RAISING THE BAR
PROFESSIONALISM PERMEATES NEW LAW CENTER

PLUS DREAM JOBS • ABOUT FACE
Holiday Cheer For 30 Years

Top: The 2014 Holiday Dinner for undergraduates definitely makes the week before finals more palatable for the 1,200 students who attend. Serving pasta with sauce and smiles are, from left: Chris Vendola, facilities; Courtney McGinnis, assistant professor of biology; Anna Spragg ’93, ’02, MOL ’13, director of student affairs, School of Medicine; and Joan Metzler, director of admissions, School of Law.

Left: Professor Jill Martin helped plan the first holiday dinner 30 years ago and has not missed one since. (Related story p. 5.)

Photos by Johnathan Henninger
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ON THE COVER: Third-year law student Erica Rocha in the Lynne L. Pantalena Law Library in the new School of Law Center on the North Haven Campus. Photo by Christopher Beauchamp
Legal Aspects of Wildlife Trafficking Explored

Elephant poaching is at highest level in 25 years

Professionals from biologists and journalists to lawyers and conservationists discussed the Endangered Species Act and the continued struggle to protect animal life, particularly African elephants hunted for their ivory tusks, at a November symposium.

Titled “International Wildlife Trafficking: Law and Policy,” the daylong program was coordinated by the Quinnipiac Law Review. It included discussions on the history of the act, beginning with the first list of endangered species in 1964, and the decades of political wrangling that eventually established and passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

"Extinction is in our blood," said Joe Roman, the Sarah and Daniel Hrdy Fellow in Conservation Biology at Harvard University. "We’ve been causing extinctions for tens of thousands, maybe 100,000 years," he added. Roman explained the ways people have eliminated populations of animals, such as capturing sperm whales for oil.

Progress has been made. In 2008, 10 of the species on the list were improving and 33 were stable; 33 were declining; and the status of 25 species is unknown. The alligator, brown pelican, elephant seal and gray whale are examples of species whose populations have grown enough to be removed from the list.

The ivory trade continues to move the African elephant closer to extinction. From 1970–90, the majestic animal’s population dropped from 1.3 million to 600,000, explained Adam Roberts, the CEO of Born Free USA, the Blood Ivory Campaign. The elephant was placed on the endangered species list in 1989, the same year the UN’s Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species approved an international ban on ivory. The ban caused an initial decline in poaching until several countries were able to sidestep it by trading existing ivory. According to the Blood Ivory Campaign, elephant poaching is at the highest level in 25 years.

Raising awareness is possible. In China, sharks were becoming extinct because of the demand for shark fin soup. WildAid, a conservation organization, began an educational campaign in 2006 to save the shark. Before that, 75 percent of the population didn’t know that shark fin soup was made from shark fins (the Chinese name for the soup is fish wing) and 19 percent thought the fin grew back. Reciting the WildAid tag line, Roberts said, “When the buying stops, the killing can too.”
SHARING FACTS ABOUT FALLS

Sixty-four senior citizens visited the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences last fall as part of National Falls Prevention Awareness Day.

The event, sponsored by Quinnipiac’s National Institute for Community Health Education and the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education, included students and faculty from many health disciplines.

The program featured a panel discussion with the students and “Clara,” a high-fidelity simulation mannequin who had taken a serious fall. Students also offered several tips for avoiding falls, such as making regular visits to the doctor and learning about side effects of medications. They emphasized the importance of assistive devices, proper footwear and exercise, and of having a well-lit and hazard-free home. Afterward, the senior citizens visited Clara’s mock apartment within the center and were asked to identify multiple fall risks, such as rugs that were not anchored properly.

PROFESSOR PASSES

Economics Professor Matthew C. Rafferty died on Oct. 11 after battling cancer for several years. He joined the Quinnipiac faculty in 2000, and rose to the rank of full professor and also chaired the economics department. “During his 14 years at Quinnipiac, Matt was a committed teacher, friend and colleague who inspired many with his contagious energy and diligence to research,” said Mark Thompson, executive vice president and provost. “Matt was a true scholar. His courage, dedication and collegiality will leave a lasting imprint on the University.”

WORKSHOP Focuses on EBOLA Prep

About 1,100 members of the Quinnipiac community took part in an Ebola preparedness workshop in October. The program, initiated and coordinated by the School of Nursing, also included health sciences and medical students. In addition to hearing the most current information about Ebola symptoms, screening, precautions and protocols, students learned the proper use of basic personal protective equipment.

“Our goal was to educate faculty, staff and students about the latest guidelines and to put Ebola in perspective,” said Jean Lange, dean of the School of Nursing. “Ebola is not something we should have a mass panic about,” she said.

Participating professors were Stephen Wikel, PhD, senior associate dean for scholarship and the inaugural St. Vincent’s Medical Center endowed chair in medical sciences; Dr. David Hill, professor of medical sciences and director of the global public health program; and Dr. Thomas Murray, associate professor of medical sciences.

“We’re sharing information so that students understand current knowledge of the Ebola virus, understand the risk factors and, most importantly, understand the process they can take to minimize their exposure,” said Dr. Bruce Koeppen, dean of the School of Medicine.

First-year medical students Alexandria Georgadarellis and Chris Anderson practiced donning and doffing gowns, masks and gloves. “With the emerging Ebola virus and the flu season coming, it is good to know how to personally protect yourself when you are in a health care setting,” Anderson said.

SPORTS FIGURES SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD

Major league athletes have made headlines for domestic violence disputes, but Jason Katz, an author, filmmaker and social theorist on gender violence, said the players instead should be a big part of prevention efforts.

Katz, co-founder of the Mentors in Violence Prevention program, referenced the program’s successful campaign, “Be More than a Bystander,” which is used by the Canadian Football League and features football players visiting high schools to speak with students. Katz said it is important to have men sending the message.

Katz was the keynote speaker for the conference, “More Than A Few Good Men: A Lecture on American Manhood and Violence Against Women.” The event was for social workers and professionals who work with people involved in domestic disputes. It was co-sponsored by QU’s social work department. Through exercises and discussions, Katz introduced strategies for men and women to collaborate in changing social norms that tolerate sexist or abusive behaviors.

Professor Tracy Van Ess and visitor
From the Military to Medicine

Air Force Capt. Jose Burgos of Newburgh, N.Y., remembers the moment that cemented his desire to be a physician. He was serving in Bagram, Afghanistan, when two Black Hawk helicopters landed with wounded soldiers.

As a maintenance officer responsible for 24 F-15 jets and a mechanical crew of 200, he took pride in ensuring that those planes were ready to help trapped soldiers on the front lines. Standing outside the emergency room doors, he wanted to do more.

“The only thing I could think was, ‘I need to be in there. I belong in there, helping them. That is my calling,’” Burgos said.

Today Burgos and fellow veteran Frank Ruiz, who served in the Navy, are first-year students at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, transitioning their careers from military to medicine. In deployments, both have witnessed the need for more physicians capable of healing the physical and mental injuries of war. Most important, both have been on the other end of the stethoscope as patients.

Burgos is a cancer survivor. Ruiz, a petty officer, first class, suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving in Afghanistan in 2005 on his second of three deployments. He was reinjured in 2009.

Together, they established the School of Medicine’s Military Medicine Interest Group to educate students on the needs of veterans and active military personnel. Both would like to work with these populations. “It’s a lot easier for veterans to open up to other veterans,” Ruiz said. “No matter what branch or what capacity you served, you have an understanding of the things they have been through.” Watch a video about these veterans at www.quinnipiac.edu/medicalveterans.
Project Classroom Takes Shape

As a class project last spring, entrepreneurship major Andrew Larkins and three fellow students raised $15,000 to build a much-needed classroom in a South African township plagued with poverty, violence and drug abuse. Larkins and one of his teammates, Cory Hibbeler, graduated in May, but both headed back to South Africa in December to construct the classroom.

Larkins was moved by the plight of schoolchildren he met during a Quinnipiac alternative winter break trip to South Africa in January 2014. He and 11 other QU students hosted a camp for these children to develop personal skills and keep them out of trouble during school breaks. Larkins returned to the U.S. eager to do more for them.

“We developed these incredible relationships with the children. All of our work there would be for nothing unless we did something to help them continue learning,” said Larkins. “They are from a township where they have few job opportunities. The only means of eradicating the cycle of poverty is for the children to get an education. We hope this classroom will give them the space to excel.”

The idea was a perfect fit for the required main project in his spring semester course, Ventures in Social Enterprise, which uses the skills and strategies of business to innovatively solve social, environmental and/or economic problems.

HOLIDAY DINNER MARKS 30 YEARS

Back in 1985, when Jill Martin joined the Quinnipiac faculty, she noticed that students did not have many traditions. As the holidays approached, she talked to some colleagues about hosting a holiday dinner for them. Now, 30 years later, the legal studies professor is still helping to coordinate the annual event, which treats about 1,200 students to a sumptuous dinner before they leave for break.

“We didn’t know if it would work or not,” Martin recalled, as they had no budget. Chartwells donates the food, and donations cover other expenses. Faculty and staff volunteer to serve students, buffet style. They also serve desserts and clear tables.

Senior Aaron King looks forward to the dinner because it provides a chance to enjoy a good meal in the company of friends.

“Being part of such a great tradition is something I will remember years after I graduate,” he said.

Martin feels it’s one of the best events on campus. “It’s the one place where every corner of the University intermingles.”

TACOPINA GRATEFUL

NY DEFENSE ATTORNEY ADDRESSES HOMECOMING GATHERING

Joseph Tacopina, JD ’91, is not easily intimidated in court. It’s a trait he learned in Professor Martin B. Margulies’ classroom.

The Manhattan criminal defense attorney has represented high-profile clients such as A-Rod, Imus and Joran van der Sloot. In October, he came to Quinnipiac to speak at an alumni reception in the new School of Law Center, where student and professor reconnected.

Tacopina said Margulies, now professor emeritus, “prepared me so I’d never freeze under pressure.”

“I owe everything in my life to the School of Law,” Tacopina said. “It’s where I met my wife.”

Any professional success I’ve been lucky enough to have I really credit to this law school.” Before founding his firm, Tacopina served as a prosecutor and then turned to criminal defense law.

The school’s new venue on the North Haven Campus (see related story, p. 26) amazed Christine Janis, JD ’87. “We had very humble beginnings,” said Janis, senior assistant public defender for the state of Connecticut. “It’s astonishingly lovely.”
FAMILY TIME

More than 6,000 parents and family members explored Quinnipiac during the annual Parents and Family Weekend in October. Daniel and Angela Badillo of Orangeburg, N.Y., received a personal tour from their son Andrew, a sophomore in the sports journalism program.

Daniel said he was pleased to see his son embrace many professional opportunities that have given him valuable, hands-on experience. “He’s passionate about it,” Daniel said of his son’s field. “When you’re passionate, it’s not work.”

Socializing on the quad are sophomores Hannah Lefebvre and dad, Michael; Isabella Dalena and dad, Frank; and Lauren Argento and dad, Joseph. Below, Boomer poses for a family portrait.

LESSONS YET TO BE LEARNED

Despite finding fault with public school education in America, where “test scores are the be-all-and-end all,” Diane Ravitch still harbors hope.

Ravitch, an author and former U.S. assistant secretary of education, delivered her comments at a lecture in October as part of the Campus Cross Talk series. School of Education Dean Kevin Basmadjian introduced Ravitch as “the nation’s most vocal advocate for public education.”

Thanks to the federal No Child Left Behind initiative, policymakers are obsessed with data. “They love data more than children and learning,” she said. “but our children deserve more.” She said the real problems are poverty and racial segregation, and “charter schools do not solve those problems.” As for the Common Core initiative, Ravitch noted there is no evidence that national standards lead to higher achievement.

In her three game development classes, how many female students does Elena Bertozzi instruct? One.

“That’s tragic,” said Bertozzi, associate professor of game design and development. She spoke at a program on women in technology last fall.

“Game development is an incredibly big industry where there’s all sorts of opportunities and lots of money to be made. It’s a great place to work,” she said. Getting more women into high-tech fields was at the heart of the discussion, organized by the Department of Academic Technology.

Panelists included Bertozzi; Charmaine Banach, assistant professor of interactive digital design; Mary Dunaway, assistant professor of computer information systems; Karolyn Maloney ’08, a director in global information security at Actna; Anna-Lynn Mancini ’02, principal consultant at Slalom Consulting; and Abby Wolf ’11, participant in the information technology leadership development program at Travelers. Panelists shared their career paths, answered questions and gave advice about how to break into technology fields.

“You need to have good leadership skills and know your work,” said Dunaway, who has more than 25 years of experience. “Whatever your specialty, know that you have something to contribute—and have confidence in your skills.”

