there are lots of lights, and things are happening quickly. Their glasses are taken off their face, they may not have their teeth in if this happened while they were sleeping, and they may not have their hearing aids," Hodgson explained.

She said one of the reasons why ERs have turned to the idea of specialized geriatrics is to reduce the risk of delirium.

Garvey said patients 65 and up comprise 60 percent of MidState’s emergency room visits, so the hospital decided to incorporate changes within the existing ER instead of opening a separate geriatric wing.

The hospital has tried to make the ER calmer and more comfortable with thicker mattresses and heated blankets, softer lighting and safety features like handrails and non-slip floors. Older patients also are brought an activity cart so they can do puzzles while they wait, Garvey said.

Jean Lange, dean of the School of Nursing and an expert in geriatric nursing, said it is crucial to assess how an older patient is faring “physically, mentally and spiritually” when they come to the ER. But she said many practicing nurses were never taught how because the research is so new.

"The average nurse in Connecticut is around 48 or 49 years old," she said. "People just coming out of nursing school in that last five years have received that training, but many of the people in practice have not."

MidState’s program is already making a difference. Garvey recalled one patient who was taking 29 different prescription medications, a startling number even for seniors. When the pharmacy consultation uncovered three potentially harmful interactions, she put the primary care doctor on “high alert.”

Garvey said often, older people see multiple doctors and use more than one pharmacy, so coordination of care is difficult. Because the ER has social workers, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists and doctors on site, it is easier to “see the big picture,” she said.

"And sometimes we’re that safety net because we’re the only place that patient is ever going to go (for care),” Garvey said. "If we were to drop the ball, there would really be nobody else."
PARTING SHOT

Undergraduate Commencement gave this circle of friends from the College of Arts and Sciences and School of Business a chance to not only rejoice in their accomplishments but to huddle for one more group picture on the quad as they bid goodbye to Quinnipiac and each other and prepare to meet the future head on.

Photograph by John Hassett
his heart’s content
Retired educator first to donate body to medical school so that others may learn
BY ALEJANDRA NAVARRO

In his office, tucked behind a large, walk-in freezer and beside a workroom of stainless steel cabinets, sinks, and a table, Jim Casso made an index card for Rex Harkness of Ashford, Conn. He has written hundreds of these cards, but this was the first time since Casso became director of the anatomical gift program at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, which welcomed its first class in August.

Casso oversees body donations as well as the new 54-table anatomy lab in the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

The card includes a few personal details about Harkness: his age, 76; his occupation, professor emeritus of mathematics at Eastern Connecticut State University; that he was married with four children and nine grandchildren; and the cause of his death—cardiopulmonary arrest.

The card does not list the one final detail of his life that placed him in Casso’s capable hands: he donated his body to the School of Medicine, and he was the first person to do so.

As the first donor, Harkness’s unexpected but peaceful death on April 20 in a way marked the birth of the school’s anatomical gift program. His gift, the three additional that have been made since and those to come, play a critical role in the education of future physicians, as well as other health care professionals, helping students to understand the complex anatomy of the human body.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA PARINI
Academically, the index cards provide information that could show the correlation between the way a person lived and the effects on the body. It’s also a brief introduction to the person who made the donation.

“It’s so easy to disconnect this person’s life from the body because we don’t want to see ourselves like that,” said Casso in a warm tone that contrasts sharply with his chilly, stainless-steel surroundings. “I think it puts the student at ease knowing that this person wanted to be a donor.”

And he hopes knowing the person makes students appreciate the gift. Helping students was the reason Harkness wanted to make the donation.

“Of course, I’ll miss him, but we lived a very charmed life and we always took care of our bodies,” said Sue Harkness, who was married to Rex for more than five decades. “We wanted to give our bodies to medical science. I’m even more thrilled because he’s contributing to a new school of medicine.”

The Harknesses read about the anatomical gift program in the Hartford Courant and, as the parents of a pediatrician, were impressed with the School of Medicine’s goal to increase the number of primary care physicians. They have friends who have signed up to be donors at other universities, but the couple thought the established programs at UConn and Yale get enough donations.

“Learning that he was the first made me very happy,” said Harkness. “I’ve been telling everyone, Rex got accepted to medical school—and he’s the first in his class.”

This type of donation could bring comfort to a grieving family, said Casso, who has been in the mortuary profession for more than 40 years and previously ran UConn’s anatomical gift program for 20 years.

“Rex Harkness was a teacher and through this donation, he is still able to teach. It overshadows the sadness a little bit,” explained Casso. “Mrs. Harkness and people like her realize this gift benefits a lot of people.”

THE BENEFACTORS

The body donations will benefit more than the first class of 60 students in the School of Medicine. Several School of Health Science programs began using the new anatomy lab during the summer.

On one June morning, a class of pathologists’ assistant students, donning white plastic aprons and blue gloves, filed into one section of the anatomy lab. Steven Bilodeau, adjunct professor in the pathologists’ assistant program, plugged in his laptop. His presentation appeared on the monitors hovering above the dissection tables. Cameras in the lab also enable professors to record the sessions.

The students divided into teams of four around a table. In each team, one student flipped through the presentation on the touch-screen monitor. Another student opened the rounded stainless-steel cover on the table and unzipped the white body bag, while others adjusted the body. In unison, each group referenced the monitor before every meticulous incision.

“You see and learn so much more using your own hands,” said Cassie Murray, a first-year pathologists’ assistant student. Some classes use computer simulations, and Murray has had an anatomy class that used pigs. She said it is especially important for pathologists’ assistants to compare normal and abnormal human tissue.

While Bilodeau is impressed by the new technology and conveniences in the lab, he appreciates having access to classrooms where he can hold discussions before and after the dissections. Space wasn’t always available at Yale, where Quinnipiac previously held anatomy courses.

“You really can’t teach this course effectively without these teaching spaces,” he said.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Until the anatomical donation program receives more gifts, the University has purchased bodies for the first wave of classes.

Casso is working to get the word out about Quinnipiac’s body donation program and hopes to receive about 50 bodies annually.

“It’s getting more acceptable now to have a cremation and hold a memorial service afterward,” Casso explained. Even 10 years ago, it was unheard of to have a service if the body wasn’t present, he said. After the body is used in the lab, Quinnipiac pays for the transportation and cremation costs and returns the ashes to the family.

Gifting a body for education or science also has become a more attractive alternative for families, particularly as the price of a funeral increases, Casso said. The National Funeral Directors Association estimates that funerals cost about $6,500, but depending on the services, it could be thousands more.

The most challenging aspect of his job is when he can’t accept a donation, usually because of a health issue. For example, people who suffered from edema retain water, which dilutes formaldehyde and makes it challenging to preserve a body. Even if he knows he cannot accept a body, he makes the trip to tell the family in person.

“It’s hard to tell someone,” he said. “They are trying to give me a gift, a very valuable gift. They are giving up a funeral, they are giving up the ceremonial part of the grieving process, and I’m saying no thanks.” Most families understand and are very gracious, he said.

LESSONS IN GRIEF

Casso understands the plight of grieving families, having worked with them for more than four decades, first at funeral homes and then as the director of the anatomical donation program at UConn and now Quinnipiac.

Today, Casso manages the donations, transports, embalms and maintains the bodies, and helps families fill out forms, such as vet-
erans’ benefits, the death certificate and newspaper notices. “Because I am a funeral director, I help them with all of the things a funeral home would,” Casso said. “Often, family members call me just to talk.”

He always makes time to listen. He recalled one distressed widow who wanted to see her husband, who was already in his care. In an effort to dissuade her, Casso explained, “You don’t want to remember him like that. Why don’t you come over and we’ll have lunch. Bring me a rose and I’ll put it with him.” We had lunch, I put the rose on his cover, and she was OK with that.

“We try to accommodate people because it’s so stressful. It’s a difficult time,” said Casso. “If you can do something that helps them, why not do it? Obviously there was something missing. They needed to do this before they could let go.”

Casso was 16 when he began working in a funeral home washing cars. Being around death bothered him at first.

“It changes the way you look at life,” he explained. “It’s like reading a book. When you look at the last page and see how it ends before you’re supposed to, it takes away from the story.”

He received a certificate from mortuary school in New York and completed a bachelor’s degree in biology from Central Connecticut State University. Working in several funeral homes across the state, Casso gained experience in every aspect of the business, from embalming to arranging the services. The funeral home business, however, is very much a family business, and he wasn’t part of a family. Running a body donation program at a university was ideal for his expertise. Last year, he couldn’t pass up the opportunity to join Quinnipiac and build a program from scratch in a new, modern facility and be part of the team to launch the medical school.

