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ON THE COVER: Future teacher Jonathan Rapport and Kathleen Griese, a public relations/Spanish major, are eager and equipped for the next chapter of their lives. Photo by Frank Poole
Photos convey empathy
I enjoyed the article on Matt Andrew ‘10 in the last issue. I have been with Matt on trips to the developing world, most recently to Japan for a summit meeting of Nobel Peace prize laureates. Not only is he a talented photographer, but he has grown into a person who cares very much about disadvantaged and poverty-stricken people and can communicate their angst, joys and sorrows through his pictures.—David T. Ives, executive director, Albert Schweitzer Institute

Good prognosis
As a QU alumnus and a graduating medical student, I read with interest the article in the summer magazine about the planned medical school. I believe there are three core components fundamental to any medical school. In each of these, Quinnipiac is uniquely positioned to excel.

First, medicine is about patient care. With a large uninsured population, Quinnipiac’s intended focus on primary care is greatly needed. Without an increase in primary care physicians, complemented by other mid-level providers (such as physician assistants), any health care reform aimed at increasing coverage will be stifled. By exposing medical students to primary care settings, such as local doctor’s offices and emergency rooms, early in training, students will have the chance to envision themselves as future primary care physicians throughout their four years of training.

Second, medicine is about teamwork; a physician does not treat patients independently. Quinnipiac already trains students to be physician assistants, radiologist assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, physical therapists and occupational therapists. Each of these future health professionals will now have the unique opportunity to interact with medical students to simulate a team in the approach to patient care. Scenarios can be developed in which a team in the approach to patient care.

Finally, medicine is about lifelong learning. Inevitably, there will be emerging diseases and new drugs changing preventive care guidelines. Medical students must always be curious. They should be trained to analyze scientific literature and translate findings into clinical practice.

I can tell you from personal experience that there is nothing more rewarding than enhancing the health of the people around you.—Stephen Vindigni ’02 is in his final year at Emory University School of Medicine and is applying for internal medicine residency positions.

Motivating students
I was pleased to see Brooks Marston ’87 featured in the Summer 2010 issue. As part of the development staff at Quinnipiac, I attended a School of Business Career Day in Boston, Mass., where Brooks spoke to QU students preparing to launch job hunts.

Brooks was engaging, witty and honest as he shared his path from QU to his current position as director of the Boston regional office for Pershing LLC, a BNY Mellon Company. He engaged the students as he dispensed practical, insightful and beneficial information about the search process and employer expectations.

It’s great to have an alumnus and a fellow parent of two current QU students get involved with his alma mater and help young professionals advance. It’s this willingness to give back that makes our community strong and our graduates successful. Alumni and parents who would like to share their professional expertise may contact me in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 203-582-3745.—John P. DeMezzo ’82

We welcome your letters. Send to: Quinnipiac Magazine, AH-PUB, 275 Mount Carmel Ave., Hamden, CT 06518-1908 or email janet.waldman@quinnipiac.edu
Rocky Top exudes warmth

The Rocky Top Student Center on the York Hill Campus opened last fall to rave reviews, not only from the students who live on that campus, but also from those who use its well-equipped fitness center and dine on the rooftop patio with a view. Many say it resembles a ski lodge. In fact, the center’s site was the location of the popular Rocky Top Lodge in the 19th century. The attractive and roomy building features a common room with central fireplace, a grand staircase, and hanging lights with a bobcat motif. Besides the dining hall, which seats 500, there is a fitness center with spinning and dance studios, six meeting rooms, security offices, a post office and other amenities. Perched at the apex of the 234-acre campus off Sherman Avenue in Hamden, about a mile from the Mount Carmel Campus, the center provides scenic vistas that span north to Meriden and south to Long Island Sound.

Currently, 1,257 juniors or seniors live there in either the Crescent or Westview residence halls or the Townhouses. An additional 175 students will call the Eastview residence hall home when it opens in August.
Dr. Bruce Koeppen began Nov 1 as founding dean of the Quinnipiac University School of Medicine. He came to Quinnipiac from the University of Connecticut, where he was dean for academic affairs at UConn’s School of Medicine. Koeppen is working closely with the University’s academic leaders to shape the school’s educational framework. He will finalize the school’s clinical affiliation partnerships, develop curriculum, recruit faculty and an administrative team.

Quinnipiac hopes to welcome the first class in Fall 2013. Koeppen said Quinnipiac has satisfied the Liaison Committee on Medical Education’s requirements and is considered an “applicant school.” Schools receive applicant status when they have been identified as meeting the basic eligibility requirements to apply for accreditation.

In January, Koeppen was joined by Dr. Anthony “Bud” Ardolino, senior associate dean for academic and student affairs and former associate dean for medical student affairs and a professor of medicine at UConn School of Medicine; and David Gillon, senior associate dean for administration and finance, also from UConn.

In April, Stephen Wikel, PhD, will begin as chair of the basic medical science department and senior associate dean for research. He is a professor and senior scientist in the Center for Tropical Diseases, Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Texas.

Prior to UConn, Koeppen was a National Institutes of Health-funded researcher and teacher with a distinguished career as a scholar and researcher, particularly in the area of renal physiology. His bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate (in physiology) are from the University of Illinois, and he earned his MD from the University of Chicago. He went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship in physiology in the Yale University School of Medicine.

Beginning July 1, the University will establish a School of Nursing in recognition of the important and ever-increasing role registered nurses and advanced practice nurses play on health care teams. A national search for a dean is under way.

“We see our North Haven Campus as a destination for exceptional primary care education, and nursing is part of the primary care triad that also includes the health professions programs we offer (such as physician assistant), as well as the medical school in the works,” said Lynn Price, chair of the nursing department.

The number of applicants to this year’s nursing program nearly doubled from last year; approximately 600 students are currently nursing majors.

In addition, the current nurse practitioner master’s level program will transition to a clinical doctorate, pending state approval, in Fall 2011. Students may choose to concentrate on adult practice, family practice or the new women’s health track.

Quinnipiac’s undergraduate and graduate nursing programs recently received an endorsement from the American Holistic Nurses’ Certification Corp. This distinction puts Quinnipiac in an elite group of just three schools in the nation that have received this endorsement for both their graduate and undergraduate nursing programs.

“The benefit of the endorsement is it will tend to draw students who are interested in holistic practice into our programs,” said Mary Helming, associate professor of nursing, who helped lead the initiative along with Cynthia Barrere, professor of nursing.
Parents take in 3 campuses

Parents expected to see Sleeping Giant’s transition from green to vibrant gold and rust when they arrived for Parents and Family Weekend in October. Most families didn’t anticipate all of the changes they would see on the University’s three campuses including fantastic views from the Rocky Top Student Center on the York Hill Campus.

Lori Scott, mother of Jessica, a senior studying athletic training and physical therapy, toured the School of Health Sciences on the North Haven Campus. “It’s very impressive. It makes me want to come back to college,” said Scott, a nurse from Seekonk, Mass.

This year, nearly 1,600 families attended the annual event to explore the University, meet professors and deans, attend athletic games and enjoy “mini-college” sessions offered by faculty from several disciplines. This year’s schedule included a bike tour, receptions, and student performances, and a record 3,000 people attended the Midnight Madness event in the TD Bank Sports Center.

Infections of Leisure

Many people are aware of the dangers inherent in traveling, but what about the risks at home—cleaning, gardening or simply making dinner?

Diseases and infections can result from ingesting, inhaling or simply touching bacteria found on animals or in food, water—even air. If left untreated, some can be fatal.

In her class, Infections of Leisure, Lisa Cuchara, associate professor of biomedical sciences, discusses everyday activities that carry risk. Students learn that diseases can be transmitted from common carriers such as mosquitoes, and also by improper food handling.

Pregnant women and people with weak immune systems are most at risk. Healthy individuals typically carry enough antibodies in their systems to prevent illness.

Leptospirosis, a rare but serious bacterial infection, can be contracted from touching infected animals. This flu-like disease affects 100–200 people per year and can progress to meningitis-like symptoms. A less serious, more common infection—fish-handler’s disease—results when cuts or scrapes in the skin become infected with bacteria.

There are even documented cases of infections resulting from a splash in the face with bacteria-laden water, for instance from a mop bucket or rain barrel. Also, toxins produced by bacteria in foods can remain even after the food is cooked thoroughly.

Certain viruses have been known to mimic human molecules and hijack cells, sending them on a wild goose chase to make antibodies, Cuchara explains. This camouflage technique also masks their true identity and serves as a way to keep infected cells from being destroyed.

—Donna Pintek

‘Johnny Johnson’ a hit at Long Wharf

The Quinnipiac Theater for Community presented “Johnny Johnson” in November at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven. The satirical musical, written by Paul Green and Kurt Weill, is the story of an idealistic young World War I soldier who attempts to stop what he considers to be a senseless confrontation—and the repercussions that result.

Forest and woodsy scenes...
Banker inducted into Business Hall of Fame

The School of Business inducted Peyton R. Patterson, chairman, president and CEO of NewAlliance Bank, into its Business Leader Hall of Fame in November at a dinner ceremony in the New Haven Lawn Club attended by more than 200 people.

The eighth annual event also honored Janalyne Gius ‘05, assistant vice president of strategic planning and initiatives at Virtus Investment Partners and Charles Saia ’91, MBA ’95, a partner at Deloitte & Touche, as outstanding business alumni for their engagement in the lives of current students, helping with internship placements and serving as mentors.

Keith Levine ‘09, MBA ‘10, and Stephanie Norris ’11 were presented with emerging leader awards.

Marna Borgstrom, president and CEO of Yale-New Haven Hospital, introduced Patterson, who said she would always remember the evening and the honor, although she plans to leave NewAlliance this year once its merger with First Niagara Bank is completed.

Patterson was named Community Banker of the Year in 2008 by American Banker, and U.S. Banker magazine ranked her as one of the top 10 banking CEOs nationwide.

Proceeds from the event benefit the school’s Endowed Scholarship Fund.

From left: Marna Borgstrom, president/CEO of Yale-New Haven Hospital; honoree Peyton Patterson, chairman/CEO of NewAlliance Bank; and Quinnipiac President John L. Lahey.

Environmental activist visits campus

Majora Carter, an environmental expert who founded the Sustainable South Bronx, visited Quinnipiac for a lecture last semester.

Carter’s lecture was titled, “Green the Ghetto: How Much It Won’t Cost Us.” She founded the Sustainable South Bronx in 2001 after receiving a $1.25 million federal transportation grant to design the South Bronx Greenway, which features 11 miles of bike and pedestrian paths connecting the rivers and neighborhoods to each other and to the rest of the city. Carter also has been instrumental in creating riverfront parks, building green roofs and working to remove poorly planned highways to foster positive economic development.

From left: Marna Borgstrom, president/CEO of Yale-New Haven Hospital; honoree Peyton Patterson, chairman/CEO of NewAlliance Bank; and Quinnipiac President John L. Lahey.
QUAD QUOTES

What are the best things about living on the York Hill Campus?

“You’ve got to love the fitness center in Rocky Top and the view. It’s pretty cool. It’s a brand new facility, unlike anywhere else. When you’re on the York Hill Campus, you’re above everything.”

—ALEX PATELLA ’12, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

William Harrison ’12, history
“I like my single room in the Crescent. As a member of the basketball team, I like being near the arena for practice.”

Kristin Zeto ’11, biomedical sciences
“I live in off-campus housing but I come up here to use the fitness center. The equipment doesn’t strain my back as much, and the cardio machines have individual TVs. I am thinking of using the group project rooms with the lightboards for team meetings.”

Brooke Clouthier ’12, physical therapy
“I like that it’s secluded. We don’t have to be around the freshmen. And it’s next to the arena. I go to the games all the time.”

Michelle Smith ’12, marketing
“Living at York Hill is a step toward independence—without having to get a house. I love the Rocky Top and the views. On the Mount Carmel Campus, you don’t meet a lot of people because you’re in your own building. Here, you see people walking in the halls and in the student center.”

Katie Bosse ’12, psychology
“Everybody is a junior or senior. We’ve done the college thing… After you’ve been in college for two years, you like being with people at the same maturity level as you.”

