STUDENTS COORDINATE CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH LIMB LOSS

POSITIVELY LIMITLESS

PLUS
OPERATING ROOM HISTORY
SHARK SIGHTING
SHOOT FOR THE MOON

Photographer Christopher Beauchamp captured the Mount Carmel Campus, steeped in foliage, from his perch atop the parking garage on the York Hill Campus one early evening in late October.
FEATuRES

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As the School of Law celebrates the anniversary of its first graduating class 35 years ago, Law Professor Emeritus Martin Margulies reflects on the school’s roots and rise to prominence.

ON THE COVER: Hayden Piterski of Hamden does not let his missing limb hold him back. Cover photo by Christopher Beauchamp
Quinnipiac’s work to preserve the memory of the millions of Irish people affected by the Great Hunger is a symbol of hope and comfort in light of the millions of people being forced to flee their homes around the world today.

That was the message from Taoiseach Enda Kenny, prime minister of Ireland, who visited the Mount Carmel Campus in September. He toured Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum and was presented with an honorary doctor of humane letters for his leadership and service to the people of Ireland and the world.

Kenny thanked Quinnipiac President John L. Lahey for establishing both the museum and Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute.

“Bless you for what you’ve done. I commend you for your interest in Ireland’s history ... and I accept this degree on behalf of the millions who lost their lives in the Great Hunger, for those who made their home in your country, and also for those who lost their lives on their journey across the Atlantic.”

Kenny praised the museum and Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac as places where scholars can convene to debate the complexity, causes and consequences of the Great Hunger.

“It scarred the land and the very people we were,” he said.

Kenny was elected to the Irish Parliament in 1974 and became leader of the Fine Gael party in 2003. He is credited with guiding Ireland though one of its most challenging economic periods.

With stronger economic policies, Ireland now has the fastest-growing economy in the European Union.

Throughout his career, Kenny has been a champion of human rights. He has ensured that many of the refugees forced to flee their own countries are welcome in his native Ireland.

The faces of the Famine refugees found in the museum’s paintings and sculptures are not so much different from the faces of refugees we help today, Kenny noted.
They’re annoying. They’re tiny. And they’re everywhere. If you’ve ever left bananas on the countertop too long, chances are you’ve encountered Drosophila melanogaster. But you may want to think twice before you swat the next fruit fly you see. These small pests play a big role in biological research.

Evan Dalaker and Nick Girard, both sophomore biology majors, spent part of their summer researching muscular and neurodegeneration in fruit flies in the hopes that their findings eventually could be applied to combat diseases such as ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease).

They worked with Lani Keller, assistant professor of biology, studying the fruit flies after genetically modifying them with an ankyrin mutation that induces neurodegeneration and muscle atrophy. Keller hopes to work with the students over the next few years and publish and present their findings at a national conference.

“Most people with motor neuron diseases such as ALS die not because their legs or their arms can’t move, but because their diaphragm isn’t working anymore,” said Keller. “So if we can somehow suppress this muscle phenotype, it might really help with neurodegenerative diseases.”

“In class we’re learning about what other people have already done, whereas in lab, it’s cool because we’re actually finding things,” Girard said.

Kitchen Pest Welcome Guest in Lab

DIRECTOR ON STAGE

Linda Mendoza, an award-winning television director and producer, presented her one-woman comedy show, “Cursed: My Road to Hollywood,” in October. “Cursed” tells the story of a young Mexican woman who rises from the streets of Detroit to the heights of Hollywood as an A-list television director shooting live from the White House.

“This is a show about not letting your history define your future,” Mendoza said. “It’s about taking a leap of faith and changing your life.” Mendoza has directed episodes of such hit shows as “30 Rock,” “Gilmore Girls,” “Scrubs” and “Ugly Betty.”

NEW MED STUDENTS GET WHITE COATS

The 91 members of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine’s Class of 2019 received traditional white coats and stethoscopes in August and encouraging words from guest speaker Dr. Steven Benaderet, founder of Westport Family Medicine.

Benaderet compared the coats to “the patchwork quilt on your grandmother’s couch” that will be decorated with emotion-filled patches someday. He gave examples of some defining moments, or patches, in his career, including delivering a baby to first-time parents and his time spent in Uruguay with a patient dying of cancer. He also recalled the time he nagged a patient to schedule a colonoscopy. A malignant tumor was found and removed. The patient is cancer free seven years later and still jokes with Benaderet about his persistent nature.

The class was selected from 7,556 applicants and has a 62-29 percent male to female ratio. Some of their undergraduate majors are anthropology, biology, biochemistry, engineering and Russian studies.

VETERANS REHABILITATION HEAD NAMED

Robert Krug, MD, president and CEO/medical director of Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, has been named the William ’71 and Barbara Weldon Chair and director of the Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine and Center for U.S. Veterans Rehabilitation at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine.

Medical School Dean Bruce Koeppen, MD, described Krug as a national leader in rehabilitation medicine. “His contributions as a practitioner and researcher will help make the institute a center for innovation.”

Under Krug’s leadership, the institute will launch the Center for U.S. Veterans Rehabilitation, providing long-term approaches to address the health care needs of veterans.

Mount Sinai will be the principal affiliate for the new institute. “The Center for U.S. Veterans Rehabilitation will provide a much-needed resource for veterans seeking medical, psychological and quality-of-life help by offering and coordinating clinical and research support for a multitude of providers,” said Jason Burke, a retired U.S. Navy captain and director of veteran and military affairs at the University.

Carolyn Macica, assistant professor of medical sciences, helps Shana Schreiber with her white coat.
Reporters Honored for Courageous Coverage

NBC News chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel and the late CBS News correspondent Bob Simon shared an insatiable curiosity and a propensity for running toward dangerous stories when other reporters were fleeing.

Both were honored at the 22nd annual Fred Friendly First Amendment Award luncheon this past summer, when Engel received the Fred Friendly Award while Simon was recognized posthumously with the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award.

“Time and again throughout their careers, Richard and Bob put themselves in harm’s way to give context to the stories of the day,” said Lee Kamlet, dean of the School of Communications.

The award bears the name of Friendly, former CBS News president and freedom of speech champion. “Fred used to say that the job of the journalist is to explain complicated stories,” Friendly’s widow, Ruth, told Engel at the luncheon. “That’s what you do, Richard. You illuminate and elucidate the news, at times risking your life.”

Engel is regarded as one of America’s leading foreign correspondents for his coverage of wars, revolutions and political transitions around the world over the past 20 years. He has received numerous awards, including seven news and documentary Emmys. Most recently, he was honored with a Peabody Award for his coverage of the rise of ISIS.

“I see our jobs—our responsibility going forward in this digital age—as seeking out truth and separating it from the chaos; finding the music hidden in the cacophony,” Engel said.

Simon, the “60 Minutes” correspondent and legendary foreign news reporter, died Feb. 11, 2015, in a car accident in New York City.
Leaders Advise on Career Building

Work hard to build your value, seize opportunities and advocate for your career. That was some of the advice offered by a panel of female business leaders from the technology, health care and financial sectors during a program hosted by Quinnipiac’s Center for Women & Business in October.

Diane Smith, an author and Emmy Award-winning journalist, moderated a discussion titled, “How to Succeed in Leadership Roles.” Panelists included: Ann Arpino ’84, director of tax and business services at Marcum LLP; Kate Emery, founder and CEO of reSET and The Walker Group; Caren Kittredge, director of marketing at UTC Building & Industrial Systems and president of the Connecticut Women's Council; Fran Pastore, founder and CEO of the Women's Business Development Council (WBDC); and Cindy Russo, central region vice president of operations for Hartford Healthcare.

“When you’re in school, there tends to be a ladder-like quality to building your career, but in life, it’s not that linear,” said Emery. Kittredge urged the audience of students and business professionals from the community to seek volunteer work to open up career opportunities.

“Look for things outside of your discipline, whether it’s in the nonprofit or volunteer sector,” she said. “You are in control of your own career. You are in charge of what you like to do, what your passions are, and you are in charge of building your resume.”

EXCELLENCE NOTED

The University honored six individuals for superior teaching and service to students in October during the annual Center for Excellence Awards Ceremony.

This year’s recipients of the Service to Students Award are: John Copela, senior superintendent of grounds; Joanne Robertson, associate director of admissions; and Anna Spragg ’02, MS ’13, associate vice president for human resources and total rewards. Recipients of the Excellence in Teaching Awards are: Cory Ann Boyd, associate professor of nursing; Kenneth Kosior ’03, MPT ’06, clinical assistant professor of athletic training and sports medicine; and Antoaneta Vanc, assistant professor of strategic communication. Honorees are nominated by members of the University community. They received $3,000, a Center for Excellence sculpture, and will have their names carved into the stone plaque located in the Arnold Bernhard Library.
Follow the Female Business Leader

As a director of tax and business services at Marcum LLP in New Haven, Ann (Martino) Arpino ’84 helps clients successfully manage their businesses. As an accounting professional with 30-plus years of experience, Arpino enjoys helping women successfully manage their careers. She visited the Mount Carmel Campus in October to participate in a panel discussion on leadership tailored to female students and hosted by Quinnipiac’s Center for Women & Business. (See story page 5).

By Kevin Sirois

Q. What makes a good business leader?

A. Communication is important—keep an open line of communication with those you lead and those you serve. Always take the time to listen. Know who you are, and be yourself in your leadership role. To be successful, you have to believe in yourself before anyone else will believe in you.

Q. Do you have any advice or tips for women starting their careers?

A. Something I wish I had started developing earlier is a professional network of women. We keep so busy trying to juggle and balance various aspects of our lives, we don’t necessarily make the time for networking. Men may do a better job of this earlier in their careers. We should begin to build our networks while we are still in school. That’s where it starts. And it can be anybody. It may not be a fellow accounting or marketing major, but some day, this other person may become your client or customer.

Q. What’s a good way to network?

A. Networking is best done in person. A great way to build your network is through community service, which can provide added personal satisfaction when you can share your talents and give back to your community. I’ve met a lot of great people this way. I am fortunate that Marcum both encourages and supports community involvement. I currently serve on the board of directors for Marrakech, a nonprofit organization. A Thanksgiving feast is held for the Marrakech community each year. This year Marcum is offering our Connecticut employees a volunteer day of service to assist Marrakech with set-up and other preparations for the event. While daily business is rewarding, it is also beneficial to have this other aspect of community involvement, which allows us to feel good about our efforts and those of our employer.

Q. Has the business landscape changed for the better for women over the years?

A. I think it’s better in that there’s a lot more flexibility. And the flexibility is getting extended to women and men. If you plan to maintain a career while you are tending to a family, it may not be just one person who needs to make accommodations. It’s great that we have more employers providing family leave for mothers and fathers. However, there is an increased awareness that women face certain challenges in the workplace. We need to continue these discussions, share them throughout the entire business demographic, and determine additional ways to address the challenges.

Q. How has technology figured in?

A. As women, we wear a lot of different hats. We can wear them all, but not necessarily at the same time. We are provided with portable technology that allows us the opportunity to complete our day’s work at a time that may be more compatible with the rest of our commitments.