Even today, Casso drives everywhere in a van that carries all of the equipment and supplies he would need, should he get a call to retrieve a donation. “People don’t like to wait in that situation.”

If Casso wasn’t so prepared, Quinnipiac’s first donation may not have happened.

When Harkness died on a Saturday afternoon, his widow wasn’t sure whom to contact. The Quinnipiac donation form—filled out and signed—was still sitting on her kitchen table. Casso was in the process of setting up his Quinnipiac office. Still, the call made its way to Casso.

“I am grateful Jim Casso was working that day,” said Harkness. She had found her lifeless husband on his favorite chair in his “man cave.” She calls her time with Rex a “lifelong love affair” that spanned nearly six decades—a five-year courtship followed by 53 years of marriage. Strong and fit with curly blond hair and blue eyes, he resembled Charlton Heston, according to his daughters. He played college football, built four houses, including his own, and, even in retirement, he chopped wood on their Ashford, Conn., property.

He also was in the middle stage of dementia. Although his death was sudden, it saved him from suffering with the disease. “He lived his life just the way he wanted and he died just the way he wanted to,” Harkness said.

“When we get his ashes back, we’ll have a service and we’ll sprinkle them in his beloved woods,” Harkness explained. “My children used to say, ‘If everyone lived like you and dad, we wouldn’t have global warming.’ I can joke and say this donation is the ultimate recycling.”

In a more serious tone she added, “Most of our close friends think it’s a wonderful idea. I hope we’re setting a trend.”
GOOD

DYNAMIC DUO OF BILL MECCA & BILL SCHWEIZER MARKING 15 YEARS TOGETHER ON THE AIR

BY JANET WALDMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER BEAUCHAMP
SPORTS
The Bobcats men’s basketball team is struggling. Rebounds and baskets are scarce.

“If you find yourself in a hole, the best thing to do is stop digging,” declares Bill Mecca, surveying the battle on the court this February night.

His broadcast partner, Bill Schweizer, nods as he continues to describe the action.

“When you’re struggling, you’ve got to stop and let it go, step out and play free and easy,” Mecca explains. He weaves his comments into Schweizer’s game narrative, the two working to deliver a seamless tapestry for their AM 1220 WQUN audience with Schweizer serving as the listeners’ eyes and Mecca their imagination—black and white with splashes of color.

The guys who serve as the voice of Bobcats basketball and ice hockey are marking their 15th year together this fall—longer than many marriages. The chemistry is still fresh despite the broadcast season running 14 games longer than usual this past spring owing to the women’s basketball team reaching the first round of the NCAA Tournament, and the men’s ice hockey team proceeding to the Frozen Four and the national title game in Pittsburgh.

And more excitement is on tap for 2014, when QU hosts the Women’s Frozen Four on March 21–23 at the High Point Solutions Arena at TD Bank Sports Center.

“We have fun, so it doesn’t seem like work,” says Schweizer.

As most of the University’s teams transition from the Northeast Conference to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference this fall (ice hockey remains in ECAC Hockey), there are new basketball players and coaches to research. Teams in the conference are Canisius, Fairfield, Manhattan, Marist, Monmouth, Rider, Saint Peter’s, Siena and the alma maters of both Schweizer and Mecca—Iona and Niagara, respectively.

“It should be interesting,” Schweizer says, flashing a smile.

Another thing that makes him grin is Mecca’s habit of springing “pearls of wisdom,” as Schweizer terms them, throughout their broadcasts, pregame and postgame shows. Schweizer never knows what metaphor his partner will employ next. Mecca has compared a lack of movement on the basketball court to a “mid-century high school dance where everybody stands and nobody dances.”

After a second-half explosion in a women’s basketball win, Mecca said, “It was like watching Superstorm Nemo. You went to bed with eight inches of snow, and you woke up to 40 inches on the ground....”

Following a tough men’s basketball loss, Mecca declared: “As you look at some of the best movies ever made, I think you find out that not every love story has a happy ending. Sometimes the hero dies.”

The more comfortable they became with each other, the more the “crazy stuff started coming out,” Schweizer says. “We don’t try to play ‘can you top this one?’ If one of us comes out with a line that’s off the wall or humorous, we go with it. We have fun doing it, so hopefully people have fun listening to it.”

“Listeners may picture two guys sitting in the stands, engaging in light-hearted banter, yet the broadcast is very professional, very dynamic,” says Paul Pacelli, production assistant at WQUN and fill-in play-by-play announcer for the hockey and basketball broadcasts.

And when the Bobcats are up by a substantial amount of points, “Mecca really gets going and it’s like a Vegas act,” Pacelli adds with a chuckle. During half time, spectators in TD Bank sometimes are treated to Mecca’s version of the “Cupid Shuffle.” Head phones off, he trots onto center court, where mascot Boomer is waiting. Together, they show off their moves.

Mecca, senior associate athletic director, is effusive with praise for his partner’s skills behind the microphone. “Schweiz (Mecca’s nickname for him) describes the action as it happens, not afterward. When there is a pass from the point to the wing, it happens simultaneously with his voice—and that’s a lost art,” Mecca says.

Turning to Schweizer, he says, “To be honest, anybody can call a game, but everyone can’t do it the way you do it. Your way allows an analyst like myself to get in when I’m supposed to and out when I’m supposed before clapping and other background noise drown me out.”

Schweizer honed this skill when doing play-by-play for UConn basketball games on the radio in the late 70s and early 80s. Fans told him they’d watch the action on TV, but turn down the sound and turn up their radios to listen to him. “That’s when I figured out that I couldn’t be behind the play if people were listening to me and watching at the same time. I had to be on top of what I was doing.”

PREAMBLE TO PARTNERSHIP

Schweizer played baseball at Iona and dreamed of a major league career, but a back injury derailed that plan. The English major was hired as a sportswriter, and later took a 15-week broadcasting course. He began doing news at smaller stations and after nine years, was hired by Lou Adler at CBS NewsRadio. Adler later became a QU professor in the School of Communications.

Schweizer did the morning drive sports at WCBS-FM weekdays and Channel 8 sports on weekends, in addition to calling UConn basketball and at one time, New Haven Ravens baseball. He began teaching a course in radio production at Quinnipiac in 1995 and has been here since. In addition to the games, Schweizer serves as a
Bill Mecca, left, and Bill Schweizer horse around on Lender Court at the TD Bank Sports Center.
media coordinator and teaches courses in Sports Reporting (undergraduate) and Performing and Producing Live Events on Radio (graduate).

Mecca came to QU in 1978 after graduating from Niagara, where he played college basketball. He is one of the people alumni remember most. In addition to his administrative duties, he founded and coordinates the annual Bill Mecca Roundball Golf Tournament for the benefit of athletics. He was inducted into QU’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009 and this year, the Quinnipiac Alumni Association dubbed him an honorary alumnus.

In these 35 years, he’s coached basketball, golf, tennis, taught physical education courses, and served as interim athletic director before current athletic director Jack McDonald was hired.

Schweizer began broadcasting QU games in 1998, when the University went Division I. Students were recruited to assist him on air, but most found the task intimidating. Meanwhile, Mecca had hung up his coach’s clipboard during the transition from Division II to I. Although he enjoyed coaching and thought he had a talent for motivating athletes, “That thought went by the wayside when I lost 13 games my first season. I decided I didn’t want my livelihood tied to 18- and 19-year-olds,” he says.

Mecca moved into the role of assistant athletic director, and Joe DeSantis was hired to coach. McDonald suggested Mecca as a good broadcast partner for Schweizer: After all, he was the former basketball coach and had “personality.”

At first, Mecca was uncomfortable with the concept of second-guessing the new coach on the air. And, he had no broadcasting experience. “We basically pulled him kicking and screaming to the broadcast table and tied him to the chair,” Schweizer says.

“But I was blessed because Billy is the best,” Mecca replies. “I didn’t learn from Joe Schmo, I learned from Bill Schweizer. He taught me the ropes.”

“I told him, ‘When the ball’s in play, it’s my microphone,’” Schweizer relates, adding, “Timeouts are his, or when a ball goes out of bounds or a basket is scored.”

Besides doing games, the duo also co-hosts “Bobcats Unleashed,” a twice-yearly video series highlighting QU athletics that is produced by Quinnipiac and broadcast on NESN and SNY. The series has received three Emmy nominations.

Mecca labels his analysis basketball for dummies. “I want them to be able to sit there and understand why and how it happened. My challenge every game is to put Schweitz in a position so when I look over, there is a smile on his face and we get to the next broadcast.”