So few women working in tech jobs perpetuates the idea that women can’t do these jobs, Bertozzi said.

Tech field wide open for women
Center for Excellence honors 6

The University honored three faculty members and three administrative staffers in October. The 2014 recipients of the Excellence in Teaching award are Anne Eisbach, Douglas McHugh and Toni Robinson. Recipients of the Service to Students award are Gina Frank, Fabiano Iacusso and Brittany Vogel.

ANNE EISBACH
The associate professor of psychology was always drawn to teaching. “My parents are both teachers. I can remember playing school a lot when I was a child,” says Eisbach, who also serves as associate chair of psychology and as an adviser. She tries to present material to students in a clear, organized and digestible fashion. Eisbach learns from her students as well. “They teach me so much. I love that things are new to them and they are trying to figure out what they want to do with their lives. There’s a lot of excitement for them, and it kind of rubs off on you.”

GINA FRANK
The dean for graduate student affairs is proud to have helped bring life onto Quinnipiac’s North Haven Campus. When an event is happening in the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, there is a good chance Frank is involved. She strives to be the voice for the graduate population. “They come from all over the world to be here,” Frank said. “It’s wonderful to be able to make a real difference in students’ lives.” She said there are times she cries with students, and times she laughs with them. “I want to see them to that finish line and see them do well outside Quinnipiac.”

FABIANO IACUSSO ’05, MS ’07
As associate director of systems, technology and planning, Iacusso is responsible for ensuring that all data center systems are operating efficiently. He has been involved in many projects at Quinnipiac, including the core network redesign, server virtualization initiatives and data center redesign. “I always make sure that whatever issue a student, faculty or staff member has is resolved rather quickly,” he said. “I never give the answer, ‘I don’t know.’ I think our community really appreciates that.”

DOUGLAS MCHUGH
The assistant professor of medical sciences is well versed in pharmacology, neuroscience and biostatistics. His teaching philosophy is simple. He said professors need to be “creative, engaging and fine-tune their lessons.” He also encourages his students to achieve balance in their lives. “There is an extremely high volume of material they have to learn,” he said. “I tell my students, ‘You will adapt. You will learn. People who have never run a marathon think the training is going to kill them, but they feel great about themselves when they cross that finish line.’”

TONI ROBINSON
This professor of law is committed to ensuring that her students not only learn the material but also understand the basis for the rules, and are comfortable asking for clarification. “A lawyer who knows the rules can help a client shape a transaction or contradict the other side in litigation and, therefore, be a hero to the client,” she said. Robinson wasn’t satisfied with the available tax books, so she and a colleague wrote their own textbook on basic tax law to help make the material clearer. “I think it’s important to choose fewer provisions, but study them carefully,” Robinson said.

BRITTANY VOGEL ’09
As the events coordinator for facilities, Vogel has developed a knack for identifying and solving issues before they become problems. Vogel helps to coordinate the operations of nearly every event hosted on the University’s three campuses. She is involved in all facets of an event—from room setups and ventilation to food placement and traffic flow. “It’s a privilege to have a hand in every event that takes place at Quinnipiac, and more importantly, work with so many talented individuals,” Vogel said.

Alumna + “Peg + Cat” = Emmy

As a child Jaclynn Demas ’01 of East Williston, N.Y., was enchanted with making films and watching the award shows that honored them. She used to tell her mother, “I’m going to be up there one day, you’ll see.” In June, she did just that with the help of a smart, animated girl and her cat.

As producer of the premiere season of PBS KIDS’ “Peg + Cat,” Demas won a 2014 Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Award for Outstanding Preschool Children’s Animated Program.

Q. Who inspired you to become a producer?
A. My dad was my inspiration. He was my date to the Emmys. Any school project I had, I always turned it into a film. When I was 12, I started a news station with my friends. My dad was my cameraman. He helped me make rolling credits and other special effects. He always has these great ideas. I think he missed his calling.

Q. What's your role?
A. I started on the pilot, which took about a year to create. We had to do casting, get the script where we wanted it to be, work with math and education consultants and record the music and voices. Today, I oversee all of the designers and animators. I go through each episode’s storyboard and I decide what needs to be designed and prep for that. I make sure it’s up to par with what the creators want and that it’s done on time. Each episode takes 34 weeks from start to finish. The writing takes the longest. In the middle of the season, I can be working on 10-12 episodes at one time, but they are all in different phases. That’s the challenging part—there are so many moving pieces.

Q. How did you get involved in the series and 9ate7 Productions?
A. I worked with Jen Oxley on “The Wonder Pets,” where she was the creative director. I knew then she was different and special, so interesting, super talented and smart. I worked with many of these people for years. We were in the trenches together trying to work our way up. It was so great to be together on that stage at the Emmys.

Q. What is it like to be at the Daytime Emmys?
A. It was crazy. I got a sign with my nominations and my name on it. Walking down this long red carpet, people were taking my picture, saying, “Jaclynn look over here.” I felt like a celebrity. That was the really cool part.

Q. What was it like when you won?
A. Our category was toward the end of the night. I was filming it with my phone. I turned to my dad and said, “This is it!” Then they said, “Peg + Cat.” I threw my phone because I just didn’t believe it. Someone gave it back to me afterward. All of us just froze. People were saying, “You have to go up.” It was really surreal. I just remember shaking the whole time. I don’t even know what my boss said in the acceptance speech.

Q. What do you enjoy most about working on the series?
A. I like it because it’s for kids. I feel like I’m giving something back. I’m teaching kids something, and I hope I’m making them smile and laugh. That’s important especially now that I have kids. I get to show my boys, Gabriel and Jude [ages 4 and 2, respectively], what I’m working on. They sometimes give me notes on the animation. They love it.

Q. What kind of response have you received?
A. We get lots of letters from children. We’ve also received letters from teenagers who say they love the music. We have a pool of composers who have produced for Broadway and pop stars. The music is just so creative and original. I spoke to a teacher who said her older autistic student loves “Peg + Cat”—especially because it doesn’t dumb down the math. It’s just very sophisticated.

I also knew anything creators Jen and Billy [Aronson] did would be gold. When I saw the character designs and read the stories for “Peg,” I thought, “This is genius.” I signed on right away. We have such an amazing group of artists. Each one is so different, so interesting, super talented and smart. I worked with many of these people for years. We were in the trenches together trying to work our way up. It was so great to be together on that stage at the Emmys.

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—Alejandra Navarro
Producer Jaclynn Demas ’01 with her Emmy Award for her PBS series, “Peg + Cat.”
Jack of All Sports
McDonald’s hitting the road for next phase of life

Jack McDonald’s trusty camera is always at the ready, slung around his neck in anticipation of the next Quinnipiac goal, basket or photo finish.

“It’s gotten to the point where I can’t go to an athletic event unless I’ve got my camera in my hand,” said the director of athletics and recreation. He uploads the photos for the Bobcats’ faithful to see.

McDonald’s hobby is fitting because he’s always been good at seeing the big picture. Over two decades in Hamden, he’s led Quinnipiac’s elevation to Division I status and evolution from Braves to Bobcats.

Along the way, McDonald has witnessed the construction of the dual arena TD Bank Sports Center, the men’s ice hockey team’s move to ECAC Hockey and subsequent trip to the Frozen Four.

Those are just some of the highlights of a stellar career in athletics that will end when McDonald retires in June.

“I was just happy to steer the ship for a little while,” said McDonald, who praised President John L. Lahey for his vision.

“We’ve succeeded. Now it’s time for me to give the keys to the car to somebody else. The University’s been very good to me.”

McDonald said the hardest part of announcing his retirement was telling his staff. “They’re like family to me,” he said. The feeling is mutual.

“Rarely, and I have been in this business for 37 years, have I seen an individual who actually already applied for my license,” said Tom Moore, athletic director.

Family has always been important to McDonald, who grew up the oldest of 11 children in Braintree, Mass. McDonald, whose brother, Gerry, played for the Hartford Whalers and nephew, Colin, suits up for the New York Islanders, recalls being cut from the football, basketball and baseball teams as a parochial school freshman.

He did earn a track scholarship to Boston College, where he also coached men’s and women’s track and served as an assistant athletic director before taking over as athletic director at the University of Denver and Quinnipiac.

The saying goes that “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” McDonald certainly has enjoyed life outside the office. He’s an avid runner, setting the New England indoor mile record (4:00.9) in 1976, and has five marathons to his credit. A self-proclaimed Dead Head, McDonald is also a computer whiz who has moon-lighted as a cab driver, bartender and the scoreboard operator at Fenway Park.

He and his wife, Linda, have four grown sons—Brian, Jim ’08, Jack Jr. ’10 and David. They recently purchased a cottage in Ocean Bluff, Mass., where they will live after retiring. He has immediate plans to scratch one item off his bucket list.

“I’ve always wanted to be a long-distance truck driver or bus driver,” he said. “I’ve actually already applied for my license.”

McDonald’s long, successful trip at Quinnipiac officially ends June 30. “As told by his camera’s lens, Jack will leave a trail of memories behind,” softball coach Jill Karowski said.—John Pettit

THE LEADING EDGE
Impressive seasons were underway at press time for the men’s and women’s ice hockey teams and women’s basketball team, all of which were leading their conferences.

On the ice, men’s hockey was ranked 15th in the nation and in first place in ECAC Hockey with a 15–6–1 overall record and 10–2–0 mark in conference play. The women’s team was 18–1–3 overall and 11–1–2 atop ECAC Hockey standings. Led by senior goaltender Chelsea Laden, who started 2015 by breaking the program record for shutouts in a season with 10, QU was in the top five of the USCHO.com Division I Women’s Poll for the ninth straight week on Jan. 5. A day earlier, the women’s basketball team made Division I history in a 94–53 victory over Monmouth. The Bobcats hauled in 64 rebounds. The team remains undefeated at home and in MAAC play (6–0), and has a 14–3 record.

In addition to hockey and hoops, the women’s rugby team secured third place in the nation with a 55–32 victory over Indiana in early December. After a demanding and difficult regular season schedule, the team stood at 5–3 entering the American Collegiate Rugby Association postseason tournament. QU defeated Army, 46–17, in the round of 16 at Vassar College before going on to overpower an undefeated Brown University squad, 46–20. Advancing to the semifinal for the second time in three years, the Bobcats fell to Penn State, 35–12.

WORKING OVERTIME
Men’s basketball opened its season in thrilling fashion in front of a packed house at the TD Bank Sports Center, the venue for the 2014 Connecticut 6 Classic. The Bobcats outlasted cross-town rival Yale, 88–85, in double overtime, playing the middle game of three that day. The other competitors were Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University, Central Connecticut and Hartford.

Chelsea Laden

John Hassett
Athletic Director Jack McDonald will say goodbye to Quinnipiac in June.
The American news media walked a fine line between alarming and informing Americans about their chances of contracting Ebola last fall.

Asked to grade the media’s coverage, former ABC medical correspondent Dr. Tim Johnson said they earned a “D+ with some exceptions.” His remark came during a panel discussion billed as “Information Overload: Your Health in the Digital Age.” Ebola stole the show, however.

The panel, moderated by Charles Gibson, former ABC World News anchor, also featured Jocelyn Maminta, medical reporter at WTNH, and Dr. David R. Hill, professor of medical sciences and director of the Institute for Global Public Health at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, where the program took place. It was co-hosted by the School of Communications and School of Medicine.

Maminta related how much pressure there is on reporters to sate the public’s demand for news. Gibson agreed, saying, “They want it before you’re absolutely sure you’ve got it in many cases.”

Gibson asked Hill for his thoughts on the news coverage, which critics believe contributed to the public’s tendency to panic or become overly anxious. Hill said he avoids American news programs in general, having grown accustomed to the BBC’s reporting style when he was stationed in London for years.

“When there is chaos in the media and confusion on the government’s part about how to respond, that leaves the average citizen in a bind,” Hill said.

“The message was simple—Ebola is difficult to get, but the message was mutated by the public out of fear and by health professionals due to politics.” Hill added that the CDC probably was not prepared to deliver that single message to the media.
Johnson contrasted the CDC’s response with that of former Surgeon Gen. C. Everett Koop when the AIDS epidemic was unfolding in the 1980s and there was confusion about the ways people could contract the virus. “The numbers [of people infected] were legitimately frightening. Koop became the established voice of reason…one single, respected voice,” Johnson said.

Maminta said WTNH began covering the story as the epidemic spread in West Africa. It became more important to the local community when a Yale graduate student who had returned from Liberia was tested for virus symptoms. “It was scary the following day, but breaking news is what we live for in our business,” she said.