Q. Were there any female business leaders you looked up to upon starting your career?

A. I did not encounter many females in leadership roles early on. My hope is that I have been and will continue to be that role model for the women I work with. At Marcum, we have a Women’s Initiative, currently in its early stages. One of its goals is to identify and address the challenges of women to enable us to successfully progress with our careers on the paths that we choose.
Ann Arpino ’84 has advice for women who want to further their careers.
The ‘Main’ Event
Field hockey coach marks 20 years at post
By John Pettit

The panoramic photograph shows the sun setting at Rider University’s Ben Cohen Field. Quinnipiac field hockey coach Becca Main is being interviewed in one corner. Administrators are milling about. The players and assistant coaches look more drained than delighted.

There is no sense of celebration, even though the Bobcats have just won the first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship in school history. The 2013 photograph reminds Main of an excerpt from Wayne Gretzky’s autobiography about what a championship locker room should look like.

“It takes unrelenting effort to win a championship,” Main said. “That’s why the photo is one of my favorites.”

Main has worked tirelessly for over two decades to build the field hockey program from scratch. She entered her 21st year as head coach this fall with 169 wins, including 154 at the Division I level. She has guided Quinnipiac to three NCAA tournament appearances (2001, 2003, 2013) as well as three Northeast Conference regular season (1999, 2001, 2002) and conference tournament (1999, 2001, 2003) championships.

“Becca Main has done an incredible job at Quinnipiac,” Athletic Director Greg Amodio said. “She has developed the field hockey program from its start into one of the most well-rounded programs, not only here, but in NCAA Division I field hockey.”

Senior goalkeeper and team captain Megan Conaboy said Main is fully invested in the success of the program and her players.

“She understands that there is life beyond the four or five years at Quinnipiac,” Conaboy said. She is dedicated to creating strong and independent women who will succeed on and off the field.”

Main and the Bobcats joined the MAAC in 2013 and made an immediate impact, capturing the league’s regular season and conference tournament titles. Quinnipiac finished that season with the most victories (14) in a single season in the program’s history and saw seven players named All-Conference.

“To be the first team in Quinnipiac history to win a MAAC championship was great,” Main said. “I had a squad that just got it. That’s what you dream of. You build for a dream. Championships don’t happen in that one year.”

In April, about 45 former players celebrated 20 years of Quinnipiac field hockey with an alumni game and reception for Main on the Mount Carmel Campus. They reminisced and traded stories, like the time Main, who has four sons, went into labor on the sideline during a scrimmage against Southern Connecticut State University.

In addition to managing the field hockey program since its infancy, Main also started and coached the women’s lacrosse program (1996-2000, 2002) at Quinnipiac. Being involved in multiple sports is nothing new for Main.

She excelled in field hockey, basketball and track at Pennsbury High School in Fairless, Pennsylvania, before attending Penn State, where she was a four-year field hockey standout for the Lady Lions.

Main earned Mideast Regional All-America status three times and led the team to three Final Four appearances. She was the Big Ten Conference “Defensive Player of the Year” in 1993.

Main also earned NFHCA All-America honors as a junior and senior and was a three-time Academic All-America selection.

After graduation, Main competed on the U.S. National Elite Team, where she was a reserve member of the squad that earned a bronze medal at the 1994 World Cup.

Burnt out on field hockey, Main moved to Connecticut, worked for Aetna as an exercise physiologist, and stayed away from the game until answering a want ad for the position at Quinnipiac.

Main considers herself “a lifer,” and, even after 20-plus years, her ultimate goal remains the same.

“We’re only here for one reason and that’s to be in the NCAA tournament,” Main said. “That’s what drives all athletes and coaches.”

HOCKEY, HOOPS ON TELEVISION
Neither wintry weather nor driving distance should keep you from cheering on the Bobcats during these televised games:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Network</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Men’s basketball</td>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>SNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Men’s ice hockey</td>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>ASN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Men’s ice hockey</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>SNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Men’s basketball</td>
<td>Iona</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>SNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Men’s basketball</td>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>SNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>Women’s ice hockey</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>NESN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Men’s basketball</td>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>SNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Men’s ice hockey</td>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>SNY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ESPN MEDIA ACTION

MEN’S BASKETBALL:
Jan. 15 vs. Siena, 9 p.m., ESPN3 or ESPNU
Feb. 4 vs. Marist, 7 p.m., ESPN3
Feb. 11 vs. Manhattan, 8 p.m., ESPN3
Feb. 18 vs. St. Peter’s, 8 p.m., ESPN3
Feb. 26 at Marist, 7 p.m., ESPN3 or ESPNU

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL:
Feb. 5 at Siena, 5 p.m., ESPNU
Feb. 18 vs. Marist, 5 p.m., ESPNU
Feb. 28 at Iona, 1 p.m., ESPN3

LIVE SPORTS? WE HAVE APP FOR THAT

Quinnipiac University recently launched a dynamic, more user-friendly athletics website that offers fans all-access coverage of their favorite Bobcats Division I sports teams. With ease of navigation and bold imagery delivered via impactful photos and video, the redesigned site showcases the success of Quinnipiac athletics and the achievements of outstanding student-athletes.

In addition, free live streaming of all home games for each of the 21 teams is now available so fans can follow a game in real time. Quinnipiac also has rolled out a mobile app for easy access to Bobcats athletics events, breaking news, notifications and live streams. Download the Quinnipiac Bobcats app on your iPhone, iPad, Android phone or tablet from Apple’s App Store or Google Play.
Becca Main celebrated 20 years as head field hockey coach this past year.
Success starts with setting a goal, said Daymond John, a fashion entrepreneur, author and co-star of ABC’s hit reality business show, “Shark Tank.”

“You can’t hit a target you can’t visualize,” explained John, who addressed a packed audience in Quinnipiac’s Burt Kahn Court in October.

That advice resonated with School of Business junior Brittany Hayles, who would like to open a clothing retail store. “If you don’t set a goal, you’re basically telling yourself you can’t do it,” Hayles said. “You set a positive goal and you’re telling the universe you can.”

With an entertaining slideshow and a DJ adding music, John illustrated his path to success. He described how, with no formal business training, he created a global fashion empire with retail sales exceeding $6 billion and landed a starring role as an investor on “Shark Tank.”

The show has inspired new interest in entrepreneurship among a wide variety of people, said Patrice Luoma, professor of entrepreneurship and strategy. “What I enjoy

Shark Sighting
Daymond John shares how he built a $6 billion fashion empire
By Alejandra Navarro

Daymond John speaks to packed house in Burt Kahn Court.

Photo: Johnathon Henninger
John explained that 27 banks turned him down for a loan, but with his mother’s help and waiting tables at Red Lobster, he found the money to keep his business growing.

about this show is watching the question-and-answer interaction between the investors and the entrepreneurs,” Luoma said. “The sharks [investors] are looking at the quality of the person as well as the idea. The sharks are looking for passion and personal investment in the business.”

John’s success was fueled by passion. A devoted fan of hip-hop music, he was one of the first to recognize that hip-hop fans were an untapped market for fashion retailers. Disappointed by the mainstream companies unwilling to focus on these fans, John founded FUBU, “For Us, By Us.” His brand revolutionized the sportswear industry in the 1990s.

In those early years, he used every resource he had to market his brand, such as sneaking onto music video sets to get rappers or backup dancers to wear his clothing on screen. He also got publicity boosts from rappers who were willing to wear his clothing.

LL Cool J, who was from his neighborhood, wore a hat with the FUBU logo and inserted the company in the lyrics of the rap he wrote and performed for a Gap commercial. John said the Gap staff didn’t sufficiently research the FUBU brand that was prominently featured in that ad.

Research was among John’s tips for entrepreneurial success, in addition to setting goals, loving what you do and remembering that, “you represent the brand.” He reminded future entrepreneurs to never give up. John explained that 27 banks turned him down for a loan, but with his mother’s help and waiting tables at Red Lobster, he found the money to keep his business growing.

John doled out advice during a Q&A session with business students. Chris Roberts, a junior accounting major in the accelerated BS/MBA program, asked the “Shark Tank” investor about some of the memorable people he’s worked with on the show. John spoke about becoming a mentor for then-12-year-old Mo Bridges who, with help from his mother and grandmother, became the CEO of Mo’s Bows—a success story that reminded John of his own.

Roberts was impressed with John’s talk. “It’s only human nature to want to see people succeed, and he’s helping them do that,” Roberts said.
Yo Ho Ho!

History course explores life and times of Caribbean pirates

By Victoria Kent

Representation of English buccaneer Edward Teach, commonly known as Blackbeard, who died in 1718.
Hollywood’s depiction of pirates as swashbuckling, rum drinking adventurers continues to fascinate audiences of all ages. From Jack Sparrow in “Pirates of the Caribbean” to Blackbeard in the newly released “Pan,” pirates pack theaters.

While filmmakers are not particularly interested in the historical accuracy of their blockbusters, Sasha Turner is.

The assistant professor of history created a course called Pirates of the Caribbean a few years ago to capitalize on students’ interest in pirates and bust some myths about the real men and women who sailed the seas seeking treasure. Students examine the social, political and economical factors that gave rise to piracy and challenge conclusions advanced by scholars.

Piracy is a topic that interests people from all walks of life, and our students are no different, according to Turner. “This course really emerged from another course I teach, Women in the Caribbean, and conversations with my then-department chair, Professor David Valone, who encouraged me to develop the course in response to students’ thirst for a deeper understanding of the subject of piracy.”

She asks students to look beyond easy assumptions that pirates simply wanted money or treasure and to think more critically about a more complex set of factors that drove pirates then and now, including the present-day Somali pirates.

“Historical events result from a convergence of social, political, economic and cultural factors. The pirates that plagued the Caribbean and South America were black and white, sailors and fishermen, men and women from various nationalities who wanted freedom and an alternative to the privilege and hierarchy of European society and to escape slavery, servitude and their deadly working conditions,” she explained.

Although Turner named the course for the “Pirates” movies, she has not watched any to the end. She remarked that the inaccuracies and stereotypes in the portrayal of the time period make it difficult for her to merely enjoy the films without analyzing them.

“All my knowledge of pirates comes from the movies, and I wanted to take this course because it’s a cool history class,” said senior Paige Ferreri, a history major taking the course this fall. She and her fellow students agreed that most of what they know comes from growing up with “Peter Pan,” “Treasure Island” and “The Goonies.”

Senior history major Justine Tynan has found that the readings debunk the myths that exist in popular culture. For example, tradition has it that pirates were only interested in gold.

“That’s inaccurate,” Turner said. “Pirates also were plundering for valuable commodities they could sell. This often led them to attack merchant ships carrying sugar, tobacco and even slaves.”

The course begins with piracy in the 15th century in Europe and traces piracy all the way to modern-day pirates such as the Somalis portrayed in the movie, “Captain Phillips.” But its primary emphasis is on the 16th to 18th century, when pirates pillaged on the Caribbean Sea.

Turner reminds students that sailors were driven to become pirates because of their harsh working conditions. Much like enslaved people, sailors lived uncertain and difficult lives.

“They were separated from their homes, families and loved ones,” she said. “They faced brutal punishment from demanding captains. They had very little food and drink and were paid low wages. The natural dangers of working at sea made death more certain than life.”

It is commonly believed that only men were pirates. Turner said that Anne Bonny and Mary Read, two of only about six women pirates on record, broke into the brotherhood. They are remembered as courageous and daring fighters who challenged gender roles of the time as well as the idea that a ship was no place for a woman.