Michaela Shoemaker ’12, marketing
“All the juniors are up here, so it’s great to hang out with friends. The food is really good, you can get just a slice of pizza instead of an individual pie. I do have to plan extra time to get the shuttle for classes on the Mount Carmel Campus.”

EAT LOCAL, EAT HEALTHY

John Turenne, founder and president of Sustainable Food Systems of Wallingford, Conn., spoke on the North Haven Campus last semester.

Turenne focused on sustainability as it relates to producing and consuming food in his talk, titled “Eat Local, Eat Healthy and Help Save the Planet, Too!” His consulting company develops practices to benefit the planet and his clients’ bottom lines. His client list includes The Culinary Institute of America, Yale University, Harvard Medical School, Jamie Oliver Ltd., The New Hampshire Department of Education, Kaiser Permanente and several public hospital and school systems.

The program was presented by Quinnipiac’s National Institute for Community Health Education and the University’s Sustainability Committee.
Six faculty and staff members were honored with Quinnipiac’s highest recognition of excellence in October during the annual Center for Excellence in Teaching and Service to Students awards ceremony.

REBECCA ABBOTT
After working as an editor and videographer, Rebecca Abbott, professor of communications, discovered a new realm of possibilities when she walked away from the camera and into the classroom. She has been challenging students to find new perspectives since arriving at Quinnipiac in 1999.

“Once I started teaching, I began to appreciate the excitement of sharing with someone else and the excitement of someone else wanting to take those ideas and use them. It’s a fantastic feeling,” said Abbott, who won an Emmy for her work with “Schweitzer: My Life is My Argument.”

“I always knew I wanted to do something that would help others feel good about their lives.”

CHERIE FINOIA
Cherie Finoia truly enjoys her work as a custodian—and it shows. Anyone who frequents the second floor of the Carl Hansen Student Center inevitably runs into Finoia and her contagious smile. When she’s not meticulously cleaning the area, she’s trading pleasantries with students.

“In one short day, I have seen her act as a cheerleader, a friend, a mom and an advocate,” said Benjamin Wald, one of the students who nominated Finoia.

“Seeing all of these friendly faces just brightens my day,” said Finoia, who is the mother of two current Quinnipiac students.

JEFFREY MEYER
Jeffrey Meyer has a gift for taking some of the most complex legal subjects and breaking them down in a way that inspires and energizes his students.

“The key ingredient in my view to law school learning is not learning facts of law,” he said. “In other words, it’s not so important what the law actually is, but why it is that way. It’s the key skill I try to work on with students, for better or worse.”

Meyer plays an additional active role in his students’ lives by assisting with the University chapters of various law societies and helping bring guest speakers and symposiums to campus.

JAMES MONIELLO
In his 13 years of service to the Quinnipiac community, James Moniello has proven he can handle any situation that might come along as a security officer on the midnight shift.

“It’s all about listening, helping and caring about student concerns while creating a safe environment for them,” he said. He has been the long-time “go-to guy” for David Barger, chief of security and safety.

“In this era of Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University, the job of any university security unit has become more and more complex,” Barger said. “The daily tasks taken on by the officers are no longer mundane but take on a new importance. Jim exemplifies that new paradigm.”

TAMI REILLY
As the assistant athletic director for fitness and wellness, Tami Reilly often arrives on campus at 5 a.m. to take care of paperwork so she can be available to talk to students throughout the day. Often, she does not go home until 9 p.m. or later. Reilly, who has been at Quinnipiac for eight years, developed and manages the new fitness centers on the York Hill and North Haven campuses. She also oversees the fitness classes and the gym on the Mount Carmel Campus.

Michael Medina, assistant director for intramurals, said Reilly always looks for ways to satisfy both the students who are serious about fitness and work out daily and the people who want to learn how to use certain pieces of equipment for the first time.

ROBERT SMART
Teaching classes is just one aspect of Robert Smart’s interaction with Quinnipiac as a professor of English. In 2001, he founded the University’s Writing Across the Curriculum program, which has helped train close to 400 faculty members representing more than 40 disciplines on how to integrate writing into their courses. As a co-chair for QUWAC, Smart gives presentations at other universities on how to accomplish the same objectives. Of course, he still enjoys his primary role. After 31 years of teaching, he gets up every morning and says: “Oh good, I am going to work. Sure, sometimes I complain, but in the end, there’s nothing else I’d rather do.”
Amanda, Brianna and Christina Faust would like to set one thing straight: The fraternal triplets do not intentionally try to finish races in the order in which they were born. It just seems to work out that way.

The sisters have made an instant impact on the Quinnipiac women’s cross-country team as freshmen. Amanda, the eldest of the three, won Northeast Conference Rookie of the Week four times last season as the team captured its sixth straight NEC title.

Although they are not identical, Quinnipiac head coach Carolyn Martin admitted that she had a hard time figuring out who was who. “I still have to take a second look when they’re running to be able to tell,” Martin said.

Sisterly squabbles aren’t an issue for these three. “I remember Coach Martin told us at the beginning of the season, ‘If you girls have any problems with each other, don’t bring it to practice.’ We don’t really fight, though,” Amanda said. “We’re quite civilized.”

Before deciding to come to Quinnipiac, the trio helped lead their high school in Emmaus, Pa., to three consecutive cross-country state championships. When it came to choosing a college, none of them could fathom going to different schools. All three are physician assistant majors. As the daughters of a military father, the triplets have lived all over the country and even Germany.

“So we always had each other, and I think that’s one thing that made us close,” Christina said.

One, two, three, go!

Triplets team for cross country
Alyssa Budkofsky listens in background as Head Coach Tom Moore sets up a play with Ike Azotam during a home game in November.
Making the grade

Men’s basketball team rebounds in the classroom

By Stephen P. Schmidt

The men’s basketball team practices shooting and dribbling on the court, but once outside the arena, the student-athletes are coached on how to succeed in the classroom despite time-gobbling practices, games and bus trips.

When Head Coach Tom Moore came on board in 2007, the team had been stripped of two scholarships for failure to meet the NCAA’s academic progress rate (APR) requirements. Moore requested that an additional academic support specialist be hired to meet with the 19 individual team members weekly to make sure they were completing academic assignments and using academic resources if needed.

He hired Alyssa Budkofsky, now assistant athletic director for men’s basketball academic support. Three years later, that investment has paid impressive dividends. An August report by Foxsports.com, based on data from the NCAA, found that the QU team improved by 219 academic progress rate points since the 2006–07 academic year, the greatest improvement among Division I men’s basketball programs. Moore was listed as the coach with the greatest academic turnaround.

Moore was the coach with the greatest academic turnaround.

Besides weekly meetings with each student, she also monitors a study hall every Sunday night and on extended road trips. When they exit the bus, she’s there to remind them of upcoming assignments.

Steve Robinson ’09 remembers the bus debriefings well. He served as a point guard for the team while earning his bachelor’s in business management. He will finish his MBA in May. “Alyssa was basically the backbone. If we needed help, she was there for support,” he said. “You knew you couldn’t get out of anything because it was your responsibility,” he said.

Now into his fourth year with Quinnipiac, Moore said the team has a culture in place that enforces academic accountability from day one.

“Kids want discipline,” Moore said. “They might not outwardly show it or ask for it, but when you raise the standards and you put your expectations high, they’ll strive to reach it, so our guys understand these are the rules.”

Budkofsky recalled two seniors from last year—James Feldeine and Jeremy Baker—who were very proud to earn their degrees, and how that motivated the rest of the team. This year, all four seniors are on schedule to graduate on time.

“We look at everyone as a family and last year, with those guys graduating...we don’t want to let the tradition down,” said Deontay Twyman, a senior guard and history major. “We want to try to keep that tradition going with getting our degrees.”

Moore gives credit to both the students and Budkofsky, whom he refers to as “the academic coach.” “I make it really clear to all the student-athletes that her word is as gospel as any of the coaches,” he said.

Before arriving at Quinnipiac, Budkofsky performed a similar role at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She met Moore while working as a student manager for the University of Connecticut men’s basketball team from 1997 to 2001 while he was an assistant coach there.

Budkofsky sits with the coaching staff on the bench at all games. “I asked Coach Moore where he wanted me, and he thought the bench was a good symbol to remind them that they are student-athletes,” Budkofsky said.

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Life’s Better on the Hill

That’s the attitude adopted by juniors and seniors living in the Crescent residence hall (shown at right) on the cozy and convenient York Hill Campus. They have only to walk across the way to the lodge-like Rocky Top Student Center, above, to exercise, enjoy meals with a view, or gather in team study rooms or in the common room with a fireplace. And TD Bank Sports Center action is only steps away.

PHOTOGRAPH BY Gale Zucker
For Jonathan Rapport, Commencement is the end and the beginning. He will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, then go on to complete his master of arts in teaching at Quinnipiac.
Real world
Class of 2011 in fast-forward mode

BY ALEJANDRA NAVARRO & JANET WALDMAN

As seniors begin their final semester and the countdown to Commencement, they face a horizon just as mysterious as the one they saw when they arrived at Quinnipiac. Mindful of the slowly recovering economy, some members of the class of 2011 approach this new beginning cautiously; others are eager and excited to uncover all that lies ahead.

Having lived and learned in the Quinnipiac University community, they all are confident that opportunities are certain to emerge.

Quinnipiac Magazine spoke to seven seniors who came to the University looking for an excellent education. They also found an academic landscape that provided real-world experiences, both in the classroom and in communities here and abroad, that shaped not only their understanding of this fast-changing, diverse world but also their place in it. These experiences helped them define who they are and who they aspire to be.

As seniors, they now can look back and see the pivotal moments—conversations, service projects, travels and encounters—that brought clarity to the uncertain horizon they faced four years ago and vision for the one ahead.
Lessons abroad

Giana Gleeson says Quinnipiac has prepared her to succeed—but much of that preparation didn’t take place on campus or even in this country.

While studying at Quinnipiac, Gleeson, of Canastota, N.Y., traveled four times to Nicaragua with the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac. She journeyed to Morocco with Hilary Haldane, assistant professor of anthropology, in Spring 2010 as part of QU 301, Global Community, the last in the seminar series that prepares students to take their place in the regional, national and global community. There, she attended a roundtable discussion between QU students and Moroccan women centered on controversial issues, such as a woman’s ability to choose a spouse. Recently, she was selected to attend the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Hiroshima, Japan, where she met the Dalai Lama.

She credits her professors for giving her guidance. “They have given me the tools and paved the way for me to go into the world and really make a difference,” says Gleeson, who completed her degree in three years.

She hasn’t finished crossing borders. Thanks to a $10,000 Rotary Service Above Self Scholarship, she is heading to Barbados in January 2011 to volunteer at an orphanage and a women’s shelter.

After Commencement, Gleeson hopes to find funding to study reproductive health in urban and rural areas of Nicaragua. One day, she hopes to establish a center for mothers and pregnant women in a rural region of the country.

Her first trip to Nicaragua with the Schweitzer Institute set her course. “My life was never the same. The people there took hold of me—they gave me a new way of thinking about the world,” she explains. She developed an interdisciplinary major on international development and human rights, which incorporates anthropology, history, political science and philosophy. Although not all students are prepared to address today’s global issues, University programs, such as the QU series, are on the right track, says Gleeson, who researched the issue.

Gleeson’s career path isn’t chiseled in stone, but she plans to earn a doctorate, continue her international endeavors and teach. She would like to use her research to enhance courses on global citizenship. “I see this smoldering fire of potential and I’m waiting for it to erupt,” she explains. “I want to be a part of that.”

Future teacher Jonathan Rapport can appreciate the desire to make a difference in a young person’s life. He feels his confidence grow each time he stands before a class of high school students. “The nerves go away quickly when you know it’s something you’re meant to do,” he says.

May is the end and the beginning for Rapport, of Rockville, Md., who will graduate with a bachelor’s in mathematics and then go on to complete his master of arts in teaching degree at Quinnipiac over the next three semesters. This past academic year, he observed classes in regional high schools and taught a little calculus. Soon he will have his own classroom during the day and take classes at night.