Gibson noted that the Ebola story led newscasts and headlines daily, stating that it was scary to see people “dressed like condoms” in patient rooms. He asked, “How does it happen that these kinds of fears begin to drive the press, which then reinforces the fears, and yet the sane voices are saying ‘Cool it, cool it.’”

Johnson replied that ratings, not fear, really drive the press, which also uses music, graphics and headlines to overwhelm. “The sane voices simply get drowned out.”

One consequence is that the true story—the genuine crisis in West Africa—tends to be forgotten, Gibson said. Johnson agreed, terming it “a media moral failure and a public health tragedy” not to focus on who really is threatened by Ebola.

Hill noted that people tend to hear the voice that matches their mindset, and reassuring voices don’t seem to calm those fears. “We are a global community and sometimes what you hear out there is that maybe we don’t want to be.”

Hill warned that if the avian flu in the Far East becomes adaptable to humans, it will kill far more people because it is a respiratory transmission, unlike Ebola, and easier to contract.

With so much information about Ebola and many other health issues available on the Internet, Gibson wondered if the public gets too much. Health is the No. 1 topic people search for on the Net, Maminta said. Gibson agreed, but wondered whether much of it has been vetted.

Johnson recalled that health information once was tightly controlled by the medical establishment, and public consumption did not occur until after a study, for example, was published in a peer-reviewed journal. That is not the case today. “People are overwhelmed and need reliable sources they can trust and ignore the junk,” he said.

SOLVING DISPUTES IN HEALTH CARE
Charity Scott, the Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law at Georgia State University, thinks the process of mediation should resemble improv comedy, “Without a script, the only way improv works is if actors aren’t fighting, but listening to each other and building on what is said,” Scott said. Each side takes the conversation where they want it to go, but doesn’t dismiss what the other has proposed.

She delivered the lecture, “Ethics Consultations and Conflict Engagement in Health Care,” in October as part of the Quinnipiac-Yale Dispute Resolution Workshop. Too often negotiations stall when one side immediately says no to a proposal, said Scott.

Scott said more dispute resolution should take place in health care, particularly to assist the increasing number of hospital ethics committees that must address conflicts between a family’s wishes and a physician’s recommendation.

She encouraged mediation techniques, such as focusing on attacking the problem, not the people involved; listening long enough to make someone feel heard; and understanding what is important for the people involved.

Q30 TV IS THE BEST
Q30 Television, the University's student-run TV station, received the Pinnacle Award for best television station for 2014. The students accepted the award at the National College Media Convention in Philadelphia in October.
he fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Mo., last August hit home for School of Law professor Marilyn Ford. She attended high school in nearby St. Louis and visits relatives there often.

She wanted to do something to help the community cope with the repercussions of Police Officer Darren Wilson’s decision to shoot Michael Brown, which led to rioting and protests nationwide, both before and after a St. Louis County grand jury decided not to indict Wilson. “What I do best is pull people together for a conversation,” said Ford. The result was “Ferguson: What are the Next Workable Steps?” The public symposium took place in October in Ferguson. Ford invited Bernard Lafayette, longtime civil rights activist and chair of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s board, as well as Bernice King, daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., among others. Ford is also a SCLC board member.

Third-year QU law student John-Raphael Pichardo helped with research.

Ford was reminded of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s when she observed young people in Ferguson coming together in sorrow and searching for answers. “One thing they could not understand,” she said, “is why Michael Brown’s body was left uncovered in the street for four hours after the shooting. They thought it was disrespectful, and the anger began to seethe.”

Ford said racial profiling has been a longstanding problem nationwide. “There’s been disparity for years in arrests, prosecutions and convictions of men of color,” she said.

The symposium’s goal was to help the community begin healing and formulate steps for positive change. “The consensus was that we need to come up with ways to improve relationships with police and the community. Maybe if the officers would walk the streets and meet the people who live in the neighborhood they are charged with protecting, they would not be afraid of them. The local community has to be more involved in the police process,” she said.

Lafayette said he attended the symposium to lend support to the Ferguson community and to suggest ways the protests could transition to a successful, productive movement for change. “Young people have the energy, the spirit and the time to commit. The change is for their benefit. We’ve lived with these conditions most of our lives,” he said.

Quinnipiac will continue the conversation Feb. 4 when it sponsors a program called “Liberty and Justice for All: Exploring Racial Profiling.” The free program, at 7 p.m. in Burt Kahn Court on the Mount Carmel Campus, will be moderated by Keith Kountz, WTNH news anchor. Panelists include the Rev. Kennedy D. Hampton Sr. of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; Tanya Hughes, executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities; Donald Sawyer, assistant professor of sociology; and Lt. J. Paul Vance, media relations, Connecticut State Police.

As the eyes and ears of the country, the news media played an important role in getting out the facts, not only about the shooting, but the judicial process and the reaction on the ground, Kountz said.
More than 500 alumni and guests visited Quinnipiac’s three campuses Oct. 11 for Homecoming. Five individuals and two teams were honored at the Athletic Hall of Fame induction dinner in the TD Bank Sports Center. Inductees were Jared Grasso ’02, Ashlee Kelly ’04, Stephanie Petrycki ’02, MPT ’04, Bill Romano ’02, Bill Schweizer, ‘voice of the Bobcats,’ and the men’s and women’s 1996–97 tennis teams.

Alumni gathered at a reception in Rocky Top Student Center before cheering on the men’s ice hockey team, which bested the Bentley Falcons 5–3 before a sellout crowd. On the North Haven Campus, alumni toured the new School of Law Center, heard from Joe Tacopina, JD ’91, and education alumni connected at a reception and lecture.

Clockwise, from top: Sheree Rascati ’06, MHS ’08, front right, with family and friends, at alumni reception in the Rocky Top Student Center. Rick ’76 and Sheree Zwiebel enjoy a sunset. Socializing at reception, from left: Alysse Rossner ’09, Kara (Davey) McGee ’09, Brendan McGee, Matt Mirandi, Alison Lohse ’99, MAT ’10, Nicole Findeisen ’09, MBA ’11. Tennis team honorees Jeff Vajay ’99 and T.W. Goodwin ’98 with Jack McDonald and Bill Mecca from Athletics at Athletic Hall of Fame program. Jessica Simbro ’99, MPT ’01, women’s tennis team honoree. Michael McBratnie, JD ’84, and Nicholas Wocl, JD ’84, reunite at mini reception for law alumni.
FEELING THE BEAT
Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, assistant professor of legal studies, performs Dandiya Raas, a traditional Hindu dance, with members of the South Asian Society during the Modern Language Department’s annual Holiday Cabaret. To the left is freshman Nikita Neklyudov. The program’s theme was “Peace in the World,” and faculty and students participated.

Photograph by Christopher Capozziello
Dream Jobs
Alumni mold aspirations into successful and satisfying careers
BY JANET WALDMAN

Egan Palladino ’13 is the proverbial kid in a candy store, but with one difference: She and her sister own every last lollipop. Smelling chocolate comes with the job.

Restaurateur Craig Hotchkiss ’06 can relate. The wafting aroma of scallops with tarragon sauce or roasting pork is likely to greet him at work on any given day.

Two more QU alumni with enviable jobs are solo practitioner Loredana Nesci, JD ’02—a Los Angeles, Calif., police officer-turned-lawyer and more recently, the star of a TV show about her life—and Jeffrey Paris ’06, a celebrity talent booker for the Ryan Seacrest Foundation, which funds broadcast studios in eight children’s hospitals around the country.

All of these alumni have two things in common: Each dreamed of a career and then made it happen, and they are extremely satisfied, a goal many pursue from their first day of work to retirement. That goal can be elusive; only 3 of 10 Americans say they are engaged and inspired at work, according to the State of the American Workplace Report conducted last year by Gallup.

As part of that 30 percent, this quartet shares why they love their jobs.

M

How does this affect your menu?
We create new menus weekly, based on seasonally available fruits and vegetables; for example, root vegetables [yams, beets, parsnips, turnips, carrots] are plentiful in winter. Farmers will bring produce to the markets for our chef, Meg Fama, and some even grow especially for her. You can see the farms we deal with on our website, www.oakhaventableandbar.com.

What is your favorite dish?
The last thing I ate! Actually, the Stonington scallops are very good, and the duck is amazing.

Explain why you say your cocktails are ‘made right.’
We are a whiskey-focused mixology bar. You won’t find Grey Goose here, but we do carry Rime organic Connecticut vodka, plus some Connecticut wines and craft beers. We have an extensive craft spirits list as well. We have gins from around the world and make our own house infusions that we age in barrels for months. We mix them with freshly squeezed juices, fruit purees, bitters and liqueurs that balance out lots of flavors with a bit of the barrel influence.

What is your role?
I choose the wines, having experienced some of the best wines in the world working in South Beach. I also do the books, help with marketing and other behind-the-scenes jobs. Al runs the bar. Each of us does his own thing, and it all gets done; it’s 50–50, like it’s always been. I like to say I’ve known Al since I had no memory!

Why are you succeeding where others have failed?
Some people go into the restaurant business with no idea what they are getting into. Al and I grew up in nearby West Haven, and we knew New Haven was missing this kind of place. We bring knowledge and experience, having both worked in the food and beverage industry in Miami. Being a large market, Miami tends to be a few years ahead. We aim to give people great service, casual fine dining and a neighborhood feel.

What’s the best part?
At the end of the day, I have the satisfaction of working for myself. Some like a day-to-day routine, but I like the flexibility this life offers. At age 50, I’d like to own two or three restaurants and oversee them.

Fresh Approach

Craig Hotchkiss ’06 honed his restaurant chops in Miami’s trend-setting South Beach, where he learned the sommelier trade and the ropes of high-end dining service while working at the restaurant inside the former Versace Mansion. The entrepreneurship and small business management major brought that experience back to Connecticut to fulfill a longtime dream of opening a restaurant with Albert Greenwood, his childhood friend from West Haven, Conn. The result is the 49-seat Oak Haven Table & Bar in the East Rock neighborhood of New Haven.

What distinguishes your restaurant?
We are known for our farm-to-table philosophy. Local farmers grow most of the food we buy, so there’s no need to freeze it, and no travel time. It’s straight from gardens. We order often and don’t store food for long. Quality ingredients equal quality at the table. We are a neighborhood restaurant, and we like to support Connecticut farms.
Craig Hotchkiss '06 opened a farm-to-table restaurant with his best friend, Albert Greenwood, pictured shaking a martini.
Facing ‘Reality’

As a girl Loredana Nesci, JD ’02, grew up in Meriden, Conn., thinking lawyers could change the world. Her maternal grandfather was the chief of military police in Italy, and her father spoke highly of the legal profession. She chose to follow in the footsteps of her grandfather and brother and became a police officer, spending two years with the Los Angeles Police Department before returning to Connecticut and enrolling in law school.

“My time as a police officer made me a better lawyer. I learned what life is like for people who commit crimes and why people commit crimes,” says the solo practitioner who works and lives in Redondo Beach, Calif., with her son, Rocco, and partner, Robert. Last spring, the Sundance Channel shined a spotlight on Nesci’s legal life with the reality show, “Loredana Esq.”

Why the West Coast?

After graduation, I worked for a Meriden law firm, but I missed LA. I’m an outdoorsy kind of person; I like to run and bike to work. I moved to LA and worked for a huge firm for about a minute in 2005, then opened my own civil and criminal practice.

What kind of cases do you take?

I do not take every case, but choose them based on the people who bring them to me. My passion for my work is fueled by the people I feel compelled to help. I cannot help everyone, so I choose a case based on whether I feel I am the right lawyer for the job.

How did the show come about?

Several producers I met remarked that I had a big personality and suggested a reality show. My best friend, who produces “Pit Bulls & Parolees” on Animal Planet, made a sizzle reel [demo video] with me and showed it to the people at Sundance. They loved it and made an offer right away. We filmed six episodes that aired last spring. Filming took about a year. There were lots of 14-hour days.

Did you re-enact old cases?

Yes, with the actual clients, but retired judges played the roles of the actual judges. My clients and I helped the producers develop each story, and we manipulated some facts to fit the time slot and assist with the dramatization, but outcomes were the same. The cases ranged from real estate fraud to larceny to a landlord-tenant dispute. One case involved an actor who got into a dispute with a pedophile neighbor who stabbed him. We complained to a civil court because the cops failed to protect him.

Do you have job satisfaction?

I love being a lawyer. Lawyers change people’s lives. Every case is a chance to help someone with a big problem and make them feel they are not alone. A lot of very good people make one stupid mistake and don’t want it to ruin the rest of their lives.

