PRIMARY ROLES

Students get out the vote in New Hampshire

PLUS

HOCKEY SEASON
A LOT TO ‘LIKE’ CRUSHING IT!
THAT’S THE SPIRIT!

Men’s ice hockey fans were rewarded with a Frozen Four semifinal victory on April 7 when the Bobcats defeated the Boston College Eagles 3-2. Students and faculty attended a watch party in the TD Bank Sports Center that night and again for the championship game April 9, enjoying pizza and the action on the Jumbotron. See related story on page 8.

PHOTO BY KRISTEN HINES BAKER
Primary Roles
Twenty students traveled to Manchester, New Hampshire, to stump for their chosen candidates and found themselves in the midst of the action, rubbing elbows with media and politicians and getting the experience of a lifetime.

Crushing It!
From northern California to Hungary, three alumni and trustee couples are selecting and planting grapes and finding success in the wine business.

Street Talk
Don Sawyer, assistant professor of sociology, is using rap as an educational tool to reach at-risk New Haven high school students who, in turn, have performed in Sawyer’s Sociology of Hip-Hop class.
Children with Disabilities Conquer Ski Slopes
Students, faculty assist skiers with adaptive equipment

Ian Coyne is an avid skier with cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder that affects body movement and muscle coordination. He loves to go fast, and he loves the freedom it gives him.

The Middletown, Connecticut, high school senior has been a regular at Mount Southington Ski Area, thanks in part to 25 Quinnipiac students, faculty members and alumni who participate in the annual Connecticut Children’s Medical Center’s Skiers Unlimited program. They volunteer to teach children with disabilities to ski. The University group has worked with more than 20 children this season using adaptive equipment, such as snow sliders, outriggers and tethers, to help the children control balance, turns and speed.

“It is great for our students to see the kids in a holistic manner and just having fun like other kids,” said Martha Sanders, associate professor of occupational therapy. “It’s really one of the goals of therapy that we rarely get to see.”

Senior Sarah Zimmerman observed that community service goes hand-in-hand with being an occupational therapy major.

Quinnipiac became involved with the program two decades ago when Richard Albro, now associate professor of physical therapy emeritus, discovered the ski program while on sabbatical.

“With a lot of the kids, you can see the confidence building,” said Steve Balcanoff, manager of non-clinical community programs at the medical center.

“The parents will tell you it’s making an impact at school and in the home. Frequently, the parents are inspired to learn how to ski when they are out here. It can have a lasting effect on families.”

Nicole Napolitano, a senior health science studies major, recently helped Coyne ski with the use of a slider, which has four skis for additional support.

“Skiing alongside the kids and observing their happiness through their smiles and cheer is something I would not trade for the world,” Napolitano said.

Mark Perkins, 11, of Southington, has not let a mental disability mar his love of skiing. He’s been involved with Skiers Unlimited for five years.

“He’s gained confidence, and his core body strength has increased,” said Perkins’ mother, Gail.

“The Quinnipiac kids are awesome. They’re so patient. They come back year after year,” she said.
Doses of Compassion Dispensed

Kevin Kuo grew up in a family with limited access to health care. “During my upbringing, basic medical services were considered unaffordable luxuries,” said Kuo, a third-year medical student. His experience inspired him to pursue a career in medicine. It’s also the reason he spearheaded the creation of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine’s Bobcat Community Health Clinic.

The monthly student-run clinic began in February. It is held at the Weisman AmeriCares Free Clinic in Bridgeport, Connecticut’s largest city. The clinic provides underserved individuals with screenings for diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and BMI, as well as general medical consults from a licensed physician on their overall health status. Kuo serves as executive director of the clinic.

“The main goals are to improve access to care and prevent the long-term manifestations of chronic diseases that flood our emergency rooms and hospital floors,” Kuo said.

Currently, 14 students are on the executive board and more than 70 medical students volunteer at the clinic under the supervision of faculty. They hope to include students from other disciplines at Quinnipiac who could benefit from the experience.

“We hope students who volunteer here will carry with them lessons of service, humanism and compassion for the poor throughout their professional careers and beyond,” he said.

EMOTIONAL LEARNING VALUED

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal helped unveil student murals celebrating Connecticut Social and Emotional Learning Week at a program hosted by the School of Education in February. Scarlett Lewis, founder of the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, also spoke. Her son, Jesse, was killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook shootings.

The murals were created by local schoolchildren. In March, the National Association for Professional Development Schools recognized the partnership among Side By Side Charter School, Fair Haven Elementary School and the School of Education with the Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement Award.

Anne Dichele, professor of education, noted that great teachers need great mentors. “These partnerships between high-quality, urban public schools and the School of Education provide an opportunity to promote our commitment to improving public education,” she said.

AWARD WILL HONOR CHARLIE ROSE

Charlie Rose, co-anchor of “CBS This Morning” and anchor and executive editor of “Charlie Rose” on PBS, will receive the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award from the School of Communications in June at a luncheon in New York City.

The award is given annually to a broadcast journalist who has shown courage and forthrightness in preserving the rights set forth in the First Amendment.

Rose is also editor of the newly launched Friday evening program, “Charlie Rose: The Week,” which chronicles the best stories and interviews of the past seven days. Since 1991, Rose has aired countless hours with individuals from the worlds of science, politics, art, business, sports, technology, literature and entertainment.

HOMEGROWN REHAB PROFESSIONALS

It’s been six years since a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti, killing more than 220,000 and injuring 300,000. Physical and occupational therapists could help with rehabilitation, but these professionals are uncommon in the country.

Julie Booth, a clinical assistant professor of physical therapy, and her students are working to change that.

Booth is part of a team creating bachelor’s degree programs in both PT and OT at the Episcopal University of Haiti in Léogâne. The first eight students enrolled in the fall.

Third-year doctor of physical therapy students Courtney Armstrong and Deanna Gebele conducted research for the program’s curriculum as their capstone project. Second-year DPT students Lauren Szmak and Marie Frey will continue the work.

The graduates must have a good foundation in first-aid and wound care and be able to know when a patient’s issues are beyond their skills, Booth said, adding that in rural areas, they truly could be the primary health care workers.

“To be a part of a program that is giving opportunities to these students so they can go into their communities and help—that’s exciting,” Armstrong said.
Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University recently added a new oil painting to its permanent collection: “Rainbow’s End” (1970) by William Crozier. Crozier (1930–2011) was born in Glasgow, but considered himself as much Irish as Scottish. In his paintings, he tried to convey a “sense of austerity and isolation, of emotional unease and perhaps a sense of tragedy.” “Rainbow’s End” is part of his skeleton series, which focuses on issues at the center of the Famine: pain and distress, survival and endurance, anxiety and alienation. Several works in that series include a rainbow, a signifier of hope. The acquisition was funded by gifts from generous donors. Visit ighm.org for museum hours.

Quinnipiac, along with Irish historian Christine Kinealy and graphic novelist John Walsh, recently released “The Bad Times” (An Drochshaol in Irish), a graphic novel set during the Great Hunger in Ireland. The book tells the story of Brigit, Daniel and Liam, three teens from the west of Ireland who live through the horrors of the Famine, experiencing love and friendship amidst great loss. The first graphic novel to be produced on the topic of the Great Hunger, “The Bad Times” is aimed at young readers, but can be appreciated by people of all ages.

Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute is hosting an exhibit, “The Seed of the People: 1916 Remembered,” through Sept. 30 in the Lender Family Special Collection Room, Arnold Bernhard Library, Mount Carmel Campus, during regular library hours. The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland, a rebellion that led to Ireland’s independence. The exhibit is free and open to the public.
The Black Law Students Association presented Freedom Rider Lula White with the 28th annual Thurgood Marshall Award in February. Stacy Renae Lynch, JD ’02, received the Community Service Award.

White, a former New Haven school teacher, became an activist in the Civil Rights Movement after reading about the Supreme Court’s decision in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. During her senior year in college, she served as president of the University of Chicago campus chapter of the NAACP and participated in the Youth March for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., in 1959. She joined the Freedom Rides Movement in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1961, was arrested, and spent two months in jail. She has continued to advocate for civil rights and justice.

Lynch is assistant commissioner of external relations at the Department of Youth and Community Development in New York City. She manages the agency’s relationships with community stakeholders, such as the New York City Council, state elected officials and community-based organizations. After law school, she worked closely with world-renowned entertainment attorney Paul G. Marshall, serving such clients as Beyoncé Knowles, Sony Records and Mary J. Blige.

A variety of speakers will address 2016 graduates, from Connecticut Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes to Dr. Jennifer Ashton, senior medical contributor for ABC News’ “Good Morning America.” All of the ceremonies will take place in the TD Bank Sports Center, York Hill Campus.

Hayes will speak at the first of two graduate ceremonies at 9 a.m. on May 14 for students in the Schools of Business, Communications and Education. At 1 p.m., graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and Schools of Health Sciences and Nursing will hear remarks from Stephen McPherson, CEO of Masonicare. On May 15, School of Law graduates will listen to Mary Bonauto, civil rights project director at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders in Boston.

Five undergraduate ceremonies will take place the following weekend. On May 21, Dr. Sharrona Williams ’95, an Atlanta orthopedic surgeon, will address graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences at 9 a.m. Peter Fasolo, vice president, global human resources at Johnson & Johnson, will do the honors at 1 p.m. for grads from the Schools of Business and Engineering. Ashton will follow at 5 p.m., addressing graduates of the School of Health Sciences.

The following day, School of Communications graduates will hear from Tom Foreman, CNN correspondent, at 9 a.m., followed by Amy Berman from the Hartford Foundation, who will address nursing grads at 1 p.m. Adrian Flannelly, chairman & CEO, Irish Radio Network USA, will receive an honorary degree at the morning ceremony.

Inclusivity Crucial

Colleges need to be doing more to increase diversity and create a more inclusive environment, said Marc Lamont Hill, host of BET News, a CNN political contributor and a leading intellectual on issues of social justice. He delivered Quinnipiac’s Black History Month lecture on promoting diversity in education. “Black lives matter on college campuses as well,” he said of the movement that started with controversial police shootings. “It’s not just an argument for not killing us, it’s an argument for investing in us.” Hill also spent time in the afternoon speaking with a small group of students.

The award-winning journalist and author is a distinguished professor of African-American studies at Morehouse College.
Physical Therapist Pauses Career for Peace Corps Stint in Cambodia

Physical therapist Andrew Simmonds ’85 quit his clinical job in New York last summer to join the Peace Corps at the age of 54. “Send me where I’m needed,” he told the agency. Since last summer, he’s worked at a maternity and general health care clinic in rural Cambodia, where he lives with a local family. He feels the required two-year stint will allow him to make a greater impact than the volunteer trips he’s taken in the past. By Janet Waldman

Q What sparked your interest in international humanitarian travel?

A When I was at Quinnipiac, I took a school-sponsored trip to Belize with [the late] biology professor Ken McGear, and we helped with a health survey in a rural setting. I really enjoyed the experience. After an earthquake struck Haiti five years ago, I went there to train local staff in rehab techniques, and I returned six months later to help with the many spinal cord injuries.

Q Where else have you volunteered, and how do you manage it?

A I bundle my vacation, which usually amounts to 5-6 weeks a year. I’ve been to South Sudan three times in four years. It’s one of the poorest countries in the world. I am an amateur photographer and went there to take photos to promote a maternity clinic fundraiser. After my first trip, I said never again.

Q Why never again?

A The country was very unstable after the protracted civil war. I didn’t want to get caught up in the crossfire and potentially be kidnapped. The stress level is high; while there, I lost 15 pounds. But I did go back—twice in three years. I did photo and video work to help them build a maternity clinic fundraiser. After my first trip, I said never again.

Q What is it about the Peace Corps that drew you?

A Two things. I really enjoy being put in an environment with significant challenges that can be addressed. It’s rewarding to be a problem solver and find a solution that may not be the ideal one, but will make things better. I have a saying: Sometimes good has to be good enough.

Q And the other reason?

A The U.S. has provided me a nice home and allowed me to raise my son and educate him well, and now it’s time for me to give back. I missed being able to serve in the Vietnam War and am now too old for the Army or Navy, but the Peace Corps welcomed me. My son graduates from Stonehill College in May, and I will fly back for his graduation, then return to Cambodia.

Q What do you do at the clinic?

A I mainly do blood pressure and blood glucose monitoring. I developed a program to bring a higher awareness to clinic staff and patients about the importance of hand hygiene using alcohol and water. And, after seeing open boxes of needles and other items inappropriately stored under benches in a public waiting area where children play, I developed a system for safe medical waste disposal and storage. I have made educational videos of nurses and others demonstrating proper techniques for hand washing, breastfeeding and condom use. You can type my name into YouTube and find them.

Q What is the best and worst part of being there?

A The people are very kind and generous with what little they have and are very happy I’m here. The worst part is being away from loved ones and friends and being totally on my own.

Q Have you had a chance to practice physical therapy?

A PT is not widely known where I am, but the clinic’s physician recognizes the need and gives me referrals. I am working with a 45-year-old man who suffered a stroke six months ago. Without any intervention, he would have had no function in his right upper arm. With rehab, this patient has developed some function and is able to walk some distances. I am now working with a patient who sustained an injury to a facial nerve after crashing his motorcycle when he hit one of the many dogs that live here.

Q Describe a typical day.

A I work three hours at the clinic, then go out to visit people at their homes for PT, or go to one of the local schools and help teach English. I study Khmer (pronounced kim-my) an hour a day. The Peace Corps asks for a two-year commitment. The first year, learning the language is the emphasis, and helping out where I can. The second year, I will do more significant work once I am assimilated into the community.

Q What is life like in your village?

A It’s an agricultural community. Rice is king, but mangoes, bananas and pineapples also are grown. It’s northeast of Phnom Penh, the capital, about four hours by land. Gender roles here are very defined. I compare it to the U.S. circa 1910-30, and it’s changing slowly. It’s hot here most of the time. Ice blocks are the only way to keep food cool. When it rains, it floods. For a shower, I use a bucket. There is no hot water. I’m in one of the better homes and sleep on an inch-thick mat on a wooden platform under a mosquito net.

Q What is the worst part of being there?

A The people are very kind and generous with what little they have and are very happy I’m here. The worst part is being away from loved ones and friends and being totally on my own.
Historic season gives men’s ice hockey fans
A Lot to ‘Like’

By John Pettit

and Pecknold is more concerned with face-offs than Facebook, but even the head men’s ice hockey coach was thunderstruck by the Bobcats’ buzz heading into the National Championship game on April 9.