“I feel pretty prepared, so the experience I have going forward will be up to me, as far as where I work and live,” says Rapport, who comes from a family of educators. His professors tell him the market is strong for math teachers with master’s degrees.

He hopes to make complex math concepts more comprehensible by relating them to the real world. Rapport is leaning toward teaching inner-city students. “There is a big achievement gap between the socioeconomic classes, and it’s time we closed it.”

He also gleaned much from QU 301, Global Community. “We learned what it means to be a leader, to trust our ideas, to not be afraid to share them and to defend ourselves when we are right and someone else has a different point of view.”

Kathleen Griese, a public relations and Spanish double major from Long Valley, N.J., appreciated the general knowledge she gained from the University Curriculum.

“The curriculum makes you aware of what’s going on in the world and how it relates to your life,” Griese says.

This point became clear her sophomore year when she studied at the Universidad de Granada in Spain. Alone in a foreign land, she became more self-reliant and learned about people from other cultures. “It made me much more prepared to go out in the real world,” she says.

At Quinnipiac, she built a strong support system in the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Members have helped guide her over the past four years. One sorority sister encouraged her to study abroad; another helped her land a summer internship on the health and beauty team at 5W Public Relations in New York City. The sorority likely will be a network she can rely upon as she begins her career.

“The experiences I’ve had here at Quinnipiac have given me the ability to succeed on my own,” says Griese. “I’m anxious, but not scared.”

Giana Gleeson meets the Dalai Lama in Japan.
Healthy outlook

Nursing major Jessica Langton of Mansfield, Mass., sighs when she thinks about life after college. She feels well prepared by her professors, but knows from her clinical rotations that newly graduated nurses usually seem stressed and a bit overwhelmed.

“There’s a lot of mystery ahead, but I’m excited about the possibilities,” says Langton.

At this point, she’s not sure where her career will begin, but her long-range goal is to become a labor and delivery nurse, and eventually, a midwife. Despite the nursing shortage, economic woes have forced health care providers to cut back on staffing in recent years. Langton’s professors tell her the 2011 job outlook is stronger.

“Our professors come from the real world. They are not teaching us stuff that they didn’t do themselves. They understand health care from the outside in,” Langton says.

During her clinicals, Langton worked in several settings, including Brittany Farms Senior Rehabilitation in Bristol, Conn., Yale-New Haven Hospital, St. Vincent’s Medical Center and Waterbury Hospital. To further broaden her experiences, she traveled to Haiti for two weeks last summer with the Global Volunteer Network. She provided patients with prenatal care, vaccinated children and examined patients with infections and wounds not seen in this country. Unfortunately, she became dehydrated from a gastrointestinal virus, but that won’t deter her from doing international relief work in the future.

Her tight schedule of courses and activities taught her to manage her time. Last semester, she balanced classes and her job as a resident assistant with a part-time job as a student nurse assistant at Yale-New Haven Hospital’s infectious diseases unit. She got the job after attending last summer’s career networking seminar sponsored by QU’s Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

Accounting major Jonathan Haspilaire of Atlantic Highlands, N.J., is obsessive about networking. The self-described workaholic and
president of the Economics and Finance Club makes it a point to meet most of the University’s business speakers, including GE’s David Rusate ’79, and CNBC’s Guy Adami and Tyler Mathisen.

Networking helped Haspilaire land a job with GE. In January 2012, he will begin the company’s prestigious financial management training program, working and learning in a different office around the country every six months. “I’ll be receiving the kind of education gleaned in an MBA program,” Haspilaire says. After two years, he will join GE’s corporate auditing staff.

His relationship with the company began his freshman year, when he chatted with a GE representative visiting campus for a job interview seminar. The conversation led to the first of three internships with the company, which paved the way to the training program.

“GE is very selective. They fit the right person to the right job,” Haspilaire says. “I knew this was where I should start my career.”

Haspilaire could coast into summer and fall, knowing a job awaits in the new year, but he adamantly says, “That’s not me. I’m getting my CPA certificate this summer, which will make me a more valuable employee.”

Value-added skills

Matthew Durrigan, a film, video and interactive media major, understands the importance of making yourself valuable. The experience he gained in the fast-paced world of covering live sports while at Quinnipiac helped push him to the top of ESPN’s internship application heap. Durrigan was one of about 30 college students selected from an application pool of about 10,000 to be one of ESPN’s 2010 summer interns.

“It was the greatest experience I’ve ever had,” says Durrigan of Raynham, Mass. At the sports network in Bristol, Conn., he honed his production skills working alongside some of the industry’s best and up-and-coming professionals. Durrigan flew through ESPN’s intensive training and began working behind the camera before many of his peers.

Quinnipiac gave him a strong liberal arts foundation, and in classes and clubs he gained solid production skills working on cutting-edge equipment in the Ed McMahon Mass Communications Center. He’s the sports director for Q30, the University’s student-run station. Durrigan also worked for Peter Sumby, associate director of the McMahon Center, covering Red Sox games for the New England Sports Network. This led to formal internships at NESN and Versus, a sports channel in Stamford, Conn., and this year, ESPN.

Durrigan’s goal is to be a sports director of a local television station. He’s confident about the future, pointing out the number of existing sports broadcast channels and websites with sports programming that will need people with his training.

What you learn in classes can only get you in the door, but experience is key, says Durrigan. “The opportunities are there, but you have to go out there and get them.”

Louis Venturelli of Brooklyn, N.Y., has taken advantage of most opportunities Quinnipiac has offered. The political science major is president of the Student Government Association, a Sigma Phi Epsilon member, and a participant in the Albert Schweitzer Institute Certificate for Ethics and Responsibility program—to name a few. He traveled to Nicaragua on a service trip and, with Gleeson, met the Dalai Lama at the World Summit in Japan.

For a second year, Venturelli is living in the Crescent residence hall on the York Hill Campus. He adores his 360-degree majestic view of Connecticut’s rolling hills. The new campus has blossomed with the addition of more housing and the Rocky Top Student Center. “Seeing the increase in student life has certainly made living on the York Hill Campus a more pleasant experience,” he says. “It has more of a community feel.”

Unlike off-campus housing, he often runs into students in the hallway or in the student center. He’s also known to dish up and share a bowl of pasta a la vodka.

Living in senior housing gives students one more year to build a stronger community before they leave Quinnipiac—a network they can lean on as they navigate the real world, he says.

Residential life offers programs that help seniors make the transition to living on their own, such as workshops on finance and graduate school options, says Venturelli, who plans to pursue a graduate degree in higher education administration.

Looking out the window of his sixth-floor unit, he says, “I have a view I think I will never have again.”

Just as he is doing with his experiences and his friendships, he adds, “I’m trying to savor every moment.”
CAREER SERVICES DEANS HAVE PULSE ON REAL WORLD

JILL FERRALL ’94, MAT ’96
BUSINESS

Job outlook
As a career services professional, I’m optimistic. If students start early and do their due diligence, they will be well aligned to be successful. Plus, companies have a much easier time paying entry-level salaries.

Interview prep
Make certain all your marketing materials are perfect, your interview skills are in great shape and you’re effectively networking and following up. Above all, recognize an opportunity when it presents itself. The first job out of college is a stepping stone—not the be-all, end-all.

Popular fields
Accounting, IT, and management tend to be high job-yield areas. I often have accounting students come to me with what I call a “high-class problem”—having to decide between job options. That’s an awesome place to be! I tend to not have enough IT/ISM students to assist IT companies.

ANNALISA ZINN
ARTS AND SCIENCES

Myth busting
A common misconception is that arts and sciences majors face limited career options. The opposite is true. The versatile majors we offer open up many doors. For example, 98 percent of the Class of 2009 was employed or in graduate school six months after graduation.

Tailor resume
Market yourself on your resume. Emphasize transferable skills. Use action verbs. Provide thorough, yet concise, explanations of what you’ve done. Most of all, connect with the job description. A tailored resume goes a long way.

Work on writing
National employer surveys cite written and verbal communication skills as the No. 1 skill most lacking in new college graduates. Employers are particularly concerned about poor writing skills, which some attribute to the abbreviated form of writing prevalent in text-messaging and emails.

JENNIFER BOBROW BURNS
COMMUNICATIONS

2011 job market
The outlook for the Class of 2010 was remarkably better than 2009, and this year I anticipate it being even better. Since students have been concerned about the job market, I think they are putting themselves in a better situation than ever through starting early and networking.

Make the connection
Start networking and connect with alumni; ours are super-enthusiastic. They have great jobs and they are excited to share information with current students. Take advantage of events on campus, but also develop a LinkedIn profile and use that to contact alumni.

‘Face’ facts
We say Google yourself. See what comes up. Examine your Facebook profile and know that the feedback we get from employers is they do searches. Make sure nothing visible online that you wouldn’t want an employer to see because chances are they will see it.

CINDY CHRISTIE
HEALTH SCIENCES

Hottest jobs
The top three I get the most calls for are physician assistants or nurse practitioners, physical therapists and nurses. A week does not go by that I don’t hear from at least one health care employer facing a dire shortage of physical therapists.

Patience pays
Students need to be patient with the process. They need to follow up with employers, cast a wide net and not be too specific. They should keep in mind where they would like to live and what type of setting they’d like.

Baby Boomer effect
With the economic downturn, some health-related employers did cut back on hiring or freeze positions temporarily, but this has begun to lift over the past few months. With the Baby Boomers aging and beginning to leave the work force, health care professionals are in high demand.

WINTER 2011
QUINNIPIAC MAGAZINE
Hundreds of alumni and guests came back to Quinnipiac University on Oct. 8–9, 2010, for Homecoming Weekend.

The 2010 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction luncheon was held that Saturday morning on Lender Court at the TD Bank Sports Center. The 2000 women’s soccer team, the 1993–94 women’s tennis team and 14 other individuals were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the ceremony.

Beautiful autumn weather made for an enjoyable outdoor Homecoming tailgate that evening. Alumni, friends and members of Quinnipiac’s campus community gathered on the lawn outside the sports center before the men’s ice hockey game versus Ohio State.

Guests enjoyed a barbecue meal, music and lawn games. President and Mrs. John L. Lahey stopped by to welcome graduates back to their alma mater.
& Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

Inductees

Richard Buckholz '88, MHA '02 • Men's Ice Hockey
Michael Buscetto '93 • Men's Basketball
Catie Canetti '00, MS '02 • Field Hockey
Chris Cerrella '01 • Men's Ice Hockey
Colleen (Dooley) Speed '01 • Women's Lacrosse
Queen (Edwards) Smith '96 • Women's Basketball
Lou Iannotti '82 • Baseball
Steve Kulpa '93 • Baseball
Roland Lavallee '01 • Men's Cross Country/Track
Patrick Nguyen '97 • Men's Tennis
Sharon Polastry '98 • Women's Soccer
Julie (Smith) Ryan '02 • Field Hockey
Joe Trimarchi '98 • Men's Basketball
Linda Wooster, MBA '90 • Athletic Administrator
2000 Women's Soccer Team
1993-94 Women's Tennis Team
Jorge Cabrera ’98 helps politicians craft their messages.
In the two weeks that preceded the November elections, Chelsey Hood '10 got by on about four to six hours of sleep a night. A field organizer who worked on Richard Blumenthal's campaign for U.S. Senate in Connecticut, Hood made phone calls, recruited volunteers and knocked on doors to speak with voters about the election.

Jobs in politics often are described as fast-paced, exhausting and frustrating, yet exhilarating. The intensity is felt most keenly around Election Day—by the campaign workers and the candidates.

“The job was 24/7,” Hood says. “The motto of campaign staff is ‘When you’re not working, the other side is.’” Hood, a public relations major, became interested in politics her freshman year at Quinnipiac when she took Professor Scott McLean’s Campaign and Elections course, which included a requirement to volunteer on a congressional campaign.

Jorge Cabrera '98 knows how challenging it can be. He has worked in the political arena for more than 20 years.

As a partner at the political consulting firm, Campaigns Won, Cabrera works on every aspect of his clients’ campaigns, from developing strategy to distributing marketing materials. He also helps candidates prepare for debates and critiques their performance.

“Politics is not a job; it is a lifestyle,” Cabrera says. He feels the reason more people don’t become involved in politics is because it consumes so much time, energy and finances. “The price is too high,” says the former president of the Student Government Association.