Turner’s general research interests and graduate training, completed at Cambridge University, England, pertain to the experiences of women and children during the periods of slavery in the Caribbean. She grew up in Jamaica, where she learned that Caribbean history was very much a part of the British imperial history, somewhat a celebration of the greatness of the British Empire and its benevolence.

Turner fell in love with Caribbean history as a student. “I was excited to learn more about enslaved people’s experiences. It was refreshing to hear challenges to the tale that enslavers were benevolent and that somehow enslavement was a good thing because it brought civilization to people of African descent.”

She enjoys sharing those stories with her students, who often find themselves rooting for pirates to prevail, in books and movies.

“No one can blame pirates for work stoppages, mutinies and ultimately abandonment of ship to piracy, where they made their own rules that reflected greater democracy, equality, liberty and brotherhood,” she said. “Students get excited about this kind of history — history from below, stories of the struggles and survival of everyday men and women,” Turner observed. (Senior Rebecca Castagna contributed to this story.)
Law school marks 35 years since first class graduated

Location has changed but standards remain constant

Thirty years ago, Cathy Whelan, JD ‘85, stood up for what was right—or more precisely, for what was correct—in Law Professor David King’s Real Property class. She recalls that at the start of each class, King would ask one student to rise and then would “grill” the student on the law case assigned for that day, using the Socratic method.

“We had to be prepared at all times because we didn’t know who he’d call on,” said the family law attorney who has had a matrimonial law practice in Greenwich for the last 30 years.

Failure to prepare was not really an option back then, nor is it when standing before a judge in court, she emphasized.

“Lawyers need to be on their game at all times. I found that class to be an effective way to convey the concept of coming in prepared and thinking about your material. The excellent education I received has served me well for 30 years,” Whelan said.

Law alumni and faculty were invited to reconnect and recall those early years during the University’s Homecoming Celebration in October.

Following a roundtable discussion in the new School of Law Center on the North Haven Campus, they gathered for cocktails and dinner in the center’s Pond View room. Among the attendees was Lynne Pantalena, JD ’85, for whom the law library is named.

This year marked the 35th anniversary of the first graduating law class from the former University of Bridgeport School of Law in 1980. Quinnipiac acquired that law school in 1992, relocating it to the Mount Carmel Campus. Professor Emeritus Martin Margulies reflects on that era in a story on page 48.

Whelan has stayed connected to her alma mater, annually supporting the work of the International Human Rights Law Society.

“I developed a passion for the International Law Society and enthusiasm for their work.” Each year, the group travels to Nicaragua, where students host an international, interdisciplinary legal conference at a Nicaraguan law school, perform service work and bring backpacks and supplies to underprivileged children. In the past, the group has done similar work in Guatemala.

“Thirty years ago, when I was in law school, there were no trips—just a Law Review with offices in the windowless basement,” she noted. “It was a lot different then. Now, students can work as lawyers in the school’s legal clinics before becoming lawyers,” she added.—Janet Waldman
Homecoming draws crowd

A picture-perfect fall day greeted the hundreds of alumni, family and friends who attended Homecoming Oct. 24. The University’s campuses were abuzz with athletic alumni games, the Homecoming Reception at the Rocky Top Student Center, and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony (see story on page 30).

Alumni also enjoyed two Bobcats ice hockey games, cheering on the women’s team as it bested Yale 6-3 and rooting the men’s team to a 4-1 win over St. Cloud State.

1. Brett Amendola ’91, left, with Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Jeané Coakley ’01 and President John L. Lahey.
2. From left, Marta Czeropska ’13, Oyundari Dorjsuren ’14, and Rosca Sasu ’14 at the Rocky Top reception.
3. Tamra LaCroix ’97, MS ’07, accepts her raffle prize from Tim Murray, assistant director of Alumni Relations.
4. Christy Palumbo ’91, left, enjoys the reception with Melinda Saller.
5. From left, Joe Canetti, Dan Gooley ’70, award recipient Chris Canetti ’92 and Joe Mattei.
6. Kristen Nowacki ’99 shows off the Bobcats pint glass she won.
7. John and Liz Spero with son, Andrew Spero ’11, and friend Josh Schilberg ’11.
POSITIVELY LIMITLESS

STUDENTS ORGANIZE CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH LIMB LOSS

BY ALEJANDRA NAVARRO • PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER BEAUCHAMP
Hayden Piterksi does not let his missing limb stop him from enjoying and excelling in sports.
Hayden Piterksi of Hamden has been playing hoops and swinging a bat since he learned to walk. The 13-year-old plays in the Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League and in the Hamden Fathers’ Baseball/Softball Association.

Yet, people are surprised he can play ball at all because he was born missing part of his right arm, below the elbow.

“When I tell people I play baseball, they don’t believe me,” says Hayden, whose limb loss was caused by Amniotic Band Syndrome. "I have to show them how I do things.”

With a wide grin, he demonstrates the catching technique he developed. When the baseball lands in the palm of the glove on his left hand, he swiftly tucks the glove under the opposite arm. Slipping out his hand, he snatches the ball out of the glove and tosses it. This seamless motion takes only seconds to complete.

Hayden admits he’s a bigger fan of basketball. “It’s more of a challenge,” he explains. “There are a lot more things that people do with two hands, and I like to try them with one.” He doesn’t let the doubters get him down. “It gives me this feeling of pride that I can do it.”

At Quinnipiac University, Hayden encountered a place where no one doubted or assumed a limit on his abilities—a place aptly called, Camp No Limits.

The nonprofit organization by the same name sponsors camps across the country to provide recreational activities, education and support for children with limb loss and their families. A trio of students in their final year of the doctor of physical therapy program at QU—Courtney Miller, Jennifer McNaughton and Avani Patel—worked for more than two years organizing the five-day camp held in July. It was the first time the camp took place on a university campus.

At Quinnipiac, campers and their families had access to the Rocky Top Student Center on the York Hill Campus, the TD Bank Sports Center and the Mount Carmel Campus Recreation Center. They stayed in the York Hill residence halls.

Hayden’s mother, Cathy Piterksi, says the QU student leaders at this camp never questioned if a camper could do an activity. “It wasn’t, ‘well, we are going to see what you can do today.’ It was, ‘There are all these great things we are going to explore and learn. We have a lot to do today, so let’s get started.’”

Each of the 28 campers was paired with one or two student volunteers from QU’s occupational therapy and physical therapy programs to assist in developing life skills and building their motor skills and balance, often through games. Campers also participated in discussions about the types of prosthetics available for different activities and learned techniques in bike, running and sled hockey clinics. A professional sled hockey game between the New York Sled Rangers and the Connecticut Wolf Pack in the TD Bank Sports Center was a highlight for campers and their families.

“This camp is a place where the kids see people just like themselves,” says Patel. “They don’t have to be afraid of anything. They can go out and have fun.”

Student Inspired

Miller visited her first Camp No Limits in Maine in 2013. A friend who had lost her legs in a car accident extended the invitation. As a physical therapist in training, Miller was inspired by the camp’s work helping children and created a presentation on the camp for her course work. Maureen Helgren, chair of QU’s Department of Physical Therapy, encouraged Miller to bring the camp to campus.

The children would have the added bonus of the University’s resources, such as volunteer students, faculty and staff, recreational facilities and housing. In addition, the children would get exposure to college life.

“It grew into much more than I originally thought. It surpassed any expectation I had,” says Miller. The faculty was so supportive of it, especially in the physical therapy and occupational therapy departments, which helped get the ball rolling and gave me the confidence to do it.”

Donald Kowalsky ’77, associate professor of physical therapy, and Tara Glennon ’85, professor of occupational therapy, helped organize the event. More than 100 students applied for the 42 volunteer spots. The student volunteers led morning exercises, such as Pilates, taught life skills, and provided individual attention. For some children with limb loss, a simple skill—such as learning to tie their shoelaces—gives them the ability to put on shoes and go outside without assistance.

“The Quinnipiac students were just amazing,” Cathy Piterksi says. “They were all there for the right reasons. They were knowledgeable, mature and very impressive.”

She appreciated having access to so many health professionals, both from the Camp No Limits organization as well as from the University, to answer questions and share expertise, often on an individual basis.

The stage is set for a wider interprofessional event in the years to come, says Kowalsky. “We have so many students from other disciplines who can get involved next year.”

This annual partnership with Camp No Limits gives students hands-on experiences with a special pediatric population. Kim Hartmann ’76, MHS ’82, director of the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education at Quinnipiac, notes the University can become a valuable educational resource on children with limb loss. The center can help to establish innovative education and training programs for families and health care providers to optimize the functional independence of children with limb loss.

Miller said the camp’s success came in part from community and Quinnipiac volunteers, as well as contributions from generous alumni, businesses and organizations, such as the national Hanger Clinic, which sponsored two campers. Hanger Clinic specializes in orthotic and prosthetic services and products that help individuals with physical challenges lead productive and independent lives.

Personal Best

The volunteers encouraged campers to reach for goals beyond their comfort zones. On a field with a backdrop of puffy clouds and Connecticut’s rolling hills, children in the running clinic sprinted, jumped and sometimes tumbled in the grass. Each child got back up with renewed determination.
Few could match the fortitude of 7-year-old Talbey Ahlum. As a baby, he experienced septic shock from an illness and lost his legs. At camp he tried his first pair of “stubbies,” or shorter prosthetics. These can help him build the muscles he needs to eventually use appropriate-sized leg prosthetics. Supported by two QU students, and spotted by Kowalsky, he spent an afternoon learning to balance, walk and eventually run.

Patel recalled how he ran through the field obstacle course. “He was in so much pain, but people were cheering him on and he kept going,” she said. Watching him persevere, she says, “I felt pure joy.”

The campers spent time with teen and adult mentors, such as Joshua Kennison, who was born missing both feet and arms. At the running clinic, he shared with campers his sleek running prosthetics. He was 14 when he first attended Camp No Limits a decade ago.

“As a camper my first year, I didn’t know there were so many other kids with limb loss,” Kennison explains. “It gave me confidence I could do anything.” Today, he’s an elite athlete training for a spot on the track team for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio.

Talbey’s mother, Kari Ahlum, was grateful for the support and knowledge the volunteers and professionals shared, particularly about prosthetics.

“Everyone is uplifting and encouraging,” says Ahlum, who traveled from Arkansas to
be at the camp. She was excited to see activities for siblings and plans to bring her other children next year.

A Family Struggle

Ahlum doesn’t know other families that have children with limb loss, like many parents. At camp she met others who share this experience and support sessions where parents could ask questions and offer guidance.

“My heart goes out to some of the families we met,” says Piterksi, who also brought her son, Reed, to camp. “Children struggle a lot anyway, and then you add in something that looks different—it can affect some of these kids. It’s a struggle—a struggle for the whole family.”

As capable as many of these children are, some people will focus on the difference, she says. Parents are hyperaware of how their children are treated, Piterksi adds.

Piterksi encourages fellow parents to have faith in the resilience of their children.

“Adults have so much more anxiety about it, and your child brings you through it,” she says. “If I had a rough day, I just look at what he can do. He’s fine. I sometimes take it for granted until someone points out, ‘That’s amazing he can catch the ball like that.’”

Hayden was born eager to try everything, and his parents supported him.

“He wanted to try baseball. We signed him up for baseball. He wanted to do basketball. We signed him up for basketball. He wanted to do art. We signed him up for lessons. That’s what anyone else would do,” Piterksi says.