“[Sports information director] Ken Sweeten told me we were trending No. 1 on Facebook, and I was like, ‘What do you mean, in Connecticut?’” Pecknold said. “He said, ‘No, in the world. Donald Trump is No. 2. We’re No. 1.’

“That puts in perspective what this program and what these kids have done, not just for hockey, but for Quinnipiac University and for me, personally,” Pecknold reflected.

While top-seeded Quinnipiac’s historic season concluded with a 5-1 loss to North Dakota, fans had plenty of reasons to hit the Facebook like button during the winter. The Bobcats not only appeared in their second NCAA final in four years, but they captured ECAC Hockey regular-season and conference tournament championships for the first time en route to the Frozen Four in Tampa, Florida.

“The team has brought great distinction to Quinnipiac, including elevating the University into the national spotlight and making college hockey a sport for which the entire school is cheering,” President John L. Lahey said.

“Our Bobcat pride is strong and evident, not just on our three campuses, but throughout the nation. These are historic accomplishments, and our coaches and student athletes should take great pride in their efforts.”

The 2015-16 season marked Quinnipiac’s fifth appearance in the NCAA Tournament, including its fourth straight after advancing to the national championship game in 2013. The Bobcats beat perennial powerhouse Boston College, 3-2, in the Frozen Four semifinals on April 7. It was the first-ever meeting between the two programs.

In the national final, Quinnipiac trailed North Dakota 2-1 entering the third period. The Fighting Hawks scored three unanswered goals to earn their eighth NCAA title.

“They have 12 draft picks and four All-Americans,” Pecknold said. “They are the most talented team in the country, and they compete. It’s a really good formula for success. I think what North Dakota showed is that they were the better team. It doesn’t mean we couldn’t beat them, but that’s the best team in college hockey. Can we beat them? Absolutely. We hit a couple of bars, had a couple of great chances.”

Pecknold, the architect behind Quinnipiac hockey’s rise from Division III afterthought to DI juggernaut, has certainly raised the bar at Quinnipiac. The Bobcats finished a program record 32-4-7 overall, with the four losses representing the fewest by a Division I hockey team in 19 years (Michigan, 1997).

For his efforts, Pecknold garnered STX/AHCA Men’s Division I, ECAC Hockey and College Hockey News coach of the year honors.

Pecknold’s passion and energy are matched only by his meticulousness – right down to the personalized skate mats the players found in front of their lockers at Amalie Arena in Florida. The mats were emblazoned with each players’ uniform number and the phrase, “Attack the Day.”

“The past four years have been the best years of my life,” senior forward Travis St. Denis said. “I credit the coaching staff and all the past and present players. They created a culture, and it’s our job to maintain it. The culture in our dressing room is just unbelievable.”

Part of that culture included bringing in renowned sports psychologist Wayne Halliwell, a kinesiology professor at the University of Montreal who has worked with numerous amateur, Olympic and professional athletes.
Bobcats goalie Michael Garteig makes a save in the championship game against North Dakota.
and teams, including the Quebec Nordiques, New York Islanders, Vancouver Canucks and Montreal Canadiens.

“It shows that Rand is really paying attention to detail,” Halliwell said.

It also shows that Pecknold trusts his assistants. It was associate head coach Bill Riga who suggested consulting with Halliwell. “I think he’s a big reason for our success,” Pecknold said of Halliwell. “He gave us some really good ideas about the reset button, being resilient and how to handle adversity.”

Halliwell said he met with the coaching staff and some of the players at the beginning of the season to discuss the mental aspects of the game and maintained contact with the team through telephone calls, texts and Skype. He stressed the importance of focus, visualization, staying in the moment and enjoying the moment.

“You want to do well, score goals, get ice time and win the game,” Halliwell advised the players. “It’s all about the process. Even if you make a bad play on the ice, you want to get back to the moment. Go back to the bench, take a deep breath, tap your stick on the boards, regroup and refocus.”

Halliwell praised the Quinnipiac hockey coaches and players for their class, commitment and attentiveness. “It was a privilege to be able to have some influence and maybe a little impact on what they accomplished this season,” he said.

Senior captain Soren Jonsson said players learn about Quinnipiac’s tradition of excellence the first time they step on campus. Over the last four seasons, the Bobcats have had 108 wins, four NCAA Tournament berths, two NCAA Regional championships, two trips to the Frozen Four, two NCAA Finals appearances, three ECAC regular season championships and one ECAC Tournament title.

“When we came in, the seniors were fantastic and they really started the culture and showed us the ropes,” Jonsson said. “Then it became our role to pass that culture on. You see the way that we play and the way that the guys battled and competed for each other. That is a special thing, and we’re so proud of it.”

Jonsson, St. Denis, defensemen Alex Min-

er-Brown and Tom Hillbrich, and goalies Michael Garteig and Jacob Meyers will be difficult to replace.

“It really is a special group,” Pecknold said. “They battle. We’re resilient, and some of the stuff we went through was awesome; just awesome. It was a disappointing end, but it’s not going to take away from the year we had. What we’ve accomplished this season and all four years is truly remarkable for a small school like ourselves.”

In mid-April, Sam Anas signed with the NHL’s Minnesota Wild and Devon Toews signed with the New York Islanders. Both young men, who will leave with bachelor’s degrees, were named to the 2015-16 New England Hockey Writers Division I All-Star Team. A forward and assistant captain, Anas also earned a spot on the AHCA/CCM Hockey Men’s Division I All-America First Team. He led the team in goals (24) and points (50) in his third season with the Bobcats.

Despite the departures, if recent history is any indication, there is reason to believe Quinnipiac will continue trending upward.

Having some pregame fun in Tampa.

Head Coach Rand Pecknold illustrates the next play.
Courting Success

New athletic director sets sights on national championships

By John Pettit

Greg Amodio’s first job in college athletics did not pay well. In fact, it did not pay at all.

Amodio had just moved to Cincinnati with his wife, Kerry, and newborn son, Jake. A friend of a friend had a contact in the Xavier University athletic department.

“Give me some really substantial projects, and I’ll work for free for six months to show you what I can do,” Amodio said in his interview.

Six months later, he was named to the newly created position of assistant director for marketing. He worked in athletic administration at Xavier for seven years and as athletic director at Duquesne University for a decade before being appointed director of athletics and recreation at Quinnipiac last July.

For Amodio, the job is all about winning championships. “Not just MAAC championships— we’re trying to win national championships. That, for an athletic director, is exciting,” he said.

The Amodio era is off to a fast start. The men’s and women’s ice hockey and women’s basketball teams have had a tremendous winter, while the women’s rugby team won a national championship last fall. In addition, the women’s cross-country and field hockey teams captured MAAC titles, with field hockey set to join the Big East Conference in 2016.

“Greg values relationships and has quickly built meaningful connections throughout the University,” said head women’s ice hockey coach Cassandra Turner. “He consistently expresses an exciting vision for the future. I’m confident Greg will not only preserve all that is great about our department, but, with an ambitious mindset, lead the charge in taking Quinnipiac athletics to a new level.”

Tom Moore, head men’s basketball coach, said Amodio brings new and exciting ideas to the athletics program. “His experience in the Atlantic 10 Conference, which has such a rich history in the sport of basketball, has prepared him well to help us as we continue our transition here to the MAAC.”

At Duquesne, Amodio hired new men’s and women’s basketball coaches, negotiated to have some men’s basketball games played at CONSOL Energy Center in Pittsburgh, and co-directed the $6 million renovation of Rooney Field, the on-campus home of the Duquesne football, soccer and lacrosse programs.

That experience will be invaluable as Quinnipiac builds two new turf fields to be used by the Bobcats’ field hockey, lacrosse and soccer teams. The fields will include public seating areas, new locker rooms, coaches’ meeting rooms, officials’ locker rooms, enhanced storage, public restrooms and gathering spaces.

“We want to make sure we are doing everything possible to win championships,” Amodio said. “In many ways, athletics is the front porch to the University and a rallying point. When you are playing at a high level like we are in many of our programs, it provides a national branding platform.”

ICE HOCKEY SUITE RENAMED FOR ALUMNUS

The men’s ice hockey suite at the TD Bank Sports Center has been renamed in memory of TJ Baudanza ’06, who died last October after a four-year battle with cancer. TJ’s father, Tony, a former QU trustee, and mother, Jackie, named the suite when the sports center opened in 2007 and decided to rename it in their son’s honor. A plaque unveiling took place in February with alumni from TJ’s class present, as well as Rand Pecknold, head men’s ice hockey coach, and Greg Amodio, director of athletics and recreation. In photo, from left, are President John L. Lahey, TJ’s widow, Amanda, and his parents, Jackie and Tony.

FIELD HOCKEY JOINING BIG EAST IN JULY

Quinnipiac field hockey was invited to join the Big East Conference on July 1. Becca Main, head field hockey coach, called it the logical step for the program. Her team won the first MAAC championship in school history in 2013. Big East field hockey currently consists of six programs: Georgetown, Old Dominion, Providence, Temple, UConn and Villanova. The league’s membership voted unanimously to add Quinnipiac and Liberty University for the coming season.

WOMEN PLAY IN NIT

The women’s basketball team whisked a 13-point second-half deficit to four, but couldn’t get closer as Iona pulled away to capture a 57-41 win over the Bobcats in March during the 2016 MAAC Tournament championship game in Albany, New York. The loss snapped the Bobcats 19-game winning streak, the fifth-longest in the nation. Quinnipiac, which came in to the tournament as the defending MAAC Champions, did earn the MAAC’s regular season title with a 17-3 conference record. The team went on to play Maine in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament, beating them 90-44 before ending a stellar season by falling to Temple 64-62 in the second round.
n 1976, the Supreme Court gave Karen Ann Quinlan’s parents the right to disconnect their 21-year-old daughter from a respirator. Years later, the high court extended that right to the Cruzan family, allowing them to withdraw the feeding tube sustaining their hopelessly comatose daughter, Nancy.

And in 2014, Brittany Maynard, 29, moved to Oregon, where the law allowed her to do what her home state of California would not: end her life with dignity before a devastating brain tumor robbed her of that chance.

The tragic deaths of these young women mark the 40-year path the country has taken as physicians and legislators grapple with changing attitudes about the right to die with dignity. A symposium on the subject, sponsored by the Quinnipiac University Law Review and the Health Law Journal, illuminated how much has changed during this time and how many issues remain unresolved.

At the center of the day’s presentations was a panel discussion about Connecticut’s recent attempt to pass HB 7015, An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients. On one side were State Rep. Stephen Harding and Nicole Stacey, a researcher with the Family Institute of Connecticut. They feared that the legislation might lead to unintended consequences—elderly patients feeling pressured to end their lives, disabled patients being deprived of life-sustaining actions or profit-making insurance companies intruding on end-of-life decision making. Favoring the bill were Tim Appleton, campaign manager of Compassion and Choices, and State Rep. Kelly Luxenberg, both of whom offered first-hand accounts of suffering they believe could have been avoided if the legislation had been enacted.

For now, the discussion is moot. Last year, Connecticut’s Senate Judiciary Committee decided for the third time in as many years not to vote on HB 7015. While six other states have done the same, four have enacted right-to-die legislation; at least two dozen states and the District of Columbia are currently considering legislative action.
People are passionate on both sides of the issue, and the courts have a history of being cautious, said Robert C. Messey, MD, JD ’94. As he points out to Quinnipiac law students in the class he teaches on medicine and the law, “The courts generally tend to err on the side of life—that way, you can always change your mind later. If you go the other way, you can’t go back.”

The one area where the courts have now reached a clear consensus, said Alan Meisel of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, is when patients are no longer able to decide for themselves. During the symposium, Meisel explained that the courts have determined both who decides (family members) and what standards they should use to make their decisions (what the patient would want).

Equally clear is the line that separates what is prohibited (actively hastening death) from what is allowed (passively allowing it). Left vague is how families are supposed to discern the wishes of their loved ones in the absence of an advanced directive that accurately reflects the often messy realities at the end of life.

Messey remarked that the clarity of the law can be muddied by disputes among family members. When these disagreements become intractable, ethics committees try to use mediation techniques to help reach decisions everyone can agree to, according to Ellen Noah of the Western New England School of Law. Yet many doctors are not trained to have these discussions and avoid them for both emotional and legal reasons. All too often, instead of compassionate honesty, said Noah, physicians offer patients unrealistic optimism (63 percent of the time, according to one study) and even outright deception (in another study, one in 10 physicians admitted to purposeful deception).

Noah said this inability to discuss end-of-life care frequently leads to unnecessary tests and futile treatments that prolong suffering, drain family bank accounts and divert precious medical resources. The scale of the problem is staggering: Thirty percent of Medicare expenses, for instance, go to pay for 5 percent of patients who die each year.

But progress is being made. Six years ago, there was a national outcry against so-called “death panels” when it was suggested that Medicare compensate doctors for discussing end-of-life care with patients. Now in 2016, Medicare does just that. It’s too soon to know how this shift in policy will affect care, but Waldman sees it as part of a cultural change, adding, “On a practical level, when I talk to physicians, they say what gets done is what gets compensated. So I think it will shift physician behavior.”

How prepared doctors will be to have meaningful conversations remains a concern. According to Dr. Bruce M. Koeppen, dean of Quinnipiac’s School of Medicine, “The topic is addressed in the curricula of most medical schools.” But he adds, “Such conversations are more appropriately taught, reinforced and experienced at the residency-training level.” It’s only then that young doctors, mentored by supervisors, actually begin to care for patients facing the end of their lives.

People often find meaning in suffering, but there comes a point when suffering becomes meaningless. We should let the patient make the call.”

—Dr. Lynette Cederquist

People are able to decide for themselves that everyone can agree to, according to Ellen Messey of the University of California-San Diego Health System shared moving videos of people who chose death with dignity as she argued that patients who can decide should be given the right to have a doctor help them end their suffering.

“Aid in dying should always be a last resort,” Cederquist said, “but it should absolutely be available.” People often find meaning in suffering, she noted, but added, “There comes a point when suffering becomes meaningless. We should let the patient make the call.”

Before they make such life-and-death decisions, however, patients want to discuss their options with their physicians, said Barbara Noah of the Western New England School of Law. Yet many doctors are not trained to have these discussions and avoid them for both emotional and legal reasons. All too often, instead of compassionate honesty, said Noah, physicians offer patients unrealistic optimism (63 percent of the time, according to one study) and even outright deception (in another study, one in 10 physicians admitted to purposeful deception).