Cabrera does it because he believes in what he calls “the transformational power of politics.”

“In our society, we struggle with a number of issues, such as education, taxes and the deficit. It’s exciting when I see real people become empowered in government to change things,” Cabrera said.

He began volunteering on campaigns when he was 14, working with his uncle, a community activist in Bridgeport, Conn. At Quinnipiac, he naturally gravitated toward a political science major.

Cabrera helps candidates condense thoughts into sound bites to get their message across quickly.

Part of any politician or political candidate’s job is dealing with negativity and animosity. The 2010 elections were rife with critical radio, television and print ads aimed directly at discrediting the opponent.

In her job as an assistant political media strategist at Hilltop Public Affairs, a political consulting firm in New York City, Allison Cunneen ‘10 experienced everything from attack and negative ads to unethical campaign tactics from opponents. Her job involves dealing with the media, writing press releases and attending press conferences.

“We worked very hard and things got pretty intense,” Cunneen said of the two major campaigns she worked on during the 2010 elections, a state senate race in the Bronx and a statewide auditor race in Missouri.

Cabrera also noticed an increase in negative campaigns this year.

“The rhetoric is so bad. The commercials and mail pieces are nasty,” he said.

Hood agrees. “I don’t think anyone likes negative ads but the reason they are there is because they work,” she said. Now that the election is over, she is enjoying the downtime, but plans to begin looking for a new job in politics, hopefully in the D.C. area.

Many people feel so bombarded by mail from candidates that they toss postcards and fliers in the trash, unread. Recognizing this trend, Campaigns Won uses sophisticated databases to target a select group of voters and maximize the efficiency of mailings.

The need for clear and concise communication doesn’t stop once the election is over. As a communications specialist for the Connecticut House Republicans, Jamison Bazinet, MS ’02, issues press releases and serves as a liaison between the media and the six state representatives he assists.

A career in politics was not the original plan for Bazinet, who studied journalism. When the opportunity presented itself, he was intrigued. “Now I get to see the inner workings of the state, and it’s an eye opener,” he said. He takes photographs and video for the entire caucus, and produces cable-access television shows for members to broadcast in their districts.

Before any legislation is proposed, numerous conversations occur—between the representatives, lawyers and the Office of Legislative Research. The Republican Caucus puts a bill into committee, where its merits are debated during public hearings.

If it passes committee, it gets reviewed further before it ultimately lands at the House floor for a vote.

“I did not realize the extent of the debate and thought that goes into every single issue proposed. It is fascinating to see the process in action,” said Bazinet.

Cabrera encourages everyone to vote. He says election results touch everyone at one level or another. “For me, it’s about living a meaningful life, and putting people in office who exemplify what I believe government should or shouldn’t do. It’s about what kind of country we are going to be based on the politics we implement,” he says.
Public health alumni guide others in preparedness, nationally and abroad

BY STEVE HIGGINS

Robyn (Mione) Gershon ’76, MHS ’81, in her office at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health
Microbiology is the study of small organisms—bacteria, fungi, plants and animals. Public health encompasses a much larger realm—preventing disease and injury and promoting health and longevity. Two Quinnipiac University graduates from different generations have pursued career paths that started with peering at microbes and led to significant contributions to global health and emergency preparedness. Both Robyn (Mione) Gershon ’76, MHS ’81, and Stephen Vindigni ’02 earned degrees in microbiology, then went on to pursue careers in public health. Here are their stories:

**Preparing for the worst**

Gershon, associate dean for research resources at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, had joined the Columbia faculty in 2000, a year before terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. She collaborated on a World Trade Center Evacuation Study project that was conducted from Oct. 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2007. The results have been published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report as well as the Journal of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine and in Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.

Before Columbia, where she is also a professor of clinical sociomedical sciences, Gershon served as the director of the Department of Biological Safety at Yale University. Although she loves laboratory work and teaching, a great deal of her time is spent doing fieldwork. In studying issues ranging from needle safety to disaster preparedness, she has worked alongside police officers and emergency medical workers and visited numerous hospitals, prisons and funeral homes.

“I get very close to what they’re doing so I can study their work environments,” Gershon says. “I learned at Quinnipiac that if you want to speak with authority, you’d better know your subject.” She noted that her QU professors were frontline workers in their fields. “Bringing that real-world perspective into the classroom is a very special aspect of Quinnipiac.”

Gershon works in a cozy office on the ground floor of the Mailman School on the famed uptown campus. An adjoining building blocks most of the sunlight from a window behind her desk, but a “Happy Light” therapy lamp shines on the colorful flowers. Surrealist prints by Joan Miró add cheer to the room containing hundreds of books on science and health.

Gershon began forging the path to her current career after earning her master’s at Quinnipiac and joining the Yale Health Plan as a science and health. Joan Miró add cheer to the room containing hundreds of books on science and health.

In 1987, when she left New Haven to pursue her doctorate in occupational health and safety at Johns Hopkins, she landed her first large research grant, a three-year, $750,000 federally funded study to determine why health care workers take risks that could lead to bloodborne infections. She joined the Hopkins faculty in 1990, and in 2000, moved to New York to join the Columbia faculty.

The terrorist attacks hit close to home. “I had my research group set up by then, and we were all distraught,” Gershon recalls. “We were not physicians or clinicians, so we couldn’t help in that way. What we could do, however, was study and learn from this disaster from a worker’s perspective.”

The Centers for Disease Control contracted with Gershon to study the evacuation of workers from the Twin Towers. Many evacuees (more than 1,400 people, or roughly 10 percent of the people in the building who survived the initial attack) enthusiastically participated in the study. Gershon says participants were motivated by altruism.

“After one of the focus group sessions, a young man came up and said, ‘I want to participate so that others can learn from my experience—what I know now can one day save others’ lives.’”

The results (see accompanying article) helped contribute to the adoption of new standards for high-rise emergency preparedness and evacuation by the city of New York in 2006. Several other cities have adopted the recommendations as well.

“All of my research is very targeted and applied: I want my studies to have direct implications for workplace interventions that can reduce harm,” she says.

After the subsequent anthrax attacks, Gershon was able to call upon her strong microbiology foundation developed at Quinnipiac, conducting several anthrax-related studies. She also created a course at Columbia called Weapons of Mass Destruction, the first course in the nation to encompass bioterrorism, chemical terrorism, radiological attacks, and terror preparedness.

Her most recent work led to a study published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (October 2010, Volume 52, Issue 10) on the ability and willingness of medical and emergency response personnel to report to duty in case of a major pandemic outbreak. The study showed that only half of the workers would be both willing and able to report to duty, primarily due to competing obligations, such as needing to take care of affected family members.

The study urges hospitals and other providers to prepare for potentially lethal pandemic events by developing plans to offer priority for vaccines to emergency responders and their family members, and to set up emergency day care operations for children and elderly parents of workers.

Through her research, Gershon learned that being prepared can pay huge dividends.

“For example, we found in the WTC study that people who felt they were prepared by their own initiative or through their company’s preparedness efforts were not only more likely to exit more quickly, but they were less likely to be injured and much less likely two or three years later to have mental health problems associated with the event,” she says, noting that some of the Twin Towers firms had implemented more rigorous safety programs after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing while others had not.

“Preparedness pays off. It can not only impact your health and wellness, it can even make the difference between life and death.”

**Third World dedication**

At the age of 30, Vindigni already has made multiple trips to Kenya and traveled to Tanzania and Thailand, first while pursuing his master’s degree in public health at Yale University (2004) and then as a member...
of the environmental and global health divisions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently he is pursuing a doctor of medicine degree at Emory University in Atlanta while continuing to work as a guest researcher for the CDC.

“I still enjoy public health, and a lot of doctors are involved in public health work,” says Vindigni. “My goal is to find the kind of career that complements the two. There are a lot of opportunities internationally where you can see patients and also work with governments to enhance public health services,” he says. He also would be interested in a job in academic medicine where he could care for patients, conduct research, promote public health domestically and internationally and teach aspiring health professionals.

As a master’s degree candidate, Vindigni visited Thailand to do field work in microbiology. “I would go to the street markets and buy pork and chicken and bring them back to the lab, where we would check for Salmonella and E. coli,” he says.

After he joined the CDC, he began traveling to Kenya, where he taught villagers how to treat contaminated water for drinking. He also worked with nurses, doctors and schools teaching safe water and hand hygiene practices.

“We help provide aid groups, community leaders and government officials with the tools to educate the community, helping them design presentations and materials they can hand out,” he said. “We take a ‘teach the teacher’ approach.”

Vindigni and other CDC team members also work with African governments and aid groups on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness. The project involves studying staffing levels of health professionals at Kenyan hospitals and health care facilities.

“The Kenya Ministry of Health did not have the infrastructure to know how many nurses were in the country, where they were trained, or where they were working,” he says, adding that the CDC helped ministry officials develop a computerized system to identify where shortages existed.

Vindigni also traveled to Tanzania for a conference designed to disseminate the Kenyan database model, which also applies to physicians, throughout Africa. This summer, he returned to rural Kenya, visiting some of the most remote clinics to assess nursing shortages and the effects of staffing additions on the provision of health services. Meeting with government officials, aid groups, non-governmental organizations, and local physicians and nurses, Vindigni and colleagues presented their findings and offered recommendations to further alleviate the “brain drain” in Kenya.

“Working with the CDC has been really rewarding and inspirational,” he says. “You meet a lot of really interesting people—from public health gurus in Atlanta to active leaders in Africa. Despite all of the health challenges in the world, everyone has a really positive outlook, which I have found to be contagious.”
TRADE CENTER STUDY FINDINGS

About 2,200 people were killed when terrorists struck the Twin Towers in New York City in 2001. Most of the dead worked on or above the floors where the jets struck. An estimated 13,000 to 15,000 people were able to evacuate before the towers collapsed, and in 2002, Robyn (Mione) Gershon ’76, MHS ’81, undertook a three-year study of the evacuation funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The World Trade Center Evacuation Study included both qualitative interviews and a large, web-based survey, eventually involving 10 percent of the survivors. The collaborative study included input from a range of experts in fire safety, disaster mental health, emergency planning, occupational safety and high-rise building management.

Gershon’s team identified key risk factors associated with three major outcomes (length of time to initiate evacuation, length of time to complete full evacuation, and incidence of injury) and issued 83 recommendations based on the study findings. The CDC wanted to learn what factors affected the evacuation process to improve emergency preparedness programs for high-rise buildings nationwide, and many of the study’s findings have been incorporated into such programs.

Some findings appear below:

INITIATION OF EVACUATION

On average, evacuees took about six minutes to begin their evacuation, and some as long as 44 minutes. Because delays in evacuation largely were related to “milling-about” behaviors, such as asking others for information or looking for leadership, most of the recommendations involved improved preparedness. Some suggestions:

• Provide safety training and education for all employees.
• Conduct mandatory, full building evacuation drills.
• Have multiple sources of communication available, i.e. battery-operated radios.
• Provide accurate information as quickly as possible to all employees.
• Equip elevators and stairways with public address systems.
• Preplan the evacuation process for persons with disabilities.
• Ensure all employees keep an emergency “go bag” at their desk.
• Instruct employees to delay making phone calls until after they exit.

COMPLETION OF EVACUATION

The mean length of time for workers to fully evacuate Tower 1 (the first building attacked) was 42 minutes. In Tower 2, workers took only 27 minutes, as many began to exit even before their own building was struck. In Tower 1 they exited at a rate of about 1 minute per flight of stairs, in Tower 2, they took half that time, as the stairwells were less crowded. Workers who had physical limitations or disabilities were nearly twice as likely to descend at a slower pace and suffer injuries from the attack. Some suggestions from the study:

• Develop and support a strong safety climate for all workers.
• Clarify use of elevators vs. stairs during emergency.
• Design high-rise buildings that are intuitive and easy to navigate.
• Stagger evacuation times to reduce the number of people on stairs.
• Assign “buddies” to help people with disabilities or health issues.
• Perform special training drills for people with disabilities or health issues.