Nodding his head, Hayden chimed in, “You approach things, not thinking about what you can’t do, but what you want to do.”

Camp No Limits is a place where children can explore new sports. What Hayden wanted to explore most was sled hockey, a sport designed for players with limb loss. Professional and Quinnipiac hockey players assisted the campers on the ice in Quinnipiac’s sports center. One of the coaches strapped a hockey stick to Hayden’s arm so he could independently move about the rink on his sled. Hayden did so well, the coach encouraged him to consider trying out for a team in the future.

“If I ever had the chance to continue with it, I would love to,” says Hayden.

Hayden’s also a big Bobcats fan and was
thrilled to spend time at Quinnipiac. He was recently on campus as a member of the Youth Educators Society. In collaboration with the School of Education, members travel to different schools to read to kindergarteners. He volunteers in a special education classroom at his school and this year received the Hamden Rotary Club Citizenship Award.

It’s not surprising that Hayden was a leader at the camp, always willing to assist the younger campers. The QU volunteers made a life-sized board game—a cross between Chutes and Ladders and Candyland—along the staircases in the Rocky Top Student Center. Each square required the camper to complete an activity, such as picking up small objects with a spoon, zipping a zipper or jumping. Once Hayden sped through the squares, he came back around to assist other campers.

“The younger kids seeing the older kids do something, they realize, ‘Oh, I can do that,’” said Miller. “And the older kids might see the younger kids doing something they didn’t think possible. Everyone is learning something new from each other.”

For most student volunteers, working with children with limb loss was a new experience. Each child had different challenges. “It’s a hard learning curve, but it’s also a life-changing experience,” Miller said.

Occupational therapy student Alexandra Delayo’s favorite moment of camp was on the last day when each of the campers received a Boomer the Bobcat stuffed animal. Gina Frank, dean for graduate student affairs, altered the animals to reflect each camper’s limb difference. When Delayo’s camp buddy, Rosie, was handed hers, she exclaimed, “It’s a Rosie Boomer!”

“To see her face at that moment made all the hard work worth it,” Delayo says. “The kids at Camp No Limits, along with their families, are fearless and inspirational. I feel extremely lucky to have been part of it.”

To learn more about how to support Camp No Limits at Quinnipiac, including sponsorship opportunities, call 203-582-8802.
BRACING FOR IMPACT

ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICIAN AND PT GRAD PERFORMS GROUNDBREAKING BONE SURGERY

BY JANET WALDMAN

Photography by Khue Bui
An X-ray of Natasha Christian's legs after surgery shows the external fixator placed on her right leg by Dr. Michael Campbell '99 to correct bone deformities caused by rickets. Surgery on her left leg is planned for January 2016.
ne look at the young woman’s legs and Dr. Michael Campbell ’99 knew he was viewing the most severe case of rickets he’d ever seen.

The patient, 4.4-inch-tall Natashia Christian, was referred to Campbell in February from an associate at their Virginia Beach-based practice, Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists. Christian was born with Vitamin D-resistant rickets, also called X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH), which caused her legs to bow severely. Despite multiple surgeries since childhood, the 35-year-old mother of two has endured constant pain and stress fractures in both of her femurs and walked with a waddling gait.

As fate would have it, Campbell and five other orthopedic physicians from around the country had been invited to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in January to learn how to perform surgeries on complex deformity patients using innovative technology newly approved by the FDA.

In March, Christian was on the operating table again, this time making history with Campbell, the first surgeon to use the Orthofix TrueLok Hexapod external fixator to correct deformities in a patient’s femur and tibia at the same time. The circular fixator uses tensioned thin wires and half pins that are precisely placed through a patient’s bones and connected to external rings. Six adjustable struts for both the tibia and femur connect the rings to each other. Bones were cut between the rings to allow Christian to correct the length and shape of her leg twice a day.

With each series of turns and clicks, Christian brought her bones one millimeter closer to her dream of having straight legs and a more normal height. She wore the 7-pound fixator for four months and was proud to show off a very straight right leg in August. She is completing physical therapy, and surgery on her left leg was planned for January 2016.

“Nothing else would have worked for her,” said Campbell, 38, who graduated from Quinnipiac with a bachelor’s in physical therapy and went on to earn an MD at State University of New York–Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. Campbell narrated the 5½-hour procedure as he worked so the Orthofix company could use it to educate others. Footage from the surgery was used by a local TV news station in a reporting segment it did on the procedure.

Meanwhile, at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, Carolyn Macica, PhD, hopes research in which she is involved will anticipate that extreme surgery. Macica, an assistant professor of medical sciences, has studied metabolic bone disorders of this type for years.

XLH is the most common genetic form of childhood rickets. It occurs in 1 in 20,000 people and is characterized by the failure of the kidneys to reabsorb phosphate. Bones become soft (called osteomalacia) and cannot support the body’s weight without bowing, and they remain soft throughout adulthood. XLH is carried on the X chromosome; hence the “X-Linked” in the name. There is no cure.

If this process could be interrupted in childhood with a new medication still in the testing phase, patients might be able to avoid the many complications the adult disorder presents—from bone spurs and fused spines to hearing problems and the need for limb surgery, Macica said.

Macica is also spearheading an interprofessional project that examines XLH patients from a holistic point of view, involving Quinnipiac faculty and students from multiple disciplines. (See story page 26).

ANATOMY OF THE SURGERY

“Deformity correction using external fixators is done routinely at a handful of major medical centers, but many orthopedic surgeons find it cumbersome,” said Campbell. He explained that the technology that determines how he places the fixator is more sophisticated and user-friendly for the patient.

Besides straightening Christian’s legs, Campbell leveled her joints and hopes to give her a three- to four-inch gain in height.

Campbell calls the fixator “the world’s largest erector set.” Once Christian was anesthetized, he constructed the fixator from scratch in the OR based on measurements taken beforehand.

“I precisely plan where I will place it, and where I will make bone cuts in the femur and tibia to correct the patient’s deformities.”

Once he applied the fixator in the OR, new X-rays were taken and a host of measurements were entered into a computer program, which then printed a prescription. There are six struts on each external fixator frame. The prescription tells the patient how much and how often to turn each knob to correct the deformities.
“Dr. Campbell showed me how to turn each knob. He said take my time, push and turn until I hear the click. It felt like somebody was pulling on your finger but not letting go,” she said.

Campbell added, “If you go too fast, you can stretch the nerves, causing paralysis, but if you go too slowly, the bone can start to heal and stop your correction prematurely.” He said once the deformity was corrected—a month—he left the frame in place in a static position to allow for healing.

THE HEALING PROCESS
Five and a half months after the March surgery, Christian was getting around on crutches and having physical therapy. X-rays show the gaps in the bone had filled in with new growth.

“Just walking was tearing up my knees before the operation,” Christian recalled. Campbell explained that, presurgery, Christian’s weight went completely through the inside of her knee and ankle joint, causing premature wear. After the surgery and once out of a wheelchair, lifting her leg was arduous with the fixator. She felt some pain from the struts, but controlled it with medication. One Sunday when she was feeling considerable pain, she texted Campbell, who met her at the ER. “He’s awesome. He came, on the weekend, to make sure everything was okay. That’s dedication.”

Christian worked as a certified nursing assistant for 13 years and plans to take online classes this winter to begin a nursing degree. Her short stature caused her emotional pain during childhood. “I was teased, called a midget, and picked on in middle school. One thing I am most definitely looking forward to is having capri pants that don’t come down to my feet,” she said with a gleam in her eyes.

Her son, Christopher, has rickets and takes medication that potentially could damage his kidneys. He will need surgery in the future, but not as extensive as his mother’s.

QU LAID GROUNDWORK
After graduating with his PT degree, Campbell deferred medical school to get some practical experience in his chosen field. He worked in Port Jefferson, New York, at St. Charles Hospital and Rehabilitation Center for a year. Med school came next, followed by an orthopedic surgery residency at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania, and a foot and ankle fellowship at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. He’s been with Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists since August 2011. He and his wife have two children and live in Virginia Beach.

“I don’t think I could have had a better background for what I do than physical therapy, and I still apply the things I learned in my undergrad years at Quinnipiac,” Campbell said. He also has a good feel for deciding which patients can be treated with non-operative physical therapy versus surgery.

“Professor Don Kowalsky’s lectures on foot biomechanics, orthotics and bracing is knowledge I use every day, and the kinesiology classes we took were far more detailed than what we learned in medical school or residency,” he said. He also recalled biology professor Ken Kaloustian’s physiology lectures as being complex and beneficial to his understanding of that subject.

“Hopefully, I won’t be doing this surgery by the end of my career,” Campbell said. “With this surgery, we made the best of a bad situation, but it’s better to prevent it from occurring in the first place. That is the goal of all who work in medicine.”

Christian will always take medicine to mitigate the effects of osteomalacia, but she said she can’t help smiling when she thinks how far she’s come. “I feel bliss, I’m happy, and there are no words to describe it. God sent Dr. Campbell to me. I’m 36, and it took all this time to get it right.”
good laugh used to cause Marina Velazquez intense pain.
She was born with X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH), sometimes referred to as vitamin D-resistant rickets.
During her 56 years, she’s learned to live with the pain that stems from the bone disorder’s various complications including a condition in which bones in her skull exerted pressure on her brain. Laughing gave her migraines.

Surgery eventually corrected that, but she also suffers from bone spurs (caused by calcification), degenerative arthritis and dental abscesses, all associated with XLH. She wore leg braces for much of her childhood and has had two knee replacements.

“Others have it worse than I do,” said the 4-foot, 5-inch chemical engineer and mother of two from New Providence, New Jersey. She is making her pain someone else’s gain by participating in two research initiatives to make life better for fellow XLH patients.

One of those studies is the brainchild of Carolyn Macica, PhD, assistant professor of medical sciences at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. Macica has been researching XLH in adults using lab mice as models. Her research began when she was a faculty member in the internal medicine/endocrinology division at Yale University School of Medicine.

At Quinnipiac, she has assembled a team of professors to study the mobility of about eight XLH patients. The team includes Richard Feinn from the Netter School’s medical science department; Juan C. Garbalosa and Keith Steigbigel from physical therapy; Katie Meriano ’86, MHS ’92, JD ’00, occupational therapy; Dr. Ramon Gonzalez, radiologist assistant program; Tania Grgurich ’97, MHS ’08, diagnostic imaging; Maya Doyle, social work; and Macica’s colleague from Yale, Steven Tommasini. Students from each of those areas also have roles in the study, funded by Global Genes, an advocacy organization committed to eliminating the challenges of rare diseases.

Velazquez visited the motion analysis lab in

PROFESSOR ENLISTS QU TEAM TO STUDY MOBILITY IN RICKETS PATIENTS

BY JANET WALDMAN
Macica said. “I joked that she was going to ruin the study, but her excellent commitment to prescribed exercises and her faith have done her well,” she added.

Macica also is working with Ultragenyx, a company conducting clinical trials with a monoclonal antibody aimed at blocking the consequences of the mutated gene. That gene causes the kidneys of patients with XLH to waste phosphate, resulting in osteomalacia (soft bones). Velazquez is participating in the clinical trials for this new injectable drug.

Currently, children with rickets and osteomalacia, including Velazquez’s two daughters, are given large doses of oral phosphate, the active form of vitamin D, which can cause significant damage to their kidneys.