Noah said this inability to discuss end-of-life care frequently leads to unnecessary tests and futile treatments that prolong suffering, drain family bank accounts and divert precious medical resources. The scale of the problem is staggering: Thirty percent of Medicare expenses, for instance, go to pay for 5 percent of patients who die each year.

But progress is being made. Six years ago, there was a national outcry against so-called “death panels” when it was suggested that Medicare compensate doctors for discussing end-of-life care with patients. Now in 2016, Medicare does just that. It’s too soon to know how this shift in policy will affect care, but Waldman sees it as part of a cultural change, adding, “On a practical level, when I talk to physicians, they say what gets done is what gets compensated. So I think it will shift physician behavior.”

How prepared doctors will be to have meaningful conversations remains a concern. According to Dr. Bruce M. Koeppen, dean of Quinnipiac’s School of Medicine, “The topic is addressed in the curricula of most medical schools.” But he adds, “Such conversations are more appropriately taught, reinforced and experienced at the residency-training level.” It’s only then that young doctors, mentored by supervisors, actually begin to care for patients facing the end of their lives.

LEGAL EAGLES
Four members of the School of Law’s Mock Trial Society won the ABA’s Criminal Justice Advocacy Competition last fall. The third-year students competed against teams from Barry University, Boston University, Fordham University, Golden Gate University, New England School of Law, St. John’s University and the University of Illinois using a fact pattern created by student Zachary Dunn.

Quinnipiac’s team consisted of Catherine Blair, Kara Moreau, Sheldon Poole and Caroline Watson. The contest featured two preliminary rounds, with two members from each team representing the prosecution and two others the defense. Blair and Poole competed as the prosecuting attorneys, while Moreau and Watson acted as defense attorneys. The top four teams advanced to the semifinal round, and the top two faced off in the final round, where Quinnipiac defeated New England School of Law. Quinnipiac was undefeated for the entire competition. The team has taken the top prize three of the last four years. Poole received an award for Best Cross Examination, besting 32 competitors.

U.S. ATTORNEYS PAIR FOR PROGRAM
Two U.S. attorneys—Paul J. Fishman of New Jersey and Deirdre M. Daly of Connecticut—discussed justice, mercy and discretion and meted out advice during a program at the law school in February titled “Wearing the White Hat: A Conversation About Criminal Justice Past, Present and Future.” Fishman, who prosecuted the 2013 so-called Bridgegate scandal in New Jersey, told students in attendance to concentrate on their writing and thinking skills. He urged them to work on forming their “professional judgment” by observing lawyers and judges in action, figuring out why they do things a certain way, and exploring the motivations for conduct they observe.
Issues that play out on the world stage can seem far removed from Quinnipiac, but 50 students had front-row seats to an international dialogue about the roles they could play in promoting world peace.

The students, along with nine faculty members and several alumni, attended the 15th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Barcelona, Spain, in November. The University’s Albert Schweitzer Institute coordinated the trip.

This was the third such summit for Danielle Tomlinson, a junior majoring in political science. “It forces you out of the bubble that is QU,” she noted. “We had the opportunity to interact with individuals from five continents to discuss such issues as the Syrian refugee crisis, human rights, nuclear disarmament and poverty.”

One of Tomlinson’s favorite parts is meeting the laureates, among them Betty Williams, who was awarded the Nobel prize in 1976 for co-founding the Northern Ireland Peace Movement (now called the Community of Peace People) along with Mairead Corrigan Maguire.

“Betty is now helping to resettle refugees from the Middle East and Africa,” said David Ives, executive director of the Schweitzer Institute and a 2016 Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

The institute had a major role in facilitating the summit. Ives has attended the summits the past 12 years and has been bringing students with him for six.

Ives describes the laureates as “ordinary people who, in the face of long odds, have persevered and made change for the better.” Tomlinson and her friend, senior Elaine Martinez, describe them as inspiring.

The laureates warned the students to expect “Islamaphobia” after the Nov. 13 mass shooting in Paris carried out by terrorists. The attacks occurred on the Friday of the summit, and were a recurring topic as details continued to emerge that weekend.

One who spoke out was Jody Williams, a 1997 peace prize recipient for her work on the
Students can read about the refugee crisis and human rights violations, but when they are given the chance to listen to people who have endured tragedy and put their lives on the line to effect change—a switch clicks.

— Professor Sean Duffy

International Campaign to Ban Landmines. “Jody emphasized that despite the media rhetoric, we should not brand all Muslims as terrorists,” said Martinez, a senior health sciences major who would like to join the Peace Corps after graduating.

“The speakers urged us to advocate for what we believe in and to take on the refugee crisis,” said Tomlinson, who dreams of a career as an economic analyst.

“Students can read about the refugee crisis and human rights violations, but when they are given the chance to listen to people who have endured tragedy and put their lives on the line to effect change—a switch clicks,” said Sean Duffy, professor of political science. “The abstract becomes very real,” he observed.

The summit reinforces Quinnipiac’s mission of turning out graduates who will be actively engaged in their communities, Duffy said. “International experiences like these can change people and inspire them to figure out how to be active participants in the affairs of the world around them.”

Barcelona’s summit was the sixth for Louis Venturelli ’11, a member of the ASI board who helped recruit students from around the globe. Venturelli noted that the summits provide a rich history of how wars and peace accords have come about as well as the opportunity to think about how the world can improve.

Before the summit, students took in the sights in Barcelona. The summit featured panel discussions by laureates each morning, and the afternoons were dedicated to workshops, many facilitated by QU faculty and alumni.

Duffy and Anat Biletzki, Schweitzer Professor of Philosophy, presented a workshop on instabilities in the Middle East. Duffy also assisted theater professor Crystal Brian in the reading of a play she wrote about war and PTSD. Mary Paddock, associate dean for liberal arts, gave a presentation to the youth delegation on Albert Schweitzer. Pablo Casals, and anti-nuclear activism. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, assistant professor of legal studies, discussed the sustainable development goals passed by the United Nations, and Greg Garvey, professor of game design, talked about games for the common good. Tracy Van Oss, clinical associate professor of occupational therapy, presented a workshop about safe, inclusive and accessible environments based on her volunteer work in Barbados and Guatemala, along with OT alumnus Danielle Quinn ’10 and senior Stephanie Condoluci. Alumna Marianna DiMaggio, DPT ’12, shared information about a physical therapy project she undertook in Guatemala as part of a capstone course.

Students were on the move during January break as well. Fourteen traveled to South Africa after spending the fall semester learning about the country’s culture, politics and history. The University also offered opportunities to travel abroad to work on capstone projects, complete fieldwork or participate in service projects. Nearly 150 students from across disciplines visited the Bahamas, Barbados, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Nicaragua and South Africa.

Once back in the “real world,” talk of changing it for the better can be daunting. “The media has some blame because they portray the world as hyper-criminalized. We come back talking about how inspired we are and how it just takes one person to change the world, and people ask us if we’ve seen today’s headlines,” Martinez said.

“It’s not easy to get people to listen, but it does work at some point because more and more students are attending and figuring out for themselves that peace might be possible and we could build up to it,” she added.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Nursing student Julie Colangelo hoped her spring break trip to Nicaragua would be eye-opening. She was not disappointed.

Colangelo, the recipient of the Martin and Shirley Carangelo Endowed Fund for Global Student Humanitarian & Educational Travel, went to Nicaragua to enhance her perspectives on global health care. She returned with an appreciation for the resources many U.S. health care professionals and patients take for granted, and admiration for Nicaraguan health care providers who make do with what they have.

Bob Carangelo ’79 and Liz Natale ’79 established the fund in memory of his parents, who didn’t travel much but loved hearing about the adventures of family and friends. “Liz and I have traveled a lot and thought it would be great to let others experience what we have,” Bob said. Liz added that her mother-in-law had a generous spirit and was known for helping people and animals. “So it’s nice to help somebody who wants to be useful and make a contribution in another part of the world.” Colangelo traveled with a group of 10 nursing students and three professors from the disciplines of nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy. The group visited the homes of children with brain injuries and cerebral palsy who were evaluated by a similar QU contingent during January break. “We took vital signs, made assessments, and educated families on such issues as proper oral care,” she said, explaining that mouth fungus is common in cerebral palsy patients. Caloric intake and proper nutrition is also a concern.

“I like how we reinforce the work done by our PT and OT students by making sure patients continue to do their exercises and wear their splints for proper joint development. We make a greater impact when we work together,” she said.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in biology at Fairfield University, Colangelo worked as a fifth-grade teacher in the Americorps program in New Haven before deciding to pursue a second bachelor’s in nursing via the accelerated program Quinnipiac offers. She will graduate in August.
Opportunity knocks for 20 students getting out the vote in New Hampshire

By Kevin Sirois • Photography by John Tully
New Hampshire transforms into a battleground every four years, where Republican and Democratic presidential hopefuls fight it out to determine their political future. Those who do poorly there often don’t survive, while those who do well pave a much clearer path to the Oval Office.

In the week leading up to the first-in-the-nation presidential primary, national and local media swarm the streets of Manchester, setting up shop in diners, bars, school gymnasiums, banquet halls and sports arenas to capture every moment and sound bite. In between speeches, politicians shake hands and hug supporters while campaign staffers knock on thousands of doors and make countless phone calls urging locals to cast their ballot come Tuesday. For these few days, the political passion in the town of just over 110,000 is palpable.

Twenty Quinnipiac students were in the midst of the action, stumping for their favorite candidates, rubbing elbows with media personalities and politicians, and in return, getting the experience of a lifetime.

Political science professor Scott McLean has been taking his students to the Manchester primary since the 2000 presidential cycle, when Sen. John McCain and Vice President Al Gore came out on top.

“Every hour of experience in New Hampshire and serving in a presidential campaign is a significant learning opportunity that can have enduring effects and impart real experiences of communication, leadership and civic engagement,” said McLean. “These are transferable skills that will endure throughout their lives.”

The students made the Manchester trip as part of McLean’s four-credit, experiential course titled Presidential Campaigns. They worked for the candidate of their choice. This year’s class split into three groups to campaign for Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Marco Rubio. They made two separate trips to New Hampshire during the fall semester, once in November to get on-the-ground training from campaign managers and again in January to fine-tune their skills in anticipation for the last push before the February primary.

“I think the class in general allowed me to understand the political system more than I did before,” said Michael Raimondo, a sophomore political science major and Rubio supporter. “And the actual fieldwork definitely allowed me to open up, get out, and speak my mind now that I’m more educated on the issues.”

From left, students Antoine Campbell, David Friedlander and Christian Giles are interviewed by Susan Raff of WFSB Channel 3 as they canvass outside Manchester, New Hampshire, reminding people to vote.

Christian Giles canvasses door-to-door in Goffstown, New Hampshire, with the Sanders campaign.
Twenty students were in the midst of the action, stump- ing for their favorite candidates, rubbing elbows with media and, in return, getting the experience of a lifetime.

**A TALE OF TWO RALLIES**

Some students got an up-close and personal look at two very different rallies the snowy Monday before the primary.

By 12:30 p.m., the small Manchester Community College gymnasium was swarming with Hillary Clinton volunteers, supporters, cameramen, PR people and on-air pundits and personalities. An overflow of media members and curious students viewed the proceedings from hallway windows and open doorways.

Minutes before Chelsea and Bill Clinton took to the stage, one Hillary supporter stood front and center and bellowed out a call-and-response rallying cry to warm up the crowd:

“I believe!”
“I believe!”
“I believe that!”
“I believe that!”
“I believe that she!”
“I believe that she!”
“I believe that she will!”
“I believe that she will!”

And then in unison: “I believe that she will win! I believe that she will win! I believe that she will win!”

“Imagine” was Clinton’s mantra throughout her speech—she urged the crowd to imagine the United States getting back to creating more small businesses, to imagine the country raising the minimum wage so people and their children can get ahead, and to imagine women finally getting equal pay in the workplace.

Shouts of “Yes!” repeatedly punctured the air in response, reminiscent of parishioners caught up in the spell of a fiery sermon.

“And to all of the young people who are supporting me, thank you from the bottom of my heart,” she said.

Clinton might as well have been talking straight to the group of Quinnipiac students sitting stage left, mere feet away from Chelsea, Bill and Hillary.

“It was amazing,” said Tim Quinn, a junior political science and economics double major and Clinton supporter. “I always wanted to meet them all together, and it was just what I imagined. It was a lot more rowdy than you’d expect because there was a lot of energy here.

You don’t really get to experience that watching TV. Right here, you’re in the middle of it, and you can feel it.”

TJ Donovan, a fellow Clinton supporter and senior political science major, managed to snap selfies with both Bill and Hillary as they left the gymnasium.

“It doesn’t make sense that there are all these reports saying she has low energy and Bernie has all of the enthusiasm,” he said. “I
mean look at this. This is insane. I never thought I’d be able to get this close to them.”

Several hours later and three miles south on I-293, Donald Trump held court at the Verizon Wireless Arena, home of the Manchester Monarchs minor league hockey team and host to such upcoming events as a Larry the Cable Guy stand-up comedy show, a Barry Manilow concert and a Monster Jam truck rally.

Murphy Siegel, a sophomore political science major, joined several of his classmates at the rally. The students soaked in the atmosphere, seated a few rows back from the left of the stage. And there was a lot to take in as the packed, 10,000-plus-seat arena waited for Trump’s arrival. The media scoured the floor looking to interview anyone wearing a red hat emblazoned with the slogan, “Make America Great Again!” or holding a sign that read “The Silent Majority Stands with Trump,” or sporting a “You’re Hired!” foam finger—or ideally, a combination of all three.

Some of the students, including Siegel, decided to sport some of the aforementioned Trump swag and take in the rally as that night’s entertainment.

While Clinton may have invoked the title of John Lennon’s best-selling single earlier in the day, The Donald chose The Beatles “Revolution” for his entrance. He was clear with his immigration policy regarding Mexico, and his solution was concrete: build a wall.

“And we’re not talking about small walls,” he said. “I’m talking about big walls—Trump walls.” The crowd responded with a resounding “U-S-A!” chant.

“And who the hell is paying for the wall?” Trump paused to allow his supporters to yell out the answer.

“Mexico!”

“Huh?” said Trump, cuffing a hand to his ear.