INJURIES

While most of the Twin Towers injuries affected workers who were near the point of impact, others sustained foot injuries due to broken glass on lower levels after they removed uncomfortable footwear. The study suggested workers be encouraged to keep comfortable footwear in the office and be issued flashlights to use in an emergency.
Thirteen years ago, Anne Dichele, professor of education, joined a group of educators to start Side by Side Community School in Norwalk, Conn., one of the state’s first charter schools. The group, including some of her former students, hoped to make education more equitable by building a school from scratch.

Side by Side is a publicly funded, but independently run school that gives teachers flexibility they do not find in traditional public schools. Dichele says, “In those early years, it was like building a plane and flying it at the same time.” She adds that the dream of any teacher is to design a school that really works the way a school ought to. “The success of any school is not what it does year to year, but the long-term effect it has,” says Dichele, a founding member and chair of the school’s board of directors.

This fall, 18 of the first 20 students to complete all grades at the pre-K-to-8 school are enrolled in college. This is the best evidence that Side by Side’s approach is working. This year, the school was recognized as one of the state’s top-ten schools in student improvement. Measuring the success of charter schools has been difficult and at times controversial. Not all charters have succeeded, but many parents see them as an appealing alternative.

Connecticut has 23 charter schools serving nearly 4,700 students. The 2010 documentary “Waiting for Superman” followed several families who saw the charter school lottery as their only chance to escape what they viewed as a failing public school system. According to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, an estimated 360,000 students are on waitlists across the country.

Charter schools typically have smaller class sizes, a flexible curriculum and, with a board made up of administrators, parents and teachers, a stronger sense of community. Some charter schools focus on a field, such as technology or the arts. Side by Side has an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on social studies and social justice. Its educators now are positioned to begin sharing what they have found to be effective teaching methods with other public school teachers, which was one of the original goals, explains Dichele.

Lessons learned

One of the most valuable lessons learned was the importance of building a strong connection between student and teacher.

“When you build relationships with students, you know what their lives are like and you know the challenges they face,” Dichele says.
Students are randomly selected by lottery to attend the charter school. Although not all charter schools reflect the diversity of their districts, 74 percent of Side by Side’s 236 students are categorized as non-white and 50 percent qualify for free lunch.

Some parents select charter schools to expose their children to diversity; other parents turn to charter schools because they believe their child’s needs are not being met. These needs can include everything from behavioral issues to limited English skills, she says.

Students at Side by Side are integrated regardless of their different learning abilities, and that can be a challenge for teachers, said Chris Berich, MAT’09, a third-grade teacher and a representative on the school’s board. While at Quinnipiac, he completed his student teaching at Side by Side. Impressed with the school’s philosophy, he jumped at the chance to join the faculty.

Knowing the strengths and weaknesses of his students is key, he adds. “You’re doing anything as a teacher to get them engaged and build trust,” says Berich, who incorporates “real world” scenarios into his lessons.

The school uses many of the methods he learned at QU that are used in successful public schools, such as experiential learning, group learning and “looping,” which places a group of students with the same teacher for two years for consistency. While the school is expected to meet the same standards as the other public schools, it doesn’t have to adhere to a specific curriculum. Berich uses “learning centers,” which reinforce new material by using activities that address students’ different learning styles.

“It’s an awesome feeling to know you’re making such a difference in their lives,” Berich says. “I’m grateful I can come to class every day and see these kids want to learn. It’s a very humbling experience.”

Measuring progress

Instead of focusing on reaching specific goals on standardized tests, such as the Connecticut Mastery Test, Side by Side teachers compare each student’s annual progress. Each student has a portfolio to track academic achievement.

“It’s an example of charter schools using the data in ways that it was intended: to determine students’ strengths and weaknesses,” says Kevin Basmadjian, assistant professor of education and director of the master of arts in teaching program. The federal No Child Left Behind Act put pressure on schools to hit annual improvement markers on standardized tests or face penalties, which can stifle creativity in the classroom, he says.

Basmadjian has seen some charter schools’ successful practices implemented in public school districts, but cautions that the focus should be on improving all public schools. “I don’t think the answer is to necessarily add more charter schools. Any school can succeed if you have committed teachers, the right resources, and support from the community,” he says.

Public schools also are grappling with unequal funding, as well as difficulties attracting and retaining good teachers. Charter schools receive less per pupil than the district average, and they usually are located in low-income areas with lower tax revenues. The state’s charter schools are working together to change the funding formulas.

Dichele says Side by Side has attracted high-caliber teachers willing to invest more time in student learning. The students also become invested in the school’s success. Former students return to volunteer as tutors, and also serve as role models. At the eighth grade commencement, the students have a hard time saying good-bye. One father told Dichele, “This isn’t a school. This is a family.”
Or senior Ed Zajac, the final blow to his collegiate basketball career came from a single hit to his head during practice in February 2009. The last thing he remembers is an arm hitting the side of his face and then waking up in the athletic training room with an athletic trainer hovering over him. The fall gave the 6-foot, 9-inch center his sixth concussion as a Bobcat.

Concussions often are associated with football or hockey, where helmets collide with force, but brain injuries are on the rise in a variety of sports for both men and women, from basketball to lacrosse and soccer. New research has uncovered more devastating long-term effects of concussions and has inspired new laws and revised sports regulations to protect athletes.

Quinnipiac’s athletic trainers, professors and alumni in the field are working to implement these rules, give schools the tools to identify and monitor concussions, and educate the public about the frequency and perils of these injuries.

“The game is a lot more physical than people think,” says Zajac, a history and sociology double major from Lindenhurst, N.Y. “I’m tall and when I fall, it’s a long way down. That’s a lot of force coming down on your head.”

Zajac was sidelined and prohibited from exercise or contact activities until the symptoms subsided. His headaches, agitation, blurred vision, dizziness and loss of appetite and memory, to name a few, stubbornly persisted. “With a sprained knee, you can play with it almost healed, but with a concussion, you have to be 100 percent symptom-free,” he explains. Although he has taken down the sticky notes that reminded him of things he would forget, such as “eat at 2 p.m.,” the symptoms have not completely gone away—even today.

“I’m a competitive person and I wanted to continue playing,” he says, a hint of anger in his voice. An athlete since childhood, his attitude was to shake off an injury and keep playing to avoid sitting on the bench. In April 2009, he was benched for good. “I understand where they were coming from,” he says of the University’s decision, which he knew was an effort to protect his health. Still, the news was devastating for the athlete who had hoped to play professionally in Europe.

This eagerness to play at all costs is just one of the challenges facing athletic trainers who are working to prevent concussions as well as identify and treat them.

Lenn Johns, professor and director of the athletic training and sports medicine program, said athletic training students today are learning more about using proper protection to prevent head injuries, diagnose concussions and apply proper guidelines for athletes returning to play. This training begins in their sophomore year.

“We teach them early and we keep revisiting it,” explains Johns. “They are out there doing clinical experiences, and this could be a life-or-death situation.”

More hard knocks

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that more than 400,000 teenage athletes suffer concussions each year.

“Extreme sports seems to be pushing the envelope in all facets of sports,” explains Todd Botto, professor of physical therapy. “From ultimate fighting to extreme skiing, sports in general are being taken to another level. Younger players view these events and apply more aggressive tactics to their own sports, which puts them at greater risk for injury.”
Injuries curtailed Ed Zajac’s career with the Bobcats.
Boston University researchers have linked head injuries in former athletes to depression, dementia and motor neuron diseases similar to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. The suicide of University of Pennsylvania football player Owen Thomas has been linked to brain injuries he suffered that were not diagnosed as concussions. Purdue researchers found that small hits to the head over time could be just as damaging to the brain as a hit that results in a concussion.

The new research has prompted sports organizations to develop tougher rules related to head injuries. In a controversial move, the National Football League and the National Hockey League have banned blindside hits, which often result in a head-snapping effect that can cause concussions.

This year, a new Connecticut law requires all high school coaches to receive training on head injuries and also requires a doctor or certified athletic trainer to sign off on a player before he or she returns to practice. Similar laws exist in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon, Virginia, Oklahoma and Rhode Island. The NCAA set new standards that require all Division I schools to educate athletes on head injuries, in addition to requiring a green light from a physician for a player to return to the game, which Quinnipiac already does.

Brain testers

Currently, Quinnipiac athletic trainers create a baseline for all QU student-athletes with neuropsychological tests that measure brain function, memory and balance. Athletic trainers can test a player showing symptoms and compare the results to his or her baseline. The athlete can resume playing once the test scores return to the baseline.

Unfortunately, creating baselines is a time-consuming endeavor for athletic trainers at high schools, says Sue Norkus, professor of physical therapy. She and some of Quinnipiac’s athletic training students tested athletes at Amity High School in Woodbridge, Conn., to develop baselines for the school’s certified athletic trainer. She said it took 10 professionals two hours to test 100 students. The QU athletic training students have tested other teams at Amity and plan to work with other schools.

In Spring 2009, Christina Martinelli ’07, an athletic trainer for Glastonbury High School, developed a process to create a baseline for all athletes in contact sports—from football to competitive cheerleading. She oversees close to 1,100 student-athletes throughout the year. It was a first for the school, and something she was able to accomplish with the help of a college intern.

Martinelli, an employee of Eastern Rehabilitation Network, is contracted to work only 25 hours a week at the school. According to the National Athletic Trainers Association, only 42 percent of high schools have access to a certified athletic trainer.

Knowing the signs

Unless an athletic trainer sees a big hit or notices that a player is disoriented, it is not always easy to know when a player is suffering from a head injury explains Meghan McCaffrey, an athletic trainer for the Bobcats. “Sometimes, they look fine and they will walk around normally,” explains McCaffrey. “We don’t know if they are having headaches or feeling nauseated. Players need to be their own advocates and speak up.”

In addition, athletes may not be aware of the severity of a hit. At a lacrosse game in April, junior Devon Gibney head-butted another player when they both ran for the ball. She continued to play until dizzi-
ness and nausea forced her to check in with the doctor on the field.

“I couldn’t remember anything,” recalls Gibney, a public relations major. “I scored a goal and didn’t remember it. I was like, ‘what just happened?’” She was taken out of the game.

The following day, she went to Quinnipiac’s athletic trainers whose neuropsychological tests uncovered the concussion. She couldn’t practice for several weeks and missed three games until she could return to her baseline score.

Six months later, she had a second concussion when she slammed into the shoulder of a player who was doing an illegal move. The symptoms were so serious, Gibney was sent to a neurologist for more tests. She can’t participate in any contact activities until the symptoms subside completely.

Gibney says the athletic trainers have drilled into players the importance of telling someone if they think they are injured or have concussion symptoms. “They take it very seriously here, and that’s not true for all schools,” Gibney says.

Intense competition
These days, a lot is at stake in winning athletic competitions, which may deter an athlete from reporting an injury, says Martinelli.

“Years ago, you would never have had this level of competitive playing at a high school,” adds Martinelli, who had 22 athletes with concussions during the fall season. Less than two minutes into a girls varsity soccer match in November, two players collided with a resounding crash, illustrating her point. Martinelli ran onto the field to evaluate the player sprawled on the grass, who eventually was able to walk off the field.

“In school, you learn how to evaluate for concussions, but you can’t prevent someone from faking it to play,” she says. “They all want to get that scholarship, and you can’t do it while sitting on the bench.”

Martinelli spends a lot of time educating students, coaches, players and parents, as well as the school’s staff and administration, about concussions. “I make it a point to get everyone involved,” says Martinelli. She helped provide the newly mandated training for her school’s coaches.

She works with the school’s nurses and teachers to make sure injured students don’t fall behind academically and get time to recover. Some teachers are skeptical because they can’t see the injury. Given the symptoms, such as blurred vision, difficulty focusing and sensitivity to light and sound, being in a classroom can be difficult. Working an injured brain may prolong recovery, says Stephen Straub, professor of physical therapy.

“After they have had a concussion, going to classes and doing homework is actually exercise for the brain,” Straub explains. “It makes the condition worse when they try to do some of these things.”

Martinelli has established relationships with physicians who treat her students to make sure they have a complete history of the student’s injuries. Schools that don’t have an athletic trainer and hire professionals per diem may not have the consistency that’s needed to keep track of injuries, Martinelli says.