“It’s a show, and we feed off the interaction between us,” Schweizer says. They consider

Top left: Justin Rutty ’12 fist bumps Mecca and Schweizer during a basketball game. Left: Mecca rocks “The Cupid Shuffle” with Boomer. Above: At the Roundball Golf Tournament, from left: Eric Grgurich, MS ’13; Eric Kruse; Keith Woodward ’88, MBA ’92; and Bill Mecca.
each game an opportunity to be better than the last. A real challenge comes when a game is bad, according to Schweizer. “When the Bobcats are making mistakes—not playing well—we need to know how to get people to still listen and enjoy it without bashing the team.”

And there can be a fine line between describing the action and cheering on the team. But Mecca cautions, “You are listening to us because you are a fan of Quinnipiac. If you are not a fan, then listen to some other station.”

A coach’s feathers may ruffle occasionally from a comment made during a broadcast, but Tom Moore, head men’s basketball coach, is unperturbed. “You really can’t let that stuff bother you,” he says.

Moore points to Schweizer’s and Mecca’s “great rapport” on and off the air as the key to their success and longevity. “There is a mutual respect and friendship between them that comes across clearly. They have great chemistry, a passion for Quinnipiac University, and an enthusiasm for college sports that has been the driving force for them over the last 15 years.”

Anne Balogh ’52 is an enthusiastic fan of both basketball and hockey and attends most home games with her friend, Dick Reilly ’58. Balogh is president of the Alumni Association’s Larson chapter and a member of both QU’s Athletics Advisory Board and its Athletics Council.

For away games, they depend on the WQUN online broadcasts. “Those guys are really into the game,” she says, noting that she misses hearing them while sitting in the stands. “Sometimes they are very philosophical—especially Mecca—and sometimes he’s this side of exactly right, but he’s clever,” she adds.

Another plus, she says, is that they don’t criticize players. “Everybody has an off day once in a while,” she notes.

**PREGAME PREP**

Unbeknownst to listeners, Schweizer prepares for each broadcast—more than 100 games in the regular season alone—by familiarizing himself with every opposing team, interviewing coaches before games, and dropping into practices occasionally. Besides radio, they do several TV games each year.

“People don’t realize that we do a half-hour radio pregame show, a 20-minute-plus postgame show, as well as the game. We are focused for three hours. Preparation, for me, is the absolute key. I need to know the players on the court and the players on the ice, which can be difficult because they all look the same with their masks.”

Mecca gets to know the athletes by attending practices and getting a sense of what is happening on a day-to-day basis. “I can share that without violating the coach’s creed of whatever happens in the gym stays in the gym,” he says.

TV is a whole different animal, Schweizer says. They do about six or seven basketball games on NESN, and SNY, and the occasional Fox 61. For hockey, Mecca exits the booth to serve as a sideline reporter.

Bob Tipson, assistant athletic director for compliance, joins the broadcast for many games, adding his wisdom as a former assistant basketball coach at Quinnipiac. “It’s much more challenging when there are three of us, but it works—we don’t step on each other,” Schweizer says.

“Sometimes Tip and Mecca get going on something, and I have to remind them there is a game going on,” Schweizer exclaims with a laugh.

Joining the MAAC represents a step-up in competition for many of QU’s teams. “The women’s basketball team will give Marist competition, and there is no reason why the men’s team can’t be successful,” Schweizer says.

“And it gives our coaches the opportunity to recruit a quality of student-athlete that we haven’t seen before,” Mecca points out. He adds: “In the past, we were getting either highly skilled or highly willed players. Some were very good but they need that self-motivating thing that makes them great.”

Besides the historic hockey season, two games remain vivid in Schweizer’s mind, both men’s basketball. The first, in 2002, came after the men’s team, coached by Joe DeSantis, finished seventh in the regular season to qualify for the conference playoffs.

“First, they beat No. 2 Wagner on Wagner’s home turf 87–78 and then No. 3 seed UMBC 75–72 to advance to the championship game at Central Connecticut on ESPN2. The gym was buzzing—it was packed 90 minutes before the game. The crowd was chanting, the atmosphere charged. It went down to the final minute, with three points separating the teams. And we lost 78–71.”

The second game was in March 2010—the NEC regular season championship against Robert Morris, with Tom Moore at the helm.

“The volume in TD Bank Sports Center was turned way up—it was what college sports is supposed to be like. When we lost [52–50], Mecca had tears in his eyes. That night is what you dream about. Hockey has it every time Yale comes to play.”

—Bill Schweizer
eriberto “Eddy” Cordero ’04, MAT ’05, was not a serious high school student, but the bright, self-described class joker always managed to learn enough to get good grades.

He landed in the top 10 percent of his class at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, Conn., and received Quinnipiac’s BRAMS Scholarship, which paid for his undergraduate tuition. Despite its bucolic landscape—a contrast to the New Haven neighborhood where he grew up—his first semester at Quinnipiac was no walk in the park. He bombed the first test in every class.

“I thought I was ready,” says Cordero. He quickly concluded, “If this is what I honestly want to do for the rest of my life, then man, I need to learn this. I’m going to be teaching it.”

After finding better ways to study, he had no problem earning a bachelor’s degree in science and a master’s in teaching from Quinnipiac, and later a sixth-year certificate from Southern Connecticut State University. Now a vice principal at Hill Regional Career High School in New Haven, Cordero keeps that first lesson in mind as he builds partnerships with universities to give his students college experience while still in high school. His goal is to help them make a smoother, more successful transition. In 2012, he collaborated with QU Professor Gloria Holmes, his former mentor, to have his students take courses at Quinnipiac through the School of Education’s Partnership for Accelerated Learning.

“If you can put them in a college class, you can tell them, ‘This is what we’ve been trying to get you ready for. Yes, you’re a top-level student here in high school, but now you’re going to be sitting in this rigorous and demanding class with other top students,’” says Cordero. At Career High School, which specializes in business and science/health careers, about 95 percent of its graduates enroll in college.

The School of Education started the Partnership for Accelerated Learning in 2008, working with New Haven Academy, and has expanded to include Career High School. Students can take up to four courses for free and earn credit that will count toward high school and college requirements. Saving on tuition was one of the most compelling reasons to apply for the program, say both Maissane Taroua and Tenzin Chogkey, who were selected to be Career High School’s first participants. The two took a philosophy course with Professor Ben Page, which alleviated some of their concerns about being able to balance coursework and other responsibilities.

“Quinnipiac had many resources and people I could talk to about the class, and even about my homework,” says Taroua, who plans to be a doctor and work in global health. “The professor and the other students were so nice. I liked the class so much.”

In the spring, 30 Career High School students applied for 12 spots. “We’re hoping to establish a pipeline to Quinnipiac, but we’re not making that a precondition for them taking these courses,” says Holmes, program director. Cordero enjoyed teaching so much, he spent many more than his required 20 observational hours at Career High School. With the shortage of teachers in science, he was hired to teach full time at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven during his student-teaching year but stayed for five years until returning to Career for his current position.

In the school corridor, students greet Cordero with high-fives and handshakes. He stops to listen to a student’s recent athletic triumphs, as well as another who is frustrated with an incident that has her marching to the main office. “They know I’ll drop everything to get them on the right path.”

From his first year of teaching, he knew he wanted to become an administrator: “I realized I could only have so much of an impact within the four walls of my classroom. That is my passion: trying to reach kids,” he says.

He identifies with many of his students, a racially diverse group that comes from low- to mid-income households in both New Haven and the surrounding communities. After a second stray bullet flew through his family’s New Haven home just a few blocks from Career High School, his parents, both originally from Puerto Rico, moved the family to Wallingford. With only a few students of color in his new school, he encountered people who made assumptions about who he was and what he was capable of doing. He never held it against them, reasoning that they hadn’t been exposed to diversity.

“These challenges can be excuses to hold you back or you can use them to push you forward. My brother and I used them as opportunities,” Cordero says. “My whole life, all I wanted to do was to break down those stereotypes.”
Eddy Cordero '04, MAT '05, chats with Tenzin Chogyek, center, and Maissane Tarouq, the first from Hill Regional Career High School to take classes at QU through the Partnership for Accelerated Learning program.
James W. McGlothlin, chairman and CEO of The United Co., has conducted deals with well-researched business plans and a cadre of lawyers, but he also has found fortune relying on gut reaction, hand-written contracts and handshakes.

Sometimes, success depends on luck, McGlothlin explained to business students in the spring course, CEO Lessons in Leadership. Still, he assured students that they have much knowledge to acquire on the road to success. “I’m here to keep you from making some of the mistakes we all tend to make,” he said in a presentation layered with honesty and humor.