“Mexico!” roared the crowd.

“That’s when it became not funny anymore,” said Siegel, reflecting on that night’s rally.

Christopher Bird, a senior political science major and Rubio supporter, said he was ambivalent toward Trump.

“I think what he’s doing for politics in this country is a good thing, in some ways,” he said. “He’s generating voter turnout, he’s firing up the base, and he’s getting people interested. I think that’s always a good thing. Even if he is doing it with rhetoric I don’t really approve of, at least he’s getting people involved in the political process.”

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The snow and 25-degree weather didn’t stop some students from stumping for their respective candidates the morning of the primary. At 10:30 a.m., Sanders supporters Antoine Campbell, David Friedlander, Christian Giles and Billy Koch patrolled slowly down rural Snook Road in neighboring Goffstown to knock on doors and hand out pamphlets.

At one stop, Giles got out of the car, trudged up the long, unshoveled driveway, and knocked. A few moments passed. No one home. He shuffled through the snow, got back in the car and rolled on to the next house.

“Honestly the most important thing is that people get out and vote,” said Giles. “And this is the best day to do it, just to make sure people know that this is primary day and make sure they get off the couch or stop whatever they’re doing to vote.”

The students estimated they knocked on at least 400 doors that weekend. With a smile on his face, Giles said some residents weren’t as open to their pro-Sanders message as others.
“...It’s such an immersive experience to be here and interact with the people getting paid to work for Bernie Sanders and his inner circle.”
—David Friedlander ‘18

“I went to one house the first day up here, and I was wearing my Bernie pin,” he said. “When the guy came to the door and saw the pin, he just started laughing at me. He told me to get back in the car and said, ‘No way, Democrats suck.’”

Friedlander said he relished the opportunity to participate in the Sanders campaign’s ground attack. “The professor can sit around all day and tell us about how a campaign works and what the strategies are, but it’s such an immersive experience to be here and interact with the people who are getting paid to work for Bernie Sanders and his inner circle,” said Friedlander, a sophomore political science major.

“This experience has opened up a lot of doors for me with a lot of people who are involved in these campaigns. That’s not something you can learn or experience in the classroom.”

Sanders would cruise to an easy victory in the polls that night, thanks in large part to the determination of his large base of college student supporters. On the other side of the table, Trump dominated the Republican vote, quashing any doubt about his legitimacy as a serious presidential contender.

POLITICAL PLAYGROUND

The Quinnipiac students didn’t just canvass and phone bank during their time in Manchester. Most took the opportunity to see many of the candidates’ rallies and town halls, and watch national media film on location throughout downtown.

Siegel originally stumped for Sanders and spent part of his time participating in the campaign’s ground game. Toward the end of the primary experience, he said he dropped campaigning altogether to absorb as much as he could during the political frenzy. Eventually he would like to be a speechwriter or be a part of crafting a candidate’s overall message, rather than become a field director, he said. He and other students would wake up early and set an agenda to see as many candidates as possible each day.

“You’re at this political Disneyland, and you have the opportunity to meet all of these candidates and go to all of these rallies. You should take advantage of that,” Siegel said.

Cassidy Fitzgerald, a junior legal studies and political science double major, spent part of her days campaigning for Rubio, filling the rest with as many experiences as possible. She saw seven of the presidential candidates and managed to get a hat signed by Donald Trump after his Monday night rally.

“The day of the primary, we ran into Ted Cruz outside of the Red Arrow Diner,” she said. “We were just walking through the streets of Manchester and saw a crowd around him. So that was pretty cool. It’s crazy how you can just walk through the streets and then there’s a presidential candidate right there.”

As a 20-year-old passionate about politics, Fitzgerald said she gets criticism from some of her college peers who find politics boring.

“But it’s kind of my duty as a citizen to know what’s going on in my country. I want to know my rights, I want to know what I can do. And I want to make sure that everyone else knows their rights and what they’re entitled to,” she said.

When she returned, she said people not involved in politics had “a million questions” for her. “I loved that. It’s great to see people so excited about this race. I keep telling people this was one of the best weeks of my life.”
About a decade ago, Frank ’80 and Debbie (Sealand) Casanova ’81 vacationed at a vineyard in Italy’s Tuscany wine region. On a hilltop with a glass of wine in hand, the Casanovas absorbed the scene: succulent grapes hanging from vines flowing over the rolling hills below. “We just fell in love with the whole concept of having a glass of wine in a vineyard with a beautiful view,” says Frank.

In 2011, the Casanovas came across a home on a 3-acre property in Saratoga, California, at the edge of Silicon Valley and nestled in the folds of the fertile Santa Cruz Mountains, where grapes have grown since the late 1800s. They took in a view reminiscent of the vineyard in Tuscany. Frank remembers saying, “Imagine if we planted a vineyard here?”

Debbie smiles thinking about the memory. “Then we just made it happen,” says Frank.

The Casanovas learned a craft about which they knew very little and transformed a lot of weeds and scrub brush into neat rows of pinot noir grapevines they call Casanova Vineyards. The couple has grown and sold their grapes twice to a Sonoma, California, winemaker and are active members of the Santa Cruz Mountains Wine Growers Association. “We didn’t want a little patch of grapes you couldn’t do anything with, so

By Alejandra Navarro
Frank '80 and Debbie Casanova '81 at their home and vineyard in Saratoga, California.
we planted the entire property. We want to see our fruit show up in a bottle that you could order in a restaurant or you could buy online. That’s what would make us very excited, and we’re moving in that direction,” says Frank. His day job is senior director of product marketing at Apple, where he has worked since 1988, and he was the recipient of QU’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011. Debbie, a former director at Oracle, is managing the vineyard business and also is a Quinnipiac trustee. They met while studying computer science at Quinnipiac.

Like the Casanovas, after finding success in business, several other members of the Quinnipiac community are shepherding the wine industry into a new era. They are blending modern technologies and science with ancient traditions, exposing undiscovered grape varieties, and adding fresh flavor to a vintage field.

Returning to his roots
Quinnipiac trustee Christian Sauska already had built a successful U.S. business, LightSources, when communism fell in his native Hungary. He took it as an opportunity to return to his homeland and literally plant new roots.

In 2000, he founded his vineyard and winery in Tokaj, a region known for its wines. In 2006, he opened a second location in Villány, near where he grew up. His wife, Andrea, says they have a personal love and connection to the land, the region and its history.

He sought local young people with “out-of-the-box” thinking to take Hungarian wine making into the next century, hiring expert vintners to hone their skills and make sure the winery had the latest technology.

“It also meant they would have local knowledge of the land and the best training in the world so they wouldn’t get trapped into old fashions and habits,” Sauska explains.

Too many wines on the market today have no identity, he says. “Once you have something with personality, integrity, culture and a unique regional story to tell, you can gain attention and break onto the scene,” he says.

His wines have won multiple awards. People may not know a lot about Hungarian wine, which is why it was so meaningful for the Cuvée 5, Villány 2009, to win the Decanter World Wine Awards International Trophy for the best in show red Bordeaux varietal. This award showed that his wine could achieve top global quality, even competing against the best reds in the world, he says.

Production at his wineries has grown from about 25,000 bottles to about 500,000. The family-owned business is still small, so his people have learned to cultivate their market one glass of wine at a time. Luckily wine lovers tend to be adventurous, he says.

“With good conversation and a glass of wine, their interest grows.”

Wicked Wines
In 2006, Marybeth Noonan ’82 and her husband, Michael, sold their successful fiber optics company, FONS, retired and traveled to Turin, Italy, for the Olympics.

While there, Marybeth tasted some incredible red wines with flavor and quality she hadn’t encountered in the U.S. Importing wine seemed like an interesting endeavor.

“The next thing you know, it’s growing and growing,” Marybeth said of their business. “It was a hobby that went bad,” jokes Michael. But Global Wines has done wickedly well.

On trips to Europe visiting their daughter and son who were studying abroad, the couple found a third-generation Italian winemaker with a master’s in marketing. They also found Zagarron Wines and Vineyards in La Mancha, Spain, that could produce and bottle wine for the Noonans to export to America. With key pieces of the company in place, the couple founded Global Wines Inc., a Massachusetts-based wine import and wholesale business, and established their first label, Boston-themed Wicked Wines.

“There is nothing we would rather do than to drink wine we made with our own fruit.” — Frank Casanova

Above: Sales at Wicked Wines, owned by trustee Marybeth Noonan ’82 and her husband, Michael, are approaching a million bottles. Below, one of the vineyards in Hungary owned by Quinnipiac trustee Christian Sauska.
well. By June, the company will have sold more than 1 million bottles of wine.

Following Yellowtail’s path popularizing inexpensive Australian wines, the Noonans created lines for the U.S. using affordable, but flavorful grapes—such as Spanish varieties. “We wanted to create the best product for the best value—an inexpensive wine that is much better than its competitors,” Michael said of his wines, which are $5 to $7 a bottle.

Their winemaker traveled the globe to unearth quality grapes. They created fun and bright, color-coded labels that were memorable, made it easy to understand the different types of wine, and were not intimidating to the novice wine drinker. It hasn’t been easy finding space on an already packed shelf of more established wines.

The Noonans have built relationships with restaurants and major retail chains, such as Price Chopper, Shaw’s and Total Wines in several states. Global Wine is releasing a second label, Cape Cod Bay, using French and Italian grapes, and they have added organic wines from Spain, Chile and Argentina. They plan to partner with California winemakers.

The company has expanded from three employees to 26. Marybeth says it has always been important for her to hire good people who are the right fit.

“Quinnipiac helped me to understand the impact of having the right people in the right positions,” she said. “We are very fortunate to have great employees at GWI.”

**Labor of love**

Native East Coasters Frank and Debbie Casanova now have a connection to the California land they never expected.

“Some of my best memories out here are just walking through the vineyard,” Frank says. “You can hear the wind blowing through the vines—there’s not even the sound of a car. You feel like, wow, this is what it must have been like many years ago.”

Pointing to the rolling hills below, where dozens of vintners have grown grapes and opened tasting rooms, Debbie adds, “Paul Masson [pioneer winemaker] figured it out in the 1800s, and he started right over there.”

They selected pinot noir, one of the most challenging grapes to grow. The variety has thin skin and grows in tight clusters prone to mold in heavy moisture.

“It’s the heartbreak grape,” Frank says. “We could have taken the easy route and planted something traditional, like cabernet sauvignon or chardonnay, but we decided to do something we loved.”

Their first year, they watched the growth of the 2,650 vines—tiny sticks in the earth, each with a grow tube that acted like a miniature greenhouse. “Debbie and I would peer over the 2,650 vines—tiny sticks in the earth, each with a grow tube that acted like a miniature greenhouse. “Debbie and I would peer over with a grow tube that acted like a miniature greenhouse. “Debbie and I would peer over

within a matter of weeks, the vines grew to 10 feet. Then, they had to cut them down. The same thing happened the second year. The grapes aren’t mature enough to use in wine-making usually until the fourth time a vine has produced leaves, called a “fourth leaf.” But the Casanovas’ harvest was ready by the third leaf, explains Frank, who has become well versed with the language of viticulture.

The Casanovas went from novice to expert with the language of viticulture. The couple hasn’t shied away from getting their hands dirty. Debbie has driven a Bobcat to spread dirt. Frank has shoveled compost. When not working at Apple, he walks along the vines to spot potential problems.

The first season the grapes were plump and ripe for picking, Frank was in the field harvesting at 5:30 in the morning. Later that day, he drove a giant flatbed truck carrying 2.5 tons of grapes over the Golden Gate Bridge to his winemaker in Sonoma. “Talk about feeling like you’re part of the process,” says Frank. Any concern the Casanovas had about the quality of the grapes dissipated on that day.

“The first thing the winemaker did was grab a clump of grapes and put the whole thing in his mouth. And then he said, ‘Oh, this is fantastic.’”

Last year a string of 80-degree days in February caused the vines to begin to bud prematurely. The Casanovas ended up with 15 percent less than the year before, but some vineyards lost the entire crop.

Debbie said, “We never thought Mother Nature would play such an important role in our lives! Now we pray for rain and work hard to ward off disease and mold, trap gophers who kill dozens of vines each year, and keep the deer fencing intact so they can’t get into the vineyard. It’s a lot of work, but we love it.”

Their true goal is to enjoy the fruits of their labor. “There is nothing we would rather do than to drink wine we made with our own fruit,” Frank says, with the afternoon sun lighting up the gazebo that offers a panoramic view of the vineyard.

“We make our own pasta. We make our own tomato sauce from the garden. To have a meal that was made completely on this property would be awesome and would bring me back to a time when living off the land was how you lived.”
STREET TALK

PROFESSOR USES HIP-HOP TO REACH AT-RISK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

BY ALEJANDRA NAVARRO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER BEAUCHAMP
Matt Bethea participated in Professor Don Sawyer's hip-hop program at Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven.
The first time Don Sawyer walked into a classroom at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, he faced 25 black and Latino young men, who were, according to administrators, some of the most troubled students there.

He didn’t say his name or mention that he was an assistant professor of sociology at Quinnipiac. Instead, he broke into a spoken-word piece.

“The kids probably thought, ‘Look at this old dude spitting verses,’” recalled Sawyer with a laugh. But the lively and loud crowd quieted and turned their focus in his direction.

Sawyer asked, “How many of you are writers?” Silence.

“How many of you are rappers or MCs?” Hands soared into the air.

“How do you create lyrics if you don’t write?”

That began the first lesson of Sawyer’s hip-hop advisory program at Wilbur Cross, where students most at risk of dropping out spend one afternoon a week creating and performing, or “spitting verses.”

“We connected on that first day because, in part, there wasn’t any judgment. It was about respecting their humanity,” said Sawyer, who has run the program for four years. Through lyrics, the young men shared their personal experiences, often describing a world of poverty, broken homes and violence—sources of their troubles—as well as their hopes and dreams.

Matt Bethea of New Haven learned a lot about his classmates that he would never have known if he weren’t in Sawyer’s class.

“When they rapped, we felt their story,” Bethea said. “We knew where they were coming from. It gave us a reason to want to go to school.”

Sawyer helped them take the first step on a journey that would lead them into the classroom and for most, onto a graduation platform.

“My goal is to get students to re-engage,” explained Sawyer, who has researched hip-hop in education and efforts to stop the “school-to-prison pipeline.” While not all of the participants in class graduated, some turned Fs into passing grades.