Job Creation

After graduating with a BA degree in media production, Jeffrey Paris ’06 worked in radio and later as a special education teacher after earning a master of arts in teaching. While teaching in Weston, Mass., he began volunteering for the Ryan Seacrest Foundation, which builds working radio/TV studios in children’s hospitals around the country to entertain young patients. “Our hope is to make them forget, for a while, why they are in the hospital,” Paris says.

How did you make this a paying job?

One day, I sent Ryan an email suggesting that the foundation reach out to celebrities and actors touring in the vicinity of one of the hospitals to ask if they could visit, perform or be interviewed by patients. He hired me as manager of talent relations in mid-2012, and from there, I created my own job.

What do you do?

I am the principal liaison between the entertainment industry and the foundation. Besides cultivating celebrity partnerships, I coordinate publicity appearances and opportunities for fundraising, VIP experiences, auctions/galas and events for media.

Name some artists who have visited.

Justin Timberlake, Taylor Swift, Demi Lovato, Ariana Grande, One Direction, Maroon 5, Coldplay, Nick Jonas, Tobey Maguire, Gwen Stefani. Usher cut the ribbon at our newest station in Boston Children’s Hospital in November. Other hospitals are in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, and in Orange.
Management major Megan Palladino ’13 enjoyed the internship she did with the Elizabeth Arden Co. in New York City. “But at the end of the day, I wanted my own business,” she said. Her father and brother run a septic company, but Palladino and her sister, Lauren, had a different vision involving memories of a candy store they visited in Vermont during a family vacation. They opened the Candy Scoop in their hometown of New Canaan, Conn., in Fall 2013.

How did you launch the store?
I found this venue—a former storage unit—in August 2013 and we decided to go for it. We did a total renovation including a new floor, paint and lots of shelving. We opened three days before Thanksgiving, so we were thrown into the fire with the holiday rush.

What’s it like to work with your sister?
It’s surprisingly easy because we are very different people. She’s laid back, not overly stressed, where I am crazy, on time and meticulous about deadlines—we balance each other well. It’s satisfying working for ourselves.

What do you sell?
Lots of sweets, from chocolate-covered graham crackers and lollipops to chocolate-covered bacon, fudge and gummy worms. We have a 10-cent candy section where kids can fill up bags and feel like they scored walking out with lots of candy. Some we make and others we buy. We also do party favors, gift baskets and candy buffets for special occasions.

What’s the best part of your job?
It’s really fun when the kids come in after school and tell us about their day. Or when they notice the 5-pound Hershey bar or huge Nerds display. We do birthday parties where you make your own pixie sticks and candy craft workshops, like haunted gingersnap houses at Halloween. Lauren has an early childhood education degree.

What’s your favorite candy?
I like Swedish fish and our chocolate-covered pretzels.

Do you make the candy?
We do make some of the molded chocolates, and chocolate-covered cookies, pretzels and sea salt caramels. We use a friend’s bakery nearby, as we don’t have a kitchen here.

Any business school advice you recall?
Professor Michelle Stronz once told us it’s easier to ask for forgiveness than permission, to take a risk and deal with the consequences. I have a standing sign facing Elm Street to draw customers around the corner, where we are located. The town does not officially approve, but the sign is still there!
Katelyn Norman grew up watching the prime time crime-solving techniques of fictional characters like Det. Olivia Benson and D.B. Russell. "She was addicted to 'Law and Order' and 'CSI,'" recalled Maureen Marsh, Norman's mother.

Norman, who is in her second year at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, is following in the footsteps of her TV heroes, but her foray into forensics is unscripted. She is using her training in art and medicine to help identify human remains. Her artistic talent is reminiscent of the school's namesake, the renowned medical illustrator who brought anatomy to life for countless medical students.

BY JOHN PETTIT
PHOTO BY JOHNATHAN HENNINGER
Katelyn Norman in the anatomy lab at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. She hopes she can help the Vernon, Conn., police put a name to the face she drew of an unidentified homicide victim.
Norman, of Ledyard, Conn., did an independent study over the summer with Richard Gonzalez, PhD, assistant professor of medical sciences. Working for Connecticut’s Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Norman created a forensic facial reconstruction drawing from the skull of an unidentified woman believed to be in her 40s or 50s. The drawing, which appears on the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System website, was unveiled last fall during a press conference at the police department in Vernon, where her remains were discovered.

More recently, Norman completed a facial reconstruction drawing of Fortune, an African-American man from Waterbury, Conn., who died in bondage in 1798. She also is developing a methodology for forensic facial approximations that synthesizes current techniques, such as the three-dimensional Manchester method and the American method of reconstruction.

**UNSOLVED MYSTERY**

“I found myself constantly trying to imagine what she might have been like, wondering what happened to her, what her story is, and if anyone is looking for her,” Norman said.

Norman and Gonzalez, a forensic anthropology consultant for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, worked together to examine and measure the Vernon skull, part of a skeleton found last year. They photographed the skull and took calculations of tissue depth and other factors before Norman began sketching the face.

“It’s always very difficult,” said Gonzalez. “You’re trying to recreate a face from bone. You’re never going to get it exact, but you take actual scientific data, combine it with art, and try to come up with something that is pretty close.”

Norman said she is “confident” in her drawings. She earned a bachelor’s degree in art with a concentration in oil painting from New York University. “I was always interested in forensics. You’re working all day, every day, surrounded by crime victims and unidentified people,” she said. “But it feels like I’m doing good work. Some of these people are case numbers. Hopefully, I can give an identity to someone who might not otherwise be identified. There’s something really nice about that. It’s rewarding.”

Vernon Police Lt. William Meier said the woman’s skeletal remains were discovered in March 2013. No cause of death has been determined, and police continue to investigate.

“We’re extremely grateful to Dr. Gonzalez and his student, Katelyn Norman, for their assistance on this investigation and in creating the drawing,” Meier said. “The drawing is very impressive. She did an excellent job. Hopefully, it leads to an identification.”

Shortly after the Sept. 16 press conference, Matthew Gedansky, state’s attorney for the Tolland Judicial District, announced the formation of a Cold Case Task Force for the district. “I think we are very fortunate to have resources like Quinnipiac University in this state and this community,” Gedansky said.

“I feel an equal sense of duty to both Fortune and the Vernon case. It is a matter of attempting to do the right thing by each of them,” Norman said.
Fortune was buried in Waterbury in September 2013. Prior to interment, faculty from the University’s Bioanthropology Institute and students worked with Waterbury’s Mattatuck Museum to develop a better idea of how the 18th century slave lived and may have died. Fortune and his family members were the legal property of Dr. Preserved Porter, a Waterbury physician who owned a farm.

Fortune was in his mid- to late-40s when he died. Porter prepared his skeleton to serve the study of anatomy. The skeleton later was given to the Mattatuck Museum, where it was displayed for about 30 years before the recent proper burial.

Norman reconstructed Fortune’s face through photographs. She presented the drawing to the museum. “These drawings are not my art pieces,” she said. “Each of these cases represents a person with a story and people who loved them. I’m just helping to tell that story.”

Art is in Norman’s blood. So is law enforcement. Both her parents were artists, while Maureen Marsh also worked as a sheriff. “I never thought my career would be as a studio artist,” Norman admitted. “I’ve always really been interested in science. My plan was always to go to medical school.”

Norman said she became familiar with books illustrated by Frank H. Netter, dubbed “Medicine’s Michelangelo,” while studying art. “Art and medicine have a very long history, particularly in the form of anatomical illustration, and Netter is a huge contributor to that genre,” Norman said.

“The idea of the artist-anatomist has always seemed very romantic to me. My broad humanitarian curiosity makes the idea of studying both the mechanics of the human body through science in concert with the study of the human condition through art, very appealing.

“I am inspired by how Netter was so successfully able to straddle the sometimes seemingly mutually exclusive worlds of science and art, and in the process make such a profound gift to the study of medicine.”

Norman uses art in her medical studies, as Netter did, drawing lecture notes and sketching hundreds of flashcards. An illustration she did of a heart hangs in the medical school, while she donated a rendering of her late father to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in West Haven, Conn.

To produce work you are proud of requires a lot of self-accountability and hard work, both of which are also required for the study of medicine,” she said.

“You can always be a better artist, just as you can always be a better doctor, which is why both professions require a lifetime commitment.”

Her facial reconstruction experience likely will make it difficult for Norman to ever wash her hands of forensics.

“There are lots of unidentified people, and I feel like I’m kind of giving them their humanity back and their identity back. There’s something really nice about that.”
RAISING THE BAR

STUDENTS SAY SENSE OF PROFESSIONALISM PERMEATES NEW SCHOOL OF LAW CENTER

BY ALEJANDRA NAVARRO
PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER BEAUCHAMP
The new space allows student groups to work together in a way that wasn’t as easy to do in the past. As SBA president, Rocha said it’s her role to encourage collaboration among student groups—including students in the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine and other graduate programs.

In September, the medical and law schools jointly hosted a “Suits and Scrubs” happy hour in New Haven attended by 80 students. In October, the Health Law Journal, the Intellectual Property Law Society and the Health Law Society hosted a panel discussion on patents for medical devices that was attended by law and medical school students and faculty. Ideas are percolating among students and faculty about the ways in which they can work with other graduate programs, both in and out of the classroom.

The proximity to other graduate programs has allowed students to explore the intersection between disciplines. Santoro, who is in the health law concentration, has a medical student in one of his classes. Third-year law student Laura Thurston is taking a course at the School of Medicine. As president of the Health Law Society, she plans to enter the field of health law or medical malpractice.

“Professionally, any time you have a diverse group of scholars in the same building, it’s beneficial,” said Thurston. “It not only enables collaboration, but also helps to prepare future doctors and lawyers for their professional careers. It’s also important to network and be able to discuss important topics that involve both the medical community and the law community,” Thurston said.

In its new home, the law school can better serve the community. The school’s Legal Clinic has a space ideal for serving clients and teaching law students practical skills. Housing both the Tax Clinic and the Civil Justice Clinic, it functions as an on-campus law office providing free legal services to low-income people.

“We designed for growth and to give everyone enough room to have their own quiet work space and group team work as well, to function in a manner closer to what it will be like in practice, as opposed to being a student,” explained Carrie Kaas, associate professor of law and director of the clinical programs.

Areas throughout the building reflect professional settings. For example in the Dispute Resolution Suite, the negotiation practice room is beside the trial practice room, which reflects what it would be like in practice where many more cases are negotiated to settlement than tried to conclusion.
t a time when law schools across the country are facing challenges, Quinnipiac has reinvested in its architecture to create a robust learning environment.

“The support President [John L.] Lahey has given to the law school is unprecedented,” said Jerry McEnery, JD ’83, an attorney with The McEnery Law Group in Milford, Conn. Taking in the third-floor view of the soaring atrium above and the law library below, he added, “I imagine the students are going to want to raise their game to meet the level of this building.”

Rocha agrees, noting that while the building is beautiful, it has a modern and corporate feel that encourages professionalism.

“You do feel that you are going to work for a major law firm, and I think that has shaped how people approach their classes,” Rocha said. “So many of our students are coming directly from undergraduate programs. It’s nice to transition into this more professional space, especially since we’re sharing it with other graduate schools. We are all here for very similar reasons—we are all serious about our studying.”

Students exploring the job market are acutely aware of the need to be “practice ready,” and having this professional environment helps them achieve this, she said. “It would be impossible for a lawyer to come to our campus and see our clinic spaces, our Ceremonial Courtroom and our trial practice courtroom—to see how we learn and how we practice—and not think we have the learning environment to become practice ready,” Rocha added.

PEOPLE MAKE THE BUILDING

Some students recall the homey feel of the smaller building on Quinnipiac’s Mount Carmel Campus. Despite its larger size, the new building actually encourages socializing. The law school’s Career Development Office sponsors an afternoon tea trolley. Second-year law student Dwight Crooks said he is always running into people in the library. He also enjoys conversing with people in the student lounge, which features a kitchenette and cozy seating.

“The greatest asset of the law school is the community,” said Crooks. The law building is a great place to host events. “Having more alumni and other professionals who are willing to take part will only enrich the community,” Crooks said.

“What moves me about this building is everywhere I turn, I see the product of people caring about each other and their shared enterprise, respecting each other’s opinions and listening to the needs and the aspirations of fellow community members,” Brown said, adding that collaboration produced a building that is more beautiful and more functional than any one individual could have designed alone.

With that point, the Hon. Guido Calabresi would agree. Calabresi is the senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Sterling Professor Emeritus and former dean of the Yale Law School. He delivered the keynote address at the center’s grand opening.

A friend to the School of Law since it moved to Quinnipiac in 1995, he told stories about the lessons he learned as a clerk for Justice Hugo Black of the U.S. Supreme Court. He described one case where Black vehemently opposed Justice John Marshall Harlan II’s opinion.