McGlothlin was one of four business executives to lecture in the new course, which was created and taught by Susan McTiernan, associate professor of management and associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Business.

The other business leaders were Robert Castrignano, principal of Sandler O’Neill & Partners in New York; David Darst, a managing director at Morgan Stanley;
and William Weldon ’71, former CEO of Johnson & Johnson. Each spent a time leading the class and sharing the business experiences—both the triumphs and challenges—they encountered as they navigated their way into leadership positions. Darst, McGlothlin and Weldon are members of the University’s Business Leader Hall of Fame. Weldon and McGlothlin also have received honorary degrees at Commencements.

The lessons resonated with Akash Budhani, who is majoring in both computer science and finance with a minor in economics. “All four speakers had something interesting to say,” said Budhani. “One thing was clear: Failure is part of life. We think these leaders who have these big executive roles are perfect. Each one of them explained to us that they have failed at one point in their lives. Whoever keeps pressing forward will succeed.”

McGlothlin took students through the peaks and valleys of his storied 43-year career that began with the purchase of the United Coal Company, and the decisions that grew the small-town coal mining business into one of the largest privately owned U.S. companies.

Each business leader gave insight into his respective field and presented advice, from finding a good mentor to reading everything and being knowledgeable beyond your field.

“We need to treat everybody with dignity and respect. There are no little people.”
—David Darst

McGlothlin explained the intricacies of entrepreneurship, which he said should come with a Surgeon General’s Warning: “Entrepreneurship may result in added stress, high risk and if you are successful at it, it is very habit-forming.”

He presented his list of 15 practical “business commandments” including: “Safety first, environment next; Happy workers are successful workers; and Ship it today, we might lose the order tomorrow.” McGlothlin also offered his own interpretation of success for the students. A supporter of education and the arts, he explained, “You’re not successful just making money for yourself.”

Students were most interested in interacting with executives and hearing the personal stories behind these lessons was most interesting. In teams, students researched one of the four guests, and then had an opportunity to meet with him out of class. Budhani was impressed that weeks into Castrignano’s retirement from Goldman Sachs, he joined a nearly devastated Sandler O’Neill. The boutique investment firm had been housed on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center’s Tower 2 and lost 66 of its 171 employees on 9/11. With Castrignano’s help, the firm has become more prosperous than before the tragedy.

“You must be willing to make tough decisions to preserve your dignity and ethics.”
—Bill Weldon ’71

“Relationships” was the answer Castrignano was seeking.

Weldon explained Johnson & Johnson’s credo of putting patients and employees ahead of shareholders. “If you take care of the first two and do it really well, the shareholders will get a fair return on their investment,” he said.

Weldon’s story inspired Improta, who is interested in entrepreneurship. “You don’t necessarily need to know what you want to do, but whatever you decide, you just need to do it well.”
Ann (Crowder) Herrick’s young adult novel, “The Perfect Guy,” has been released as an ebook. She lives in Eugene, OR.

Jess Kravitz of Scottsdale, AZ, is a certified financial planner. He is president and managing partner at Securus Financial Group. He and his wife, Virginia, have two sons, Jacob and Jordan.

David Nelson of Baltimore has been named chief operating officer of xG Health Solutions. He also serves as a vice chairman of Quinnipiac University’s Board of Trustees.

Steven Angeletti is senior vice president/regional vice president of commercial lending for TD Bank. He is also on the advisory board for the School of Business. He lives in Wallingford, CT, with his wife, Donna, and their five children. Their son, Nicholas, graduated from QU with a BS in accounting in 2010.

Donald Desiderato joined New York Life as the senior managing director and chief technology officer in the investments group. He is also a member of the investment group’s senior leadership team. He lives in Burlington, CT, with his wife and two children.

Louis Gherlone of Orange, CT, is the president/owner of Louis Gherlone Excavating, which was established in 1986. The company has 65 full-time employees. Louis is also a managing partner of Spring Street Recycling of West Haven, CT.

Paul Vardoulakis of Wethersfield, CT, is owner and founder of Norwich Financial, an independent financial services and investment firm with offices in Norwich and Chester, CT. He received Connecticut Magazine’s FIVE STAR Wealth Manager award three years in a row. He lives in Wethersfield with his wife, Anthia, and their two children, Adrianna and Demetri.

Richard Pagliara was promoted to partner at Radiology Regional Center in Naples, FL. He recently was appointed president of the Collier County Medical Society, is currently the chairman of the Collier County Florida Medical Association delegation, and is a founding board member of the Collier County Medical Society Foundation.
Karen (Dionne) Carlone ’97, MHS ’03, teaches courses in biology, environmental science and chemistry at Old Saybrook High School in Old Saybrook, CT. She recently developed a veterinary science course. She lives in Essex, CT, with her husband, Gerald, and their children.

Laura (Hummel) Hoffmann of Howell, NJ, and her husband, Charlie, announce the birth of Londann Alexis on Feb. 17, 2013. Laura is a middle school science teacher for the East Brunswick, NJ, school district.

CariAnn (DeRosa) Palmese and her husband, Andrew, announce the birth of their first child, Grace Maria, born on Feb. 21, 2013. The family lives in Floral Park, NY. (See photo p. 47.)

Tracy (Gentes) Costa, MAT ’01, has published “Playing Tyler,” a young adult thriller. She uses the pen name TL Costa. She summarizes the book as follows: “When Tyler MacCandless gets the opportunity to beta-test a drone piloting game to try and win a spot in flight school, he takes it. But when the game seems too real, he teams up with the game’s designer to uncover the truth, questioning everything he knows about morality, family and fighting for love in a world at war.”

Patrick Lynch was named Girls High School Basketball All-State Coach of the Year by the New Haven Register. Patrick coaches at Ansonia High School in Ansonia, CT. He had a 17–8 record last season and has a 55–37 career record.

Cherilyn (Champigny) White and James White ’02 of North Haven, CT, announce the birth of a son, Ryan, on April 28, 2013. Ryan was welcomed by his brother, Brett, 4. Cheri is an orthodontic assistant at the office of Dr. Michael Kim in Hamden. Jim is a systems integrity analyst at ESPN in Bristol, CT.

Samuel Lopes of North Dartmouth, MA, has been named head women’s soccer coach at the University of New Hampshire.

Christopher Neidig ’02, MS ’04, and his wife, Susan (DeSilvis) Neidig ’01, announce the birth of a son, Landon, on Jan. 17, 2013. Chris is a senior instructional designer and project manager for QU Online and teaches in the graduate interactive media program. Susan is a paralegal at Gesmonde Pietrosimone & Sgrignoli law firm in Hamden. The couple lives in Hamden. (See photo p. 47.)

Kelly Sheehan of Hampton Bays, NY, is the senior vice president of BankUnited and team leader of commercial private banking in New York.

Andree (Aucoin) Shepard of Storrs, CT, earned a bachelor of science in nursing from UConn on May 17, 2013. Andree is a registered nurse in the emergency department at Windham Hospital in Willimantic, CT.

Seth Kolbrenner ’03, MS ’05, is an accountant at Kolbrenner & Alexander, LLC in Greenwich, CT. He and his wife, Megan, live in Stamford, CT, with their son, George, 2. (See photo p. 47.)

Erica Ann Pelkowski ’03, MAT ’04, and Dennis James Magarian ’04 were wed on April 6, 2013. The couple plans to renew their vows in April 2014 with family and friends as Dennis has been battling leukemia since October 2012. (See photo p. 46.)

David Apelian, MBA ’04, was appointed executive vice president and chief medical officer of Achillion Pharmaceuticals in New Haven. He received his MD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and also earned a PhD in biochemistry from Rutgers University. He is in charge of the clinical development of Achillion’s portfolio of compounds to treat HCV.

Dana Coseglio ’04, MAT ’06, and Gregory Doucette ’04, MPT ’06, were wed on July 10, 2011. They announce the birth of a son, Alexander Gregory, on March 10, 2013. Katie (Doyle) Mangano ’05, MPT ’07, served as matron of honor and Renee Escaravage ’04 was a bridesmaid. Dana’s brideshadey party included a scavenger hunt on the Mount Carmel Campus. (See photos pgs. 46 and 47.)

Diane (Gillen) Nicoletti of Meriden, CT, is working at Aetna in Hartford as a usability consultant for IT/marketing.

MAKE PLANS WITH US

SEPTEMBER 19
New York City Career Connections Networking Event.
6–8 p.m., New York Yacht Club, New York City.

SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 19
Art as Ambassador: Hungarian Masterpieces from the Nancy G. Brinker & Christian L. Sauska Collections. Southport Galleries, Tues. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free.

SEPTEMBER 28
Get Acquainted Open House at the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, 2–4 p.m., North Haven Campus, 370 Bassett Road.

SEPTEMBER 28
Athletics Alumni Games, check events calendar for details.

OCTOBER 8
Hartford Law Alumni Reception.
6–8 p.m., Mark Twain House, Hartford.

OCTOBER 25–27
Parents & Family Weekend
Visit www.quinnipiac.edu/events or call 203-582-8610 or toll free 877-582-1929.
2005

Victor Abdy and Gina Somma ’05 were wed in 2010. They announce the birth of their first baby, Johanna Emily, on Dec. 27, 2012. Victor and Gina met at QU as undergraduates in 2003. They are the owners of The Madison Dog Resort & Spa in Waldwick, N.J. Gina also does freelance work for the Associated Press and Bloomberg TV. (See photo p. 47.)

Sandra Bitschan married Nick Carrano on June 16, 2012. Kelli-Ann (Lesco) Choun ’05 served as matron of honor. Sean Choun ’05, MBA ’06, was the best man. Gina D’Agostino ’05, Elizabeth Soares ’05, Robyn Conlon ’05 and Laurie (Johnson) Beamon ’05 were bridesmaids. Mark Piech ’03, JD ’06, and Tom Haggerty served as groomsmen. The family lives in Wallingford, CT. (See photo p. 46.)

Cara Costantini-Parker and Jason Parker ’05 announce the birth of a son, Chase Awarz, on Jan. 27, 2013, in Naples, FL.

Allison DePaola ’05, JD ’08, became a partner in the new law practice of Floman DePaola in Orange, CT, where she lives.

Matthew Piler and Amanda Pardo ’06 were married on Sept. 10, 2011, in New Jersey. They live in Dallas, Heather Tsinzo ’06, MAT ’07, of Duxbury, MA, served as maid of honor.

Dale Bagley Stewart and her husband, Scott ’05, welcomed a son, Connor John, born on March 20, 2013. Dale is vice president, commercial loan officer at TD Bank. The family lives in Madison, CT. (See photo p. 47.)

2006

Rick Hancock, MS ’06, joined the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as editor of the newspaper’s paid digital products. He lives in Bloomfield, CT.

Fabio LoNero of Newington, CT, a producer at WTNH Channel 8 News, lost 81 pounds in the last year. His story was featured on News 8 by friend and medical reporter Jocelyn Maminta.

Tom Mangano ’06, MHS ’08, and Katie (Doyle) Mangano ’05, MPT ’07, announce the birth of a son, Bodie Vincent, on March 27, 2013. Tom is an orthopedic physician assistant and Katie is an inpatient physical therapist. Both work at the St. Raphael’s Campus of Yale New Haven Hospital. The family lives in Southington, CT. (See photo p. 47.)

Holly Pullano wed Timothy LaPrade on Oct. 20, 2012. at the Saybrook Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT. She is manager of marketing and business development for Banton Construction Co. in North Haven. The couple lives in Madison, CT. (See photo p. 46.)

Eric Reizis is a financial adviser for Morgan Stanley in Short Hills, NJ. He lives in Jersey City, NJ.

2007

Kerri E. Accettella married Glen R. Roesch on Feb. 2, 2013, in Pensacola Beach, FL. Kerri is a physician assistant at Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters in the general surgery department. The couple lives in Norfolk, VA. (See photo p. 47.)

Erin Sullivan ’07, MAT ’08, and Cody VanCise were married on Feb. 8, 2013, in Boston, where they live.

2008

Thomas Fritz married Mackenzie Streit on Oct. 27, 2012. Tom is director of Michigan State University’s North Engagement Center and part of the Neighborhoods initiative, which focuses on increasing retention, persistence and academic success for students. The couple lives in Mason, MI. (See photo p. 46.)

Mario Bencivenga ’09, MOT ’11, has been working as an active duty occupational therapist for the U.S. Navy since April 2011, serving in the Medical Service Corps. He is the division officer for the physical/occupational therapy department at the Naval hospital in Jacksonville, FL. Mario was promoted to lieutenant in 2012.

Christina Giani ’09, MAT ’10, of Stamford, CT, married Patrick Kelly in October 2012. Christina works for the Stamford public school system. (See photo p. 46.)

2009

Mark Bouchard is manager of CATI operations at the Quinnipiac Poll in Hamden. He lives in Berlin, CT.

Erin Kilcullen ’10, MOT ’12, married Tim Wells ’11 on Sept. 29, 2012. Erin is an occupational therapist at Cooperative Educational Services in Trumbull, CT. Tim is attending the New York Botanical Garden School of Horticulture. They live in Shelton, CT.

Joseph Shust of East Brunswick, N.J., was named editor of The Hunterdon Review. He was formerly a staff writer and has been covering the communities covered by the newspaper for the past year.
David Rusate ’79
Worldly View
GE executive keeps eye on the markets

David Rusate ’79 chose Quinnipiac years ago because of its business school reputation and proximity to his Hamden home. Little did he know it would open up the world to him.

Rusate switched his major from accounting to international business after the department founder, Vasant Nadkarni, PhD, introduced students to the concept of globalization more than a decade before it came to fruition. That foresight gave Rusate an uncharted path to blaze that led to a career on the world economic stage.

Rusate, who lives in Southbury, Conn., travels the world as managing director of foreign exchange and commodities for GE Corporate Treasury. He is treasurer of GE’s power and water division as well. He sits on the New York Federal Reserve’s foreign exchange subcommittee, which comprises a small group of banks, hedge funds and corporate entities like GE and Microsoft.

“We’re a sounding board for the Federal Reserve on how the foreign exchange market is behaving. Is there normal liquidity? Are we seeing normal pricing? The perspective I’m able to share with that group and the perspective I am able to take away from that group is very valuable,” Rusate said.

He worked in Singapore and Hong Kong for another company before joining GE 20 years ago. Rusate handles all the currency and commodity exposure for GE in one role and mitigates currency risk and/or geopolitical sovereign risk in another.

When Rusate is not keeping pace with world events and their ripple effect on markets, he plays golf and hikes with his family. He also enjoys traveling and volunteering. Through GE he has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and a community soup kitchen in Stamford.

Rusate serves on the School of Business Advisory Board, mentors three Quinnipiac University students, and serves on the steering committee for the University’s international business program. In November, he will be presented with a Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming.

Ten members of his extended family have graduated from Quinnipiac including his daughter, Nina Rusate-Perry, who graduated from the nursing program in 2007.—Meg Barone

IN MEMORIAM

2011
Barbara (Ziplow) Green ’52
Blanche (Lewin) Kelley ’40
Christopher Kriesel ’96
Robert Lampo ’64
Elizabeth (Radzevich) Landis ’82
Rita (McManus) Lewis ’45
Susan Meshako ’79
Anthony Pepe ’56
Maurice Simon ’89
Robert Turbert ’54
Carmel Warner ’48
John Zenie, MBA ’98
John G. Haggerty, former biochemistry professor

2012
Eric Grabowski of Renaissance Farm in Burlington, CT, has received the SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Renaissance Farm is committed to sustainable agriculture by practicing organic techniques while providing quality plants, produce and flowers. Eric lives in Wallingford, CT.

2013
Cecelia (Ramey) Abraham ’51
James Collins ’82
Anita Dodson ’94, MOL ’09
James Eberg ’06
Barbara Esposito ’67
John Gilbert ’42

Casey Farricielli of Milford, CT, opened her own fitness studio, Couture Fitness, in Milford.

Dimitar Totkov Naydenov married Luciana Ruzzier ’12 on April 13, 2013, in Wethersfield, CT. The couple met at Quinnipiac. Dimitar’s twin sister, Iva Naydenov ’11, MBA ’12, and Mark Bouchard ’10 were in the wedding party. Dimitar is a research assistant at the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. Luciana is a sales and service specialist at Bank of America. (See photo p. 46.)
His Work’s a Team Effort
Islanders’ VP witnesses memorable moments

He is a man for all seasons. Tim Beach ’90 works full time as vice president of game operations and events for the New York Islanders. He also participates on the game-day staffs for the New York Yankees and New York Jets on a part-time basis and is the stadium director at Arthur Ashe Stadium for the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

“I’ve had the opportunity to be at a lot of sports’ center-of-the-universe moments,” said Beach, citing many Islanders playoff games, Derek Jeter’s 3,000th hit and U.S. Open finals as examples.

Beach, who grew up an Islanders fan on Long Island, earned a bachelor’s degree in mass communications.