Given the rise in reported brain injuries, Martinelli is most concerned about the children at the youth level playing contact sports whose coaches may not be trained to spot injuries. She has given presentations to youth sports coaches and players’ families about concussions and the risks involved.

It’s been more than 19 months since Zajac’s last concussion and still some persistent symptoms have kept him off the court, even for a pick-up game. He has had several MRI and CT scans, and physicians continue to monitor him. Not playing ball and being part of the team, at times, has been most disappointing.

Given the choice, Zajac says, his gut reaction would have been to keep playing his sophomore season. “It would have been a dumb decision, but nobody wants to be told they can’t play the sport they love—the sport they went to college to play.”

The experience has put things in perspective for Zajac. “Your sports career is going to end one day,” he says, “but you’re going to need your brain a lot longer than that.”

These days, a lot is at stake in winning athletic competitions, which may deter an athlete from reporting an injury.—CHRISTINA MARTINELLI ’07

Soccer is among the sports where head injuries can occur.
WAR STORIES

Embedded journalist describes life with the troops

BY JANET WALDMAN

Tim Malloy with the gas mask, helmet and body armour he used in Iraq.
im Malloy remembers a handful of times he thought he might die covering the Iraq War, but not on a battlefield.

The broadcast journalist visited the Persian Gulf three times between 2003–05 on assignment for WPTV, the NBC affiliate in West Palm Beach, Fla., where he worked as a reporter and anchor for 18 years before retiring last spring. As the journalist-in-residence at the School of Communications during the fall semester, Malloy shared his experiences as an embedded war reporter in the classroom and at a public lecture.

Some 500 journalists were invited by the Bush Administration to cover the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Malloy says there was no censorship, but there was one rule. “For safety reasons, we were forbidden to say where we were or we’d be kicked out.”

Embedded reporters provide a front-line perspective of war missing from military briefings or White House press conferences. But, critics say they tend to bond emotionally with the troops, which may affect their desire to report news of a negative nature.

While in Iraq, Malloy says he always reported what he saw. “Although wounded enemy troops and civilians were shot, I never saw any. And there were reports of rapes among the U.S., troops, but I could not verify it,” he said.

One of Malloy’s most unnerving moments occurred before the war began. “I was with the Army at a camp in Safwan, Iraq, and we took a Humvee out one day to scout sites for a prison.” They ended up in a neighborhood off the beaten path, and Malloy saw the driver poring over directions.

“I knew we were lost. It was a ‘Black Hawk Down’ kind of moment. We got some very menacing looks from villagers wondering what we were doing there—remember, we were about to invade their country.”

Despite the risks, Malloy insisted on the Iraq assignment. “I had covered the war in Grenada years back, but I really wanted to cover this war, the biggest story in the world.”

WPTV was part of the Scripps Media chain, which owned 10 TV stations nationally. “I was the war guy for all of them.”

Soldiers unload a cargo plane during one of the rescue missions Malloy reported on.

Malloy was told to expect harsh conditions. He prepared by running around warm West Palm Beach in heavy clothes and boots. Sandstorms were a regular occurrence in Kuwait. “The orange, dry mist was gritty and stung your eyes, but I wore goggles and did stand-up shots in it,” he says.

Malloy and his cameraman often worked around the clock providing twice-daily updates for the affiliate stations. He lost 18 pounds during the eight-week trip. “I was on the fear and fatigue diet,” he quips. Living with the troops at Camp Arifjan, Malloy noticed many carried good luck talismans. That observation became an Emmy Award-winning piece.

Besides the stint in Kuwait, Malloy also has traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan on three aeromedical rescues, one with an all-female flight crew. For safety’s sake, landings were made after dark with the pilots executing what Malloy describes as “gutwrenching nosedives, the kind where your head goes between your knees.”

The flights left Ramstein Air Base in Germany, and their missions were to transport wounded soldiers back to Landstuhl Hospital. On one trip, Malloy interviewed seriously wounded soldiers in an inflatable Army hospital in Balad, Iraq. During these trips, he shot video himself with a flipcam.

He was amazed at the number of soldiers who wanted to heal and go back and developed a respect for their bravery, but the ground rule among the media and the troops was no talking politics.

“We were bomb[ing] the crack out of Baghdad, and the soldiers’ attitude was: ‘My country sent me to do a job. We gotta do the job and go home.’”
Seeing both sides
Professor studies retaliation in the Israeli-Palestine conflict
By John Pettit

Photographs and drawings of some of the world’s leading philosophers and thinkers, including Albert Einstein and John Locke, adorn the walls of Professor Anat Biletzki’s office at the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac.

A framed poster of singer Bob Dylan occupies prime real estate directly across from Biletzki’s desk and in front of an old Sony radio she bought for $5 at a secondhand store.

“He’s a prophet, philosopher and great poet,” says Biletzki, who plays guitar and piano. “I would have loved to be a professional musician. There are so many things you can do in music without needing to be the one solo star.”

Instead, Biletzki, the Schweitzer Professor of Philosophy, has made her mark on the world stage as a human rights activist and advocate. Recently she was part of an elite research team that used a statistical method called “vector autoregression” to study retaliation in the Israeli-Palestine conflict.

“The study questioned the conventional wisdom that is accepted by the American and Israeli public, the media and everybody else that Israel, in its actions, is always only retaliating,” Biletzki said. “Our point was to show that actually both sides do retaliate and the conventional wisdom that Israel does nothing but retaliate is wrong. That has a lot of implications on foreign policy on America’s part, not just Israel’s part.”

The findings were published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“She is a remarkable and dynamic woman who is a leading philosopher,” David Ives, executive director of the Schweitzer Institute, says of Biletzki. “Her energy, intellect and passion for human rights, and for making the world a better place, have become legendary in the short time she’s been here.”

In 2005, Biletzki was one of 1,000 women nominated collectively for a Nobel Peace Prize. “A micro-Nobel,” she says. “It was wonderful because we connected with women not only in Israel and Palestine but also with women all over the world.”

Biletzki was born in Jerusalem in 1952. Her parents came to the United States as students seven years later. She spent most of her childhood in Pittsburgh, Penn., and Toronto, Canada, before returning to Israel, where she served two years in the army. Biletzki earned a bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree in political science and philosophy from Tel Aviv University, where she is a tenured professor.

A distinguished author and researcher, Biletzki has worked for human rights in Israel for more than three decades. She served as chairperson of B’tselem, Israel’s best-known human rights organization, from 2001–06.

“Those were, as most people know, the very troubled years of the Second Intifada,” she says, referring to the name given to the Palestinian-Arab violence that began at the end of September 2000. “Basically what we tried to do is make the world aware of what is going on. It’s a hard job.”

Biletzki has served as a visiting scholar and fellow at Cambridge, Princeton, Harvard, MIT and Boston University. In 2007, she came to Quinnipiac, where she teaches philosophy courses. In her position, Biletzki leads panel discussions, faculty seminars and reading groups aimed at promoting philosophy and human rights.

“For those of us who are invested in the human condition, the name Albert Schweitzer means so much,” says Biletzki. “It means that I am part of the investigation and care of the human condition. And being part of a group of people, at the College of Arts and Sciences, who care about creatively exploring humanity is both a great opportunity and a great responsibility. It’s exactly the place where I can feel that I am part of something being done.”
Ramata Soré wasn’t surprised that Americans knew little about Africa. Soré, who is from the African country of Burkina Faso, was shocked nonetheless when people asked, “Do you use credit cards in Africa?” “Do you have buildings?” or when a person at Hamden City Hall asked, “Does Africa have a president?”

“She thought Africa was a country! Africa is a continent with 54 countries,” said Soré, a Fulbright student enrolled in the graduate journalism degree program. “It was bizarre for me to hear these kinds of questions.”

This stereotypical view of Africa as undeveloped was perpetuated by early western news reports and persists today, said Soré, who has been a journalist for 10 years. While conducting research for her thesis, she found New York Times articles about African countries in the 1950s filled with fabrications. “Sometimes reporters [today] base their articles on misconceptions and assumptions,” she explained.

When the International Federation of Association Football announced that South Africa would host the 2010 World Cup, for example, western news outlets reported that the country could not properly organize the event.

“That is not true,” she said. “In 1995, South Africa organized the Rugby World Cup and in 2003, the Cricket World Cup. Why are they saying that the country will not be able to organize the World Cup? Is it only because it’s an African country?”

For her thesis project, she conducted a qualitative content analysis of the news coverage during the World Cup. With the help of a $1,500 grant from the School of Communications, she headed to Port Elisabeth and Johannesburg from July 2–28 to see how both western and South African newspapers portrayed the host country.

As soon as she arrived, Soré hit the pavement conducting interviews and collecting articles; she reviewed more than 1,500 during the games. She contacted reporters at the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, and from the South African newspapers, the Star and the Sowetan. She also shot video interviews and plans to make a documentary.

In her study, she found more negative articles from American newspapers than from South African media. “Most of those journalists had never visited South Africa and didn’t know much about the country apart from what they learned from their media organization or other media,” she said.

South African newspapers addressed critical issues that didn’t always paint a positive picture, such as the expected costs of maintaining the stadiums built for the games and reports of “swift and draconian sentences” to keep crime rates low during the games.

American news organizations, however, frequently reported high crime rates, but excluded supporting statistics that would have proved otherwise. Some articles made broad generalizations.

One New York Times article said, “...the way South Africans of all races live is shaped by fear of crime, and during the World Cup, the government carved out public spaces that it made safe with a highly concentrated police presence that critics say will be impossible to sustain.”

Soré, who is set to graduate in May 2011, plans to submit articles based on her research to scholarly journals. She hopes to encourage journalists to review how they report on other countries. She appreciates having had the opportunity to do her research and also feels a sense of pride seeing all that South Africa has accomplished.

“I’m not saying Africa is paradise. African countries have their own problems, as do all countries in the world,” said Soré. “I’m saying use non-offensive words to depict the continent fairly and accurately.”
Scott Campbell ’95, MS ’02, of Chesterfield, MO, received a doctor of human science in biochemistry from the University of Heidelberg in Germany.
Maine retailer Allen S. Cohen '73 considers himself a bottom fisher. He'll only “bite” on merchandise for his Big Al's Super Values store if it's a steal. He buys closeouts of kitchen items, books, toys, small hardware, dishes and Maine souvenirs, among other items, for his store on Route 1 in Wiscasset. Items often come from large catalog companies, such as Miles Kimball and Dr. Leonard's.

“I get rid of other people's problems;” he explains. “I make them an offer, they take it or leave it, and I go on to the next deal—I know what it's worth to me,” says the accounting major. Customers are the beneficiaries of his pencil-sharp deals—much of his merchandise costs less than $1.

Cohen is well known in the Portland area. His ads on the local CBS affiliate are designed to entertain. “Remember Crazy Eddie? That’s the kind of commercials I do—stupid ads that catch your attention and get you into the store.”

Cohen produces the ads himself. His wife, Melissa, serves as videographer. During a trip around the world they took in Spring 2010, they shot footage at the Great Wall of China (he's been to China many times on buying trips) and also in Alaska.

“I'm as bald as a cucumber. At the Great Wall, I was wearing a gorilla T-shirt and a hat with fake hair as I shouted, 'Do you know how far Route 1 Wiscasset is from here?'” In Alaska, while winter raged behind him, he identified himself as Santa's cousin. He refers to Big Al's as the stocking stuffer capital of Maine.

During another vacation in Vegas, the couple filmed on the strip, with Cohen admonishing viewers, “Don't gamble on the competition, be a winner at Big Al's.” As the store name implies, “Al” was a big man—5 foot 11 and 350 pounds—before losing 130 pounds three years ago. “I just stopped eating,” he says with a laugh.

Cohen was raised in Rockville Centre, N.Y. At Quinnipiac, he was treasurer of the Hillel student organization, and the first student representative on then-President Leonard Kent's cabinet. The budding entrepreneur staggered his classes so he could co-manage a discount store called Shane's Circle of Values in West Babylon, N.Y. In 1988, he yearned to travel and sold the store. In his travels, he discovered Maine—“God's country”—and makes his home on the banks of the Sheepscot River.