After discussions and dissenting opinions on the issue, both justices ultimately took the other’s perspective and argued against their original opinions. At the end of the day, Calabresi recalled seeing the two justices walking down the hall together and hearing one say to the other, “You know, we did a good job on this case.”

“They did because they worked together, they changed their minds, and they listened to each other,” Calabresi explained. Echoing Brown’s comments, he added, “That is what a building of this sort is designed to make students and faculty do.”
Jason Gamsby, JD ’13, a trial lawyer with the Faxon Law Group in New Haven, recently had a client who entered the hospital for routine surgery and left with paralysis, kidney and heart damage, significant brain damage and a head deformation. The injuries followed a stroke and subsequent surgeries that were a result of staff errors.

An articulate lawyer, Gamsby could have explained the repercussions of these errors to the mediating judge. Instead, he and his firm created a video that captured the limitations and challenges of his client’s new life: not being able to wash himself, eat or get to and from doctor visits without assistance from his aging sisters.

“If you’re a trial lawyer in the state, or the country, one of the best ways to get your point across is to do a visual like this,” said Gamsby, who often handles complex personal injury cases involving product liability or medical malpractice. “These ‘day in the life’ videos start off in the morning and tell your client’s story, just as they would in a deposition. I’m not telling you; I’m showing you. These videos really get to your heart.”

The client received the settlement he wanted, which will pay for the care he will need for the rest of his life.

As a paralegal for about a decade before entering law school, Gamsby had seen these types of videos, but it wasn’t until he took the course Visual Persuasion in the Law that he understood the elements that made a video compelling.
Jason Gamsby, JD ’13, says video can enhance his ability to persuade a judge or jury.
Neal Feigenson, professor of law, and Christina Spiesel, adjunct professor, teach the course. Fifteen years ago, they were the first to offer what no other law school had at the time: a course that gave law students the skills and knowledge to understand, create and effectively use demonstrative evidence from graphics to photographs, videos and animations.

“Lawyers tend to paint pictures with words,” explained Brian Young, JD ’12, a former student in the course. He and fellow alumnus Virginia Jijion-Caamano, JD ’12, started the Law Firm of Jijion-Caamano and Young in Trumbull, Conn.

“We tend to think, ‘I can do this with the power of my writing or my oral argument.’ Neal and Christina taught us how to think about visuals in legal cases and understand the difference between the message presented by words and the message presented by visuals. The world is changing, and law schools need to produce lawyers who can think differently.”

Today, recording devices are ubiquitous, and their recordings are often an integral part of high-profile cases. Surveillance cameras assisted in the capture of the accused Boston Marathon bombers. An elevator security camera taped football player Ray Rice assaulting his wife, and the footage led to the NFL commissioner suspending him indefinitely. The convicted murderess in the Cheshire home invasion filmed their own heinous crimes. And a bystander with a camera phone caught the police chokehold that led to the death of Eric Garner in New York City.

Third-year students, who most often take this elective, have spent most of their lives in a digital environment. While the course draws on their digital know-how, its foundation has remained constant since 2000.

The course takes students through several simple exercises that show how pictures and words can change each other’s meanings. Students also learn how many different ways people will respond to the same pictures, which will help them anticipate how these multiple meanings may help or hinder them in communicating their message to a judge, jury or other audience.

The students bring this experiential knowledge, as well as exposure to visuals used in practice, guest lectures and multidisciplinary readings, to their work on two major course projects. First, they create a piece of demonstrative evidence to illustrate and explain testimony or other facts, using either analog (such as a poster) or digital media (such as PowerPoint); then, they work in teams to produce a short digital video to be used as part of their argument in a case.

“We hope the students will gain some basic visual literacy and basic digital visual literacy,” explained Feigenson, who researches the psychology of legal judgment and the uses of visual media in legal communication and persuasion. “It’s a big step one just to have their eyes and their minds open to the possibility of using images as well as words when they put their cases together to make their arguments more effective.”

“Big step two is to think critically about the uses so that they might see the possibilities in the evidence and how it might be used,” added Spiesel. This includes considering what visuals the opposing counsel will use and how to counter them—by creating more or different visuals for her own side. In addition to teaching at Quinnipiac, she is a visual artist and senior research scholar at Yale Law School.

Many of the ideas that Feigenson and Spiesel learned while working with their visual persuasion students over the years were incorporated into their 2009 book, “Law on Display: The Digital Transformation of Legal Persuasion and Judgment” (NYU Press).

**NEW HOME**

The new School of Law Center on the North Haven Campus contains a Visual Persuasion Suite outfitted with six computer workstations, locked cabinets for equipment, and an adjoining classroom to view and discuss projects.

Like many great ideas (think: Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak starting Apple in a garage), Feigenson and Spiesel started their groundbreaking course in a library storage closet in the School of Law on the Mount Carmel Campus.

“There was enough room for one person to face the computer and a couple of other people to squeeze in the room,” Spiesel recalled. Students would sit on the counter, and sometimes under the counter, crossing their fingers that their early versions of video editing software wouldn’t crash and destroy their work. That first year, Feigenson and Spiesel weren’t certain students would be able to complete their video projects.

“The world is changing, and law schools need to produce lawyers who can think differently.”—Brian Young, JD ’12
“There was a certain camaraderie, an esprit du combat, when you have 10 people working in a shared space with IT,” said Speisel of one of their many workstation homes.

For each main project in the course, students argue the same side of a fictitious lawsuit that reflects a real or potential case. Young’s class had to argue on behalf of a deaf woman who wanted a deaf child. The fertility lab’s error led to the woman giving birth to a baby who could hear. Young’s group believed a jury would have a hard time understanding the desire for a child who couldn’t hear. They showed that many deaf children have a great life.

“We ran all these pictures of kids having fun—waterskiing, water tubing, playing—and didn’t identify them as deaf until the end,” said Young, whose group used promotional footage from a camp for deaf children. “Fun is fun for everybody.” The video, through interviews, demonstrated the challenges of a deaf mother raising a hearing child given the two distinctly different communities they would occupy and the emotional investment made by the mother throughout the fertilization process and the pregnancy, only to have her expectations shattered.

“It was a phenomenal class,” Young said. “The law is far more than the courtroom. Being able to persuade people with visuals is important in a number of different arenas.”

Young has used visuals in seemingly straightforward contract issues. He creates more visually appealing presentations, often enlarging important text passages for emphasis. In one case, Young said he believes his use of color photos in a property appraisal offset the cold plot map, allowing the court to have a clearer vision of the property. Whatever the reason, the court made a $1.5 million appraisal offset, which often happens with pictures. “Will they draw their own conclusions about who is responsible just as they did in the Rodney King case?” Feigenson stated. “Of course they will, and they will draw opposite conclusions.”

“Society just expects to see visuals,” Gamsby said. “If they aren’t there, they think something is missing.” Gamsby noted videos can cost a few thousand dollars to make, so a lawyer needs to evaluate if it’s worth the cost. Not all pictures and videos are helpful to a case.

**OWNING THE MESSAGE**

Feigenson and Speisel make the future attorneys acutely aware of the challenges of using demonstrative evidence.

Using images, a lawyer can make a desired point without actually saying it, Feigenson said. “Sometimes it better serves your argument to imply things than to say them outright,” he said. “On the other hand, whenever you use pictures, you don’t always control the message.”

Lawyers may present images that are interpreted in different ways. This was apparent in Ferguson, Mo., where a police officer shot and killed an unarmed teenager. The course will discuss the case this spring. No one recorded the shooting on video; however, convenience store security footage and audio recording of gunshots were released and fueled public opinion both in favor of and opposed to the officer involved.

People seeing the same footage had different interpretations, which often happens with pictures. “Will they draw their own conclusions about who is responsible just as they did in the Rodney King case?” Feigenson stated. “Of course they will, and they will draw opposite conclusions.”

“Society just expects to see visuals,” Gamsby said. “If they aren’t there, they think something is missing.” Gamsby noted videos can cost a few thousand dollars to make, so a lawyer needs to evaluate if it’s worth the cost. Not all pictures and videos are helpful to a case.

**THE FUTURE**

Feigenson is now working on a book investigating the use of demonstrative evidence to convey what a litigant’s subjective perceptual state is like. Is it possible to use science to see what someone else thinks he’s seeing, even though it’s not what the rest of us see? Sounds fanciful, even futuristic. But researchers are already using fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) and sophisticated conversion algorithms to reconstruct, on the basis of brain scans, the visual images people are generating in their brains.

The technology is young, but one day we might be able to view what a person is thinking or remembering—or even dreaming, Feigenson said.

“There is a deep tension in our society between loving what digital technology makes possible and being afraid of digital technology taking over what we regard as essential qualities of personhood,” Feigenson said. “Partly because of that, it’s unclear how judges and juries will respond to this sort of technological evidence if it becomes available.”

No matter how the technology advances, visuals always will be a part of the legal system. The key is to know how to use them and to anticipate how the opposing side could use them in a trial or negotiation. The course will continue to evolve to reflect what’s happening in practice.

Speisel cautioned that visuals alone will not win a case, but properly thought through and skillfully deployed, they can be highly effective.

“It is very important, first, to have some idea of what pictures have been seen by the public if there has been publicity surrounding the case. Then you need to know what will help your jury or the people you are negotiating with understand the case better,” Speisel explained.

“Clear, good communication, backed up by evidence of facts, presented in a way that is easily understood, is enormously powerful.”
1963
Richard Marazzi of Ansonia, CT, recently authored a coffee table book titled, “A Bowl Full of Memories: 100 Years of Football at the Yale Bowl,” which contains vintage photos from Yale’s archives.

1964
Seven medical secretaries recently reunited in Wallingford, CT, after 50 years. The group included: Noma (Gardner) Beaumont and Karen (Finger) Marquardt, both of Wallingford, CT; Ruthann (Hissick) Richardson of Ellicott City, MD; Judith (Merkel) Gott of Branford, CT; Nancy Lowe Finkenzeller, and Mary (Pesta) Sivertsen of Yalesville, CT, all 1964 graduates, as well as Patricia (Penta) DeMartino ’65 of Rocky Hill, CT.

1966
Ann (Crowder) Herrick of Eugene, OR, released another young adult novel, “The Farewell Season.”

1968
Bill Powanda of Seymour, CT, retired after 37 years working for Griffin Hospital in Derby, CT, most recently as vice president. Bill was also a Connecticut state senator representing the 17th District and was the recipient of the Connecticut State Senate Toga Club Man of the Year Award in 2006 for community service.

Philip Sharlach was nominated by delegates at the Connecticut Democratic Party Convention to be the 26th District Senatorial candidate. Phil served in the U.S. Army and worked for 30-plus years at Deloitte, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and the U.S. Government Accountability Office. He retired in 2006 and now serves on the board of Area 9 Cable Council and is an active adviser for SCORE. He was the recipient of the 2014 Patient Support Award by Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County. He lives in Wilton, CT, with his wife, Suzanne. They have two sons, Steven and Darren, and three grandchildren.

1969
Arlene Parkin of Boca Raton, FL, recently retired and will spend time traveling and doing artwork. Much of her career was spent in human resources.

1971
Michael Carabetta of North Truro, MA, recently rode his bicycle across the United States.
(Oregon to New Hampshire) and then followed up with riding the Santa Fe Trail (Santa Fe, NM, to New Franklin, MO).

**Howard Orne** of Boca Raton, FL, became a grandfather in August. His daughter, Nicole, gave birth to a baby girl.

**Donald Block** is the president of NorthEast Electrical Distributors and will assume an expanded role for Sonepar USA as president of the newly formed New England-North Atlantic Region. Don is the grandfather of six and lives in Holliston, MA, with his wife, Janice.

**Joanne Moore** of East Lyme, CT, founded a new national magazine, Pathfinder: A Companion Guide for the Widow/er’s Journey. It provides inspiring stories and helpful strategies to support people as they find their own path to a joyful and meaningful life after loss. The publication can be viewed at WidowedPathfinder.com.

**Tom Culliney** of Cary, NC, works in the area of pest risk assessment as an entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Raleigh, NC.

**Doreen Greenstein-Grossman** of Lexington, MA, is an occupational therapist at three day-care centers in Lexington, MA, is an occupational therapist.

**Marybeth Greaney ’82, MS ’10** of Simsbury, CT, returned to Quinnipiac to complete an MS in organizational leadership in 2010 and received the faculty award for academic excellence. She is a counselor administrator in the legal department at United Technologies.