In his junior year, he landed an internship in video operations with the Yankees. He still had a semester to go when the Yankees offered him a full-time position as assistant director. “I aligned all my classes so they were in the morning,” he said. “I would finish my classes and go down to Yankee Stadium right after.”

Beach worked for the Yankees until accepting a position as the Islanders’ director of game operations in the summer of 1992. He was promoted to vice president in 2002.

“We’re responsible for everything that happens on game night except for the actual game itself,” Beach said, adding, “As any of my Quinnipiac brethren who work in live TV or theater know, there’s certainly a thrill and a charge that you get from being part of something like this.”

One such thrill was the Islanders making their first NHL playoff appearance since 2007, losing to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first round.

Beach oversees a staff of seven—including fellow Quinnipiac alumna Erin Willey ’09 and Brian Jones ’05—and indirectly supervises a crew of 150 on game days. He also works closely with Kimber Auerbach MS ’06, the Islanders’ director of public and media relations.

All three began as interns with the Bridgeport Sound Tigers, the minor league affiliate of the Islanders.

Beach lives in Centerport, N.Y., with his wife, Linda, and 5-year-old daughter, Annmarie. He finds time to serve on several boards, including the School of Communications Advisory Board at Quinnipiac.

“It’s definitely a love-what-you-do job,” he said. “There are a lot of weekends and nights in sports. If you love what you do, the hours won’t bother you.”—John Pettit
Peter I. Zeidel ’66

For What It’s Worth

Appraiser’s property assessments are on the money

Though he is neither an attorney nor a judge, Peter I. Zeidel ’66 may have appeared in more courtrooms than Perry Mason and Judge Judy combined.

Zeidel, a commercial real estate appraiser and property tax consultant, has provided expert testimony in more than 1,000 cases over the past 44 years. That testimony has been delivered in commercial property valuation cases before state tax commissions, in federal court cases, in various state courts, in bankruptcy courts and before the Internal Revenue Service.

In all, Zeidel, a resident of Trumbull, Conn., has testified in 42 of the contiguous states and in Puerto Rico. And through it all, his batting average remains well above Hall of Fame standards.

“Using the criteria for success that I’ve established for myself over the years, I’d say we’ve won about 80 percent of the time,” he said.

Zeidel enjoys the challenge and intensity of court proceedings. “As I’ve grown older, it’s become the part of the business I enjoy most,” he said. He explained, “In property valuation cases, you are the star witness. It’s your opinion, your assessment, that everyone wants to hear. Ultimately, if you win your case, it’s your work, your expertise, that has been validated.”

In the earlier stages of his career, he worked for Gulf Western Industries in the property tax department of the global conglomerate. All of the cases in which he testified involved property tax appeals. However, since 1984, when he established his own commercial real estate appraisal and property tax consulting firm, The Valuation Group Inc., he has been involved in a wider assortment of cases including foreclosures, bankruptcy hearings, litigation support and condemnation cases.

Most of these cases do not involve a jury and are heard before a judge or panel of judges. “These judges are experienced and they all know their stuff,” he said. “That’s why it’s so important that you have your facts in order.”

Zeidel did not envision himself as an appraiser during his undergraduate years. In fact, his first job was as an accountant in a CPA firm, but he found it wasn’t for him.

Recently Zeidel endowed a scholarship at Quinnipiac for a School of Business student—his way of supporting the university he feels greatly influenced his personal and professional development. He and his wife, Judy, have been making increasingly more frequent trips to the campus in the past few years to attend programs and participate in alumni events.

“Frankly, I’ve been impressed,” he said. “It’s a great school. Quinnipiac has come a long way and done a lot of great things, and I just want to be a part of it.”—Marc Silvestrini

Commercial real estate appraiser Peter I. Zeidel ’66 outside the Trumbull, Conn., complex that houses his office.
Joel Moore ’77 and Pamela (Dispoto) Moore ’76
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
After graduation, Joel Moore began his career as an accountant and Pam Dispoto as an occupational therapist. The two met at college and were married in September 1978. Joel started his own accounting/tax practice in Princeton, N.J., in 1983. Both are avid golfers, but Joel had a dream of building his own course, and the couple hired golf architect Tom Fazio to do just that in 1998. The Ridge at Back Brook in Ringoes, N.J., opened to rave reviews in 2002 and continues to be ranked among the top private clubs in the country.

For more than a decade, Joel juggled two full-time positions—his practice and the creation and management of The Ridge at Back Brook. He sold the firm in 2012. He served on the New Jersey Golf Course Owners Association board of directors for six years and is currently vice president. In addition, he created the NJGCOA Golf PAC and serves as president. He also served on Gov. Chris Christie’s “Red Tape Committee,” where his recommendations regarding tax changes for the golf industry were adopted for New Jersey.

Pam enjoyed a career in health care as a practitioner, administrator, president of the New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association and surveyor for the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities before “retiring” in 2000 to devote all of her time to the development of the course. In 2004, Pam was invited to write a chapter for “Golf Course Architecture: A Worldwide Perspective, Volume III.” Her chapter tells the story of working with Fazio to create his masterpiece on 300 pristine acres with dramatic elevation changes, streams and woodlands.

Through The Ridge, the Moores support the local Amwell Valley Fire Company, Special Olympics, the Red Cross and the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, they host Quinnipiac’s annual President’s Cup Golf Championship.

Stella (Boni) Cretella AS ’50, BS ’61, MHS ’77
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
A 1950 graduate of Larson College, Stella (Boni) Cretella earned a BS in medical technology from Quinnipiac in 1961 and a master’s degree in lab sciences in 1977. Her early career was spent as a staff technologist in the clinical laboratory at Yale-New Haven Hospital before advancing to the Yale University School of Medicine. She retired in 1997 after 30 years as a research associate in the internal medicine department’s rheumatology section.

An active public servant in her hometown of West Haven, Conn., Cretella currently chairs the West Haven Housing Authority and is vice chair of the Board of Finance. She is involved with the Republican Town Committee, Historical Society and the Land Trust. She also serves as vice chair of the board of directors for the South Central Behavioral Health Network. She previously served on the West Haven Board of Education, League of Women Voters and Board of Ethics. She is a member of Sigma Delta Epsilon (graduate women in science) and the West Shore Lodge 2832 (Sons and Daughters of Italy in America). Cretella and her husband, Robert, have two grown children.

Joseph Natarelli ’86
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Joseph Natarelli earned his BS in accounting from Quinnipiac in 1986. He currently serves as partner-in-charge of Marcum LLP’s New Haven office, as well as the National Construction Industry group leader. He is a member of Marcum’s management committee and frequently serves as the lead audit engagement partner for a variety of consulting matters.

Natarelli’s accounting training and expertise in corporate acquisitions, divestitures and mergers and refinancing has made him a valuable resource on various construction projects.

For nearly a decade, he has served as a technical reviewer for the American Institute of CPAs’ Audit Risk Alert for Construction Contractors and the AICPA Accounting Guide—Construction Contractors. Natarelli serves on the board of directors for the Clifford Beers Child Guidance Clinic, is chairman of the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center, treasurer of the SARAH Endowment Foundation and treasurer and secretary of Associated General Contractors of Connecticut.

He is an instructor and School of Business Advisory Board member at Quinnipiac, where he also chairs the annual Business Leader Hall of Fame event. He and his wife, Sandra, have three children: Nicole, Joey and Marco.
Clifford W. Spelke ’77
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
A shipping industry executive for many years, Cliff Spelke has invested in and worked with a wide array of companies including real estate, airports, media technology and other specialty entities in the financial services field. He graduated from Quinnipiac in 1977 with a degree in accounting and earned a CPA certificate. While still in college, and immediately following, he worked for the Hamden-based accounting firm, T.M. Byxbee Co. From 1979 through 2002, he served in various senior management positions in the ownership and management of ocean-going liquid and dry bulk vessels. One of his companies, National Seatreade, provided the water-borne transportation of liquid waste that became the foundation of the land-based liquid waste disposal programs currently in use in New York City and Nassau and Westchester Counties. Spelke previously served on the Quinnipiac University Board of Trustees. He currently serves on the board of Impetus Capital, a small, New York City-based investment banking firm. He and his wife, Leslie, have two children: Jenna and Brandon.