“These are some of the most resilient students you’ll ever meet because they are surviving despite the harsh conditions,” Sawyer said. “They may not be the best students, but if they find it in them to walk past all of their other friends who aren’t going to school to be here, you have a responsibility to do whatever you can to reach that kid.”

His program’s success supports the idea that, between novels and textbooks, hip-hop—the music and the overall culture—has a place in the classroom, particularly for underserved young people.

It’s about using the message, the medium and its techniques to meet students where they are, Sawyer said.

Marc Lamont Hill, an award-winning journalist and academic who spoke about diversity in education at Quinnipiac in March, has proposed using some of the practices of hip-hop in the classroom. For example, the hip-hop battle or cypher—a freestyle rap competition of lyrics—could encourage educators to re-examine how they think about helping students to make persuasive arguments in class, or classroom participation in general. “Hip-hop can inform education in bigger ways than we imagine,” Hill said in a 2015 interview.

Sawyer has taken the high school students to academic conferences to present, as well as to rap competitions in New York City, and they’ve excelled in both arenas. Sawyer also brought students to campus multiple times. Students visited his Sociology of Hip-Hop class in fall 2015; Bethea was a guest performer.

The visit was educational for many of the Quinnipiac students who come from hometowns that may not be diverse, and who may have assumptions about young people in urban areas, such as New Haven.

“When they meet these students who can carry on a conversation about any topic, and it starts to break down walls,” Sawyer said.

Asia Skyers, a senior political science major in Sawyer’s QU class, said studying hip-hop culture—which includes rapping, DJ-ing, dancing and grafitti (writing and art)—is a nonconventional way to learn about serious issues. As someone coming from a suburban background, hearing the students’ lyrics was eye-opening, she said.

“These aren’t just words that people are saying. There are experiences that created these lyrics,” said Skyers, who is black. “People are saying them because that is their pain.”

Analyzing rap songs, she has learned to appreciate the plight of people who, because of their class or race, aren’t heard. Skyers, who plans to be a lawyer, said it would help her professionally.

“Learning about the sociology of hip-hop gave me a deeper understanding of the socio-political factors that have a direct and indirect impact on society as a whole, and I want to use that knowledge to make a change in my community through practicing law,” she said.

Skyers and her QU peers were impressed by the high school students, particularly Matt Bethea. “This young man had such a high level of intellect and understanding of the world. To see him put together those lyrics, it was a beautiful thing.”

“My program was all about connecting with, challenging, supporting and loving the students who at times in school seem like they existed in a space beyond love’s reach.”

—Professor Don Sawyer

The students’ reactions were a highpoint for Bethea, who at that time, had never been in a college class. “I was like, whoa, how do you know who I am?” he said. “It was a really humbling experience.”

Bethea writes about his challenges: losing his father at 7, grappling with homelessness while in school, and losing his mother shortly after graduation. He’s now 22 and in the fall became a first-time father focused on making a living.

Sawyer plans to work with Bethea to write a paper about hip-hop in education for submission to an academic publication.

“He’s had some ups and downs, but he’s a resilient guy,” said Sawyer. “He’s an unbelievably talented writer.”

Sawyer makes sure to let the students know that their experiences don’t necessarily determine where they will end up.
Sawyer understands the power of hip-hop. He and the genre came of age together in New York City during the 1970s. The lyrics in early rap songs by artists such as KRS-One inspired him to find out about historical events, particularly those that affected the black community. “In school you always learned about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King,” he said. “Through this music you heard songs of protest. We found out about Marcus Garvey, we found out about Malcolm X.”

By the time Sawyer was a teen in the late ‘80s, hip-hop had hit its golden age. It also was the height of the crack epidemic in crime-infested New York City, and hip-hop music carried the stories of people struggling to survive. Inspired by rap pioneers, such as Doug E. Fresh, Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock, who were from his Harlem neighborhood, Sawyer joined a rap group, KDL Posse, and found his voice. “You’re dealing with people living in a marginalized space. Our voices were silenced. Hip-hop gave us a way to express ourselves, and it kept me out of trouble,” said Sawyer, who grew up in a housing project in Harlem. That fact endeared him even more to the Wilbur Cross students, who toured his neighborhood while attending a conference. He also found focus in martial arts, with the help of his teacher, Dave Thomas, who was a founder of the legendary rap group, The Crash Crew. Sawyer emphasized that hip-hop alone is not a magic bullet. “Some people think if you bring rap into the schools, all problems will go away,” he explained. “My program was all about connecting with, challenging, supporting and loving the students who at times in school seem like they existed in a space beyond love’s reach.”

It is one of many interventions aimed at meeting the needs of students. Sawyer continues to work individually with young male students at Wilbur Cross, who regard him as a mentor. He recalled during the first year asking one student, “How was your week?” “Why?” the student responded, confused that an adult would take interest in him. “I’m trying to figure out how you’re doing.” “Why do you care about what’s going on?” the student replied. Sawyer responded, “Because it matters.”
As a high school senior, Mazel Genfi chose Quinnipiac without setting foot on campus. Coming from the South Bronx, she found herself in a different world and longed for some reminders of her Ghanaian heritage. She was surprised to learn that the University didn’t have a chapter of the African Student Union. After meeting other students of African descent, she started one. Her initiative is one of the reasons she was awarded the Judith Jones Frank Endowed Scholarship for Student Leadership last fall.

Genfi and the three other recipients of student leader scholarships have at least one thing in common. They don’t just want to attend classes for four years, collect a diploma and leave. Rather, they want to leave their mark.

Their scholarships differ from traditional ones in that they were funded by many individual contributions from alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University instead of one large gift; and rather than being school-based, they were awarded specifically to student leaders based on merit. The other recipients are senior Connor LaChapelle, who received the Carol Boucher Endowed Scholarship for Resident Assistants; sophomore Ali Munshi, the Student Government Association Scholarship; and junior Marcquan Parris, the Cheryl Barnard Orientation Leader Scholarship.

James L. Totten ’87, senior technical adviser for Exxon Mobil Corp., was a lead donor for several of these scholarships. His experience as a student leader motivated Totten to be part of these efforts.

“Many students don’t get compensated for their leadership roles on campus. College is expensive, so I wanted to help build an endowment for student leaders,” he said. He noted that many students who serve in student government or in clubs do not have time for part time jobs. “This is an important way for me to contribute not only to them, but to the long-term health of the University,” he added.

While at Quinnipiac, Totten was a resident assistant, was active in the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and also was a student representative to the Quinnipiac Board of Trustees for two years. He has remained connected to Quinnipiac, serving as the Alumni Association president and alumni representative to Quinnipiac’s Board of Trustees.

As president of the newly formed African Student Union, Genfi is shepherding the club through the recognition process with the Office of Campus Life, after which it will be chartered and eligible for funding. Genfi and other club members are planning a festival with foods enjoyed in Ghana and other African nations such as Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Sudan.

“Whether in class or out, I enjoy being vocal and innovative, being the voice of the people,” says the sophomore communications major, who is considering a career as an entertainment lawyer. She is looking forward to a study abroad semester in London next fall.
Student leadership scholars, from left: sophomores Mazel Genfi and Ali Munshi and senior Connor LaChapelle. Junior Marcquan Parris was studying abroad and could not be present for the photo.
Marcquan Parris was motivated to get involved when he realized opportunities to expand his horizons would not just be handed to him but rather were up to him to investigate.

Genfi has been the manager of the men’s basketball team, attends Black Student Union meetings and is a mentor in the QUEST program—Quinnipiac University Enriching Student Transitions—which connects freshman underrepresented students with peer and professional mentors to help them acclimate to the campus and region.

She acknowledges that because her grades are good, she allows herself to become involved in all college has to offer. "I don’t come from much, but I am making the most of it," she says with a smile.

Like Genfi, Ali Munshi relishes the opportunity to lead. He is finance director for the South Asian Society, vice president of the Muslim Student Association, finance director for the Quinnipiac Mock Trial Association and a Class of 2018 Student Government Association representative.

He came to college to experience new things. "If you don’t, you’re wasting your time," says the aspiring lawyer. He takes a course on Saturdays that will prepare him to apply to an Ivy League law school.

His role within SGA gives him an up-close view of politics, a subject he finds fascinating. Good leaders, according to Munshi, should possess drive. "They also should be committed, open-minded, have a sense of responsibility, work well with others, and finish what they start," he says.

Role models, besides his parents and brother, include Russell Wilson, the quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks, who is fond of saying, "The separation is in the preparation."

Applying that adage to college, Munshi separates himself as a student leader by working harder than others. "Some students have things handed to them, go to class, party, wake up, and do it again the next day. College is so much more, and experiencing new things is the point."

In his SGA role, Munshi strives to provide perspective on diversity issues. One of his goals is to help minority students adjust to the Quinnipiac community. He encourages all students to be part of the conversation about topics that may make them uncomfortable.

SGA sponsored a survey last year that asked students whether they thought they could express themselves on such topics as politics, religion, race and gender, both in and outside of class. Results indicated that 61 percent said they thought they could not.

“So SGA put together an event that encouraged students to come to an open-mic night in the Student Center to share something about themselves that they felt they couldn’t and tell why.” More than 100 students showed up and Munshi deemed it a memorable night.

“Making a difference and knowing I’m helping others brings me happiness,” he says.

Senior Connor LaChapelle also is passionate about helping fellow students. He remembers that the transition from home to residence hall can be rocky, so he relishes his role as a resident assistant. Building community on his floor and mentoring the 55 sophomores assigned to him in The Village are his priorities. He also enforces the rules, monitoring floor activity into the wee hours of the morning several times a week.

LaChapelle is the first recipient of the new Carol Boucher Endowed Scholarship for Resident Assistants, awarded to the RA who best personifies the values of the University’s Department of Residential Life—integrity, community, inclusion and engagement. Boucher retired as the associate dean of student affairs and director of residential life.

He also honed his leadership skills as a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, where he served as director of community service his sophomore year. The finance major will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in May and begin an MBA degree. He feels his RA position has made him more poised, empathetic and confident—all qualities he thinks employers will respect. He also appreciates the crisis management training he has undergone for his role.

LaChapelle has employed those skills to deal with myriad issues, from move-in woes and roommate conflicts to discipline problems and serious mental health issues. He describes a good student leader as someone who shows initiative, has the ability to address a problem and strategizes a way to overcome it, preferably as a team effort.

Residence hall director Danielle Demers—his boss—is someone LaChapelle would like to emulate. “Her energy transfers. She’s always poised, always has a calm head, and she has the power of self-awareness,” he says.

Marcquan Parris has helped freshmen assimilate to Quinnipiac the past two years as an orientation leader. The scholarship he received helped to cushion the cost of his current semester abroad in Barcelona.

The junior biology major has two minors—Spanish and business—and sees himself attending graduate school for public health policy and perhaps medical school. He has shadowed doctors in two internships at Columbia University Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital.

During orientation, he treats the freshmen assigned to him like a family and has observed lasting friendships develop among group members. “I set the tone for the group, and encourage them to open up and share, let their guard down,” he says.

He recalls feeling distanced from the Quinnipiac culture as a freshman, so he tries to encourage underrepresented students to get involved not only in clubs where they will meet other students with similar backgrounds, but clubs that take them out of their comfort zones as well.

Parris is also a member of the NAACP student chapter’s executive board, wrote for the Chronicle newspaper his sophomore year, and serves as a QUEST mentor for underrepresented students. As a Global Engagement Fellow, he participates in a program supported by the College of Arts and Sciences where students converse with faculty and other students on a variety of topics related to human rights and global justice. They also build leadership skills and collaborate on a social action project.

Parris says he was motivated to get involved once he realized that opportunities to expand his horizons would not just be handed to him but rather were up to him to investigate.

Totten noted that the leadership skills students develop in college transfer well to postgraduate life, whether it be serving as a coach for a child’s soccer team, heading the PTA or taking a leadership role at church.

“Communities don’t operate without that type of leadership,” he said.
Eighty first-year law students experienced what it might be like to interview a client, research a case and work with a senior partner during a unique, three-day “Bridge to Practice” program held at the School of Law before classes resumed for the spring.

While the cases and clients were fictional, the 60 individuals who volunteered to play the roles of partners and senior associates came from prominent law firms based in Connecticut and beyond. Of those, 35 were Quinnipiac School of Law alumni.

Students were assigned to 20 “small law firms,” meeting and completing tasks in study rooms off the Lynne L. Pantalena Law Library. They tackled the drafting of a waiver of claims clause in a membership agreement for a “client” who wanted to open a fitness center in Connecticut and save legal fees by using the agreement given to her by a friend who owns a fitness center in New Jersey. Day two involved the case of a “client” seeking to sue for injuries he sustained at a fitness center.

Dean Jennifer Brown said the program was designed to immerse the school’s newest students in the problem-solving approach to lawyering and highlight the ways lawyers make practical use of the theories and doctrines learned in class.

Professor Brad Saxton and Shelley Sadin, associate dean of professional and career development, coordinated the program along with Carrie Kaas, associate professor of law, and Bob White, a senior partner at Murtha Cullina law firm.

Brown noted that the legal profession requires use of the “head, heart and gut.” That theme was echoed by a panel of six prominent legal practitioners who tackled the question of what makes a good lawyer in a panel discussion to begin the first day. Joette Katz, former state Supreme Court justice and current commissioner of the state Department of Children and Families, served as moderator. She was joined by Judge Victor Bolden of the U.S. District Court; Susan Nofi, executive director, New Haven Legal Assistance; Michael McGarry, deputy chief, fraud and financial crimes unit of the U.S. Attorney’s Office; Ivy McKinney, deputy general counsel and chief ethics officer at Xerox; and Lou Pepe, a senior partner at McElroy Deutsch Mulvaney and Carpenter.

McGarry prosecutes criminal cases, mostly white collar, working with federal agents and police officers. He advised the room full of prospective lawyers to listen critically as they interview potential witnesses and people accused of crimes. “Their story may change, and nuggets of information are important; press them to find out more,” he suggested.

Saxton noted that the practicing bar is urging law schools to graduate students who are more practice-ready, with a better sense of how to apply what they are learning.

Caitlin Pfeiffer said one of the most valuable parts of her experience was working with attorneys who treated her and her classmates like potential employees rather than students. “It felt like a test run for summer internships and helped ease some anxiety about just jumping straight into an internship without a single clue about what to do,” she said.