**Tamara (Ensanian) Hayden** of Blue Bell, PA, is an associate director for Merck’s Global Human Health Division. She was selected to participate in Merck’s prestigious Richard T. Clark Fellowship for World Health program. She spent three months working with Operation ASHA in New Delhi, India, to investigate opportunities to further expand its eCompliance mobile platform for delivery of tuberculosis treatment to underserved populations.

**1980**

**Vincent Miceli** of Watertown, CT, is vice president and chief financial officer of NXT-ID, a biometric authentication company focused on the growing mobile commerce market, in Shelton, CT.

**1982**

**Donald Berrie** of Warren, ME, is an auditor with the State of Maine Gambling Control Board that oversees two casinos in Maine.

**Marybeth Greaney ’82, MS ’10** of Simsbury, CT, returned to Quinnipiac to complete an MS in organizational leadership in 2010 and received the faculty award for academic excellence. She is a counselor administrator in the legal department at United Technologies.
Kathleen (Marran) Schlenz of Peace Dale, RI, has accepted a full-time faculty appointment of occupational therapy at Salem State University in Salem, MA.

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Anthony Mangiafico ’00, MAT ’06, EDL ’13, is the director of adult education/summer school coordinator for East Hartford Public Schools. Anthony was previously the director of the adult education program and a second-grade teacher in Berlin, CT.

Joseph Pinto of Roseland, NJ, is senior managing director of the foreign exchange sales and trading group of Cantor Fitzgerald in New York, NY.

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Erin Murray of Los Angeles recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as an assistant professor in the MSOT program at West Coast University in Los Angeles. Erin received her doctorate in occupational therapy from Creighton University in 2010 and previously taught at Grossmont College in San Diego.

Jason Watson of New Hyde Park, NY, was promoted to director of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. Jason worked with Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism on Long Island for the past 15 years, beginning as a classroom instructor.


Katharine Gillespie ’03, JD ’06, of Durham, CT, has been named to the 2013 Connecticut Rising Stars list as a top up-and-coming attorney in Connecticut. She is an associate with Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, practicing in the areas of family law, probate litigation and administration, and real estate law.

Jonathan Carlson of East Setauket, NY, accepted a position as an investigative reporter at WXYZ-TV in Detroit, the 11th largest television market in the country. Jonathan worked at the NBC affiliate in Raleigh-Durham, NC, along with other stations in the Carolinas, California, Florida and upstate New York.

Frank DiGangi was promoted to project manager on the ATM management team of Wells Fargo Bank in Charlotte, NC. Frank and Amanda Rae DiGangi ’03, MAT ’04, are living in Stateville, NC, with their two children, Brayden and Mia. Amanda recently accepted a new teaching position at Southwest Elementary School in Hickory, NC.

Eamonn Wisneski and Kori (Termine) Wisneski, JD ’06, announce the birth of a daughter, Zoë Anne, on July 8, 2014. Zoë joins her big brother, Jack, at the family’s home in Middletown, CT. Kori is the deputy general counsel for the city of Middletown and was recognized as a New Leader in the Law by the Connecticut Law Tribune. Eamonn is an attorney at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, where he handles personal injury, workers’ compensation and general civil litigation.

Jared Grasso of Elmsford, NY, will enter his third season, and second as associate head men’s basketball coach, at Iona College. Jared is also the Gaels’ recruiting coordinator. Prior to Iona, Jared coached at Fordham University, Quinnipiac University, the University of Hartford, and served as a graduate assistant at Hofstra University. He was inducted into the Quinnipiac University Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2014.

Danielle (Proto) Plante and Matthew Plante ’02 announce the birth of a daughter, Victoria Anne, on April 25, 2014. The family lives in Cheshire, CT.

Stephen Robert Preisig ’02, MBA ’03, of Stamford, CT, started his own company, Bedrock Credit, a full-service credit education and restoration company.

David Blanchard of Longwoodmeadow, MA, and Brian Gravel ’04 of North Reading,
Jeff Kinkead ’84
Minding His Businesses
Entrepreneur favors the tech industries

Jeff A. Kinkead ’84 describes himself as a serial entrepreneur. Along with his wife, Mimi, he owns a company that provides mobile technology to clients involved in supply chain logistics, but he’s also involved in private equity, online education and real estate development.

The management major played center and wing for Quinnipiac’s ice hockey team while earning a bachelor’s degree. He went on to earn an MBA from the University of Miami and then worked for Eastern Airlines. When Eastern and Continental merged, he worked for the CEO, handling sales and marketing for the new company. He learned about business and life from the people in the airline industry. “I loved every minute,” he said.

Eventually, he moved on to management positions with companies that imported and sold flowers and floral products. Around this time, he met his wife at a party in Miami. She was in the technology consulting industry, where he eventually found a marketing position. The couple married in 1994.

“I discovered that I really did not enjoy working for others,” he said. “I told my wife we needed to go out and stake our claim.” The result was Advanced Systems Resources, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last October. ASR helps clients manage their supply chains by automating the transportation and logistics functions. The first client was Ryder Trucks.

“Our focus is on clients who need to move a product, either internally, externally, or both,” Kinkead said. Clients include DHL, Cargill, Coca-Cola, LAN Air Cargo and Office Depot. ASR works behind the scenes providing hardware, software and implementation services, including mobile computers, printers and labeling supplies.

Kinkead, who has homes in Miami Beach and Sarasota, Fla., continues to grow ASR but is expanding his horizons. He is on the board and is an investor in WebTeach.com, an online education platform for students that is also attracting the interest of corporate America.

He is also the founder and general partner at Global Passive Investments. “At GPI, we look for companies with technologies we believe will be game changers within three to five years.” One of its first investments was in AirWatch—a tech company in the mobile device management space. AirWatch recently was sold to VMWare for just over $1.5 billion, he noted.

Currently, Kinkead and four colleagues are masterminding the construction of the Cliffs Ocean Resort in the Dominican Republic, which will feature villas, condos and resort facilities on 25 acres overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. When completed in late 2016, the properties are expected to attract buyers from Russia, Europe and South America in particular.

“With the political situation in some of those countries becoming unstable and their currencies devalued, capital preservation via the purchase of hard assets in other countries has become very important for them,” Kinkead said.

In what spare time he has, Kinkead enjoys golf with his two sons and dinners with his wife. It’s a fast-paced life. “No two days are the same. I get to travel to many countries each month, and I have friends in many corners of the world. It’s a life I never thought possible when I was at Quinnipiac.”—Pam Dawkins
MA, have launched www.relevantdad.com, a content curation site geared toward millennial fathers. David has worked in the toy and game industry since 2006 and Brian is the director of media production at GraVoc Associates in Peabody, MA.

Lauren (Fiksln) Castagnola and Andrew Castagnola ’03 announce the birth of their son, Aiden Thomas, on June 6, 2014. The family lives in Wallingford, CT.

Jaime (Mahan) Johnson of West Warwick, RI, is a senior analyst in investments and compliance at Textron Financial in Providence, RI. Jaime was previously employed at JHFN as a director of compliance.

Steven Pastir ’04, MBA ’06, of Trumbull, CT, recently became the owner of Dave’s Automotive Service in Stratford, CT. Steven also heads up a family-run business, Trumbull Service Center, in Trumbull, CT, which just celebrated 40 years of business. He also sells vintage guitars and teaches automotive classes at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Stephanie (Boyer) Pellish ’04, MOT ’06, and her husband, Gregory, announce the birth of a son, Alexander, on June 6, 2014. The family lives in East Haven, CT.

2005

Suzanne Conway of Oxford, CT, is the deputy managing editor for Media Ventures, a custom publishing company.

Rikki Massand of Somerset, NJ, earned a master’s degree in sports management from Columbia University in February 2014.

Daniel “Rud” Nast of Washington, D.C., received a doctor of audiology from the University of Florida in May 2014.

Tara Yusko ’05, MAT ’06, of Meriden, CT, is the new assistant principal at Seymour High School in Seymour, CT. Tara was previously an English teacher and administrative intern at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, CT.

2006

Maureen Farrell, MS ’06, of Middletown, CT, married Ben Charney on Sept. 6, 2014, in Woodstock, CT. Maureen is a senior web writer and editor at Quinnipiac University. (See photo p. 46.)

Brian Lamendola and his wife, Lauren, announce the birth of a son, Cole Thomas, on April 4, 2014. The family lives in Dumont, NJ. (See photo p. 47.)

Fabio LoNero of Newington, CT, is an executive producer at NBC Connecticut. Fabio was formerly the executive producer at WTNH.

Erica Marcantonio of Trumbull, CT, married David Meier on April 27, 2013. (See photo p. 46.)

Michael Silverman ’06, MPT ’08, a physical therapist and the coordinator of the Tisch Performance Center at New York City’s Hospital for Special Surgery, was included in the Wall Street Journal online article Gait Analysis: The Serial Runner’s Salvation on Sept. 22, 2014.

Danielle (Rocchio) Trayes ’06, MAT ’07, and Patrick Trayes ’06 announce the birth of a daughter, Olive Jane, on July 19, 2014. Olive was welcomed by her big brother, Asa. The family lives in East Haven, CT. (See photo p. 47.)

Malerie Volante married Greg Emswiler on June 14, 2014, at Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown, CT. The couple lives in Foster, RI. (See photo p. 46.)

2007

Rudwin Ayala of Boca Raton, FL, a managing partner at his law firm in Fort Lauderdale, FL, obtained a verdict of $19.25 million for his client, a 43-year-old woman who suffered damages due to negligent delay in medical treatment. Rudwin is on the board of directors for the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association and is a vice president for the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida.

Christopher Dill, MHS ’07, and his wife, Aimee, announce the birth of a daughter, Avery Samantha, on June 23, 2014. The family lives in Guilford, CT. (See photo p. 47.)

John “Jack” O’Brien of Los Angeles, CA, writes monologue jokes for the “Late Show with David Letterman” and works in the production office of the new CBS sitcom, “The McCarthys.”

Dana Owen and Andrew Turczak ’07, MHS ’09, were married on Oct. 20, 2012, in Greenwich, CT. Danielle (Bruen) Wormser ’07, Sean McGinness ’06, JD ’09, Jason Prevelige, MHS ’09, and Mick Devanney, MHS ’09, were members of the wedding party. The couple lives in Trumbull, CT. (See photo p. 46.)

Justine Mamone ’08, DPT ’12, of Rutherford, NJ, wrote an article, “A Synthesized Strategy for Rehab,” which was published in September 2014 on www.rehab.com. She works at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in Saddle Brook, NJ.

2009

Paul Auerbach of Burbank, CA, works as a full-time freelance camera assistant for many television shows and independent movies.

Daniel Baker and Rebecca (Pearston) Baker announce the birth of a daughter, Emerson Quinn, on July 22, 2014. Emerson was welcomed by her big brother, Jace. Mom and Dad gave Emerson the middle name, Quinn, in honor of the two meeting at Quinnipiac. The family lives in Totowa, NJ.

Valentine Lysikatos married Erich Carey on Aug. 24, 2014 in Nafplio, Greece and celebrated with a blessing and reception in the U.S. on Sept. 27, 2014, on Shelter Island, NY. There were many fellow alumni present at both celebrations, including bridesmaids Le-La Cloutier ’06, Meghan Nowakowski ’08, Cassie Vegelis ’08, MBA ’09, Dana Steinberg Singer ’08, MOT ’10, Jacqueline Purchia Buckshaw ’08 and Suesan Ziegler ’08. The couple lives in New York, NY.

2008

Eileen Castolene, MS ’08, of Farmington, CT, was appointed vice president of operations at ACE Group. She will lead ACE Private Risk Services’ nationwide agency and billing services center, billing department and ACE’s new markets investing agency.

William J. Kugler and Catherine J. Fricano ’10 were married on Sept. 6, 2014, in Manchester, VT. The couple lives in Lebanon, NH. (See photo p. 46.)

Malerie Volante, MS ’08, of Boca Raton, FL, a managing partner at his law firm in Fort Lauderdale, FL, obtained a verdict of $19.25 million for his client, a 43-year-old woman who suffered damages due to negligent delay in medical treatment. Rudwin is on the board of directors for the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association and is a vice president for the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida.

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Charity Stout married Michael Kuchyt on May 31, 2014, in West Hartford, CT. The couple lives in Middletown, CT. (See photo p. 46.)

To celebrate her 40th birthday, Rudwin Ayala of Boca Raton, FL, obtained a verdict of $19.25 million for his client, a 43-year-old woman who suffered damages due to negligent delay in medical treatment. Rudwin is on the board of directors for the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association and is a vice president for the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida.
Caitlin Ziegler ’13

Taxable Income
KPMG accountant enjoys challenge of corporate returns

Caitlin Ziegler ’13 did not experience an arduous job hunt after graduating. The tax accountant for KPMG was hired before she donned her cap and gown.