In Boothbay Harbor, he found desirable property at a reasonable price and opened a mini-storage business. In 1990, he opened Big Al's, first leasing a building, and then building his own a mile away. The store grosses more than a million annually.

Cohen has a friend in Pennsylvania with a similar business and several large warehouses. If a potential purchase is too large for Big Al's, Cohen will divide the shipment with this friend, who stores it for him until he can have it trucked to Maine, sometimes using drivers from the bottled water companies heading back to Maine with empty trucks.

Smart deals are one thing. Smart merchandising is another. Cohen recalls buying 50 cases of stoneware pasta bowls with a colored circle pattern that sat on the shelves. “One day, I changed the sign to 'Chowdah Bowls' and we sold tons, yet we couldn't give away pasta bowls up here!” he recalls.

To students who'd like to follow in his footsteps, Cohen says: “Be a bull, don’t accept no, fight for what you want, and make it happen.”

Allen S. Cohen ’73 displays merchandise at his Big Al's Super Values store in Wiscasset, Maine.
Sean Amore of Wichita, KS, ran for Congress as a Democrat in the 83rd district in Kansas. Melissa Carrington wed Michael Monahan on May 28, 2010. She is a registered physical therapist for Beacon Brook Health Center in Naugatuck, CT, where the couple lives.

Eric Levy of Ramsey, NJ, recently was promoted to senior managing director at Murray Hill Properties in New York, NY. He lives in Bergen Country, NJ, with his wife and children, Emma, 7, and Cameron, 2.

Scott Rocchio of Milford, CT, opened Southern Connecticut Chiropractic in Derby, CT. SCC is a satellite office of Naugatuck Family Chiropractic. Scott is a member of the Connecticut Chiropractic Council and the International Chiropractic Association.

Alyssa (Cuozzo) Bernier and her husband, Adam, announce the birth of their daughter, Jillian Nicole, on April 11, 2010. The family lives in Dracut, MA.

Robert Cottrell ’99, MHS ’02, and Jessica Doll-Cottrell ’99, MBA ’02, announce the birth of their son, Quinton Allen, on June 23, 2010. He was welcomed by big brother, Lucas, and big sister, Olivia. The family lives in Monroe, CT.

Coreen (Collins) Konopka of Myrtle Beach, SC, is a physical therapist at Seacoast Medical Center in Little River, SC. She received her certification in manual physical therapy through North American Institute of Orthopaedic Manual Therapy Inc. in July 2009.

Larissa Garcia wed Jared Ross in April 2007. She is working at ESPN. The couple lives in New Britain, CT.

Janet (DelosReyes) Johnson ’00, MBA ’02 is the founder of Quail Run Ventures, LLC, a company that helps small business owners streamline their financial processes. She lives in Terryville, CT, with her husband, Christopher Moloney.

Jeané Coakley is a beat reporter and sports anchor for SportsNet New York. Her beat is the NFL’s New York Jets. She lives in Plattsburgh, NY.

Aaron Johnson ’00, and their daughter, Koryn, 3.

Katie McLaughlin is a writer and producer for CNN Interactive. She lives in Manhattan with her husband, Peter Koval is a police detective in Fairfield, CT, assigned to the emergency services unit tactical team. He trains recruits after they graduate from the Connecticut Police Academy. He lives in Milford,
Kelly Schrader-Rees 97
Alumna travels with OT students  By Claire L. Hall

During a monthlong medical mission to China, Kelly Schrader-Rees ‘97 visited a Beijing pharmacy and saw dried snakes, lizards and bats that would be blended into medication. She was intrigued by Eastern medicine and the Chinese philosophy of healing.

After returning to the U.S., Schrader-Rees enrolled in massage therapy school, and now practices Reiki, the Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing.

She went to China as part of a Quinnipiac delegation led by Signian McGeary, now associate professor of occupational therapy emeritus.

This past July, she again traveled with McGeary, accompanying her former professor and current OT students to Guatemala, where she witnessed another amazing sight—90-year-old patients walking unassisted over bumpy roads to attend an adult day-care center.

These medical missions have ignited a passion for international relief work and added a new perspective to Schrader-Rees’ career as an occupational therapist at Genesis Rehab Services in Plainfield, Conn.

Since graduating, she has worked with the elderly in Bridgeport, Conn., Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Maine. In November 2009, she returned to Connecticut and now lives in Woodstock with her husband, Bill. She reconnected with McGeary at a Quinnipiac OT alumni conference last March, and McGeary invited her to lend her expertise on the Guatemala trip.

The mission’s first stop was an adult-day care center that had two staff members for 80 clients, and no equipment.

“We brought them supplies, including crutches, walkers and canes and ran strength, balance and range of motion groups,” she said. “They were thrilled and had us dancing with them in a conga line.”

Because they were forced to walk to survive, the Guatemalans had a great deal of strength, she observed.

Schrader-Rees entered Quinnipiac as a physical therapy student, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Kim (Schrader) Bunovsky ’91. Eventually she was drawn to occupational therapy. Her work with senior citizens has taught her to set realistic expectations and be content with small gains.

“In many ways, you need to approach international work with this type of philosophy. You cannot go in automatically expecting to change the world,”
Jeffrey Russell married Molly Snow Brady on June 5, 2010. He is a marketing manager for a subsidiary of Time-Warner in Stamford, CT. The couple lives in New Haven.

Jessica Van Rye-Plasse, MS ’02, of Salem, CT, is the chief health care provider for The William W. Backus Hospital’s Plainfield Backus Health Center. A cancer survivor herself, Jessica organized a 5-kilometer walk to increase awareness about ovarian cancer.

Bernard Augustine wed Kelly Laline ’03, MAT ’05, on Aug. 21, 2010. Bernard is an online sports editor with the New York Daily News in Manhattan, and Kelly is a special education teacher at PS 29 in Castleton Corners. The couple lives in Dongan Hills, NY.

Abbie Bowen ’03, MPT ’05, wed Dwaine Reeder on June 5, 2010. Abbie is a physical therapist for Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, PA. The couple lives in Loyalsock Township, PA.

Sarah Champagne wed Patrick Churchville on May 22, 2010. She is in the family business, ABAR Imaging Center in Providence, RI, where the couple lives.

Alesia (Gray) DiSano and her husband, Chris, announce the birth of their daughter, Leila Nicolina, on May 28, 2010. The family lives in Stanley, NC.

Kristen Kuchcicki ’03, MAT ’04, wed Joshua Silberberg on Aug. 1, 2009. The couple lives in Alexandria, VA.

Eric Marrapodi of Kingstowne, VA, is a producer at CNN and is now co-editing Belief Blog, recently launched by CNN.com.

Kristen O’Dea ’03, MS ’06, is a business solutions consultant at ING Financial Services. She lives in North Haven, CT.

Tracy Blumenstetter of Long Beach, NY, is working at HBO in New York, NY.

Lonnie Rosenbaum of Hoboken, NJ, co-founded Introspectr, a tech startup that allows users to search across their personal web accounts from one location. The company was chosen to participate in a startup accelerator program called SeedStart in New York City last summer.

Sean Cable is a teacher at Woodbridge Child Center in Woodbridge, CT. He was married on Oct. 2, 2010, and he and his wife, Nicole, live in Ansonia, CT.

Stephanie Cunha of Seekonk, MA, is a news producer and an I-Team producer for NBC10.

Anthony Marsala ’04, MPT ’07, and his wife, Katie (Keane) Marsala ’04, MPT ’06, own and operate Jersey Shore Bracelet Company.
Brian Salerno ’04, MS ’05, is the director of e-learning at Quinnipiac University’s School of Communications. He is also a part-time faculty member in Quinnipiac University’s School of Communications. He and his wife, Lisa, announce the birth of their son, Alexander Ralph Jacob, on Sept. 1, 2010. The family lives in Milford, CT.

Steven Silverstein of Merrick, NY, is the CEO of Triple Play Wireless and has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in telecommunications.

Ryan Heller wed Aubrey Bishop ’05, MS ’07, on June 26, 2010. Ryan works for Hannaford Bros. in Scarborough, ME, and Aubrey works for Bonney Staffing Center in Portland, ME. The couple lives in Saco, ME.

Jocelyn Hudson-Brown owns JHB Media & Public Relations. She lives in New Haven, CT.

Ramin Katirai wed Julia Strange on June 11, 2010. Ramin is pursuing a master’s degree in business administration at American University. The couple lives in Washington, D.C.

Vanessa Rubano of Ridgefield, CT, balanced a full-time career in clinical pharmacokinetics research and development at Boehringer Ingelheim USA Corporation while located in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, where they live.

Susan Shultz, MS ’05, recently was named assistant editor of The Darien Times. She lives in Wilton, CT, with her husband and two children.

Megan Tammany wed Peter Baird on July 9, 2010. The couple lives in Shelton, CT. Bridal party attendants included Quinnipiac alumni Kerri Fice and Ashley Berry, both 2005 graduates.

Christina Wright of Salem, MA, is the first appointed town clerk in

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JAN. 27: Game Watch—Men’s Basketball vs. Robert Morris, 6 p.m., The Harp, 85 Causeway St., Boston, MA. Game (televised on MSG), starts at 7. Cash bar.

FEB. 5: Physical Therapy Alumni Educational Conference, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., North Haven Campus, 370 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT. After the conference, enjoy a reception and the men’s ice hockey game against Union at the TD Bank Sports Center. $279 includes conference, reception and game ($20 guests for reception/game only).

FEB. 10: Disney’s “The Lion King,” Providence Performing Arts Center, 220 Weybosset St., Providence, RI. Hosted by the Rhode Island Alumni chapter. Wine and cheese reception at 6:15 p.m. followed by show at 7:30. Orchestra seats: $70 (four-ticket limit).

FEB. 26: Day at the Museum—Connecticut Science Center, 250 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. $15 adults, $10 children (aged 2 and under free), includes admission and private Quinnipiac reception at 10 a.m.

MARCH 6: Day at the Museum—Stepping Stones Museum, 303 West Ave., Norwalk, CT. $10 admission (under age 1 free), includes mid-morning “snack break” reception at 10 a.m.

MARCH 17: St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Reception, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City.

MARCH 25: Boston Celtics Game and QU Reception, TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, Boston, MA. Reception at 6 p.m., game vs. Charlotte Bobcats at 7:30. $60, includes game and dinner. Cash bar.

APRIL 3: New Jersey Nets vs. Miami Heat, Prudential Center, 165 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ, hosted by Mike Zavodsky ’07, vice president of New Corporate Marketing Ventures with the New Jersey Nets; Adam Greenfeld ’07, accounting manager with the Nets; and Quinnipiac’s New Jersey Alumni Chapter. Reception at 6 p.m., game at 7:30. $55 includes both. Cash bar.

APRIL 9: Quinnipiac’s Big Event. Alumni invited to participate at service events organized by regional alumni chapters or work alongside student teams. Register and/or purchase a T-shirt at website below.

JUNE 24-26: Reunion 2011. Come back to Quinnipiac for a weekend of fun. See ad on page 43.

Visit www.quinnipiac.edu/events.xml or call 203-582-8610 or toll-free 877-582-1929.

ESSEX, CT. She is also a certified paralegal and is a partner with the Paul Herrick Group.

Sara Abbott began her oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at The Ohio State University this past summer. Elizabeth Briand ’06, DPT ’09, traveled to Haiti for a week in May 2010 as part of a Healing Hands for Haiti mission. James DeLoma is assistant director of public relations and social media in the Public Affairs Division at Quinnipiac University. He lives in Bridgeport, CT.

Patrick Egan moved up within the Baltimore Orioles organization from the Double-A Eastern League’s Bowie (Md.) Bay Sox baseball team to the Triple-A International League’s Norfolk (Va.) Tide. Peter Gallay and Candice Amore wed on July 4, 2010. The couple lives in Cheshire, CT. Peter is an academic technology multimedia producer at Quinnipiac. Rick Hancock of Bloomfield, CT, has been named digital platform manager at the Hartford Courant/ Fox CT. Rick is an assistant professor in residence at UConn’s department of journalism, specializing in digital media.