—Janet Waldman
Arnold Voketaitis of Chicago has enjoyed a singing career performing in operas, concerts and recitals for the past 50 years. He received the Quinnipiac Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991, the National Lithuanian Cultural Medal from President Valdas Adamkus in 2009, and was inducted into the second biennial National Lithuanian American Hall of Fame in September 2015.

Richard Reale of Meriden, CT, released his novel, “Luca from Calabria,” in 2014. It is a biography about an Italian immigrant who fought in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine. Rick also wrote “Tires Optional.” The books are available on Amazon, in both English and Italian.

Robert Kerson of New Haven was the subject of a recent newspaper article in the New Haven Register titled “New Haven resident believes he has found the location of the Hebrew temples in Jerusalem.” Robert’s detailed papers are published online on academia.edu.

Marvin Babyatsky of West Palm Beach, FL, and Paul Gionfriddo of Berlin, CT, returned to Quinnipiac in October 2015 to play in the annual men’s soccer alumni match. The former soccer team co-captains recreated their soccer photo from 44 years earlier.

Robert Gottfried of West Hartford, CT, is a music educator, percussionist and motivational speaker who travels around the country as Rob the Drummer, sharing his passion for music. He has appeared on several national TV programs including the Nickelodeon network, MTV and “Sesame Street.” He performed at the 12th annual Celebrating Gifts of Music Benefit Concert in West Hartford, CT, in October 2015.

Janet (Kipphut) Ainsworth ’74, JD ’84, of Guilford, CT, celebrated her 20th anniversary with Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (formerly the Department of Public Safety). Janet received the Appie of the Year award from the Connecticut chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club for her service as an activity leader.
Joanne Zrenda Moore founded Shoreline Physical Therapy in East Lyme, CT, where she lives. The practice recently celebrated its 30-year anniversary.

1978

Edward Sokolnicki ’78, JD ’90, of Ansonia, CT, recently completed a six-month assignment for Computer Sciences Corp. in Munich, Germany.

1980

Paul Caiafa and Anthony Lucci ’82 of Hamden, are CPAs and managing members of CPA Tax Solutions, LLC, a certified public accounting firm in Hamden. They have expanded their practice and opened a second office in Madison, CT. Paul lives in North Haven, CT, with his wife, Pauline, and two sons, Stephen and Nicholas. The latter is currently attending Quinnipiac School of Law.

1983

Robert Intveld is the author of “EAP Critical Incident Response—A Multi-Systemic Resiliency Approach.” Robert has traveled the country educating and training professionals and mental health counselors on how to respond to workplaces after tragic events. He combines his experience in responding to major incidents such as the World Trade Center attacks, Sandy Hook shooting and Hurricane Sandy with the latest research on resilience to formulate a practical crisis intervention response approach. Robert lives in Ocean, NJ, with his wife, Patricia, and daughter, Robyn.

1984

Ernest Malavasi won re-election to a second term as selectman in the town of East Haddam, CT, where he lives.

1985

Allen Basis of Morganville, NJ, is the executive publisher of Pet Age, a 45-year-old pet retail trade media brand located in Somerset, NJ.

1986


1990

Michael Fenster of Bayside, NY, is a fiscal analyst for CAMBA, a nonprofit in Brooklyn, NY. Michael is also on the advisory board for the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island. He recently was featured on BlogTalk Radio talking about perseverance.

1994

Gary Helbling of Durham, CT, is the senior director of investments at Oppenheimer & Co. in Stamford and Cheshire, CT. Gary has many years of experience as an investment professional and is licensed in nine states.

1997

William Kohlhepp, MHA ’97, of North Haven, CT, recently received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Nova Southeastern University, where he earned his doctor of health science degree. Bill is dean of the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac University.

1998

Elaine (Ghidini) Nyholt and Michael Nyholt live in Wallingford, CT, with their three children.

1999

Colleen Hines of Wallingford served as the grand marshal of the New Haven St. Patrick’s Day Parade this past March. She has been a member of the volunteer parade committee, since 2000.

2001

Thomas Diaz of Ridgefield, CT, is the manager of Family Centers’ Healthcare at Wilbur Peck Court in Greenwich, CT. The health clinic provides primary health care services to children and adults living in Greenwich public housing units, Section 8 housing, and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Duane Scotti ’01, MPT ’03, of Cheshire, CT, joined the department of physical therapy at Quinnipiac as a full-time clinical instructor.

Jessica (Sousa) Tuttle of New Rochelle, NY, is vice president, sales planning and strategy, at the Madison Square Garden Company. She defines and executes integrated ticket marketing campaigns for all MSG properties, including the New York Knicks, Rangers and Liberty, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and the soon-to-be launched Rockettes New York Spectacular. Jessica has been with MSG since 2010.

2000

Tom Cappas ’00, MS ’13, MBA ’15, is a radiology manager at Midstate Radiology Associates. He is also a member of the Quinnipiac diagnostic imaging faculty and teaches a cross-sectional pathology course. Tom lives in Wallingford, CT, with his wife, Alexis (Ducatelli) Cappas, and their two children, Nicholas, 7, and Anna, 4.

Dorothée (Allard) Charnay, MBA ’00, announces the birth of her fourth child, Étienne, a son born in September 2015. Dorothée is a recruiter for projects in the nuclear, oil and gas industries. She and her family live in Paris. (See photo, p. 47.)
2002

Aaron Blank of Bothell, WA, is the CEO and president of The Fearey Group, a Seattle-based public relations and public affairs agency.

Scott Blass of Huntington, NY, won a Daytime Emmy Award in 2015 for outstanding technical crew in daytime television as a graphics technician for “CBS This Morning” with hosts Charlie Rose, Gayle King and Norah O’Donnell.

Joseph D’Angelo married Erin Belliveau on Oct. 10, 2015, at St. Brendan’s Church in Dorchester, MA. The couple lives in Lexington, MA.

Kelly Fenton of Providence, RI, has been a life coach for two years and has refocused her practice to support women in same-sex partnerships with family planning and the fertility process.

Kristen (Steimers) Lenig and her husband, Charles, announce the birth of their second son, Zander Joseph, on July 13, 2015. Zander was welcomed home by his big brother, Jasper Jay, 6. The family lives in Amsterdam, NY. (See photo, p. 47.)

Daniel McCabe of Braintree, MA, is the director of sales at Corporate IT Solutions in Norwood, MA.

Belinda Russell ’02, MS ’03, married Anthony Brano on June 1, 2013. Belinda is a web administrator at Ellicott. The couple lives in Bethany, CT.

2003

Kathleen Brown and Michael Tomlinson were married on Sept. 4, 2015, in Wellesley, MA. Bridesmaids included classmates Lee (Pirolli) Haley and Christine (Primavera) Fragale. Kristin Pedicone and her husband, Evangelos Perdikouris (both class of 2003), of Wappingers Falls, NY, made a toast at the reception honoring all the lasting friendships and memories made at Quinnipiac. The couple lives in Medford, MA.

Ryan Gillies and Kirstyn Berry were married on Dec. 5, 2015. The wedding was held at the Hamlet Golf & Country Club in Commack, NY. Ryan is the Long Island Quinnipiac alumni chapter president and is also a licensed insurance broker for the James F. Sutton Agency in East Islip, NY. The couple lives in Islip Terrace, NY.

Erica (Pelkowski) Magarian ’03, MAT ’04, and Dennis Magarian ’04 welcomed twin boys, Aaron and Brayden, on March 9, 2015. The Magarians report that the boys are growing to be “strong Bobcats!” The family lives in Weymouth, MA. (See photo, p. 47.)

Eric Marrapodi of Arlington, VA, an award-winning journalist, recently joined NBC News as the senior producer of “NBC Nightly News” in the Washington bureau. Eric previously was the senior Washington producer for CNN.

Brian Tenenhau ’03, MPT ’05, and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their first child, Milla Grace, on Sept. 8, 2015. Brian received a certification in functional manual therapy through the Institute of Physical Art in Steamboat Springs, CO, and is opening his own practice, Peak Performance Therapy and Wellness, in Guilford, CT. The family lives in Hamden.

2004


Tara Michalowski and Lindsay Coyne were married on Oct. 24, 2015, in Hartford. Tara is an insurance agent at Michalowski Agency in Wallingford, CT, and an at-large member of the Quinnipiac University Alumni Association National Board of Governors. The couple lives in Wallingford, CT. (See photo, p. 46.)

Valerie Pensa of Franklin Lakes, NJ, is vice president of marketing/artist development at RCA Records. Valerie was the winner of three Clio Awards for film, innovative marketing and integrated campaign for Sia’s “Chandelier.”

Colleen Powers and Kenny Lubin were married on Sept. 26, 2015, in York Beach, ME. Bridesmaids included Maeve Byrne ’04, Jennifer Johnson ’05 and Krystal Ristaino ’05. The couple lives in Lowell, MA. (See photo, p. 46.)

2005

James Concato, MHA ’05, of Franklin, MA, became the director of oncology services at Methodist Hospitals in Merrilville, IN.

Kristin Conforti ’05, MPT ’07, of Franklin Square, NY, is a physical therapist at RVC Wellness Center in Rockville Centre, NY. She treats a variety of patients, including athletes, geriatrics and amputees. Her specialties include prevention, sports-related injuries, post-operative conditions and traumatic brain injuries.

Aubrey (Bishop) Heller ’05, MS ’07, and Ryan Heller ’05 announce the birth of Connor Edward on Sept. 16, 2015. The family lives in Saco, ME. (See photo, p. 47.)

Jared Lorinsky, MBA ’05, Health Care Compliance certificate ’08, of Norwich, CT, is the senior vice president of business development for The Burgess Group in West Hartford, CT. He ensures payment accuracy between health care insurers and medical providers. Jared previously worked for HSS in Hamden.

Brian Jonson and Kara Ebenhack were married on Sept. 12, 2015, at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, NJ. Brian works at Opici, a family-owned wine distributor in Glen Rock, NJ. The couple lives in New Milford, NJ.

Salvatore Morello of Southington, CT, is vice president of personal insurance product management at the Travelers Companies. He manages the profit and loss statements of the New England region representing roughly $650 million in written premiums.

Erin Rosa recently relocated from Stamford, CT, to Fayetteville, AR, for a sales position with Warner Brothers Home Entertainment. Erin will continue her work with Walmart, a customer she has worked with for several years. Some of her future work includes soliciting the placement and sale of upcoming DC Comics franchise films such as “Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice” and “ Suicide Squad.”

Betsy (Girard) Shah of Milford, CT, and her husband, Aakash, welcomed a daughter, Leena, on Oct. 26, 2015. She joined big sister, Maya, 2. Betsy is primary therapist at the Center for Discovery in Fairfield, CT, a treatment center for female adolescents with eating disorders. (See photo, p. 47.)

2007

Kara Cornelius and Eric Burdon were married 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.

Kevin Currie of Wolcott, CT, is a financial aid assistant in the Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid at Quinnipiac University.

Sarah Grady and Christian Jorgenson were married on Sept. 6, 2015, in Baltimore on the three-year anniversary of their first official date, a Yankees vs. Orioles baseball game at Camden Yards. The couple lives in Washington, D.C., where they both work on Capitol Hill.
Italo Alves ’15
Political Aspirations
Career in government beckons for Schwarzman Scholar

Italo Alves ’15 left his home in Fortaleza, Brazil, to study international business at Quinnipiac at the age of 19. Now a business risk consultant at Deloitte’s headquarters in New York City, Alves hopes to one day run for public office back in his home country—and he aspires to reach the very top.

“I would be thrilled to become Brazil’s first LGBT president,” he said. “I could see myself entering the Congress. I know I have to work my way up the ladder. I want to be active locally first, gain the people’s trust, and make sure I give back to the community before I give back at the national level.”

Giving back is nothing new to Alves. When he isn’t busy poring over financial documents and assisting in fraud investigations at his full-time job, he volunteers as director of policy and research for the nonprofit AsylumConnect, where he helps lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender asylum seekers find basic human needs resources upon their arrival in the U.S. The group recently launched a mobile app that notifies users of social services and online resources in their area.

Alves recently was selected to receive an inaugural Schwarzman Scholarship, which offers the world’s best and brightest students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and professional networks through a one-year master’s degree program at Tsinghua University in Beijing. A total of 111 Schwarzman scholars were chosen from more than 3,000 applicants, making the program one of the most selective in the world with an acceptance rate of 3.7 percent. The program begins in September 2016.

While in Beijing, Alves will earn a master’s degree in management of global affairs with a public policy concentration. He also wants to travel to Macau, Taiwan and Hong Kong to experience the differences in governance.

“It’s a very unusual opportunity,” he said. “I was really glad I was able to get into the inaugural class. I studied for eight months to get the scholarship.”

His desire to help others was ingrained at an early age. Alves was raised in a low-income neighborhood in the Fortaleza suburbs. His dad was unemployed for 10 years, and his mother worked morning, afternoon and night shifts as a special education teacher so the family could make ends meet.

“I always had a lot of empathy growing up,” he said. “I didn’t have that many resources and grew up with people who had fewer resources than I had. My mom would always emphasize the need for sharing our things with others. That made me realize when I saw someone who didn’t have the same opportunity I had, I wanted to share that opportunity, too.”

At the age of 17, Alves founded the gender-focused, nonprofit React & Change Organization, using Facebook to identify young people from across Brazil experiencing hardships at school due to gender equality issues.

His organization created the Youth for Empowerment national forum, which connected teenagers with a network of supporters that grew into an incubator for projects and business ideas centered on gender equality.

In his last semester at Quinnipiac, Alves studied the history of gay culture in New York City as part of an honors program. He said he felt inspired more than ever to continue his work with LGBT issues.

“There were lots of people who fought for me to have these rights today, and I cannot take them for granted,” he said. “That is why I am also getting involved.”—Kevin Sirois
Mark Guaracino ’07, MBA ’08, and Alis (Biri) Guaracino ’07, MBA ’09, announce the birth of a daughter, Hayley, on Oct. 27, 2015. Mark is a senior consultant at Cervello and Alis is a vice president management supervisor at Hill Holliday, both in Boston. The family lives in Charlestown, MA. (See photo, p. 47.)

Krista LaMacchia of East Northport, NY, and Joe Weisser were married on June 19, 2015, in the Raphael Vineyards in Peconic, NY.