Ziegler worked as an intern at KPMG, one of the largest public accounting firms in the world, between her junior and senior years. “I had a great experience, and I went into my senior year with a job lined up, which was a relief and exciting.”

KPMG is the U.S. member firm of KPMG International, which employs 145,000 professionals in 152 countries. Ziegler works on a variety of domestic and international assignments within the federal tax group.

Ziegler is based in Melville, Long Island, but has clients all over the country. One of her clients files 318 foreign tax returns because of foreign reporting requirements for companies that conduct business outside the U.S. and have foreign ownership. “We do a lot of international tax reporting and compliance work, especially for clients who do business in Europe, China and Japan,” she said.

Working on corporate tax returns can be complex and challenging, Ziegler said, noting that some clients can have many subsidiaries. Throughout the year, she tracks and files information for clients, such as reported income, changes in ownership structure, acquisitions and dispositions.

“We update all year and find credits they are entitled to as well as deductions. The rewarding part is putting the pieces of the puzzle together and getting the final returns ready for the required filing deadlines of March 15 and Sept. 15.”

Ziegler is involved with KPMG’s Family for Literacy program, which partners with First Book to provide children from low-income families with books. “The illiteracy rates are surprising, so we are passionate about helping change that,” she said. She reads to children at events the firm organizes at local schools. Outside of work, Ziegler, the oldest of five, enjoys traveling and recently began running, which she describes as a great outlet.

While her campus days are behind her, Quinnipiac is still a part of her life. She serves as the philanthropy chair for the Young Alumni Development Council, a group composed of alumni who graduated in the last 10 years. Ziegler encourages other young alumni to support the University by making a gift to a program that matters to them and in a way that is financially convenient.

Many of the council members held leadership roles as students. At Quinnipiac, Ziegler was a founding sister of Pi Beta Phi and a resident assistant for three years. She participated in the Relay For Life fundraiser each year and was co-chair her senior year, among other activities.

“Being chosen as one of the Commencement speakers for my class brought my four years at QU full circle and was an unforgettable memory to mark the end of my undergraduate days,” she said.

Ziegler’s favorite accounting professor was Kathleen Simione. “She has a heart of gold and just truly cared about me as a student and my success. She wasn’t just a professor who shared her knowledge; rather she was an inspirational and supportive mentor whom I could go to for academic and personal advice.”

—Jack Kramer
Daniel Wagner, MHS ’00, MBA ’05

Making Ideas Real
Connecticut Innovations gives biotech startups a boost

Daniel Wagner, MHS ’00, MBA ’05, is fine with failure. It’s a detour on the road to success and often a point of pride for entrepreneurs. In science, it’s part of the cycle of life.

“In terms of biotech or pharmaceutical startups, you know they are not all going to work,” says Wagner, managing director for investments at Connecticut Innovations. “You give it a shot; if it doesn’t work, there’s another opportunity down the road.”

The goal is to take the lessons learned and bring salient ideas to fruition—and eventually products and services to market. That’s part of what Wagner does at CI, an organization created by the state of Connecticut to offer flexible financing and support for new, local companies and inspire innovation.

“We’re always looking to meet new people and figure out how they fit best into our portfolio from the earliest stages,” says Wagner, who works primarily with health science, pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

At CI, he is responsible for evaluating investment opportunities, structuring new investments and monitoring portfolio companies. CI makes initial investments with matching funding from owners and other investors, as well as loans and grants. Thus far, CI has made close to 300 investments, creating more than 26,000 jobs over the past 20 years.

Wagner also helps salvage the best pieces of a failing company by connecting its employees with other enterprises in CI’s network that can absorb them and build on their research.

As someone who worked on the ground floor of the biopharmaceutical startup CuraGen in Branford, Conn., Wagner understands entrepreneurial challenges. He worked in operations management for the company using the human genome, DNA mapping, to develop pharmaceutical products. He continued his education to strategically position himself to grow with the company, earning an MHS in biomedical sciences from Quinnipiac while working full time. Instead of pursing a doctorate in science, he opted for an MBA at Quinnipiac and became one of a few people at the company to hold that degree.

“I had a desire to learn more. If I wasn’t going to be a scientist, I would spin into the business side of things and promote myself that way,” he explains. When a larger company absorbed CuraGen and he was laid off, his blend of science and business experience was a perfect fit for CI, which also was an early investor of CuraGen.

He said it is exciting to support companies that have pioneering ideas, such as the bioinformatics company developing computer models that can expedite clinical trials of new drugs. He is cautious with his investment selections.

“These smart people come in with ideas, and you have to figure out if the idea is real or not,” says Wagner. “It’s very nerve-wracking at times, but it’s a lot of fun.”

He’s pleased to see Quinnipiac add new programs and create a home for graduate programs on the North Haven Campus.

“When you put people together, good ideas happen,” Wagner says. “One day in the future, someone in the School of Medicine or the School of Business and Engineering will come up with a great idea. Hopefully, I will be there to help.”

—Alejandra Navarro
Lindsey Diana of Baldwin, NY, cofounded Pair to Plan, a full-service event consulting and design company that organizes all types of events from corporate parties to weddings.

Caitlin Downer of Staten Island, NY, is a senior research analyst at Nielsen, working in the consumer packaged goods area of Nielsen Ad Solutions. Previously, Caitlin worked at iHeartMedia in the national radio sales sector, working up from national coordinator to senior research analyst.

Richard Wallace of New York, NY, recently joined Capital One as a vice president in commercial banking technology. He will be working on projects to build out and expand Capital One’s commercial banking business capabilities.

William J. Whewell ’09, JD ’13, has joined the law firm of Rosenberg & Press, located in Stratford, CT, as head of its residential real estate and labor/employment departments.

Kaitlyn Yeager of Wolcott, CT, married Kevin Roberts, on June 1, 2014. The two met while working at the Register Citizen newspaper in Torrington, CT. (See photo p. 46).

2010

Stacie D’Antonio, EDL ’10, was accepted into the Project to Increase Mastery of Mathematics and Science Scholarship Program at Wesleyan University for a two-year fellowship. She worked in the Hamden Public School system for 19 years, including most recently as principal at Polk Elementary School. Stacie was named Teacher of the Year in 1999 and lives in Wallingford, CT.

Nicole Dostaler ’10, MAT ’11, of Waterbury, CT, married Michael Cammelletti on July 26, 2014. (See photo p. 46.)


Michaela Fralen ’10, MBA ’11, of Lothian, MD, recently became marketing director of Greenstreet Growers. She will plan and orchestrate events throughout the year.

Joseph Micucci of East Longmeadow, MA, worked on the sets of “A Million Ways to Die in the West” and “Ted” with Seth MacFarlane.

2011

Shannon Fox and James Spicer were married on May 24, 2014, in Holliston, MA. Amanda Radwell ’13, Jenna Gilberti ’13 and Joy Dallessio ’13 were among the bridesmaids.

Thomas MacDougall ’10 served as best man, while Jeremy Brunelle ’10 and Brian Kennedy ’08 were groomsmen. The couple lives in Bellingham, MA. (See photo p. 46.)

Stephanie Norris of Bristol, CT, married John Hanlon on Sept. 13, 2014, on Nantucket Island.

Danielle Mazioka ’11 was a bridesmaid. (See photo p. 46.)

Stephen Pulaski of Monroe, CT, accepted a position at Torrington Board of Education as a paraprofessional. Stephen was employed at Green Chimneys Children’s Services as a youth counselor.

2012

Daniel Adams, MS ’12, is a technology integration specialist and webmaster at the New Hampton School in New Hampton, NH, an independent, international baccalaureate college preparatory high school. Daniel teaches classes in film production and live broadcasting. He lives in Littleton, NH.

Theresa Buchanan, MS ’12, of Plantsville, CT, is the town of Southington’s new human resources manager.

Gai Doran of North Haven, CT, graduated in May from Rush University’s College of Health Sciences with a master’s degree in research administration and received the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Jordan Elkins of Dallas is working for the Dallas Stars as a coach at the organization’s girl’s hockey camp.

Eric Grabowski of Saratoga Springs, NY, is an analyst of operations at The Aycro Company, a Goldman Sachs Company in New York.

Jessica Miele, MS ’12, of Bridgeport, CT, is a mixed martial arts professional and made her debut at the Mohegan Sun Arena in June. Jessica trained for seven years and previously fought as an amateur. She works as a video editor at BizzBuzz TV.com and Float Marketing.

Mary O’Sullivan, MS ’12, is a transitional second- and third-career coach and mentors in vision setting, change readiness and talent development. She lives in Kingston, RI, with her husband, Michael.

Richard Scinto of Fairfield, CT, is regional editor at Patch.com. Previously, he worked for 1½ years as the New Haven Register’s police reporter, during which time he covered 31 homicides.

2013

Lauren Provence of Huntington Beach, CA, was promoted to assistant account executive at Morgan Marketing & Public Relations.

Kelly-Lynne Segit of Fly Creek, NY, has become a missionary with Africa Inland Mission and will depart in November on her first assignment to Nosy Mitsio, off the coast of Madagascar, where she will complete a seven-year term.

Alexander Soucy ’13, MBA ’14, of Marlborough, CT, recently participated in a Bike and Build program, a Habitat for Humanity-style project. Alexander was one of 31 members who rode his bike from Nags Head, NC, to San Diego. Along the way he volunteered with various organizations to build affordable housing.

2014

Matt Buynak of Milford, CT, is a content producer at WTNH in New Haven.

Priscilla Maldonado of New Haven received the New Haven Promise Legacy Award at the Omni Hotel in August 2014. Priscilla was the first New Haven Promise Scholar to earn a four-year degree and was honored for her academic distinction, as well as dedication to both Promise and the City of New Haven. She will begin graduate work in sociology at Southern Connecticut State University and an internship at the Metropolitan Business Academy.

CaSondra Stinson, MS ’14, of Hamden, married Eric P. Maass on Aug. 22, 2014, in a ceremony at Soo Locks Park, Sault Sainte Marie, MI. CaSondra is a new product development associate at ChemWerth, Inc.
2001. Parrino is a principal and has been a fellow of the group since 2000. Thomas Saadi of Danbury, CT, was promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General’s Corps and is serving as the international legal officer for the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

2003
Michael Menapace of North Granby, CT, co-authored chapter nine of “The Reference Handbook on the Commercial General Liability Policy,” 2nd edition, published by the American Bar Association’s Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. He is a member of Wiggin and Dana’s litigation department in the Hartford and New York offices. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and the insurance and reinsurance industries. He also teaches insurance law at the Quinnipiac School of Law.

1987
Thomas Parrino of New Canaan, CT, was elected president of the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He has been a fellow of the group since 2001. Parrino is a principal and cofounder at Nusbaum & Parrino in Westport, CT.

1992
Anthony Slimowicz of Gillette, N.J, joined Crum & Foster as senior vice president and chief claims officer.

1993
David Marrone of Olive Branch, MS, recently was named general counsel for Ducks Unlimited. He also serves on the board of directors for the Wolf River Conservancy and is on the editorial board of Land Trust Alliance’s Saving Land magazine.

1995
Frank Delucia of Weston, CT, has been accepted into New York University’s executive MBA program.

1998
Craig Aronow of East Brunswick, NJ, has been appointed vice chair for the northern New Jersey State Bar Association’s Judicial and Prosecution Appointments Committee. He will be installed as Middlesex County Bar Association president in May 2015.

2000
Cheryl Jansen of Huntington, CT, was a petitioning candidate for the 122nd General Assembly District seat in the November 2014 election.

2004
Daniel Gibson of Cromwell, CT, was named a New Leader of Connecticut by the Connecticut Law Tribune. He and his fellow honorees were selected from a pool of 300 applicants. They were recognized at an awards dinner in Hartford. Dan is a partner at Cantor Colburn, which specializes in intellectual property law.

2005
Brian Paice of Hamden was named counsel of counsel at Conway Stoughton in West Hartford, CT.

Timothy Schafer and Marisa (Helfer) Schafer participated as panelists in a national online webinar called Workers’ Compensation and Social Media: An Effective Evidentiary Tool in Defending Claims. Tim and Marisa are workers’ compensation attorneys from The Law Offices of Schafer & Schafer in Stamford, CT. They live in Trumbull, CT.

Joseph Carvalko of Milford, CT, published “The Science and Technology Guidebook for Lawyers” in May 2014. His novel, “We Were Beautiful Once— Chapters from a Cold War,” was a finalist for the historical fiction prize from the Military Writers Society of America. He kicked off the lecture series at Yale University’s technology and ethics research student group recently with a discussion of his book, “The Techno-human Shell, A Jump in the Evolutionary Gap.” And his poem “County Road 80” was included in the poetry anthology “Manifest West: Different Roads.”