Robert P. Mitchell ’73
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Bob Mitchell is assistant dean for diversity relations and communications at Harvard University. He earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology from Quinnipiac in 1973, then went on to earn an MA in journalism at Syracuse University.
He began his career as a news officer at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to the Philadelphia Office of the Mayor. He then served in various public affairs and media relations roles at Hahnemann University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Brandeis University, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Nike. At Quinnipiac, Mitchell has served on the Alumni Association National Board of Governors since 1992 and currently is a governor emeritus. He was a member of the University’s board of trustees from 1994–2000. He also volunteers on the School of Communications Advisory Board and chaired its executive committee from 2008–11.

David B. Rusate ’79
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
David Rusate received his BS in international finance from Quinnipiac in 1979. He spent eight years with Union Carbide in various international treasury assignments, including Hong Kong and Singapore. In 1992, he joined the General Electric Company, where he has responsibility for foreign exchange and commodity risk management. In addition, he is the global treasurer of GE’s largest division, Power & Water. Known as an innovator in the finance industry, Rusate developed the Trade Request System, which won the Euro Finance Treasury Excellence Award in 2003. In 2006, the natural gas simulator he co-developed won the Alexander Hamilton Award. In June 2007, Treasury & Risk Magazine selected Rusate as one of the 100 most influential people in finance. He is a member of the foreign exchange subcommittee of the New York Federal Reserve and is a past president of the National Association of Credit Management. Rusate serves on the Quinnipiac University School of Business Advisory Board and is on the steering committee of the Business Leader Hall of Fame.

Bobby Emamian ’09
RECENT ALUMNI AWARD
Bobby Emamian studied entrepreneurship, earning his bachelor’s degree from Quinnipiac in 2009. His entrepreneurial spirit, coupled with his disciplined and competitive nature as a varsity baseball player, allowed him to make his mark on the business world early. He is co-founder and CEO of Prolific Interactive, a mobile design and development company that strategizes and identifies creative ways of delivering content for customers. Along with co-founder and college baseball teammate Eric Weber ’08, Emamian has helped Prolific expand nationwide. Prolific utilizes social media, iPhone, iPad or iPod apps and mobile web platforms to help clients and partners expand their businesses. Since graduating, Emamian has been back to Quinnipiac frequently as a featured speaker at School of Business and Student Alumni Association career panel discussions. He serves as an excellent resource to current students and young alumni interested in learning about the risks and rewards of entrepreneurship.
Dear Fellow Alumni:

I am privileged to have been elected president of the Quinnipiac University School of Law Alumni Association. Now could not be a better time to be a School of Law alumnum. With our move to a state-of-art facility at the North Haven Campus on the horizon, the School of Law is poised for continued success, innovation and growth. The Alumni Association is a vibrant and dynamic organization committed to strengthening the bond between the School of Law and its distinguished alumni. I believe we are well positioned to strongly influence the University’s future. As the practice of law becomes increasingly more global, our goal is to keep you involved with the School of Law wherever life’s path takes you. I hope you will take full advantage of the great programs and events that the Alumni Association sponsors and organizes.

I sincerely look forward to working with you.

Joseph “Jay” Arcata III, JD ’05

1987

Deirdre (O’Connor) McGuinness

is managing director of corporate restructuring services at KCC, a Computershare company. Before this, she was managing director of Wells Fargo Capital Finance in New York.

Thomas P. Parrino

of New Canaan, CT, a partner at Nussbaum & Parrino in Westport, CT, was selected by his peers as 2013 Lawyer of the Year in the field of family law by the Best Lawyers in America. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers since 2006. He has been a family law practitioner for more than 25 years, handling high-asset and complex cases.

1995

Kevin O. Finnegan

was promoted to senior vice president and deputy general counsel at MassMutual Financial Group in Springfield, MA. He lives in Sandy Hook, CT.

2000

William Boltrek

has joined Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt as an associate in the firm’s tort and insurance litigation practice area in Fort Myers, FL.

2003

Craig Gianetti

joined Day Pitney law firm’s New Jersey office as a partner in the real estate, land use and environmental department. His practice areas include commercial and residential real estate, land use and redevelopment, and construction litigation. Craig also teaches a course at Rutgers University’s Center for Government Services and has been a guest speaker at the Kislak Real Estate Institute at Monmouth University. He lives in Scotch Plains, NJ.

2005

Kevin J. O’Donnell

of Mountainside, NJ, is an associate at Kaufman Dolovich & Voluck.

2007

Lisa (Podolski) Staron

of Wethersfield, CT, is an associate in the trusts and estates department at Murtha Cullina in Hartford. Her practice includes estate and tax planning, estate and trust administration, charitable giving and probate litigation.

2008

Allison M. DePaola, BS ’05, JD ’08, of Orange, CT, became a partner in Floman DePaola in Orange, CT, where she lives.

2009

Frank Ganz

of Waterbury, CT, and Matthew Wiley ’09, of Bethany, CT, have established the law practice of Wiley Ganz. The firm in North Haven, CT, focuses on wealth planning.

2010

Danielle Robinson Briand

of Easton, CT, and Darren Pruslow ’11 of Bridgeport, CT, have opened a firm, Briand and Pruslow, in Bridgeport, CT. The “low bono” firm focuses on clients who can’t afford regular legal fees, yet aren’t poor enough for free legal aid.

2012

Brian Young

of Monroe, CT, is a founding partner of The Law Firm of Jijon-Caamano and Young in Trumbull, CT.

2013

Kristen Zaehringer

of Hamden is an associate in litigation at Murtha Cullina’s Stamford office. She represents clients in the areas of commercial litigation, professional malpractice, labor and employment and local counsel services.

Scholarship Established

Former dean Brad Saxton was surprised with good news at a reception following a June Dean’s Council meeting. The Dean Brad Saxton 2L Endowed Scholarship was announced. The scholarship was established by friends and colleagues as a tribute to Saxton’s service to the school and the greater legal community. It will provide financial aid to second-year law students. Saxton said he was thrilled to have his name associated with the scholarship and told the assembly of council members, law alumni association executive board members, faculty and staff that he was delighted to be returning to teaching and writing as a member of the School of Law faculty. Saxton also was recognized in June with the Pat Sappern Award for supporting an initiative that provides legal support for victims of domestic violence.

Tim Fisher, left, incoming dean of the UConn School of Law, with Brad Saxton at the scholarship reception.
Earl in her career, Melanie Schnoll Begun, JD ’94, learned that when drafting wills and trusts, clients needed to be clear about their intentions with family. Poor planning can result in unintended consequences.

“Don’t keep estate plans a secret,” says Schnoll Begun, managing director of philanthropy management at Morgan Stanley, where she has been able to apply that knowledge to the firm’s ultra high net worth clients, helping them develop areas of focus for their philanthropy.

Schnoll Begun has witnessed anger and disappointment firsthand when estate plans are disclosed and children learn there are other beneficiaries besides them, such as a charity or family foundation. A parent’s well-intentioned philanthropic legacy can turn into a litigious nightmare or even prompt a child to question a parent’s love.

“Philanthropy should be the glue that keeps families together and helps them realize how they can transform their community and even the world,” she says.

After graduation, Schnoll Begun landed an internship at a New York law firm that hired her as a trust and estate attorney. “I realized as a young attorney that 10 percent of my role was as counsel and 90 percent as psychiatrist,” she says.

Four years later, she was recruited by Smith Barney (now Morgan Stanley after several mergers and joint ventures). She has worked in the New York City office as head of philanthropy management, advising donors, foundations, family offices and nonprofit organizations for more than 17 years.

She explained that a good financial planner knows a client’s goals, aspirations, family dynamics and the role wealth plays in the process and works in consort with a lawyer to implement a client’s wishes.

“I would love young attorneys going into my field to learn this life lesson: You are not there to produce a document—that is not the value a lawyer brings. You need to be the client’s trusted adviser. The document is the byproduct the client signs. Good attorneys spend most of their time getting to know what makes their clients tick and only then draft a plan.”

She cited the case of a client in Arizona with terminal cancer who created a private foundation for the welfare of animals. “We, her family and board know exactly what she wants, having sat around the table discussing it with her. After she passes, we can make informed decisions,” she says.

Schnoll Begun’s team also handles institutional philanthropy, helping to evaluate fund-raising campaigns for organizations. One new client provides pediatric hospice care. “One of my responsibilities is to help the director of development make more effective asks. She will present her pitch to us, and we will lovingly rip her apart and equally as lovingly put her back together. Through this role-play exercise, her cultivation skills will improve,” she explains.

Schnoll Begun and her husband, Richard, live in New York City with their two young sons, Ryder and Hawke. In her spare time, she serves on the executive board of the NYC chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and is the outgoing president. She also is a member of the advisory boards of Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center and Grameen America.—Janet Waldman
School of Law moving in 2014

There is more than one way to outgrow a building, as the School of Law is learning. Although fewer students attend the law school today than in 1995, when the building opened, the school’s programs have changed sufficiently that its existing space is no longer a perfect fit.