“You can fix bones, but the prognosis is not as good if you damage a vital organ,” Velazquez noted.

Although current therapies can improve growth and alignment of the lower limbs, the underlying osteomalacia persists for life. Macica hopes the new drug will arrest the onset of rickets in toddlers and mitigate the symptoms of adults with the disorder.

“The data is dramatic. Lab mice and early clinical trials show significant improvement of the soft bone condition,” Macica said.

Both Macica and Velazquez are active with the XLH Network, a patient education and advocacy organization. They met at the network’s annual conference in 2011. Macica chairs the network’s Scientific Advisory Board.

“When patients are able to connect with others with this rare disease, it helps them to feel less alone in their struggles and part of a bigger family. I feel very lucky to be part of their extended family,” Macica said.
t’s a hectic day at the hospital, and Rush is the only nurse on duty.

A 38-year-old patient named Tony Kent sits in the waiting area. He fell off a ladder trimming his hedges and is in terrible pain. Rush notes that Kent’s breathing is slow and labored.

Rush escorts Kent to the back and requests an arterial blood gas test from the lab.

Just then, 36-year-old Barry Allen walks up to the receptionist desk. He says he’s feeling anxious and is having difficulty catching his breath.

Rush leaves Kent to greet his new patient. Allen is hyperventilating. He complains he feels dizzy and has a tingling sensation in his arms.

Meanwhile, Kent grows visibly frustrated. He grimaces and his face takes on the hue of a ripe tomato. Rush, too busy with Allen in the waiting room, hasn’t checked the results of Kent’s ABG test. Eventually, Kent can’t take the wait any longer, gets up out of his seat and disappears.

And just like that, it’s game over.

ABG Rush, a video game that aims to teach nursing students ABG analysis, is the product of a year-long collaboration between the School of Nursing and the game design and development program.

“It’s a time management game,” said Jonah Warren, assistant professor of game design and development. He explained that players must juggle multiple tasks simultaneously. “We looked at a number of games for inspiration, including Diner Dash, where the player controls a waitress serving customers. In our game, the player has to help an endless stream of patients by reading their history, checking signs and symptoms, making an initial assessment, requesting blood work, and finally, giving a diagnosis.”

The University received a $10,000 Innovation in Accelerated Nursing Education grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Careers in Nursing Scholarship program, to fund the project. In addition to Warren, the project coordinators included Cory Ann Boyd, associate professor of nursing and director of the accelerated RN to BSN degree programs, and Mary Ann Glendon, associate professor of nursing at Southern Connecticut State University.

An ABG test measures acidity (pH) and levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood. Results then can be used to diagnose respiratory and metabolic issues in patients with diseases such as asthma, cystic fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or liver failure and kidney disease.

Boyd said students have trouble piecing together patient symptoms and their corresponding ABG test values. That’s where the game comes in handy.

“We want to cement the association between what the numbers mean and the symptoms,” Boyd said. “The game is a quick, easy learning tool. Students can play it for 10 to 15 minutes and keep coming back to it. In the School of Nursing, our students complete some very complex simulation scenarios on their computers—that has merit, but so does this quick infusion of information.”

After testing ABG Rush with his fellow accelerated nursing students, Mario Johnson said the game was an engaging, fun alternative to more traditional study tools.

“As students we’re buried in so many books, and there’s so much to read,” he said. “When my brain is tired and my eyes are blurry from reading, I can go to the game to keep my mind active, and it gives me a refresher on the subject matter.”

Game design and development students Ron Burgess and Ryan Schwarz spent their senior year programming and developing the game from a card game prototype to the final web-based, open source version. Colin Winders, a junior in the GDD program, created the graphics and illustrations. The team presented the project at the New Careers in Nursing annual conference in Washington, D.C., in September.

“Making educational games is something I hope to do more of in the future,” said Burgess. “It’s very interesting and challenging to make this kind of material fun.”
Playing ABG Rush, an instructional video game for nursing students.
Distinguished Alumni Awards 2015

Quinnipiac honored six individuals with the Distinguished Alumni Award at an induction dinner in October during Homecoming. A Distinguished Alumni Service Award and Recent Alumni Award also were presented.

Christopher Canetti ’92
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
As president of Major League Soccer’s Houston Dynamo, Christopher Canetti oversees all aspects of the organization, including the National Women’s Soccer League’s Houston Dash; BBVA Compass Stadium, a new, 22,000-seat soccer-specific venue; and the Houston Sports Park, the training facility for the Dynamo and Dash.

Canetti joined the Dynamo in 2006 as the team’s chief operating officer. He became president in 2010. He also serves as president for Dynamo Charities.

Prior to joining the Dynamo, Canetti was assistant general manager for the New York Red Bulls of MLS. Before that, he served as general manager for the New Haven Ravens, a Double-A minor league baseball affiliate of the Seattle Mariners and Colorado Rockies. He was the youngest GM in baseball, earning that position at just 26 years old.

In 2008, he received the Doug Hamilton Executive of the Year award, Major League Soccer’s top executive honor. In 2010, he was named to Sports Business Journal’s prestigious Forty Under 40 list of influential sports executives.

Canetti earned his bachelor’s degree in communications from Quinnipiac in 1992. He played first base for the Quinnipiac baseball team from 1988-92. He lives in the Houston area with his wife, Judi, and daughters, Kara and Ella.

Jeané Coakley ’01
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Jeané Coakley is the lead New York Jets beat reporter for SportsNet New York. She joined SNY in 2010 as an anchor and sports reporter, contributing to the sports and entertainment news shows, including SportsNite, Daily News Live and Loud Mouths.

She began her career as a news producer in Billings, Montana. She got her first on-air sports job at KYMA in Yuma, Arizona. In 2006, she worked as a sports reporter at WISH-TV in Indianapolis, covering all sports including the Colts, the Pacers, the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400, Big Ten football and basketball.

During her career, Coakley has covered Super Bowls, MLB All-Star games, Final Fours and witnessed American Pharaoh win the triple crown. She earned two Associated Press awards, and in 2010, she won an Emmy Award for her coverage of the Jets.

An avid runner, Coakley has completed a marathon in every state in which she has lived. In 2015, she returned to her alma mater as the keynote speaker for the National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Coakley graduated magna cum laude from Quinnipiac University in 2001, where she majored in communications and minored in history.

A New York state native, Coakley currently lives in Manhattan.

Andrew Errato ’69
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Andy Errato is a partner at Bailey Murphy & Scarano in Branford, Connecticut. In addition to client responsibility, he plays an integral role in firm management and staff development.


An active member of the community, Errato serves as president of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, and serves on Quinnipiac University’s TKE Scholarship Committee.

He is also an adjunct professor of accounting at the University of New Haven, and is the co-chair of Operation American Soldier, which sends supplies to soldiers in Afghanistan.

Errato earned an associate’s degree from Quinnipiac in 1967 and completed his BS in accounting in 1969. He also earned an MS in taxation from the University of New Haven. He lives in Madison, Connecticut, with his wife, Bobbi.

Charles Saia ’91, MBA ’94
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Chuck Saia is the chief risk, reputation and crisis officer at Deloitte, where he oversees firm-wide reputation and risk governance practices.

He drives Deloitte’s strategic risk management program and leads the efficient and effective governance of the firm’s most strategic risks and related opportunities. He is a member of the firm’s executive committee.

Saia has more than 20 years of experience advising clients on corporate governance, regulatory issues, risk management and internal controls. He currently serves as the advisory partner for BMO Harris and Credit Suisse, and previously was lead client service partner and lead advisory partner for multiple multinational banking and financial services clients.

In his prior leadership role, Saia was national leader of the firm’s Business Risk Service Area, a $560 million practice comprising more than 2,000 professionals.

Saia graduated from Quinnipiac in 1991, earning a BS in accounting and computer science and an MBA in 1994. He is a certified public accountant.

Caroline Toffoli ’83
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
COL Caroline A. Toffoli, DVM, is commander of the 399th Combat Support Hospital in Devens, Massachusetts, where she manages the training of 600 medical and support professionals.

She recently was selected to serve as deputy commander of the 3rd Medical Command Operational Command Post Forward, overseeing the entire medical support mission in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. She will be deploying in January 2016.

Toffoli was commissioned in the U.S. Army Reserve as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps in 1997. From 2003-05, she served as theater staff veterinarian of the 8th Medical Brigade for Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which she organized the first international veterinary conference in southwest Asia.

In civilian life, Toffoli spent more than 25 years in companion animal clinical practice. She has more than 15 years of experience in all phases of pharmaceutical research and development. She is currently an independent consultant in bio-defense for the development of pharmaceuticals, biologics and diagnostics.

Toffoli received a BS in laboratory animal technology in 1983 from Quinnipiac and a doctor of
veterinary medicine in 1989 from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. She lives in Westerly, Rhode Island, with her partner of 10 years, two dogs and two cats.

Sharrona Williams ’95
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Sharrona S. Williams, MD, is an orthopedic surgeon at OrthoAtlanta: Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Specialists, which has offices in Fayetteville, Stockbridge and Newnan, Georgia. Her specialties include orthopaedic surgery, sports medicine and foot and ankle disorders.

Williams is board certified with the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons and completed a foot and ankle surgery fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. In 2009, she was certified as a fellow with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

She treats all types of injuries, from ankle replacements to tibia fractures, and foot problems such as bunions and hammertoes. Her patients include high school and college athletes, as well as older competitive athletes, marathoners, and people injured at work.

Williams’ interest in sports medicine stems from her days as a college athlete. She was awarded a full basketball scholarship to Quinnipiac and is an NCAA scholar athlete. She also serves her community as a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America and in the Army Reserves.

Williams earned a BA in biology from Quinnipiac in 1995. She completed her doctor of medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in 1999. She lives in the Atlanta area.

James Leahy ’64
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
James Leahy trained as a medic and served for six years in the U.S. Army Reserves before embarking on a career divided between aerospace and automotive companies.

He built a successful career in the field of supply chain management working for a variety of companies including Sikorsky Aircraft, Perkin-Elmer, Echlin, Philips Electronics and United Technologies.

Leahy was raised by a single mother and educated in the New Haven public schools. His family was supported by welfare until age 18. As such, Leahy supports an annual scholarship at Quinnipiac that provides an award to a student from New Haven with unmet financial need.

An ardent fan of Quinnipiac ice hockey and a dedicated alumnus, Leahy has been a member of the President’s Council (formerly the Charter Oak Society) at Quinnipiac since 1997.

Now retired, he volunteers his time with the School of Business, mentoring students, assisting with career fairs and the Career Boot Camp. He draws on his extensive experience as a hiring manager to help alumni define their career goals, perfect their resumes, and find meaningful and rewarding careers.

Leahy graduated from Quinnipiac in 1964, earning a bachelor of science in business administration/marketing. He lives in Orange, Connecticut.

Ted Koly ’06, MBA ’08
RECENT ALUMNI AWARD
Ted Koly is a private wealth adviser at Morgan Stanley, where he advises high net worth clients and works in a three-person team managing $850 million in assets and generating more than $2 million in annual revenues. He is ranked third in the U.S. in Morgan Stanley’s Private Wealth Management Training Program.

Prior to Morgan Stanley, Koly worked in the accounting and finance departments of Delcath Systems, as well as in the MIS, library and records departments of Cummings & Lockwood.