Courtney Rice works at the HAI Group, a company that serves public housing. She leads the communications and branding division, as well as the “ReThink: Why Housing Matters” initiative, a national campaign to shift perceptions about public housing. Under her leadership, the campaign released a full-length documentary narrated by singer-songwriter Jewel. Courtney lives in Cheshire, CT.

Kelly Rider of Ashland, WI, was hired as the first women’s hockey coach at Northland College, which hired as the first women’s hockey coach at Northland College, which hired her as assistant athletic director at Sacred Heart High School in Greenwich, CT.

Corey Contrino and John Fischer were married on Aug. 28, 2015, at The Venetian in Garfield, N.J. Jillian Blumberg ’08 was the maid of honor and Kerri Wadeyka ’08 was a bridesmaid. The couple lives in Bay Shore, NY. (See photo, p. 46.)

Brian Kennedy and Tiffany Ray were married on June 20, 2015, in Charleston, SC. The bride and groom met while studying abroad in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Brian works for Hewlett Packard Enterprise as a partner business manager. The couple lives in Sydney. (See photo, p. 46.)

Kim Leverone and Dan Munsey were married on July 11, 2015. Ashley Leverone ’14, Ashley (Maxwell) Shaw ’08, MPT ’10, and Lauren Manning ’08 were in the bridal party.

Seth Rothman of Port Chester, NY, accepted a full-time staff position at the YES Network, where he’s worked as a freelancer since 2009. He writes pregame and postgame coverage of Yankees and Nets, conducts research for Yankees and Nets coverage, and also works as a ticker operator.


Nicole Adams recently joined POLITICO, a political journalism organization, as an events manager. Nicole lives and works in Washington, D.C.

Joshua Anusewicz and Shannon Romagnolo ’09, MAT ’10, were married on Oct. 17, 2015, in West Hartford, CT. The couple lives in Chester, CT.

Candice Dodge ’09, MHS ’12, and Patrick Salvas ’08 were married on July 25, 2015, in Northampton, MA. Candice works as a physician assistant at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction, VT. Patrick works as associate director of varsity athletics communications at Dartmouth College. The couple lives in Enfield, NH, with their chocolate lab, Ellie.

Daniel Goldman graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in May 2015 and is a general surgery resident physician in Harrisburg, PA, where he lives.

Alexandra Kozinski and Anthony Filaci were married on Oct. 9, 2015. Alexandra is a social media specialist for Coldwell Banker Real Estate, and Anthony is a producer for CBS News. The couple lives in Hoboken, NJ. (See photo, p. 46.)

Hannah (Farrell) Lancaster ’09, MAT ’10, and her husband, Ben, announce the birth of a daughter, Ansley Rose, on July 23, 2015. The family lives in Newport, RI. (See photo, p. 47.)

Joseph Nuara ’09, MBA ’11, of Stratford, CT, and Bridget Southworth were married on Aug. 8, 2015.

Jeffrey Press and Caitlin (Miller) Press of Allendale, N.J., welcomed a daughter, Haleigh Payton, on Sept. 9, 2015. (See photo, p. 47.)

Jason Prevelige, MHS ’09, and his wife, Leanne, announce the birth of a son, Alexander, on March 14, 2015. Jason is president of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants and practices emergency medicine at St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury, CT. The family lives in Fairfield, CT.

Amanda Romig and John McClintock were married on Sept. 5, 2015, in Rochester, NY. Amanda is a licensed veterinarian technician at Laurelton Animal Hospital and John is a photojournalist at WHAM ABC13 TV station, both in Rochester, NY. The couple lives in Macedon, NY.

Bonnie Shea ’09, MBA ’11, married Brendan McShea on May 30, 2015, in Brooklyn, CT. The couple lives in Narberth, PA.

2010

Adrienne Coya ’10, MHS ’12, of Washington Township, NJ, presented at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America, where she presented a lecture titled “3D Post Processing—Not Just a Pretty Picture.”

Katie Devlin and Anthony Cacciabue ’10 were married on Sept. 19, 2015, in New Jersey. They met at Quinnipiac during their junior year and had more than 30 class of 2010 QU alumni in attendance. The couple lives in Stamford, CT.

Megan Scully of Los Angeles is the post-production coordinator for ABC’s “The Muppets.” She reports being best friends with Gonzo.

Courtney Sullivan ’10, MHS ’12, of Greenwich, CT, presented at the 2015 Radiological Society of North America 100th annual meeting in Chicago. Courtney works at Well Cornell Medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She was invited by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists to speak on “Patient-centered Imaging and the Role for the RA in a Changing Healthcare Environment.”

2011

Katie Blauvelt ’11, MAT ’12, and Anthony Tundo ’11 met at freshman orientation in 2007 and were married on July 24, 2015. The couple lives in Hicksville, NY. (See photo, p. 46.)
When Sarah Thomas ’02 steps off a plane in China, she has two priorities: bettering the health of the country’s rapidly aging population and learning about the culture from its people. “There are a lot of traditions and customs in China. As a vegetarian, I am not overly adventurous with the diverse cuisine offerings,” she says, laughing. “I love to learn about the cultural heritage of every place I travel.”

Thomas, an occupational therapist and health care executive, travels the world to help senior citizens become healthier and more independent. China, with more than 136 million people over the age of 65, is one of her favorite places. She is also a sought-after speaker at international conferences and professional association events. “The Chinese culture honors the elderly’s place in society,” she said. “They respect their experience and wisdom, and this is reflected in how they care for them as they age.”

Thomas is director of global innovation at Genesis Rehab Services, a national provider of physical, occupational, speech and respiratory therapy services for the older adult population. She has made it her life’s work to seek and implement the latest in technology and health care strategies to give the elderly the assistance and dignity they deserve. “The current infrastructures are not going to be enough to serve our eldest properly,” she said, pointing to a generation that is putting off retirement and holding on to independence.

Her worldwide advocacy caught the eye of executives at Aging 2.0, a San Francisco-based organization that partners with entrepreneurs to fast-track technology and designs to improve the aging experience. She was invited onto the team as an executive in residence, serving as an Innovation Fellow and working with the thousands of start-up businesses the company supports. She divides her time between Genesis and Aging 2.0.

“You could almost describe me as a joint venture,” she said. “I’m able to see what new entrepreneurs are doing and which existing technology companies are bringing new products or services to the market.”

Thousands of pitches have crossed Thomas’ desk. She has worked with WalkJoy, a company that developed a device to improve balance and reduce falls. She also has assisted with trials for Active Protective, a device that senses when a person falls and releases an airbag around the hip to prevent devastating breaks.

One of her favorite projects was providing feedback during the development of a set of stabilizing utensils known as Liftware. The specially designed spoons and fork enable individuals with hand tremors to eat with fewer spills and more dignity. In addition to providing clinical feedback, Thomas also had patients test the utensils, and improvements were made based on their suggestions.

Thomas returned to QU in March to serve as the judge for an interprofessional health care team challenge involving students and faculty from the Schools of Health Sciences, Medicine and Nursing. Thomas recently joined the School of Health Sciences Advisory Board and, because of her belief in giving back to the University, she has made a generous gift to the new Occupational Therapy Centennial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“I was always passionate about health and wellness, nutrition and exercise,” she said. “When I found occupational therapy also added the components of psychology and societal awareness and could really have a holistic approach to care delivery, it was the perfect fit for me.” —Sarah Netter
It could be said that Victor Zaderej, MBA ’95, knows how to shed light on things. He is an engineer, an inventor and, for the past three decades, an advocate of energy-efficient living.

Besides working in the electronics and lighting field for the past 15 years, Zaderej has designed computers, invented “cleaner” ways to package electronics, and devoted time to his “hobby”—designing and building super energy-efficient homes. In fact, he lives in one.

Zaderej studied mechanical engineering at MIT, earning both his BS and MS there. He intended to pursue a career in the energy field. However, when the price of oil collapsed in the early ’80s, interest in conserving energy fizzled, and Zaderej turned his attention to other areas.

“Fortunately my degree was pretty broad,” he said. He went to work for IBM in Florida and became the lead designer on the first all-plastic computer. While still with IBM, Zaderej began working for a company in North Haven, Connecticut, which specialized in putting circuitry on three-dimensional plastic.

“That became my interest, passion and expertise,” Zaderej said. He moved to Connecticut and decided to pursue an MBA at Quinnipiac to gain a good understanding of how the business world worked.

In 1995, he moved to Chicago to start his own company, 3Di, designing three-dimensional molded interconnect devices.

The start-up grew rapidly and was acquired by Molex. That segment of the company now produces about $150 million a year. Currently, he is manager of advanced development at Molex, working in the new ventures group.

Zaderej has 52 patents for his inventions in the fields of lighting, electronic packaging, thermal management and energy conservation.

Zaderej never lost sight of his true passion—energy conservation. Following up on an assignment he had in college—to calculate the cost of building a house that uses 80 percent less energy than the average home—he made it his mission to design one. It took 30 years and a lot of research to realize his dream.

His goal was to build a home that would cost only 10 percent more than a custom-built home so the average person could afford it. In contrast to homes with traditional heating and cooling systems, a “passive” home relies on solar heating, superior insulation, airtight construction and a ventilation system that exchanges indoor and outdoor air.

“It was designed to be a demonstration home for what is possible,” Zaderej said. He and his wife, Polly, and their sons, Misha and Vika, live in the house, which he named Pura Vida (“pure life”), in Oregon, Illinois.

“The true selling point of these homes is not just the energy efficiency, but the air quality and comfort level you get there,” Zaderej said. Reducing energy use is 10 times more effective than any other alternative, and more than offsets the additional cost over the life of the home. He offers seminars for architects and builders on how to design homes more efficiently.

“It’s hard to convince people in this country that they should spend an extra 10-15 percent on a home that is truly better to live in,” he said.

He and his partner design several energy-efficient buildings a year. They are working on a design for a modern day, “off-the-grid” home, which Zaderej says would be considered the ultimate in sustainable living.—Donna Pintek
Laura Ferretti married Travis Paukert on July 31, 2015, in Spring Lake, N.J. Laura is a math and science teacher in Colorado Springs, CO. The couple will be moving to Fort Lee, VA, this summer.

Matt Galka, MS ’11, of Tallahassee, FL, is a reporter for Florida’s Capitol News Service and has been named to a “30 under 30” list by the SaintPetersBlog.

Caitlin Goldberg and Matthew Galo ’10 were married on Oct. 23, 2015, at St. Anthony of Padua in Butler, N.J. Caitlin is the manager of communications for USA Network, after spending four years at Bravo and Oxygen Media. Matthew works at the TODAY show and previously held positions at MSNBC and Fox News. They both began their careers as members of the prestigious NBCUniversal East Coast Page Program. The couple lives in Wayne, N.J. (See photo, p. 46.)

Kristin Laskey of Gales Ferry, NY, met fellow alumna Krista LaMacchia ’07 while they both were working as travel nurses in labor and delivery at Swedish Medical Center, Issaquah, WA. Kristin continues to travel as a labor and delivery nurse in California, Hawaii and Alaska as well as other states.

Katrina Lord ’11, DPT ’13, and Patrick Pizzichetta ’11 were married on Sept. 19, 2015. Bridesmaids included Kathryn Kerley ’11, MHS ’13 and Alyzza Zielinski ’11. Groomsmen included Vinny Santorella ’11, MBA ’12, Danny Ryan ’11, Will Flanagan ’11 and David Buonaiuto ’12. The couple lives in Edgewater, NJ.

Madeline Popelka of San Francisco is the founder of Digi Darling, a SF-based marketing company that focuses on building brand presence in the digital space. Clients include food and beverage industry leaders.

Marisa Riep of Lexington, MA, has worked as a school nurse for the past four years and is currently at Watertown public schools. Marisa was recognized by the Boston Globe during Nurses Week 2015 for the care of a student with Type 1 diabetes. She has earned her master’s degree and is active in using her role as a school nurse to help address substance abuse.

2012

Gai (Pollard) Doran of North Haven, CT, is director of research for the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences. He provides comprehensive grants management support to the faculty, administrators, staff and students.

Connor Gillivan of Orlando, FL, has co-founded FreeeUp.com with Nathan Hirsch ‘11 and eCommetize.com with Zachary Schwartz ’12. Connor also started his own blog, ConnorGillivan.com, where he shares insights from his life as an entrepreneur.

Emily Lager of Brewster, NY, earned her master of science in education in school counseling at Long Island University. She is a sixth-grade school counselor at Eastern Middle School in Riverside, CT.

Margaret Lohmiller, MS ’12, of Wallingford, CT, became a reporter for WGBB and Western Mass News. She was previously a special project producer at WFSB in Hartford and freelanced for the Connecticut Health Investigative Team.

2013

Carolyn Kolb ’13, MHS ’15, recently joined Masonicare Health Center’s long-term care team. Carolyn lives in Hillsborough, NJ.

Ian McAfee of Wallingford, CT, earned a master of science with merit in human osteology and paleopathology from the University of Bradford, England, where he now lives.

2015

Italo Alves of Astoria, NY, is the recipient of a Schwarzman Scholarship, which gives him the opportunity to develop his leadership skills and professional networks through a one-year master’s degree program at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Italo is a consultant in the global treasury advisory services practice at Deloitte & Touche in New York City.

Taylor Popielarz of Garfield, NJ, a multimedia journalist for ABC57 of South Bend, IN, recently interviewed Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders. He previously interned with the NBC News investigative unit, the ABC News assignment desk and Fox 5.

Michael Vaspasiano of Guilford, CT, is an e-learning specialist/content developer for Quinnipiac University Online.
Paul Klemow of Lake Worth, FL, is the owner of PowerLegal, PA, a firm that offers consumers the benefits of lawyer-drafted, customized estate planning documents at prices comparable to LegalZoom’s online template forms. His goal is to advance the public’s accessibility to inexpensive, competent legal help.

Janet (Kipphut) Ainsworth ’74, JD ’84, of Guilford, CT, recently celebrated her 20th anniversary as a staff attorney with the state of Connecticut’s Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (formerly the Department of Public Safety). In November 2015, she received the “Appie of the Year” award from the Connecticut chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club for service as an activity leader and work on various committees, including serving as chapter chair for nearly three years.

Linda Stark is a realtor working for One Sotheby’s International Realty in Fort Lauderdale, FL. She specializes in residential realty, condominiums and single-family homes.

Brian DelGatto of Darien, CT, is a managing director for Epiq Systems, a leading global provider of integrated technology and services for the legal profession. She is an active member in industry organizations and currently serves on the strategic planning committees for the Southern and Eastern District of New York Bankruptcy Courts.