For example, one of the school’s innovative classes teaches future lawyers how to use multimedia skills to create stronger presentations in the courtroom, but back when the current school was built, no one could have envisioned the needs of Professor Neal Feigenson’s Visual Persuasion in the Law course. Flexible classroom space, room to store video equipment and facilities for editing film are poorly suited for the confines of a traditional lecture hall.

All that will change in August 2014, when the School of Law relocates to a technologically sophisticated building on the University’s North Haven Campus. The new building will contain more space for student organizations, mediation practice rooms, legal clinics and classrooms designed to facilitate collaboration and small group discussion as well as lecture and Socratic dialogue.

In addition, the new courtroom will be configured to enable students to show diagrams, animations and other evidence via video. The addition of a separate mock trial room will enable students to practice in a mock courtroom setting.

“Legal education in the 21st century focuses on collaboration and problem solving as well as legal doctrine and theory,” said Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown, “and our new facility reflects those educational values.”

Located adjacent to the new Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, which opened in August, and the graduate programs in the Schools of Health Sciences, Nursing and Education, the law school will take full advantage of opportunities for collaboration with other professions.

Brown is excited. “The opportunities for interdisciplinary work and study are phenomenal. I’m a big believer that lawyers of the future need to understand their clients’ businesses. How better to appreciate what a health care client is going through than to be educated about the intersection of law and medicine alongside health care students?”

And the interdisciplinary potential is not limited to health care fields, she said. “Students interested in family law might benefit from taking a social work class in the new MSW program that began this fall. Future policy makers at the law school also might work with graduate students in the School of Education.”

The opportunity to design and construct a building “from scratch” appealed to everyone, said Edwin Wilkes, associate vice president and dean of law admissions. “The new building will better accommodate the new legal pedagogy as it incorporates advanced technology into teaching and learning,” he said.

Wilkes noted that the law school enrollment is smaller by design. “Our intention was to improve selectivity and allow students to receive more personal attention from our faculty.”

Although devised with an emphasis on the future, the new school will reflect its proud and accomplished past with memorabilia from previous classes showcased. Alumni will be encouraged to visit often.

“After we settle in, we’re planning to have ‘housewarmings’ for our alumni,” Brown said. “We hope they will participate in conferences, appear as guest speakers, mentor our students and return to socialize with their professors and classmates. We want our alumni to feel it’s still their law school, too.”

For Joseph J. Arcata III, JD ’05, the change is welcome. “Everyone’s excited about the new dawn for the law school.”

“The fact that the University is investing so much in the law school is testament to its growing national reputation,” said Arcata, president of the School of Law Alumni Association. —Claire LaFleur Hall
1. Christopher Keddy ’03 has organized an informal golf tournament with fellow alumni for the last 10 years.

2. Nicholas Kallis ’12, center, with his parents John and Patty at the 3rd annual QU Day at the New York Yankees.

3. Bob Moore ’83, left, and David Farrell ’83 at the President’s Cup Golf Tournament at the Ridge at Back Brook, Ringoes, N.J., in June.

4. Marilyn Gerard ’52, left, with Emma Antonio ’36, who celebrated her 77th reunion.

5. Luretha Tolson, JD ’02, with Tom McCabe, JD ’02, at April’s School of Law alumni reception in Fairfield.

6. Dennis “Oil Can” Boyd, who played with the Boston Red Sox from 1982–89, with Paul Casale ’93, his wife, Susan, and their children—Mia, Tripp and Sophia.

7. Jay Rotell ’93 and his daughter, Jessica ’15, at the 50th annual Alumni Championship Golf Tournament in July at Brooklawn Country Club, Fairfield, Conn. Jay was the alumni champion. Jessica is a member of the QU women’s golf team.
CONGRATULATIONS!

1. Erica Ann Pelkowski ’03, MAT ’04, and Dennis James Magarian ’04 were wed on April 6, 2013.


3. Thomas Fritz ’08 and Mackenzie Streit were married on Oct. 27, 2012.

4. Holly Pullano ’06 and Timothy LaPrade were wed on Oct. 20, 2012, in Old Saybrook, Conn.

5. Sandra Bitschan ’05 married Nick Carrano on June 16, 2012. Kelli-Ann (Lesco) Choun ’05 served as matron of honor. Sean Choun ’05, MBA ’06, was the best man. Gina (Koscica) D’Agostino ’05, Elizabeth Soares ’05, Robyn Conlon ’05 and Laurie (Johnson) Beamon ’05 were bridesmaids. Mark Piech ’03, JD ’06, and Tom Haggerty served as groomsmen.


7. Christina Giani ’09, MAT ’10, married Patrick Kelly in October 2012.

8. Dana Coseglio ’04, MAT ’06, married Gregory Doucette ’04, MPT ’06 on July 10, 2011, at Addison Park in Aberdeen, N.J. Katie (Doyle) Mangano ’05, MPT ’07, served as matron of honor and Renee Escaravelle ’04 was a bridesmaid.
BEGINNINGS

ALL IN THE FAMILY

1. George Kolbrenner, 2-year-old son of Seth Kolbrenner ’03, MS ’05 and his wife, Megan.

2. Johnna Emily Abdy, born Dec 27, 2012, is the daughter of Victor ’05 and Gina (Somma) Abdy ’05.


4. Grace Maria Palmese sports her Quinnipiac colors. She was born Feb. 21, 2013, and is the daughter of CariAnn (DeRosa) Palmese ’00 and her husband, Andrew.

5. Landon Neidig, shown with Boomer, born Jan. 17, 2013, is the son of Christopher Neidig ’02, MS ’04, and Susan (DeSilvis) Neidig ’01.


7. Bobcats fans Dale (Bagley) Stewart ’05 and Connor John, born March 20, 2013. His father is Scott Stewart ’05.
Even as a young girl sitting in a classroom at Roosevelt School in Bridgeport, Conn., I knew I wanted to help people. Today I’m doing just that as a physician assistant. For the past eight years I have been practicing at Optimus Health Care Center—right across the street from my former elementary school. I have provided care for former classmates and in some cases, their children.

After participating in Harding High School’s health magnet program and graduating with a BS in biology and a premed concentration from Connecticut College, I enrolled in Quinnipiac’s physician assistant program. It was challenging, but it prepared me for the work I do today. The PA program also stressed the importance and value of giving back to the community and serving the underserved.

I felt it was my social responsibility to help my community and be a role model. I can relate to many of my patients, not only because I grew up in the same neighborhood, but also because of my background and upbringing. Raised by a single mother caring for three children, I also knew what it felt like to struggle financially. I knew I could better serve the community as someone who understood the way culture influences how a patient views his or her disease and the way the disease needs to be managed.

I recall one very pivotal moment during my training that opened my eyes to the need for Latinos in the health care field. During my emergency room rotation in the PA program, a Spanish-speaking patient had to have emergency surgery. He refused vehemently, stating his distrust for doctors. As a translator, I helped put the patient at ease, explaining in Spanish that this was a matter of life or death. The patient ultimately consented to the surgical intervention that saved his life.

It is very rewarding to help people who might be excluded from receiving optimal medical care due to a language barrier. The patients I serve come from all walks of life and include people who are homeless, illiterate, undocumented, uninsured or underinsured. As primary care providers, we take into account educational, social and financial barriers to care. We help our patients by using any available resources we can find.

In the world of medicine, the large number of patients who need to be seen and the time constraints at community health centers can be daunting. While challenging, primary care is very fulfilling. Every day I strive to educate my patients and build trust. Seeing a smile on the face of a patient is my biggest reward.
Why leave a bequest to someone you’ve never met?

Because your bequest can have an impact on the lives of countless future generations of Quinnipiac University students.

You may never meet the students who benefit from your bequest, but your generosity will continue to provide the opportunity of a Quinnipiac University education to so many.

After taking care of your family and other loved ones, consider the lasting effects of a bequest to Quinnipiac. Careful planning can provide you with the peace of mind that you have thoughtfully arranged your affairs to benefit the people and organizations most important to you.

To discuss your plans for Quinnipiac in confidence, please contact: Steve Greaves, director of gift planning, at 203-582-3995 or steven.greaves@quinnipiac.edu.
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CONDUCTS FIRST WHITE COAT CEREMONY
See story page 2

Kim Hartmann, left, interim dean of the School of Health Sciences, congratulates Christina Ryu upon receiving her white coat, while Jean Lange, dean of the School of Nursing, right, robes student Lindsey Scierka.