Koly has continued his involvement with the Quinnipiac School of Business, volunteering time to mentor and advise students who participate in the Student-Managed Portfolio.

This fall, he has returned to the classroom to co-teach a finance course with Dean Matthew O’Connor.

Koly earned a BS in finance, with a focus in French, in 2006. He went on to earn an MBA with a finance focus and CFA track in 2008. While at Quinnipiac, Koly was a student manager in the Terry W. Goodwin ’67 Financial Technology Center. He also served as treasurer of the Rotaeract Club.

He is fluent in French and conversational in Arabic. He has traveled extensively and lives in Darien, Connecticut.

Brett Amendola ’91, left, master of ceremonies, with award recipients, from left: Jeané Coakley ’01, Andrew Errato ’69, James Leahy ’64, Caroline A. Toffoli ’83, Chris Canetti ’92, Sharrona S. Williams ’95 and President John L. Lahey. Missing from photo are Charles Saia ’91, MBA ’94, and Ted Koly ’06, MBA ’08.
1975

Denise (Ferguson) Fletcher of Simsbury, CT, is vice president and chief innovation officer for Healthcare Pharma and Life Sciences at Xerox. She was a guest speaker at the University of Rhode Island College of Business Administration’s annual Vangermeersch lecture. Her address, “Is There an App for That?” described ways technology can improve health and wellness. In 2014, Denise was recognized by Front End Innovation as one of the Top 40 Women in Innovation.

1980

Jo-Anne Passarelli-Urena of Middletown, CT, is a sales professional at O&G’s masonry division, working in the Middletown, CT, showrooms. She previously worked as a sales agent for O&G for 15 years selling architectural stone.

1985

James Moore, MHS ’85, of Sea Bright, NJ, recently was appointed to serve a four-year term as the American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants representative on the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences’ board of directors. He is a pathologists’ assistant at Monmouth Medical Center. He also serves as co-director of the pathologists’ assistant program at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia.

1990

Clark Yoder of Fairfield, CT, recently became the chief executive officer of Advanced Radiology, the largest independent radiology practice in Southwestern Connecticut.

1992

Kim (Baton) Mecteau is the vice president of business lending at the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union after dedicating more than 20 years to retail and commercial banking. Kim lives in Coventry, CT.

1995

Andrew O’Brien, MAT ’95, of Burlington, CT, has become the principal at Simsbury High School in Simsbury, CT, after 13 years of teaching, four years as an assistant principal at Middletown High School in Middletown, CT, and four years as a principal at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, CT.

Victor Zaderej, MBA ’95, of Wheaton, IL, is the director of solid-state lighting product development for Molex in Lisle, IL. Victor recently spoke at a TEDx conference hosted by Bentley University, Waltham, MA, exploring energy efficient lighting technologies and the life-changing power of light. Victor holds 38 patents in the fields of electrical packaging, thermal management, electrical interconnects, energy conservation and solid-state lighting.
Alan Dewey of Coventry, CT, married Laurie Tolliver on Sept. 14, 2014, in Brooklyn, CT. (See photo p. 46.)

Janet (DelosReyes) Johnson ‘00, MBA ‘02, was chosen to participate in the MFGis Campaign for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers where her experience was shared throughout the U.S. and Canada. Janet was vice president of operations for her family’s powder metal shop, High Tech Sintered Metals, from 2001-08. She now works as a consultant at ManufacturingAdvances.com. She lives in Terryville, CT.

Jonathan Potokin ’01, MS/MBA ’05, is the managing director of finance and administration at Franklin Templeton’s Darby Private Equity in Washington, D.C. He will remain in his role at Franklin Templeton’s hedge operations, K2 Advisors, as the director of finance. He is also a member of the Darby senior management team and Darby compliance oversight group. Jonathan and his wife, Jennifer (Maddaloni) Potokin ’05, live in Stamford, CT, with their son, Benjamin Alexander, born July 11, 2014. Jennifer is a respiratory care practitioner and clinical instructor at Stamford Hospital. (See photo p. 47.)

Joe Baglio ’02, MBA ’03, and his wife, Andrea, welcomed a son, Joseph Adam Baglio, on March 4, 2015. (See photo p. 47.)

Michael Baglio ’02, MBA ’03 and Marisa Baglio welcomed a son, Luca Michael, on June 15, 2015. (See photo p. 47.)

Kimberly Perone of Laurel, MD, is a senior occupational therapist at the International Center for Spinal Cord Injury at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, MD. Kimberly has more than 13 years of experience and played an integral part as the first OT trained in aquatic therapy. She assisted in developing the ICSCI aquatic rehab program.

Anna (Vendrone) Spragg ’02, MS ’13, of Orange, CT, has worked at Quinnipiac University since 1987 and recently was appointed associate vice president for human resources. She previously served as director of student affairs at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine.

Mark Zatyrka is the director of marketing at American Homecare Federation, a national specialty infusion pharmacy helping families who are living with hemophilia and other rare diseases. He also is a founder of the Connecticut Hemophilia Society. Mark lives in West Suffield, CT.
Peter “P.J.” Gradowski of Livonia, MI, was promoted to director of athletic communications at the University of Detroit Mercy after working at the university for eight years in the sports information and athletic communications office. He previously held the positions of senior assistant sports information director and associate director of athletic communications. This past June, P.J. became part of CoSIDA’s first-ever mentoring program.

Brianna LaBrecque ’03 and Scott Barnes ’04 were married on May 16, 2015, in Mystic, CT. Alumni members of the bridal party included Danica (Gardiner) Valentine ’03, and Kristin (Morgan) Cramer ’04. Brianna is a PR account executive with Cronin and Company, working out of the Albany office. She is responsible for all public relations efforts for McDonald’s in the capital region. Scott is a new hire fulfillment team leader at Pitney Bowes. The couple lives in Rensselaer, NY. (See photo p. 46.)

David O’Connor and his wife, Lindsay, announce the birth of a daughter, Danni James, on April 29, 2015. (See photo p. 47.)

2004

Lauren (Fikselin) Castagnola of Wallingford, CT, became the director of strategy and new media at Cheney & Co. of New Haven. She oversees the company’s web presence and works with clients in various capacities.

Amy (Dziobek) Will and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of a daughter, Colette Sophia, on June 25, 2015. Amy is a producer for NBC Washington. The family lives in the Washington, D.C., area. (See photo p. 47.)

2005

Todd Kremin JD ’05, MBA ’05, of Dix Hills, NY, became a partner at Goldberg Segalla in New York, NY, at the law firm’s global insurance services practice group. Prior to joining Goldberg Segalla, Todd was a member of the insurance coverage and monitoring practice group at Kaufman, Dolowich & Voluck.

Pamela (Festa) Mangini ’05, MBA ’07, of Hamden, recently became a certified administrator of school finance and operations through the Association of School Business Officials International. Pamela is director of finance and business operations for Regional School District No. 16. She has worked with the Beacon Falls/Prospect Regional School District since 2012.

2006

Bridget Ann Grant and Scott Shilet ’06 were married on Aug. 31, 2014, in New York. The couple lives in Glendale, CA. (See photo p. 46.)

2007

Samantha Allendorfer ’07 married Tom Wulderk on July 17, 2015. Samantha is an operating room nurse at New Britain Surgery Center. The couple lives in Glenside, PA.

Kara Cornelius ’07 married Eric Burdon on May 22, 2015, in White Hall, MD. Kara is a registered nurse in the post-anesthesia care unit at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. The couple lives in Joppa, MD. (See photo p. 46.)

Sarah Theresa Grady and Christian Lee Jorgenson were married on Sept. 6, 2015, in Baltimore on the three-year anniversary of their first official date to a Yankees vs. Orioles baseball game at Camden Yards. They met in Washington, D.C., where they live. Both work on Capitol Hill. (See photo p. 46.)

Andrea (Celetti) Turczak ’07, MHS ’09, and Dana (Owen) Turczak announce the birth of a son, Troy Joseph, on Aug. 5, 2015. The family lives in Trumbull, CT. Andrew is a physician assistant in the orthopedic and emergency medicine departments at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, and Dana is a freelance writer and creative consultant. (See photo p. 47.)

2008

Logan Condon of Woodbury, CT, was named the new athletic director at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury, CT.

Katy Delagi of Wallingford, CT, married Brian Fairbrother on July 17, 2015, in Middletown, CT. Katy is the assistant women’s lacrosse coach at Quinnipiac. (See photo p. 46.)

Molly Qerim, MS ’08, of Cheshire, CT, was named full-time moderator of ESPN2’s debate program, “First Take,” which covers trending sports topics for two hours a day. She also will expand her role as a contributor to ESPN Radio’s “Mike & Mike” weekday morning program that also airs on ESPN2.

2009

Richard Bauer was selected by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors to participate in the Four Under Forty panel discussion at New Haven Country Club in September 2015. Richard is a financial adviser with Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife.

Mario Bencivenga ’09, MOT ’11, recently returned from Japan to visit Quinnipiac with his daughter, Claire Jane, who made her first trip home to the United States. Mario and his wife, Erica, are active duty Naval officers stationed in Japan until 2017. He is an occupational therapist and she is a nurse. (See photo p. 47.)

Andrea (Celetti) Sias ’09, MAT ’10, of East Longmeadow, MA, was named Bloomfield Teacher of the Year. She teaches science at the Global Experience Magnet School in Bloomfield, CT.
A last-minute trip to Romania just after graduation became a defining moment for Tom Barton ’95. Barton, a finance major, accompanied a fellow Quinnipiac student from Romania back to his home country, where the latter planned to start a real estate company. “I was going to help him with a business plan, but we ended up setting up a company in Bucharest together,” says Barton.

In those days, Romania was like the Wild West. “There were no banks and no mortgages. All homes had been deeded to the people by the former Communist government. An entrepreneurial spirit was developing, and it was a place full of opportunity,” Barton recalls.

As for the defining moment, it happened when the duo hired an employee “who was brilliant with computer technology and also a fantastic teacher,” says Barton. It was then that the possibilities of the Internet began to jell for him.

Although Barton had seen the Internet for the first time at Quinnipiac, he thought it was very academic and not very exciting. “But now, I was in the middle of nowhere and able to connect to everything half a world away. It was a very powerful concept, and I immediately grasped how it would change the way business communication and marketing would work.”

He chose a name for his future company: Web Solutions. His plan was to create a full-service digital marketing agency, helping companies develop and understand their online strategies. Within months, he was back home and in touch with his favorite finance professor, William Clyde, who volunteered his services as an adviser.

“One thing I learned at Quinnipiac is that I love to learn. And this industry is constantly evolving, with opportunities to learn every day. I really like that aspect of it,” says Barton.

Twenty years later, Web Solutions is strongly rooted in Barton’s hometown of Meriden, Connecticut. The company has grown by double digits every year, with three competitive acquisitions under its belt. “Our core business is helping clients develop websites, then driving business to those websites. We also support clients through brand identity and content development.”

Among its clients is The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Its website needed to reach several different audiences—campers, families of campers, volunteers and donors.

“We developed an intuitive site structure for making content easily accessible to the appropriate audience members. We then took advantage of the compelling imagery and stories that the organization offered to build engaging and dynamic landing pages,” Barton says.

Barton came to Quinnipiac almost by accident. He was enrolled in a community college and won an award in his business class; the prize was a free class at QU. “I took pre-calculus and loved the small class and the approachability of the professors. I was doing carpentry work on the side and ran into trouble with a project. When I brought it to my professor, he sat down and showed me the solution.”