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School of Law Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown with Lynne L. Pantalena, JD ’85, for whom the law library is named.
Scott Levensten, JD ’93

Safety in numbers
Attorney focuses on class actions involving drugs, medical devices

As a boy, Scott Levensten, JD ’93, aspired to be involved in the law to ensure individuals are treated fairly in court, regardless of social status. Today, he fulfills that goal as founder of the Philadelphia-based Levensten Law Firm, specializing in prescription drug and medical device mass tort litigation.

Levensten is a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer honoree in mass torts/class actions for 10 consecutive years. His achievements over the past five years include more than $50 million in settlements, and he was co-counsel in a $10-million jury verdict in Philadelphia for a child severely injured by a dangerous side effect of a fever-reducing medicine.

Among other cases, Levensten litigated injury claims arising from: AndroGel, metallic hip implants, Yaz, Gadolinium, Pradaxa, Actos, Transvaginal Mesh, Vioxx, Phen Fen, tainted steroids and the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

After graduating law school, Levensten volunteered his way into being sworn in as a special assistant district attorney in Montgomery County, Pa., handling hundreds of matters in court. Two years later, he began working for Levin Fishbein in Philadelphia. His first case, which involved defective bone screws marketed off label to treat back pain, included a $100 million settlement and served as a framework for future mass tort litigation.

“That case helped make my practice what it is today,” Levensten says, because senior partner Arnold Levin, Levensten’s mentor, had him manage the litigation and handle most matters before the federal judge and special master, experiences usually reserved for more seasoned attorneys.

Levensten takes pride in exposing risks of prescription drugs and medical devices that don’t appear in the warnings. “Mass tort litigation shows what manufacturers knew and when they knew it, proving they had a duty to warn the consumers,” Levensten notes. “Establishing that companies put profits before patient safety and obtaining compensation for victims leads to label changes and better-informed patients and doctors,” he adds.

Levensten says, “I was fortunate to have trained under three of the best trial lawyers of the past century: Levin, Gerry Spence and James E. Beasley Sr. Each helped shape my career.” Known for the Karen Silkwood case, Spence never lost a criminal case as a prosecutor or a defense attorney, and hasn’t lost a civil case since 1969. Beasley, now deceased, was renowned for his commanding courtroom style and is the namesake of Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Levensten is personally involved with every case his firm accepts, from screening to resolution, assuming responsibility for all substantive decisions. He credits “demanding professors,” such as Martin B. Margulies. “He taught us to be prepared and pay attention to detail. The law school did an exceptional job of training us to research, write and handle cases.”

Technology gives him the flexibility to spend time with his wife, Tara, and their three children at their Haverford, Pa., home. The Levenstens are involved in a number of charitable organizations and he does pro bono legal work on behalf of many individuals.—Cathi Douglas
magazine. She practices in the areas of family law, probate and real estate law as a principal with the firm Dzialo, Pickett & Allen. She lives in Berlin, CT, with her husband, Matthew Atkinson, and their two children.

Kori (Termine) Wisneski and Eamonn Wisneski, BA ’01, welcomed their second child, Zoë Ann, on July 8, 2014. Zoë joins her big brother, Jack, at the family’s home in Middletown, CT. Kori is the deputy general counsel for the city of Middletown, and was recognized as a New Leader in the Law by the Connecticut Law Tribune. Eamonn is an attorney at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, where he handles personal injury, workers’ compensation and general civil litigation.

2007

Molly (Barker) Gilligan of North Yarmouth, ME, joined Bernstein Shur Law Firm as part of the health care and litigation practice groups. Her practice is focused on health care legal issues, such as licensure and license defense of Maine health care practitioners.

Robert Heinimann Jr. of Hamden recently joined Murtha Cullina as an associate in the trust and estates department.

Michael LaMonica’s book, “The French Revolutions for Beginners,” was published in November by Red Wheel/Reiser. He is an associate at the Connecticut Attorney General’s Office and a part-time professor of English at Quinnipiac.

Kristen McClain, JD/MBA, is senior director of compliance and business development at Qualidigm in Wethersfield, CT.

2008

Andrew Palmer and Megan Mahoney-Palmer welcomed their first child, Ryan Charles, of Sandy Hook, CT, into the world on March 31, 2014. The family lives in Weymouth, MA. (See photo p. 47.)


Sylvia Rutkowska of Middletown, CT, was named to the Super Lawyers Connecticut Rising Stars list and was recognized as a “Woman to Watch” by the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund. Sylvia also was named the assistant secretary/treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association. She is an associate at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen.

2009

Kevin Casini and Colleen Kozicz, JD ’10, of New Haven, CT, were married on Sept. 6, 2014, in Beach Haven, NJ. Colleen is an associate attorney at The Dodd Law Firm in Cheshire, CT. Kevin is an associate counsel at Beatty & Beatty in Guilford, CT.

Sean McGuinness, BA ’06, JD ’09, was a member of the wedding party for fellow Quinnipiac alumni, Dana Owen, BA ’07, and Andrew Turczak, BS ’07, MHS ’09, of Trumbull, CT. They were married on Oct. 20, 2012.

Christina (Watkins) Kingston and her husband, Richard, welcomed their first child, Isla Snow, on April 19, 2014. The family lives in Los Angeles. (See photo p. 47.)

Leslie (Spence) Lyte announces the birth of a son, Xavier Charles, on Oct. 23, 2014. The family lives in Middletown, CT. (See photo p. 47.)

Kathryn Phillips of Middletown, CT, recently joined the family law practice of Nusbaum & Parrino as an associate.

2010

Brian Festa and his wife, Kristen, announce the birth of a daughter, Ava, on Oct. 7, 2014. She joins big brother, Andrew, at the family’s home in Bristol, CT. (See photo p. 47.)

2011

Greg Pategas, MS ’06, JD ’11, of Sandy Hook, CT, joined GE Capital as senior vice president of audit tools.

2013

William Whewell, BA ’09, JD ’13, of Hamden joined the law firm of Rosenberg & Press located in Stratford, CT, and is head of its residential real estate and labor/employment departments.

2014

Diane Cooper of Shelton, CT, recently joined the firm of Wiggins and Dana in New Haven.
ALUMNI CONNECT
AT VARIETY OF RECENT EVENTS

1. Shannon Payne '11, MOT '13, left, and Kelly Doyle '10, DPT '13, at the Great South Bay Brewery for the Long Island alumni chapter’s beer tasting and tour.

2–4. Enjoying an alumni reception in November at the new School of Law Center, North Haven Campus, are, from left: Alanna Tynan, JD '12, Jonathan Sousa, JD '12, and Brett Aiello, JD '11.

At the same reception in the Lynne L. Pantalena Law Library, Leslie Jennings-Lax, JD '04, and her mother, Sandra (Provorny) Lax, JD '88.

Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown, center, with 2014 School of Law alumni. The reception also celebrated those who passed the Connecticut summer bar exam.

5. Linda Forbes-Turkington ’84 and Bob Turkington at the 21st annual QU Day at Fenway Park.

6. Kearney Sneath, left, and Michaela Tinsley, both 2014 graduates, were among 19 alumnae to return for the annual women’s lacrosse alumnae game.

7. At the annual Brian Vincent ’86 Memorial alumni soccer game, from left: Marijan Jurac ’13, Robert McLarney, a student in the master’s program in public relations, and Marco Spanos ’15.
CONGRATULATIONS!

1. Shannon Fox ’11 and James Spicer ’11 were married on May 24, 2014, in Holliston, MA.

2. Charity Stout ’07 married Michael Kuchyt on May 31, 2014, in West Hartford, CT.

3. William J. Kugler ’08 and Catherine J. Fricano ’10 were married on Sept. 6, 2014, in Manchester, VT.


5. Malerie Volante ’06 married Greg Emswiler on June 14, 2014, in Middletown, CT.


7. Kaitlyn Yeager ’09 of Wolcott, CT, married Kevin Roberts, on June 1, 2014.

8. Dana Owen ’07 married Andrew Turczak ’07, MHS ’09, on Oct. 20, 2012, in Greenwich, CT.


10. Maureen Farrell, MS ’06, married Ben Charney on Sept. 6, 2014, in Woodstock, CT.
ALL IN THE FAMILY

1. Cole Tomas, son of Lauren and Brian Lamendola ’06, was born April 4, 2014.

2. Ryan Charles was born on March 31, 2014. He is the son of Andrew Palmer, JD ’08, and Megan Mahoney-Palmer, JD ’08.

3. Calli Rae was born on April 3, 2014. She is the daughter of Jessica Lee (Bailey) Allen ’99 and her husband, Jesse.

4. Olive Jane was born on July 19, 2014, to Danielle (Rocchio) Trayes ’06, MAT ’07, and Patrick Trayes ’06.

5. Xavier Charles, son of Leslie (Spence) Lyte, JD ’12, was born on Oct. 23, 2014.

6. Avery Samantha, daughter of Christopher Dill, MHS ’07, and his wife, Aimee, was born on June 23, 2014.

7. Chloe Gloria, daughter of Rachel (Hecht) Shola ’03 and her husband, Joseph, was born on Aug. 29, 2014.

8. Ava is the daughter of Kristen and Brian Festa, JD ’10. She was born Oct. 7, 2014.

9. Isla Snow was born on April 19, 2014. She is the first child of Christina (Watkins) Kingston, JD ’10, and her husband, Richard.
She sat across from me and waited, tapping the edge of the admissions brochure on my desk and staring frankly into my eyes. She had just dropped the question I hear more often than any other in my conversations with parents of prospective journalism students.

“I mean, my daughter loves writing and working for her school’s paper and radio station,” she said. “But I’m wondering: Why should she waste her time studying journalism? I mean, it’s a dying industry, right? What is she going to do with that degree?”

Why study journalism, indeed? It was a question I had pondered periodically throughout my life: first as a classics-English major burning to make my mark in newspapers; later, as editor-in-chief of the Boston Herald and the Daily News; and, finally, as the new chair of the journalism department here, attempting to convince wary parents that they can’t, in fact, believe everything they read, and that society needs journalists more than ever.

Who tells us that our own government is spying on us if not journalists? Who makes sure we get the information we need to make informed civic decisions if not journalists? Who tells us about the forces and trends that will shape our lives if not journalists?

So, I told this parent what I believe: It is ironic but true that the current explosion of news and information on the Web—the very same force that is shuttering newspapers and inking all the journalism-is-dead headlines—is making the skills we teach more important than ever.

The ability to think critically and creatively, to verify information and present it fairly, to sift the important from the trivial, to aggregate and curate, to work in teams, to communicate clearly in person and in writing and to thrive in an atmosphere of constant change—these are crucial attributes in our information-overloaded era.

Real employers are offering real jobs paying real money to candidates who possess them, both inside and outside of journalism. These are skills prized by employers of every stripe. Just ask the journalism majors of QU’s Class of 2013—92 percent are either working or in grad school.

The confusion about job prospects in the field arises from a popular tendency to conflate the fate of newspapers with that of journalism. As my former NYU colleague Clay Shirky has said: “Society doesn’t need newspapers. What we need is journalism.”

As a lifelong printie, I might quibble with the former. Large legacy-media operations such as newspapers still do most of the journalistic heavy lifting around the world. But I heartily endorse the latter. And, more important, so does the market.

How else to explain the explosion of new communications jobs—projected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to reach 342,000 by the year 2020. How else to explain the wholesale defection of brand names such as Ezra Klein and Nate Silver from old-media to new-media startups during the last year?

I finished, took a breath and I asked the parent if she had any other questions. She smiled, said no, stood, shook my hand and left me alone with my thoughts.

Last week I learned that her daughter has applied to QU for next fall. It seems she wants to be a journalist.

The School of Communications was ranked among the top 20 journalism schools in the recent NewsPro-RTDNA poll of news professionals.
John J. “Jack” Pritchard ’63 knows how to grow a successful business. After acquiring American Seal and Engineering Company in 1991, he increased business tenfold in 10 years and invested his company’s earnings in new equipment and outstanding employees.

Now that Jack has handed the reins of the business over to his son, John R. Pritchard ’88, he’s growing a new venture: the John J. and Lorraine Pritchard Endowed Scholarship Fund. Today, instead of putting earnings into new equipment, he’s investing in Quinnipiac students like Alexa Esposito ’18, a marketing major from Meriden, Conn.

To learn how you can endow a scholarship fund and support outstanding Quinnipiac students, call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 877-582-1929 or visit www.quinnipiac.edu/endowments.
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