Marci Izard, MS ’06, of Houston, TX, regularly travels to the Northeast to WGBB in Springfield, MA, where she co-hosts a healthy cooking segment. Anthony Mio ’06, MBA ’09, of Norwalk, CT, is a compliance associate at Stamford Hospital. Michael Zavodsky of Emerson, NJ, has been named vice president of new corporate marketing ventures for the New Jersey Nets basketball team.

Kristen Bessoni of Newington, CT, is an accountant with Kaufman, Osit, Vasquez PC, in Farmington, CT. Sean Ferrell of Towaco, NJ, is an account executive at TracyLocke in Chicago, IL. He manages the agency’s Gatorade sports marketing and national brand activation accounts.

Jeffrey Mitchell of Guilford, CT, is an operations manager for Aspen Dental Management, Inc. Kimberley Nash of Newtown, CT, is a human resource coordinator and administrator for Operations Inc.

Rudwin Ayala is an associate attorney for The Law Office of Jay Cohen, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He lives in Weston, FL.

Christopher Bateman is currently living and working in Shanghai, China, for Phoenix International. Daniel Baxter ’08, MHS ’10, recently accepted a position as a physician assistant at Diagnostic Radiology Associates in Waterbury, CT. Anthony Calendrillo, MBA ’08, of Naugatuck, CT, and his wife, Kate, announce the birth of their son, John Issac, on May 3, 2010. He joins his big sister, Anna Belle, 6, and big brother, David George, 3.

Marc Cullen of Sudbury, MA, is a business listings specialist at TripAdvisor located in Newton, MA.
Brother of the bride, Thomas MacDougall ’10, was a groomsman. The couple lives in Woodbury, CT.

Molly Qerim, MS ’08, of Cheshire, CT, debuted as a studio host on the CBS College Sports Network in early September.

Todd Ryder married Kimberly Denny on Aug. 21, 2010. The wedding party included fellow Quinnipiac alumni: Janette Lopez ’07, MBA ’09, Katharine Cleary ’08, Adam Gorsline ’08, Ashley Sacken ’08, and Jennifer Piva ’09. Todd is a process development research assistant at Protein Sciences Corporation located in Meriden, CT. Todd and Kimberly recently co-chaired the annual Hamden/North Haven Relay for Life event held at Quinnipiac University. Fellow alumni Jessica Bade ’10 was on the committee as survivor co-chair. The couple lives in Hamden.

Roger Fish of Brighton, MA, is a copywriter for Arnold Worldwide. He was a member of the team that won the 2010 U.S. Young Lions Competition in the print category for the print advertisement, United Against Malaria, “Malaria Safe” bracelet. He and his teammate will go on to compete at the Cannes International Advertising Festival in France.

Richard Kuchcicki ’08, MS ’10, is assistant director of admissions at Quinnipiac University.

Michelle Lohr is the associate producer at the “Dr. Oz Show.” She lives in Commack, NY.

Michael Lyle of Old Bridge, NJ, won the Best Sports Story/Tennis Recap award at the Connecticut Associated Press dinner in Cromwell, CT, in April for a WQUN piece.

Nicole MacDougall ’08, MOT ’10, wed Stephen Soden on Sept. 18, 2010. Brother of the bride, Thomas MacDougall ’10, was a groomsman. The couple lives in Woodbury, CT.

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Christopher Svogun, MHS ’08, wed Ann Marie Mangano ’08, MAT ’09, on July 30, 2010. Christopher is a physician assistant in the emergency room at Bridgeport Hospital. Ann Marie is an associate director and teacher at Beacon, a college preparatory school in Greenwich, CT. The couple lives in Norwalk, CT.

Winton Brown of Pittsfield, MA, received his master’s degree in magazine, newspaper and online journalism at Syracuse University.

Chris DiMarco, MS ’09, of Trumbull, CT, is a web editor for TMCanet.

Bobak Emamian of Cheshire, CT, is cofounder of Prolific Interactive, a media agency specializing in all things digital.

Wesley Kyle of Watertown, CT, a first-year medical student at UConn Health Center, took part in the “white coat ceremony” at the Farmington School of Medicine in August.

Elizabeth Leahy of South Windsor, CT, was chosen as one of five recipients nationally of the 2010 Alan D. Waggoner, MHS, RDCS Sonographer Student Scholarship.

James Neufeld ’09, MAT ’10, of Seaford, NY, is a sixth-grade math teacher at Scofield Magnet Middle School in Stamford, CT.

Help us recognize our best

Every two years at Homecoming, the Quinnipiac University Alumni Association honors outstanding graduates who make remarkable contributions to their professions and communities. The Alumni Association invites you to nominate alumni for the Distinguished Alumni Award, Alumni Service to Quinnipiac Award, or the Recent Alumni Award, which will be presented Oct. 15 during Homecoming 2011.

Read award criteria, review prior recipients and submit your nominations by visiting www.quinnipiac.edu/alumniawards.xml. Nominations must be received by Jan. 30, 2011.

IN MEMORIAM

2009
Joseph F. Bernardo ’47
Marianna (Hedlund) Didriksen ’57
Dorothy (Phillips) Euerle ’42
Walter L. Madura, Jr. ’37
Shirley (Doolittle) Morton ’33
Evelyn (Regan) VanDine ’51

2010
Anne (Bardo) Bartlett ’42
Marijane (Vanacore) Bell ’86
Ellen (Woodruft) Berth ’37
Linda M. (Ripa) Bowen ’75
Doreen (Tyler) Breault ’48
William R. Carney ’67
Salvatore R. Catardi ’69
Angela R. (Panzo) Christina ’83
Edward Cottrell ’72
Madeline (Card) Cullinan ’41
Louise (Afragola) DeMatteis ’41
Gino DeMico ’53

Tyrell Hartfield ’95
Samuel Kowal Sr. ’39
Rita (Kamins) Leventhal ’50
Rose (Deponte) Lombardozzi ’44
Bernadette (Nolan) Lynch ’37
Howard Manco ’57
John R. Norman ’48
Emily (Jensen) Oberlin ’44
Karl Ogren ’83
Brett Rushon ’80
Gennaro Saiano ’49
Scott Seaver ’01
Thomas Selmecki ’61
Neo Silva ’72
Roseann (Russo) Suraci ’94
Nancy (Howe) Swanson ’49
Stephanie (Capodagli) Szeman ’95, MS ’01
Linda J. Toth ’63
Richard W. Yazluk ’63
Michael Yurczyk ’02

2010

William Piper, MHA ’09, is the chief operating officer of Masonicare in Wallingford, CT. He also serves on the advisory board at Quinnipiac’s School of Business. He and his wife, Susan, live in Meriden, CT, with their three children.

Jennifer Dauphinais, MAT ’10, is a third-grade teacher in New Haven and was the recipient of the Learner Excellence Award.

Kristen Lawler was awarded the Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Grant from Quinnipiac University. She will use the funds to continue her research with Adrienne Betz, professor of psychology at Quinnipiac. Psi Chi is the international honor society in psychology.

She lives in Wrentham, MA.

Michael Radomski of Saddlebrook, NJ, is the radio play-by-play broadcaster for the Evansville Otters baseball team.

Jill Seward ’08, MBA ’10, of Watertown, MA, is a website content writer/editor for New England Sports Network. She provides nationwide sports coverage with a spotlight on Boston.

Maxwell Tanner joined Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife, as a financial services representative. He lives in Middletown, CT.
GOOD TIMES

Alumni connected at a variety of events both on and off campus.

1. ABC News correspondent Ashleigh Banfield with Michael Minutoli ’98, New York City alumni chapter president, at a November networking event.

2. John Spencer ’02 and his guest enjoy a pregame reception at the Rocky Top Student Center in December.

3. Kayla Boggs hugs her dad, Jason Boggs ’99, before he, Alan Longiudice ’01, Geoff Moore ’98 and Brian Quinlan ’00 play in the men’s lacrosse alumni game in October.

4. Katharine (Lydecker) Rockstroh ’82 and Colleen Kennedy ’82 at the New Jersey Alumni & Parents Golf Outing in October that raised $7,200 for scholarship funds.

5. Richard Chapman ’89 and Jacqueline Crenshaw ’01 at the Diagnostic Imaging Alumni Academic Conference in November.

6. Richard Ciardiello ’87 and his children take to the ice after the men’s hockey alumni game in November.

7. Beryl (Resnick) Cohen ’50 and Cynthia (Schwartzman) Kanell ’52 at a Larson Alumnae Chapter meeting.

Any visitor to our campus can see that Quinnipiac prides itself on being tech-friendly and tech-savvy. Our School of Communications boasts a professional film studio and high-def editing suites, and it’s rare to see a student walking across the quad without a cell phone at his or her ear. This is why I was shocked when halfway through my first semester at Quinnipiac, English Professor Timothy Dansdill challenged my class to a technology deprivation experiment.

The challenge was this: the 16 of us would surrender our cell phones to Professor Dansdill for the weekend, and vow to resist logging onto Facebook until the following Tuesday. We were instructed to keep a journal of our daily interactions and frustrations. As a freshman still in the process of formulating my social circle, I panicked…could I handle the digital isolation?

My initial journal entries were full of complaints. In my final paper for the class, I reflected, “I was so concerned that I would be missing something, or that someone would be trying to get in touch with me, that I lost track of my priorities.” Not having a cell phone was proving to be just as distracting as having one!

As the weekend wore on, however, I found that things suddenly were getting done. My emails were sorted, my laundry was folded, and my desk was cleared. I had face-to-face conversations and noticed that my interactions weren’t limited to people on my phone contact list. During those five days, I started to appreciate a life that wasn’t totally dependent on technology.

Two years later, I’m working toward a degree in public relations, where social media rules the playing field. Blogging is the new face of news coverage, and sites like Facebook and LinkedIn have become top recruitment tools for companies. Last summer, I interned at an agency where I was told that managing a Twitter account is a good business strategy for my generation. Essentially, I’m throwing myself into a field where tech-savvy students thrive.

Since the deprivation experiment, I have not gone a day without some form of technology at hand. While it’s clear that I must prepare to take on the role of “innovative digital native” to stay competitive in the job market, I choose to maintain a less intense relationship with technology in my daily life. Although Facebook still consumes more of my time than I’ll admit, I have learned to be smart about my usage and postings. Rather than using the site as an online diary to detail every moment of my weekends, I concentrate on features that allow me to stay in touch with friends from home and keep updated on Quinnipiac happenings. With employers utilizing Facebook as a tool in the hiring process, I always ensure that my profile is congruent with the face that they would see in an interview.

But, many of the ideals that were discussed in that English class have taken on a very real role in my life. I still value face-to-face interactions more than text messages scrolling across a screen, and have sworn to avoid “Crackberry nation” until graduation. I still sit through lectures with a pen and notebook and prefer handwritten thank-you notes over emails after interactions with potential employers.

I’m happily living a less-distracted life, where technology doesn’t command my day. Sometimes it’s nice to be disconnected, although I may be the only person on campus who thinks so.

Jamie A. Kloss is a junior public relations major from Bucks County, Penn.
Mia Picillo, a guard for the Quinnipiac women’s basketball team, is in constant motion. Some days, the senior nursing major from Derry, N.H., is at the hospital for clinical rotations at 6:30 a.m. before rushing to basketball practice. Other days, she bounces between a full class schedule, practice and labs until 8 p.m. Add in homework, basketball games, plus her work as a tutor, and there’s not a lot of down time for this outstanding Quinnipiac student.

Mia came to Quinnipiac because her financial academic scholarship package made following her dream of becoming a nurse affordable.

Help talented and deserving students like Mia achieve their full potential at Quinnipiac. Support student scholarships and give the gift for a lifetime: a Quinnipiac education.

To learn more, visit www.quinnipiac.edu/give.xml or contact Paul Sutera, associate vice president for development, paul.sutera@quinnipiac.edu or 203-582-3996.
SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming 2011
October 14–16

Highlights include:
• Midnight Madness
• Distinguished Alumni Awards Brunch
• Alumni Tailgate at the TD Bank Sports Center
• Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Canisius
• Farewell Brunch at the new Rocky Top Student Center

Call your friends and make plans to attend. Be sure to book your hotel early.