Thomas Parrino of New Canaan, CT, cofounder of the Westport-based law firm Nusbaum & Parrino, recently named Laura Shattuck, JD ’99, a partner in the firm, making Shattuck the first new partner since 1992.

Sandra (Provorny) Lax of Stratford, CT, became president of the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers for the 2015-16 term. She is a partner in Lax & Traux.

Bruce L. Galaro is a principal attorney with Business Law Group. He relocated his corporate practice to St. George, UT, in September 2015, and continues to support his Connecticut and international corporate clients from Utah.

Edward Sokolnicki ’78, JD ’90, recently completed a six-month assignment for Computer Sciences Corp. in Munich, Germany. He lives in Ansonia, CT.

Jim McGreevy is president and CEO of Beer Institute, a national trade association for America’s beer brewers, located in Washington, D.C., where he lives.

Robert T. Terenzio of Tampa, FL, owns the Law Offices of Robert T. Terenzio in Orlando. Following initial successes in the EU and Spanish-speaking South American countries, the firm will be introducing surrogacy and gamete donation to Brazil via a series of conferences in São Paulo.

Anthony R. Minchella is a managing member at Minchella & Associates in Middlebury, CT, where he lives. He was voted a Connecticut and New England Super Lawyer for the 6th year in a row in the practice areas of commercial litigation and employment. The Middlebury firm, a litigation boutique, now has a total of three attorneys and two staff.

Stephan Aryan of Killingworth, CT, completed his master of science from Columbia University, New York City, with a focus on negotiation and conflict resolution.

Craig Aronow of East Brunswick, NJ, is the newly elected president of the New Jersey Association of County Bar Presidents. He is an attorney with Rebenack, Aronow & Mascolo. He is president of the Middlesex County Bar Association and is also a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Michelle (Fenton) Hellbusch of Eden Prairie, MN, is thrilled to have her dream job in sports and entertainment. She is one of the members of the lead discovery team of attorneys in a multi-state, class action sports litigation case against the NHL, pertaining to representation of retired NHL players in claims arising from concussive head injuries suffered during their professional playing careers.

Erik L. Gray of New York, NY, is a trial attorney at Weiss & Rosenbloom, a personal injury law firm in New York City. He recently was certified as a life member of both the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, which are among the most prestigious associations of trial attorneys in the United States.

Julia Flanagan of New York, NY, joined KPMG’s state and local tax practice in New York City as a managing director in the alternative investment/financial services area. Julia works primarily on large private equity clients.

Tanya (Wolanic) Bovée of Guilford, CT, has been named the new managing shareholder in the Hartford office of Jackson Lewis, a national firm representing management in employment matters. She is past president of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association and still serves on the CAPABA board of directors. She also is active in the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and is a board member for the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity, which works to improve opportunities for attorneys of color in Connecticut.

Jamie LaMere of Torrington, CT, is Torrington’s new corporation counsel. She was appointed by Mayor Elinor Carbone. She lives in Torrington with her husband, Donavan Riley, and her four children, Vivienne, James, Jack and Thomas.
Fighting for Vets

Firm’s experts solve legal issues for those in military

There are law offices within walking distance of most every state and federal court, but one firm on Orange Street in New Haven has a unique focus.

Bansley Anthony, a firm headed by managing partner Walter Bansley IV, JD ’04, devotes a good part of its practice to representing military personnel and veterans. For some of the firm’s members, the path to military lawyering started at Quinnipiac, which also has become the firm’s major recruiting station.

Whether service members or veterans find themselves entangled in criminal cases, family court issues or the battle for government benefits they’ve earned, Bansley Anthony has experts in place. The other two partners are Keith Anthony, JD ’06, and Michael Burdo, JD ’04. In all, 14 of the firm’s 16 lawyers are Quinnipiac Law alumni.

The firm, which offers special rates to veterans, also has offices in Groton and Danielson, and a Fairfield office is in the works. Most of the work with military personnel comes from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London or the Submarine Base in Groton.

“One of the things I liked about Quinnipiac is that, while I was challenged with the law school aspect, I also found it easy to approach professors and interact with my classmates,” Bansley said. “And the friendships and the camaraderie I formed there are unique.”

Walter Bansley III founded the firm after completing a 20-year career in the Marine Corps. Working in the Judge Advocate General Corps, he defended or prosecuted hundreds of cases. The elder Bansley, who is easing into retirement, is said to be the military lawyer behind Tom Cruise’s character in “A Few Good Men.”

He made headlines in 2005 by flying to Iraq at his own expense to represent, pro bono, a Marine reservist from North Branford, Connecticut, accused of fraternizing with a subordinate, failure to take corrective action against a subordinate, and failure to report being in possession of stolen property (a TV). Bansley had met the man earlier at a Marine Corps ball and told him to call if he was ever in trouble. The Marine was acquitted.

The younger Bansley served as a captain in the Marines and was hired by his father after graduating law school.

Then came Anthony, hired after his hitch as a Marine Corps officer and JAG lawyer. Anthony’s law school professors wrote him letters of recommendation to the JAG program.

“I do mostly criminal defense,” Bansley IV said. “Keith expanded the firm, brought more civil to it—personal injury, family and probate. And Mike Burdo diversified us even more with real estate and transactional services work. So we’ve got a good mix, covering a lot of areas as we’ve grown.”

Another associate, Michael Fenton, JD ’09, was a Marine Corps sniper; thus, a quarter of the firm’s lawyers were in the Corps.

When a service member runs afoul of the law, he or she can face both the civilian justice system and military justice system, which can be harsher. Having an expert who’s lived and worked in both worlds can be reassuring.

A recent drunken-driving case Bansley IV handled for a young man from the submarine base illustrates that.

“I knew what he was going through, with having to report to his command,” Bansley said.

“The pressure he was feeling from his immediate supervisor all the way up through the chain. I could talk to him in military talk and understand those pressures.”

—Thane Grauel
Osvaldo G. Machado and his wife, Michelle, welcomed their second child, Lucia Grace, on Oct. 9, 2015. Lucia Grace shares the same birthday as her mother. She joins her big sister, Olivia Faith, at the family’s home in Oxford, CT. Osvaldo is a partner in the law firm of Hoekenga & Machado in Danbury, CT. His practice focuses primarily on criminal defense, personal injury and residential real estate transactions.

Chris Major is a partner with Meister Seelig & Fein in Manhattan and Stamford, CT. His practice focuses on commercial litigation. Chris lives in Wilton, CT, with his wife, Patty, and their sons: Henry, Jack and Luke.

John Parese of North Branford, CT, has been named president of the New Haven County Bar Association. Previously he served as an executive committee officer. He works for the New Haven-based law firm, Buckley & Wynne.

Tracy (Cass) MacKenzie of Poughkeepsie, NY, is a family court judge for the New York State Judiciary. Tracy was elected Dutchess County Family Court Judge in the November 2015 election. She was sworn in on Dec. 29, 2015, and took the bench in January 2016.


John Andrew Wylam of Arlington, VA, is working for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Washington, D.C., as a manager of government relations. He works in the Public Policy Office. He meets with members of Congress and advocates for changes in health policy so that the nation’s health care system can better meet the needs of people living with multiple sclerosis.

Nicole Livesey of Stratford, CT, has joined the firm of Floman DePaola as an attorney. She began working at the firm as an intern in 2013.

Marissa (Montalban) McGill and her husband welcomed a son, Greyson, in October 2015. The family lives in Coventry, RI.
ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

1. Robert Wachtarz ’06 and Janice Wachtarz ’82, associate vice president of information services, attend a reception at Heartland Brewery after the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

2. From left, Brendan Reimetz ’10, Marissa Levine ’10 and Stephanie David ’11 ring in the new year on Jan. 2 at a reception before the Bobcats played Northeastern in Boston.

3. Nishant Maini ’14 was among 100 alumni and parents at the “Cocktails, Culture and Conversation” at Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum on March 15.

4. Grace Brady, executive director of Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, gives a private museum tour to members of the Golden Bobcats after a March tea.

5. Connecting at the Bobcats & Brews event at the Stony Creek Brewery in November are, from left: Nicole Frey ’14, Julie Roosma ’14 and Stephanie Weady ’14.

6. Alumni traveled from far and wide to cheer on the Bobcats at the Frozen Four in Tampa, FL. From left: Jon Singer ’04 (MA), Tommy Cucci ’09 (NY), Elissa (Pelland) Carroll ’05 and Justin Carroll ’05, MHS ’07 (CT), and Ric Wallace ’09 (NJ).
CONGRATULATIONS!

1. Tara Michalowski ’04 and Lindsay Coyne were married on Oct. 24, 2015, in Hartford.

2. Kyle Andrukiewicz ’08 married Lauren McTague on June 20, 2015, in Essex, CT.

3. Katie Blauvelt ’11, MAT ’12, and Anthony Tundo ’11 met at freshman orientation in 2007 and were married on July 24, 2015.

4. Brian Kennedy ’08 and Tiffany Ray were married on June 20, 2015, in Charleston, SC.

5. Caitlin Goldberg ’11 and Matthew Galo ’10 were married on Oct. 23, 2015, at St. Anthony of Padua in Butler, NJ.

6. Alexandra Kozinski ’09 and Anthony Filiaci ’09 were married on Oct. 9, 2015.

7. Colleen Powers ’04 and Kenny Lubin were wed on Sept. 26, 2015, in York Beach, ME. Bridesmaids included Maeve Byrne ’04, Jennifer Johnson ’05 and Krystal Ristaino ’05.

BEGINNINGS

ALL IN THE FAMILY

1. Zander Joseph Lenig, son of Kristen (Steimers) Lenig '02 and her husband, Charles, was born July 13, 2015.


3. Ansley Rose Lancaster was born on July 23, 2015, to Hannah (Farrell) Lancaster '09, MAT '10, and her husband, Ben.

4. Etienne Charnay, son of Dorothee (Allard) Charnay, MBA '00, joined the family in September 2015.

5. Connor Edward Heller was born on Sept. 16, 2015, to Aubrey (Bishop) Heller '05, MS '07, and Ryan Heller '05.

6. Twin boys, Aaron and Brayden Magarian, were born on March 9, 2015, to Erica (Pełkowski) Magarian '03, MAT '04, and Dennis Magarian '04.

7. Leena Shah, daughter of Betsy (Girard) Shah '05 and her husband, Aakash, of Milford, CT, was born Oct. 26, 2015.

8. Hayley Guarracino was born on Oct. 27, 2015, to Mark Guarracino '07, MBA '08, and Alis (Biri) Guarracino '07, MBA '09.
Ties that Bind
Class cements bond among three generations
by Erica DeFrancesco

La st fall, 10 junior occupational therapy majors visiting the Alzheimer’s Resource Center in Plantsville, Connecticut, completed a questionnaire on which they were asked to divulge very personal information about themselves. Questions involved their likes, dislikes, relationships, and even their darkest moments. The students were enrolled in my service-learning course and filled out the same questionnaire that family members completed for their loved ones with Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementias upon moving them into the center.

Using their answers, students were matched with individuals at the center with whom they shared interests. Students visited with their “partners” weekly throughout the semester, engaging in social and leisure activities. Remarkable bonds were formed.

Meghan Healy, a student and former violinist, was paired with Marie, a former opera singer. Marie’s love for music inspired Meghan to have her violin shipped from out of state so she could play again. When she played Marie’s favorite song “Over the Rainbow,” Marie and her peers were moved to tears. Amber Gianni, another student, connected with Connie because of their shared Italian heritage. They spent hours playing Connie’s favorite card game, gin rummy.

One of the most touching stories involved Alex DeNoncour, whose love of theater, song and the arts was a natural match for Ann, a former radio singer and band member. Ann and her husband also owned a popular bow tie business, Lowe Bow Originals.

While Ann is known for her spirit and positive attitude, her visits with Alex undoubtedly brought an extra twinkle to her eye. Recognizing their strong connection, I thought that getting a bow tie for Alex would make their visits that much more special.

Upon hearing that Ann’s granddaughter, Kellie Dunne, was continuing the legacy of the family tie business, I reached out to her, asking if she would consider making and donating a bow tie to Alex.

Kellie quickly and enthusiastically replied that she would honor the request, not only because she was appreciative of the bond Alex had formed with her grandmother, but because she herself had a connection to Quinnipiac—she is a 1995 alumna of the University’s OT program. And her husband, Rob, is a 1997 graduate of the School of Law.

The class is over, but the bonds have held. The students look forward to continued visits with their partners, and Alex plans to wear the bow tie during his visits with Ann, who presented Alex with his gift on the last day of the service-learning experience.

In return, Alex gave Ann a unique gift as well—a poem he wrote about the relationship they had developed.

The author of this article is a clinical assistant professor of occupational therapy.

An Unexpected Friendship

“ You truly never know who will change your life forever,
Someone who will shape how you approach every endeavor.
You taught me to smile each and every day
You taught me that laughter will make your woes go away
You greet me with a smile that lights up the community,
To all of the world’s issues, you have a certain immunity.
We discuss music and your family as it grows,
You now have grandchildren, who continue to make your bows.
You are a true hostess, as you try to feed me breakfast with your fork,
You are a true artist, as you begin to sing ‘New York, New York.’
You seem to have discovered the fountain of youth,
And I am a little jealous, to tell you the truth.
Because your beauty is timeless, and your wit is like no other,
You make me value how much I love my grandmother.
She is 100 miles away, too far to up and go,
But I can fight my homesickness because I have my Ann Lowe.
You don’t remember my name, my stories, or smarts,
But I know we are bonded deep in each other’s hearts.
I hope this shows the impact you’ve made,
And that you mean more to me than just a grade.”

—Alex DeNoncour
To learn how you can have an impact on Quinnipiac’s future by endowing a scholarship to support outstanding students, call the Office of Development & Alumni Affairs at 877-582-1929 or visit www.quinnipiac.edu/endowments.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Ray DelGobbo ‘71, retired tax partner-in-charge from the Hartford office of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, is making an impact on today’s Quinnipiac students. The Ray and Donna DelGobbo Endowed Scholarship provides valuable support to Gabriel Reyes, a senior finance and accounting major.
it’s all about YOU
YOUR QUINNIPIAC | YOUR WEEKEND
QUINNIPIAC ALUMNI WEEKEND
OCTOBER 7–8, 2016
www.quinnipiac.edu/alumniweekend