Barton runs the company with his wife, Lori. The two are “huge” basketball fans, rooting religiously for the Bobcats over the years. It’s a family affair; son Will, 12, and daughter Allie, 10, accompany them to games. “In fact, Will has gotten to know all the guys on the team,” he says.—Nina Riccio
Alison Martin of Achushnet, MA, married Benjamin Van Rijn on May 2, 2015, in Boston. The couple lives in London. (See photo p. 46.)

2010

Brendan Amoruso of New York, NY, announces the birth of his daughter, Luna Marie Amoruso on Jan. 4, 2014. (See photo p. 47.)

Joseph Micucci of East Longmeadow, MA, is an actor, producer and stuntman. He was a member of the cast for the movies “Ted,” “Ted 2” and “A Million Ways to Die in the West.”

Erin Yost ‘10, MAT ’11, and Brett Dickinson ’10 were married on March 21, 2015, in Redding, CT. The wedding party included Kelly Grady, Greg Holt and Tristen Sechi (all from the Class of 2010), Peter Longo and Patrick McGann (both Class of 2011), and Steve Novodor ’03. Erin teaches second grade in Watertown. Brett is a regional manager for EDR, and is a hockey coach. The couple lives in Watertown, CT.

2011

Bridget Garrity of Canton, CT, graduated from New England College of Optometry on May 17, 2015, and will be starting a one-year residency program at the VA Hospital in Bedford, MA.

Lorella Praeli of New Haven, CT, was named the Latino outreach director for the Hillary Clinton campaign and is the main point person with Latino communities around the country. She is one of the campaign’s surrogates with the press on Latino issues, including immigration. Lorella was previously director of advocacy and policy at United We Dream, a nationwide immigrant youth-led organization based in Washington, D.C.

Annalisa Zinn, MBA ’11, of Hamden, has been promoted to the newly created position of vice president for academic innovation and effectiveness at Quinnipiac. She will be responsible for overseeing such areas as retention and academic success, faculty development, cultural and global engagement, academic grants, and veteran and military affairs. She joined QU in 2007 and since July 2013, was an associate vice president for academic and strategic planning.

2012

George Battle, MS ’12, of Cheshire, CT, was promoted to commanding officer of the Bureau of Field Technology, Infrastructure and Transportation. He has earned two Unit Citation Awards during his 27-year state trooper career.

Jennifer (Zammataro) Cofrancesco ’12, MBA ’13 of Hamden, has opened a Farmers Insurance Agency - Cofrancesco Agency in the Mount Carmel section of Hamden.

Vimin Nanavati ’12, MS ’13, was awarded the Bea Boucher Volunteer of the Year Award from the Center for Family Justice in Bridgeport, CT. Vimin has been volunteering at the center since December 2013. She also works part time with her father, a veterinarian in Seymour, CT. She lives in Orange, CT.

2013

Elizabeth Vargas of Queens Village, NY, will be starting medical school in Fall 2015 at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine as part of the Class of 2019 in Old Westbury, NY.

2014

Joann Cazorla is a social media coordinator and senior content writer at Acara Partners in Branford, CT.

Scott Schubert of Mahwah, NJ, recently joined the sales team at Cushman & Wakefield in East Rutherford, NJ. His focus is on developing tenant representation opportunities.

2015

Charles Doe of Mooresville, NC, is a digital analyst at Acara Partners in Branford, CT. He manages search engine optimization for clients, oversees pay-per-click ads in Google Analytics and Google Adwords and creates content for print and online sources.

Ben Ivers of Colchester, CT, is a digital video intern at Acara Partners in Branford, CT. He creates online marketing videos for clients.

Alexa Panzarino of Nesconset, NY, is a public relations associate at Acara Partners in Branford, CT. He writes press releases and distributes newsworthy material to a variety of media outlets.

Dakota Roos of Branford, CT, is a web and graphic designer at Acara Partners in Branford. He designs and develops responsive websites for clients. He also handles photography projects.

IN MEMORIAM

2013

Peggy (Crielman) Dey ’49
Barbara-Ann (Fitch) Griffith ’65
Morton Lavietes ’48
Thomas Longo ’84

2014

Louis Barth Sr., ’73
Helen (Karotkin) Blum ’46
Everett Brown ’78
Louise (Ferradino) Capace ’40
John Donovan ’48
Rita (Greenberg) Gold ’46
David Gray ’87
Teressa Mariano ’47
Donna (Pascale) Morse ’63
Edward Przybyslawski ’58
Harry Seeley ’35

2015

Candace Abel ’70
Jill (Schanberger) Allen ’83
Alan Anderson ’54
Emma (Quatrano) Antonio ’36
Mildred Avery ’51
Carolyn (Courtney) Baillie ’49
Shirley (Clark) Barske ’40
Gerald Barth ’66
Marjorie (Joles) Beecher ’37
Carmela (D’Alesio) Berard ’47
Christopher Blackman, JD ’03
Benjamin Bouteau ’81
Joseph Canny ’53
John Cavallari ’72
George Bush Clark ’53
Carolyn (Crocker) Secrest ’75
Bryan Del Monte ’80
Pasquale DeMaio ’60
Shaun Doohan ’77
Edward Evon ’50
Clifford Gerbe ’57
Nicholas Geskos ’72
Caryl Guesenbury, MAT ’04
Alden Barker Hall Jr., JD ’88
Neil Honigfeld ’72
Beverly Ann (Baumber) Kamen ’65
Mary (Keever) Kelleher ’47
Harvey R. Levine, PhD, biology professor emeritus
Dean Lewis, JD ’02
Thomas Mahon Jr., ’68
Elena (Carrano) McCoy ’61
Earl McDonald, Jr., ’69
Malcolm McHenry ’73
James McNamee ’73
Frank Menchetti ’72
James Neal Jr., ’71
Loredana Nesci, JD ’02
Wayne Paul ’59
John Peters ’63
Pamela (Martin) Remian ’64
Angelo Rossomando ’61
Mortimore Saffran ’47
Margaret (Johnson) Seeley ’35
Isabel (Arbona) Spaziani ’54
Alberta (Hilton) Stephens ’64
Julia (Greco) Tomasi ’40
Jorge Vergne, JD ’92
Elizabeth (Voss) Walsh ’47
Harry Whitney ’68
Michael Zariphes, JD ’03
Nancy (Nemergut) Zelman ’67
Bernadine Munley of Fairfield, CT, has been elected to the Keystone College Board of Trustees. She also serves as chief marketing officer for Munley Law in Scranton, PA.

James X. Sattely was nominated by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and approved by the New Jersey State Senate to serve as a judge of the Superior Court. He was officially sworn in on March 5, 2015, and serves in the Law Division, Special Civil Part, Bergen County, New Jersey.

Elizabeth Reid of Stamford, CT, is a supervisory assistant with the Office of the Public Defender in Norwalk, CT. She was inducted into the Brien McMahon High School’s Alumni Association Hall of Fame for her work, combined with a quarter century of public service. She has worked as a big sister with Family and Children’s Aid, and received an Outstanding Service Award in 1992. She also participated in career days and internship programs at five different schools, including her alma mater. She is board chair for the Norwalk Education Foundation.

Karen McCormack of Fairfield, CT, recently opened her own practice, the Law Office of Karen A. McCormack, in Southport, CT. She was formerly a partner with Costello and McCormack. Her practice areas include family law, personal injury and real estate closings. She also volunteers with Emerge, an organization that provides housing, counseling and supportive services to women and children victims of domestic violence.

Margaret Castinado of Meriden, CT, was appointed president of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association. She is a senior public defender in the New Haven Public Defender’s Office, where she has worked for the past 20 years. Margaret is also a member of the board of directors of the Connecticut Bar Association and a member of the House of Delegates for the Connecticut Bar Association.

Michael Croll of West Hartford, CT, was recognized by the Connecticut Probate Assembly with its 2015 Pro Bono Award for his work helping families who use probate courts, especially with limited resources or whose cases are complicated. Michael is a sole practitioner at the Law Office of Michael J. Croll in West Hartford. He also serves on the board of corporators for the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford and on the board of directors for the Mandell Jewish Community Center of Greater Hartford.

Craig Gianetti and Jennifer Salfi Gianetti, JD ’03, of Basking Ridge, NJ, welcomed their second child, daughter Lia Maria, on July 8, 2015. The couple also has a son, Jonathan Matthew, 3.

Katherine Klaus-Carbutti of North Haven has joined the Law Offices of Carter Mario Injury Lawyers as a pre-litigation attorney. She was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 2003. Prior to joining the firm, she worked as house counsel to an auto insurance company for nine years, focusing on MVA defense litigation.

Todd Kremin, JD/MBA, of Dix Hills, NY, became a partner with the law firm Goldberg Segalla in its New York office. He works in the firm’s global insurance services practice group, representing and counseling insurers and their insureds in litigation involving Securities Act violations, cyber risks, foreign exchange losses, and other corporate exposures. Previously he was a member of the insurance coverage and monitoring practice group at Kaufman Dolovich & Voluck.

Kristen Zaehringer of Hamden was selected by the Fairfield County Business Journal as one of Fairfield County’s 40 under 40. She is an associate at Murtha Cullina in Stamford, CT. She represents clients in the areas of commercial litigation, professional malpractice, labor and employment and local counsel services.

Christopher Antoci of Norwalk, CT, joined Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers as a civil litigator focusing primarily in automobile litigation, premises liability and commercial litigation. He was formerly with Wilson Elser.

Joshua Cohen of West Dover, VT, of the Joshua RI Cohen Law Office, also practices in Connecticut as “The Student Loan Lawyer,” defending about two dozen cases in the state involving former students sued by National Collegiate.

Sylvia Rutkowska of Middletown, CT, is serving as treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association during the 2015-16 year. She is an associate attorney at Dzialo Pickett & Allen in Middletown and Old Saybrook, CT, practicing primarily in personal injury, civil litigation, land use and municipal law matters.

Ashley (Adams) Sauvé and Douglas Sauvé of Middletown, CT, welcomed a son, Leif Alexander Louis, on June 1, 2015. Ashley is an associate counsel in the law department at The Hartford. (See photo p. 47.)

Michael Vitali, BA ’07, JD ’11, of Wallingford, CT, was appointed to the State Law Revision Commission as the designee of Republican Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano of North Haven.

Joshua Susco of Brookfield, CT, joined the Law Offices of Carter Mario Injury Lawyers as a pre-litigation attorney for the firm’s Milford office.

Nicholas Stango of Wallingford, CT, is a patent agent for the law firm of Cantor Colburn, one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the country.
Challenges welcome
Probate lawyer a ‘social worker with law degree’

Every day in Connecticut’s 54 probate courts, people seek resolution to some of the most difficult situations families can face.

“Probate court is designed as the ‘people’s court,’ offering direct access to the legal system,” says Michael Croll, JD ’03. Since opening his West Hartford, Connecticut, law office in 2004, Croll has specialized in probate matters. Cases run the gamut from termination of parental rights and transferring guardianship to protecting the finances and legal rights of individuals with mental illness who are unable to manage their own affairs.

While probate cases can be challenging, they are not structured on the adversarial model often associated with going to court. It’s the “place in the system where we focus on finding solutions to problems,” Croll says.

Connecticut’s probate system deals not only with probate’s traditional role of overseeing trusts and estates, but also with issues affecting children, the elderly, and people with intellectual or psychiatric disabilities. Although parties involved in simple probate procedures may not need legal representation, Croll explains, complex estate settlements and complicated family matters require lawyers. Probate attorneys also are called upon to be conservators (of estates or individuals) or guardians—overseeing and acting in the best interests of those who have been placed in their care.

Croll sometimes thinks of himself as a social worker with a law degree. The Connecticut Probate Assembly recently honored him with its 2015 Pro Bono Award for his work in assisting some of the state’s most vulnerable individuals and families. Because his clients often deal with sensitive personal or family issues, he not only provides legal counsel, but helps them through difficult times.

“For example, while representing a parent whose child has been removed from the home, I can work with them to make changes needed to improve their chances of having the child returned to them,” he says.

He noted that he tends to work well with people with significant substance abuse or mental health issues who can be difficult to manage. “Often, I can redirect them when they get off subject and keep them focused on the issues. I think I get the call often on challenging cases because the courts know I have had a lot of experience, and I don’t mind the challenges.”

Growing up, Croll learned the importance of helping others from his mother. “The message in our home was always to treat people as you want to be treated, and focus on doing right.” He says he feels lucky to have a job that allows him to go home most nights knowing he’s done just that.

Croll is active in community and charitable pursuits. A member of the board of corporators for the American School for the Deaf, he knows American Sign Language and is often called into probate cases that involve deaf individuals. He is also an officer for the Hartford chapter of PROBUS, an organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. He has coached Special Olympics speed skating many times over the years.

When not working with clients or community activities, Croll travels or heads outdoors to go skiing, cycling, hiking, golfing and kayaking.—Rhea Hirshman
The School of Law welcomed 93 first-year students during orientation at the School of Law Center on the North Haven Campus in August. Superior Court Judge Auden Grogins, JD ’89, addressed the incoming students prior to administering the professional oath.

“This year we welcomed the most diverse first-year class in memory,” said Edwin Wilkes, associate vice president and dean of admissions.

“The 1Ls include students with a vast array of backgrounds and life experiences, and 24 percent of the class identified as persons of color. Those experiences and diversity will add immensely to the conversations and discussions within and outside of our classrooms,” Wilkes said.

The two-day orientation program included welcome remarks from faculty and administrators, sessions on academic success and financial management, a discussion with family and friends of new law students, and a picnic.

The new 1L class represents 69 undergraduate institutions and 30 different academic majors, including biomedical engineering, economics, Italian studies and women’s studies. Women make up 56 percent of the class. The students come from 15 states, from California to Maine, and one foreign country, Canada. The average age is 26, but the age range of the students spans four decades.

Collectively, the class speaks nine foreign languages and dialects and has traveled, worked or studied abroad in 18 different countries on four continents—Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

The class also includes students from many walks of life, including four military veterans, a former school principal, a PhD in molecular biology who is director of patents for a major pharmaceutical company, and an author of three short stories and a novel.
Thanks to you!

In 2014-15, generous individuals and organizations provided more than $7.6 million in gifts and grants to support Quinnipiac University, our students, faculty and programs. Members of the President’s Council provided philanthropic leadership, and they are listed on the following pages.

Thanks to the generosity of all benefactors, Quinnipiac continues to achieve excellence across the University. We express our sincere gratitude to each donor and volunteer who helps keep Quinnipiac rising.

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Freshman nursing major Kristen Cappetta at Parents and Family Weekend with her family. Her father, Mike Cappetta, graduated from Quinnipiac with a marketing degree in 1985.

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Ashley Scotto ’18, left, paints pumpkins during Parents and Family Weekend with her parents, Michael & Tami, and sister, Mackenzie.
Lisa Oak, JD ‘87, of Oak Advisory Services, chats with Daymond John of “Shark Tank” during a President’s Council reception.

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GOOD TIMES

1. Jon Kroll ’03, Conor O’Brien ’06 and Austin Ashe ’03 at a retirement celebration for Manuel “Manny” Carreiro (pictured on easel) during Reunion. Manny’s friends, family and colleagues endowed a scholarship in his honor.

2 & 3. Alumni reconnected at an August happy hour at Sign of the Whale in Stamford. Photo 2, from left: Stephen Preisig ’02; Benjamin Chalfin ’12; Ted Koly ’06, MBA ’08; Marianne Gorski ’07, MOT ’09; and Genna Cappellini ’10. Photo 3: Robert Godzeno, JD ’09, and Kelly Ochman, JD ’09.

4. At the President’s Cup Pro-Am Tournament in Ringoes, New Jersey, from left: Tom Moore, head men’s basketball coach; trustee Dennis Flanagan ’72; Suzy Whaley, secretary of the PGA of America and parent of Jennifer ’16; Steven Kramer, parent of Reed ’18; and trustee Bill Ayers ’70.

5. Robert Lucarelli ’95 and George Sweeney ’88 at the annual Men’s Hockey Alumni Game with their future Bobcats.

6. Socializing at the Boston happy hour in July, from left: Kristen McKay ’10, Matt McKay, Kim Dolak-Mace ’06 and Merlyn Mayhew ’06.

7. At the Alumni Golf Championship from left: Steve Hafner ’03, Matt Mady ’02, Ryan Bean ’02 and Corey Kruse ’03.

8. Father-daughter Rhode Island Alumni Chapter co-presidents Joe Casinelli ’84 and Christina Casinelli ’11 at Homecoming.
CONGRATULATIONS

1. Kara Cornelius ’07 and Eric Burdon were wed on May 22, 2015, in White Hall, MD.

2. Katy Delagi ’08 married Brian Fairbrother on July 17, 2015, in Middletown, CT.

3. Brianna LaBrecque ’03 and Scott Barnes ’04 were married on May 16, 2015, in Mystic, CT.

4. Alan Dewey ’96 wed Laurie Tolliver on Sept. 14, 2014, in Brooklyn, CT.

5. Sarah Theresa Grady ’07 married Christian Lee Jorgenson on Sept. 6, 2015, in Baltimore.

6. Marissa Osterman ’07, DPT ’10, married Daniel Tedeschi on June 5, 2015, in Newport, RI. Friends from the Class of 2007 pose with the bride, including, from left: Kim Evans, Danielle (Rodriguez) Bloom, Kristin (Magnani) Johnson, Sarah Gilbert, Kara (Cornelius) Burdon, Calli Van Dam, Sammi (Allendorfer) Wulderk and Angela (Citino) Egan.

7. Bridget Ann Grant ’06 and Scott Shillet ’06 were married on Aug. 31, 2014, in New York.

8. Alison Martin ’09 and Benjamin Van Rijn were married on May 2, 2015, in Boston.
BEGINNINGS

1. Troy Joseph Turczak, son of Andrew Turczak ’07, MHS ’09 and Dana (Owen) Turczak ’07, was born on August 5, 2015.

2. Luna Marie Amoruso, snuggling with her daddy, Brendan Amoruso ’10. Luna was born Jan. 4, 2014.

3. Claire Jane Bencivenga, daughter of Mario Bencivenga ’09, MOT ’11, recently traveled from Japan to visit Quinnipiac for the first time.

4. Colette Sophia Will, daughter of Amy (Dziobek) Will ’04 and her husband, Scott, was born on June 25, 2015.

5. Joseph Adam Baglio was born on March 4, 2015, to Joe Baglio ’02, MBA ’03, and his wife, Andrea.

6. Luca Michael Baglio, son of Michael Baglio ’02, MBA ’03, and his wife, Marisa, was born on June 15, 2015. Joseph and Luca are cousins and their fathers are twins.

7. Benjamin Alexander Potokin was born on July 11, 2014, to Jonathan Potokin ’01, MS/MBA ’05, and Jennifer (Maddaloni) Potokin ’05.

8. Leif Alexander Louis Sauvé, son of Ashley (Adams) Sauvé ’10 and her husband, Douglas, was born on June 1, 2015.

ALL IN THE FAMILY
In the spring of 1977, I showed my mother the former factory building, just below Hartford, that housed the Wethersfield School of Law and told her I would be teaching there in the fall. After an awkward silence, she replied, “Well, if that’s what you want to do with the rest of your life, dear . . . ”

Thirty-five graduating classes later, it looks as if I’ve done precisely that, although the school is no longer called Wethersfield and its magnificent North Haven home, like its previous Hamden one, is a far cry from that dingy factory building. The odyssey has not been nearly as grim as Mother foretold.

That Quinnipiac’s School of Law has reached these heights is nigh-miraculous, for the fledgling institution faced daunting obstacles when it re-opened as the University of Bridgeport School of Law the following September. A predatory university president imposed restrictions on law school spending that would have jeopardized our quest for American Bar Association accreditation. When we arrived to meet our first classes, we found our building surrounded by pickets. The picketers consisted of striking undergraduate faculty, whose objectives included forcing us to join their union so that they, and we, would be paid the same salaries. This, too, would have jeopardized our accreditation prospects.

We overcame both hurdles. Our founding dean, Anthony Santoro, had a way of dealing with predatory presidents. He would invite his pals on the ABA accreditation committee to campus; once arrived, they would threaten to withhold accreditation unless the restrictions were lifted, and the terrified president would immediately knuckle under. I don’t think the poor man ever caught the winks that passed between Tony and the accreditors, or realized that the latter were acting as his proxies.

As for the picket line, we simply ignored it; raised as I was by pro-union parents, it was the only time I’ve ever crossed one. The law of self-preservation, however, trumped child- hood training: There was truly no other option if the law school were to survive. The union sued to compel us to join it, but before matters came to a head, the strike was settled (or broken) and the suit abandoned.

There was another potential barrier to accreditation: Our students’ stats, to put it mildly, were unimpressive, which was scarcely surprising inasmuch as they and we were taking a gamble on one another. But even then we had super-stars. I recently spoke with one of those: Joe Denham, JD ’81, who today is both a lawyer and a physician affiliated with Philadelphia’s prestigious Children’s Hospital, and is running as a Democrat for the U.S. House of Representatives. There were others who likewise distinguished themselves as students and practitioners. If I do not name them, it is because I fear doing injustice to any whom I inadvertently omit.

Not everyone in the legal profession was supportive of our venture or shared our confidence in its future. When I told the dean of a neighboring law school like ours—relatively new—that we would one day surpass it, he laughed loudly in my face. Today we are nationally ranked, while his school remains mired in the fourth tier.

Coincidentally—or perhaps not—we emerged from that tier the very year that I retired from the full-time faculty and assumed emeritus and adjunct status. Once I pack it in altogether, quod non ascendamus: to what heights may we not arise?
When Margaret “Peg” (Hindinger) Boutwell ’44 met Nina Brandi, the first recipient of the Margaret and Harvey Boutwell Family Endowed Scholarship, she learned what an impact her gift could have. Brandi, a senior health sciences major with a minor in global public health, has traveled to Haiti, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. She has led several groups of QU students and alumni on trips to Haiti, where they survey local populations and conduct health education sessions. “Not only does the Boutwell Scholarship help me, but it allows me to introduce other students to public health issues so we can affect the lives of entire communities of people.”

To learn how you can endow a scholarship, become a member of the President’s Council and help Quinnipiac students change the world, call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 877-582-1929 or visit www.quinnipiac.edu/endowments.
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